



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई
INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

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RSC & IIT Bombay Hosts 75th Yusuf Hamied Chemistry Camp for Visually Challenged Students, Breaking Barriers in Science Education

Mumbai | June 9, 2025: In a remarkable step toward inclusive science education, the Indian Institute of Technology Bombay recently hosted the 75th edition of the Yusuf Hamied Chemistry Camp, designed specifically for 59 visually impaired students from government schools in Mumbai, Nasik, Pune and Solapur. This landmark event reaffirmed a powerful message: chemistry is for everyone.

Supported by the Royal Society of Chemistry (RSC) and funded by a generous donation from Dr. Yusuf Hamied, the camp provided a first-of-its-kind, hands-on opportunity for blind students to explore the wonders of chemistry through the senses of touch and smell. This year's camp developed under the strategic leadership of Dr. Swetavalli Raghavan, Head of Innovation Strategy and Government Affairs at the RSC, featured a brand-new module developed by Professor C. Subramanian of IIT Bombay. "Given that majority of chemistry is about colour and visual perception, designing the experiments to convey concepts with clarity was intellectually stimulating and provided an unique peak into the day-to-day lives of these children," says Prof. C Subramaniam.

The camp focused on engaging students in fun, sensory-based experiments - transforming chemistry into a subject they could not only understand but also experience. Activities included tactile molecular models, scent-based chemical identification, concepts in physical chemistry such as levitating magnets and safe experiments that allowed students to feel textures and temperature changes during reactions.

"Science must be accessible to all," said Dr. Raghavan. "This initiative helps break the myth that chemistry is a visual science. With the right tools and teaching methods, we can open up the world of scientific inquiry to every learner, regardless of ability".

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Since its inception, the Yusuf Hamied Chemistry Camp programme has reached over 4,500 students from disadvantaged backgrounds across 20 states in India, offering them the opportunity to experience high-quality science education in a supportive and inspiring environment. These camps are part of a broader effort by the RSC and its partners to create a more inclusive scientific community - one where talent is nurtured irrespective of social, economic or physical barriers.

Dr. Yusuf Hamied, a lifelong philanthropist and a strong advocate for accessible healthcare and education, envisioned these camps as a way to spark curiosity and confidence among young learners. His continued support has been instrumental in scaling the programme nationally.

“Now that a template for the camp has been set, we believe that the road to equitable access of science should be taken up all over India,” urges C Subramaniam. Regular school curriculum does not include practical sessions for any of the science subjects, excluding this career option for the students. Committing to running this camp for the next 5 years, Dr Raghavan stated, “Science belongs to everyone - when we make it accessible, we unlock the potential of minds that the world has too long overlooked”.

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 calibre of students graduating from its undergraduate and postgraduate programmes. The Institute has 17 academic departments, 35 other academic entities

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(Centres/ Programmes/ Academic facilities/ Hubs/ Externally funded centres and Labs) and three schools. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 751 faculty members and about 150 visiting and 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 4, 2024, IIT Bombay was ranked 1st in India and 118th in the world in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2025. On March 12, 2025, IIT Bombay was ranked 28th in Engineering and Technology in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings by Subject for 2025.

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