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

SINE, IIT Bombay, Launches ACE, a Sector-Specific Deep-Tech Accelerator, with Semiconductors as Its First Cohort

ACE (Acceleration through Collaborative Engagement) brings together industry, academia, investors and government to help deep-tech startups bridge the gap between technology development and commercial adoption, with corporate pilot opportunities, structured mentoring and potential investments of up to ₹5 crore.

Mumbai, November 11, 2026: The Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE), IIT Bombay, today announced the launch of **SINE ACE (Acceleration through Collaborative Engagement)**, an institution-led, industry-focused accelerator designed to accelerate the growth and commercialisation of deep-tech startups. The first cohort of ACE will focus on the semiconductor sector, bringing together industry partners, investors, domain experts and IIT Bombay's research ecosystem to help startups translate technological capabilities into market-ready solutions.

The programme was formally launched on 9 October 2026 at SINE, IIT Bombay, in the presence of leaders from government, industry and the investment community. The launch featured a special address by **Dr. Seshagiri Rao Vellanki**, former Distinguished Scientist and Associate Director, Satish Dhawan Space Centre, ISRO, and a keynote address by **Shri Panneerselvam Madanagopal**, CEO, MeitY Startup Hub.

SINE ACE has been conceptualised to address a critical gap in the deep-tech startup ecosystem. Unlike conventional technology ventures, deep-tech startups operate through longer development and validation cycles, requiring specialised infrastructure, technical expertise, patient capital and sustained engagement with potential customers. While many accelerator programmes focus on business development and fundraising, deep-tech ventures also need opportunities to validate their technologies against real-world requirements and establish early commercial relationships.

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

Drawing on SINE's two decades of experience in nurturing technology-led enterprises and IIT Bombay's extensive research capabilities, Centres of Excellence and specialised facilities, ACE offers a collaborative acceleration model that connects startups with the stakeholders essential to their growth. The programme is designed to move beyond conventional mentoring by facilitating industry engagement, technology validation, proof-of-concept development and potential commercial partnerships.

Each ACE cohort will focus on a specific sector of national importance, enabling concentrated engagement between startups and relevant industry stakeholders. Following semiconductors, future cohorts are envisaged in areas aligned with IIT Bombay's Centres of Excellence and emerging technology priorities, including Quantum Technologies, AI in Manufacturing and Robotics, Space and Defence Technologies, Nuclear Energy and Advanced Materials.

Semiconductors: The Focus of ACE's First Cohort

The selection of semiconductors for the inaugural cohort reflects the sector's strategic importance to India's technology and manufacturing ambitions. India has a significant presence in global semiconductor design, accounting for approximately 20% of the world's chip design workforce. However, building globally competitive domestic semiconductor intellectual property and enabling Indian startups to commercialise their technologies remain important priorities.

While several Indian semiconductor startups have demonstrated promising technological capabilities and developed working silicon, translating these achievements into commercial products and securing their first customers remain significant challenges. ACE Cohort 1 is designed to address this gap by connecting startups with relevant industry partners, enabling product validation against actual industry requirements and creating pathways towards their first commercial engagements.

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

The first cohort is supported by **Ather Energy, ElectraEV, ideaForge, Inflexor Ventures, MeitY Startup Hub, SemiX, Speciale Invest and Y-Point Ventures**. These partners will contribute through industry problem statements, technical and business mentoring, access to potential use cases, investment perspectives and broader ecosystem connections.

A Collaborative Acceleration Model

Through a pan-India call for applications, ACE Cohort 1 will select **6–8 semiconductor startups** at Technology Readiness Level (TRL) 4 and above.

Each selected startup will be matched with an industry partner and supported by a dedicated mentoring structure comprising three mentors representing industry, SINE/IIT Bombay and the investment ecosystem. The programme will provide access to domain-specific masterclasses, technical expertise and facilities at IIT Bombay, and opportunities to undertake proof-of-concept projects or pilots with corporate partners.

The accelerator will also facilitate connections with investors to support the startups' next phase of growth. The most promising ventures may be considered for equity investments of up to **₹5 crore** from SINE or its venture capital fund, Y-Point, alongside potential investments from associated investors, subject to evaluation and investment considerations.

Through this model, ACE seeks to create a structured pathway for deep-tech startups to progress from technology validation to industry adoption, commercial partnerships and scale.

Commenting on the launch, **Prof. Milind Atrey, Deputy Director (Academics, Research & Translation), IIT Bombay**, said, *"IIT Bombay's Centres of Excellence hold deep expertise and world-class facilities. ACE connects these directly with startups and industry partners, so that technology validated in our labs can be tested against real industry requirements"*.

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

Prof. Nishant Sharma, Professor-in-Charge, SINE, IIT Bombay, added, *"Over the past two decades, we have learned that deep-tech founders need more than incubation. They need the right customer, the right mentors and patient capital, all at the right time. ACE brings these together in one programme, built around the needs of each sector".*

The launch of ACE marks an important step in SINE's efforts to strengthen India's deep-tech entrepreneurship ecosystem through meaningful collaboration between academia, industry, investors and government. Complementing SINE's incubation initiatives and the Y-Point Venture Capital Fund, ACE strengthens the pathway for technology ventures from research and early-stage development to acceleration, investment and commercial scale.

About SINE, IIT Bombay:

The **Society for Innovation and Entrepreneurship (SINE)** at IIT Bombay is one of India's pioneering technology business incubators, fostering innovation-driven entrepreneurship since 2004. Recognised as a Centre of Excellence by the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India, SINE supports startups through incubation, mentoring, infrastructure, industry partnerships and access to funding, helping transform research-led ideas into successful enterprises. Over the past two decades, SINE has supported more than **500 startups**, contributing significantly to India's technology and deep-tech innovation ecosystem.

Website: https://www.sineiitb.org/

About SINE ACE:

SINE ACE (Acceleration through Collaborative Engagement) is a sector-specific deep-tech accelerator established by SINE, IIT Bombay, for startups at TRL 4 and above. Each cohort focuses on a sector of national importance and brings together corporate partners, investors, domain mentors and IIT Bombay's Centres of Excellence. Through structured mentoring, industry engagement,

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

access to technical expertise and facilities, and corporate proof-of-concept and pilot opportunities, ACE aims to help deep-tech startups bridge the gap between technology development and commercial adoption. The inaugural cohort focuses on semiconductors.

Website: https://ace.sineiitb.org/

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 34 Academics Divisions (including Departments, Academic Centres, Schools, Academic Advisory); 29 Research Centres (including Externally Funded Centres and Labs) and 9 Section 8 Companies (includes Society). Over the last six decades, more than 78,000 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.

Website: https://www.iitb.ac.in/

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