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

IIT Bombay Observes National Education Day 2026

Prof. Krithi Ramamritham Award for Creative Research 2025 and
IIT Bombay Research Awards 2025 Presented on the Occasion

MUMBAI, 12th November 2026: Indian Institute of Technology Bombay (IIT Bombay) observed National Education Day on November 12, 2026 commemorating the birth anniversary of Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, India's first Education Minister. The Institute marked the occasion by recognising and honouring outstanding research contributions and achievements of its faculty members. **Prof. Janat Shah, Founding Director and Professor of Operations and Supply Chain Management, IIM Udaipur; Distinguished Alumnus, IIT Bombay (B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering , 1980),** graced the event as the Chief Guest.

On the occasion, the Institute presented the **Prof. Krithi Ramamritham Award for Creative Research 2025** and the **IIT Bombay Research Awards 2025**, comprising the Research Publication Awards, Impactful Research Award and Research Dissemination Award, in recognition of exemplary contributions to research, innovation and knowledge dissemination.

The Institute's Director Prof. Shireesh Kedare in his address said, *"Education and research are not separate pursuits; they complement and strengthen each other. Teaching provides an opportunity to engage with young, inquisitive minds whose questions challenge our understanding, inspire fresh perspectives and open new avenues for research. We must move beyond merely imparting information and strive to make education a truly student-centric and enriching experience that ignites curiosity and enables students to discover the joy of learning, science and engineering. In an era of rapidly advancing technology and Artificial Intelligence, we need to rethink how we teach, learn and assess knowledge. Education must go beyond comprehension and application to foster critical thinking, creativity, empathy and a deeper understanding of the world. This transformation requires the collective involvement of faculty, students, administrators and society"*.

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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Prof. Janat Shah, Founding Director and Professor, IIM Udaipur and Distinguished Alumnus of IIT Bombay, in his address as the Chief Guest said, *"Education is not merely about passing on existing knowledge, but about nurturing minds that can discover what is yet unknown. As India aspires to become a global leader, the quality of our research and our ability to address important challenges will play a defining role. In an era where Artificial Intelligence is transforming how knowledge is created, asking the right questions, exercising sound judgement and pursuing meaningful research have become more important than ever. Institutions must encourage young researchers to explore bold ideas, take intellectual risks and pursue problems that have the potential to create lasting impact. IIT Bombay has a tremendous opportunity and responsibility to contribute to breakthrough research and technologies that can fundamentally transform lives"*.

The **Research Publication Awards 2025** were conferred upon six faculty members in recognition of their outstanding research publications. The awardees were **Prof. Ruchi Anand**, Department of Chemistry; **Prof. J. Indu**, Department of Civil Engineering; **Prof. Rohit Manchanda**, Department of Biosciences and Bioengineering; **Prof. Arpita Mondal**, Department of Civil Engineering; **Prof. Archana Pai**, Department of Physics and **Prof. Ramkumar Rajendran**, Centre for Educational Technology.

The **Impactful Research Award 2025** was presented to **Prof. Haripriya Gundimeda**, Department of Economics and **Prof. Gopalan Rajaraman**, Department of Chemistry, in recognition of their significant research contributions and impact.

The **Research Dissemination Award 2025** was conferred upon **Prof. T. I. Eldho**, Department of Civil Engineering, and **Prof. Pankaj Sekhsaria**, Centre for Technology Alternatives for Rural Areas, in recognition of their contributions to the dissemination of research and knowledge.

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The prestigious **Prof. Krithi Ramamritham Award for Creative Research 2025** was conferred upon **Prof. Manas Thakur**, Department of Computer Science and Engineering, for his creative research work on “Compiler Optimization.”

The awards recognise the exceptional contributions of IIT Bombay faculty members across diverse disciplines, highlighting the Institute's commitment to excellence in research, innovation and knowledge dissemination.

This award ceremony is conducted every year on the occasion of National Education Day to recognise the achievements of the faculty members.

The function witnessed enthusiastic participation from the campus community, including the Institute functionaries, faculty members, staff and students in large numbers.

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

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