



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

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IIT Bombay partners with Poonawalla Fincorp Limited for the Institute's Frontier Research Initiative

Mumbai, August 19, 2026: IIT Bombay has entered into a partnership with Poonawalla Fincorp Limited (PFL), one of the first corporate partners in the Institute's Frontier Research Programme. The Frontier Research Programme is a strategic initiative of IIT Bombay that enables bold, long horizon scientific research and aims to position India at the forefront of breakthrough discovery.

The Programme is designed to support exceptional faculty researchers working on ambitious scientific problems with the potential to reshape fields, industries, and technologies over time. Describing the rationale behind it, Prof. Atrey, Deputy Director of IIT Bombay, spearheading the programme, said, “At its core, the initiative seeks to create the conditions that frontier science demands: an integrated strategic approach to research and technology development; targeted, mutually coordinated, and multifaceted phase-wise planning and execution; sustained institutional backing; advanced shared infrastructure; interdisciplinary collaboration; global mentorship; research funding; and the freedom to pursue high-risk, high-reward inquiry with depth and continuity”.

Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay, described the partnership as an important moment for India's research landscape as frontier research demands patience, conviction, and the freedom to pursue transformative research whose impact may only become visible years later. “The support of PFL is a testament to the kind of forward-looking partnership that India's research ecosystem needs, one that backs bold, long-horizon science with both resources and belief. The Frontier Research Initiative at IIT Bombay is intended to support ambitious interdisciplinary research that can shape the next era of scientific and technological leadership. India has the talent, intellectual depth, and scientific imagination to lead globally across several emerging areas of research, and initiatives, and partnerships such as this are essential if we are to build that future with confidence and scale,” he said.

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Under the Frontier Research Initiative, PFL will initially support research in healthcare and life sciences, with an emphasis on next-generation therapeutics and affordable drug discovery. The programme will leverage molecular science, bioinformatics, and Gen AI-driven research workflows to accelerate the journey from scientific insight to scalable innovation. Among the areas to be explored is the use of plant-derived molecules from traditional medicine as potential therapeutic leads, combining India's rich knowledge systems with advanced scientific methods to support future-ready healthcare innovation.

Welcoming the partnership, Mr. Arvind Kapil, Managing Director and CEO, Poonawalla Fincorp Limited, said, “Scientific progress requires two kinds of conviction — institutions that pioneer frontier research, and partners willing to invest in ideas whose impact may unfold over time. IIT Bombay has consistently remained at the forefront of scientific and technological advancement, and through this partnership, we hope to contribute meaningfully to research that can democratise access, expand possibilities, and shape a better future for society at large. Frontier research in areas such as AI, medicine, healthcare, and life sciences have the potential to fundamentally improve quality, affordability, and access at scale, and we are proud to support IIT Bombay's vision in this direction”.

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

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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.

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