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

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IIT Bombay Invites Students to Develop Sustainability Solutions through the Global Sustainability Challenge

Mumbai, November 09, 2026: As the world faces increasingly complex sustainability challenges, young people have a critical role to play in shaping solutions for a more sustainable and resilient future. Bringing together creativity, knowledge and interdisciplinary thinking, students can turn ideas into meaningful action.

IIT Bombay invites university and college students from across the world to participate in the Global Sustainability Challenge (GSC), an international student innovation challenge that encourages teams to develop practical solutions to pressing sustainability issues. GSC in an initiative by a global collaboration of leading institutions including IIT Bombay, Stanford Doerr School of Sustainability, Hong Kong University of Science and Technology (HKUST), Technical University of Munich (TUM), Zhejiang University, São Paulo State University (UNESP) and other global partners

With a total prize pool of over US $35,000, the challenge offers winning teams an opportunity to gain global recognition, connect with industry leaders and sustainability experts, and access further mentorship and support to advance their solutions. Selected winning teams may also have the opportunity to participate in Stanford's EcoGlobal programme.

Themes for 2026–27

Through a phased programme, participating teams progress from identifying sustainability challenges and developing concepts to building and testing prototypes.

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

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The challenge focuses on two themes:

1. **Sustainable Energy:** Solutions addressing clean energy generation, energy access, storage, transmission and distribution, and energy efficiency.
2. **Adaptation & Resilience:** Innovations that strengthen communities and systems against climate-related challenges, with a focus on water security, food resilience and heat resilience.

IIT Bombay and the South Asia Region

As a founding partner of GSC and the Regional Ambassador for South Asia, IIT Bombay, through its Research Hub for Green Energy and Sustainability (GESH), is helping mobilise student participation across India, Sri Lanka, Nepal, Bhutan, Bangladesh and the Maldives. GSC Regional Partner, IIT Hyderabad, will host the **South Asia Regional Finale on 12-13 March 2027**, bringing together promising student innovations from across the region.

The 2026–27 Global Finale will be held at Zhejiang University, Hangzhou, China, on **20–21 May 2027**.

How to Participate?

GSC follows three phases, taking teams from initial problem exploration and concept development through prototyping, testing and regional showcases

The challenge is open to undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students across all academic disciplines. Teams of 1–6 students are encouraged to bring together diverse perspectives and interdisciplinary expertise. Proposed solutions may include technological innovations, policy proposals, business and financing models, educational initiatives, community interventions or behavioural approaches. The deadline for registration, team formation and Phase 1 (idea submission) is **22 November 2026**. Participation is free.

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Students and colleges interested in participating can find eligibility criteria, programme details and registration information at:

Programme details: https://gesh.iitb.ac.in/event-details/global-sustainability-challenge-2026-2027
Apply: https://www.globalsustainabilitychallenge.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 parttime 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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