



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

IIT Bombay Celebrates India's 80th Independence Day

MUMBAI | 15th August 2026: The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay celebrated the 80th Independence Day on 15th August, 2026 with great enthusiasm and pride. The celebrations took place near the iconic arch facing the Nandan Nilekani Main Building, a fitting venue for honouring the spirit of India's freedom.

The ceremony commenced at 9:00 a.m. with the unfurling of the National Flag by Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director of IIT Bombay, in the esteemed presence of the **Chief Guest Mr. Suhas Mehta**, Distinguished Alumnus, IIT Bombay. The tricolour fluttered high as the National Anthem and the National Song echoed through the campus, stirring patriotic emotions amongst all present.

In his address to the gathering, Prof. Kedare said, *"It is the time not just to celebrate freedom, but to accept the responsibility of building up the nations work for the country. Independence is not only a legacy we cherish, but also a responsibility we uphold through our daily actions. Living for the nation begins with living rightly - by nurturing harmony in our families, honoring unity in diversity, observing discipline, caring for our environment and encouraging the use of swadeshi goods and services. These small, consistent steps together shape a stronger, self-reliant India."*

The Chief Guest Mr. Suhas Mehta, in his address said, *"Today, India stands at another defining moment. The question is no longer whether Bharat will participate, but whether Bharat will lead. As engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs, we must not build a nation driven only by consumption, but one guided by consciousness, where innovation is accompanied by responsibility, economic growth by environmental stewardship, and technological excellence by compassion. We should aspire not only to become a richer country, but a wiser civilisation, deeply rooted in our values."*

The celebrations continued with a vibrant cultural programme by the students, showcasing the spirit of unity in diversity.

The event was attended by faculty, staff, students and their families, and was also broadcast live on the Institute's YouTube channel, enabling wider participation from the IIT Bombay community.

The campus came alive with tricolour-themed lights and decorations. The entire Institute stood together as one family, reaffirming its dedication to the nation's progress and prosperity.

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The Independence Day celebrations were followed by the presentation of the **IIT Bombay Staff Excellence Awards (IITB-SEA)**, instituted in 2025 to recognise the outstanding contributions of non-teaching staff:

- **Lifetime Staff Excellence Award:** Mr. Ramesh Boke, Security Section
- **Individual Excellence Awards:**
 - Ms. Komal Sakharkar (Department of Mechanical Engineering)
 - Mr. Prasanna Hate (Academic Section)
 - Mr. Amit Joshi (Department of Metallurgical Engineering and Materials Science)
 - Mr. Mahesh Naithani (Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering)
 - Mr. U. Ramesh, Design Cell (Office of Dean Infrastructure Planning and Support)
- **Team Excellence Awards:** Ms. Joyita Roy Sarkar, Dr. Sreelekha Gopinathan and Mr. Sagar Maske (Industrial Research and Consultancy Centre)

As part of the celebrations, the Director and the Chief Guest felicitated four staff members — **Ms. Varsha Vinod Mhapankar**, Dean (ACR) Office; **Ms. Vrushali Dattaram Sansare**, Internal Audit and Grievance Redresal Section; **Mr. Prakash Bhaskar Ranade**, Department of Electrical Engineering and **Ms. Tabassum Zahid Majgaonkar**, Academic Section — for their remarkable 40 years of dedicated service to the Institute. Their commitment exemplifies the values of perseverance and institutional pride.

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

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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.

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