



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office

पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai - 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**From Dharavi's Potters to Counter-Drone AI,
Groww Foundation Backs 35 Young Innovators at IIT Bombay**

**The 19 ideas proposed by these young and talented innovators are being backed by
Groww Foundation to empower their evolution into a real and viable solution!**

MUMBAI | July 21, 2026: Groww Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Groww, today announced the first cohort of the INV.ENT program, backing 19 ideas by 35 young innovators at the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay). Chosen from nearly 400 submissions across disciplines, the winning ideas range across a marketplace that takes ceramics from Dharavi's potters to customers, a wearable sleeve that coaches physiotherapy patients through their exercises, a platform that turns CO2 into edible protein and an AI system built to guard critical infrastructure against rogue drones.

The first cohort spans the program's two tracks. 3 student teams have been named the program's inaugural Grand Challenge Fellows and are eligible for milestone-based annual support of up to Rs 25 lakh each. The 16 remaining student teams enter the proof-of-concept (POC) Support Track with a catalytic grant of Rs 30,000 each.

On top of the grant, this cohort will receive mentoring and a 15,000 sqft dedicated space, called Groww Innovation Space, located at IIT Bombay's Desai Sethi School of Entrepreneurship (DSSE). This space will be used to build, test a core assumption, speak to real users and assemble a prototype, thereby allowing a steady influx of new ideas from students into this ongoing program that doesn't come with a submission deadline - just a commitment to fostering fearless innovation.

Across the cohort, the ideas stretch across agri-tech, robotics, climate-tech, assistive-tech, retail, design, edtech, gaming and defence, several leveraging AI and ML to tackle the hitherto unsolved problems. The full portfolio of the selected ideas is at: growwfoundationiitb.org/portfolio

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/4027 | Email: pro@iitb.ac.in



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office

पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai - 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

"At Groww Foundation, our mission since day zero has been to empower India's youth with opportunities to learn, build and innovate. INV.ENT is a program born out of that belief," said Kalpana Swaminathan, Head of Groww Foundation. "We see this as a launchpad, the place where young innovators get the mentorship, financial support and trust to take their first real shot, long before the world is watching. We're excited to work closely with this cohort of innovators as they turn their conviction into something real and we hope to look back one day and call this the starting point for some of India's most impactful builders," she added.

The grants are the entry point of a program that will support over 100 student teams a year, with the strongest ones rewarded the Grand Challenge Fellowship with its larger, milestone-based support.

Reflecting on what the first INV.ENT cohort represents for student innovation at IIT Bombay, Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director of IIT Bombay said, *"At IIT Bombay, we believe that the distance between an idea and its impact is often determined by whether someone believes in it early enough. Our partnership with Groww Foundation through INV.ENT is built on that shared conviction. Young innovators deserve the freedom, resources and encouragement to test bold ideas before the world expects results. Together, we are creating an ecosystem where students do not have to wait for permission to build. They can test, fail, learn, and move forward. That is how enduring innovation ecosystems are built".*

Mukund and the Team BeBrust, one of the winning teams, shared, *"The overall experience of selection has been really helpful in improving our clarity. We understood the caliber of the team. We are now more confident in the innovation of our idea and in our mission, opportunity and ability to perceive and experiment. We are looking forward to getting a bigger network and being at least one year ahead of our plan".*

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/4027 | Email: pro@iitb.ac.in



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office

पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai - 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About IITB-Groww INV.ENT Programme

The IITB-Groww INV.ENT programme is a four-year initiative, anchored at IIT Bombay's DSSE, with a total allocation of Rs 23.63 crore. It pairs a dedicated 15,000 sq. ft. Innovation space with early-stage POC grants (Track A) and a deep-tech Grand Challenge Fellowship (Track B) to help students validate, build and translate high-impact ideas. This programme aims to step in where raw/developing ideas are converted into a functional prototype, even all the way to a market ready product.

About Groww Foundation

At Groww Foundation, the philanthropic arm of Groww, we believe in the power of knowledge, community, and sustainability to shape a better tomorrow. Through our commitment to advancing learning, empowering innovators and entrepreneurs, we are creating opportunities that endure—leaving a lasting, positive impact on the people and places we serve.

[For more, please reach out to: \[gunjanna@groww.in\]\(mailto:gunjanna@groww.in\)](mailto:gunjanna@groww.in)

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/4027 | Email: pro@iitb.ac.in



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

प्रकाशन और जनसंपर्क कार्यालय
Publications and Public Relations Office

पवई, मुंबई - 400076, महाराष्ट्र, भारत
Powai, Mumbai - 400076, Maharashtra, India
दूरभाष: (+91-22) 25767026-27 | वेबसाइट: www.iitb.ac.in
Ph: 022-25767026-27 | web: <http://www.iitb.ac.in>

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

About IIT Bombay:

The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay, set up in 1958 as the second IIT, is recognised worldwide as a leader in the field of science and engineering education and research. The Institute was granted the status of 'Institution of Eminence' by the Ministry of Education (the then Ministry of Human Resources Development) on July 9, 2018. IIT Bombay is reputed for the quality of its faculty, cutting-edge research, industry relations, and the outstanding caliber of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Institute has 40 Academics Divisions, 29 Research Centres and 9 Section 8 Companies. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 770 faculty, including 121 women faculty (plus 241 part-time faculty), considered not only amongst the best within the country but also highly recognised in the world for achievements in the field of education and research. On June 18, 2026, IIT Bombay was ranked 2nd in India and 134th in the world in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2027.

Media Contact:

Mrs Falguni Banerjee Naha, Public Relations Officer, IIT Bombay Ph. No. 022-25767025/4027 | Email: pro@iitb.ac.in