



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान मुंबई

INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY BOMBAY

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Bharat Innovates Deep-Tech Pre-Summit Inaugurated at IIT Bombay;

India's Top Deep-Tech Startups Showcase Innovations

MUMBAI | March 21, 2026: The Bharat Innovates Deep-Tech Pre-Summit, a national showcase of India's emerging deep-technology startups, was inaugurated today at ASPIRE - IIT Bombay Research Park Foundation in the IIT Bombay campus by **Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood, Principal Scientific Adviser to the Government of India and Chairperson of the Prime Minister's Science, Technology & Innovation Advisory Council (PM-STIAC)**, in the presence of senior delegates from the Government of India. These included **Dr. Vineet Joshi**, Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education; **Prof. Abhay Karandikar**, Secretary, Department of Science and Technology; **Dr. K. Radhakrishnan**, Chairperson, Board of Governors, IIT Bombay and **Prof. Shireesh Kedare**, Director, IIT Bombay. The two-day event brings together leading startups, investors, industry leaders, policymakers and representatives from the IIT and IISc ecosystems to celebrate and strengthen India's deep-tech innovation landscape.

The Pre-Summit serves as a precursor to the "Bharat Innovates 2026" international showcase, to be held in France later this year as part of the India-France Year of Innovation 2026, announced by the **Hon'ble Prime Minister of India Shri Narendra Modi ji**. The initiative aims to present India's most promising deep-tech ventures to global investors and partners.

Welcoming the dignitaries and participants, **Prof. Shireesh Kedare** highlighted the collaborative effort of the IIT and IISc ecosystem in nurturing India's deep-tech innovation pipeline. He noted that more than 3,000 startup applications were received from across the country from which 137 of India's most promising deep-tech startups were selected to showcase their innovations at the event.

In his inaugural address, **Chief Guest Prof. Ajay Kumar Sood** emphasized the importance of deep-tech innovation in shaping India's technological leadership and global competitiveness, while

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highlighting the role of academic institutions, research ecosystems and startups in advancing cutting-edge technologies.

The ceremony also featured addresses by Dr. Vineet Joshi, Prof. Abhay Karandikar and Dr. K. Radhakrishnan.

Addressing the deep-tech ventures exhibiting here, Dr. K. Radhakrishnan said, “You are going to write a new history for India. After seeing the presentations, I feel there is a purpose to continue to live in India. Let me congratulate the architects of this New India. When you go to France with the Hon’ble Prime Minister, you are going to be ambassadors of India. There is a thin line between National Fame and National Shame. Make India proud”.

Praising the role of the National Missions, DST Secretary Prof. Abhay Karandikar said, “The IITs and IISC have a big role to play in nurturing the deep-tech ecosystem. This is an interesting time for startups. This summit not only addresses the country’s problems but also pushes us towards a globally competitive environment”.

In his address, the Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Dr. Vineet Joshi said, “The true purpose of education today goes beyond academic achievement - it must enable learners to contribute meaningfully to society. With the National Education Policy 2020, we are driving a strong shift towards industry-academia integration to make education more relevant, dynamic and innovation-driven. In a rapidly changing world where knowledge evolves in months rather than years, our education system must continuously adapt - reforming curricula, pedagogy and assessment to stay aligned with real-world needs. Platforms like Bharat Innovates play a vital role in bringing together innovators, investors and academia, creating meaningful interactions that strengthen India’s innovation ecosystem. This is just the beginning of India’s innovation journey. The Government of India remains committed to ensuring that this momentum continues, as we move forward with confidence towards our vision for 2047.”



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The inaugural session also featured inspiring deep-tech entrepreneurship journeys from IIT Campuses, with insights from Mr. Manoj Meena, Co-founder, Atomberg Technologies (IIT Bombay) and Prof. Rahul Purwar, Founder, ImmunoAct (IIT Bombay), who shared their experiences of building globally recognized deep-tech ventures emerging from IIT campuses.

Following the inauguration, the Chief Guest and dignitaries walked through the startup exhibition, interacting with founders and exploring innovations presented across dedicated startup stalls and the IIT pavilion showcasing institutional research and entrepreneurship initiatives.

The summit features curated investor interactions, startup exhibitions and structured pitching sessions, enabling startups to present their technologies to investors, industry leaders and policymakers. On the first day, more than 70 startups presented their ideas across multiple parallel pitch sessions, followed by reverse pitches from leading investors and industry representatives, highlighting priority investment areas and industry-driven technological challenges.

The Bharat Innovates Deep-Tech Pre-Summit brings together stakeholders from across India's innovation ecosystem and provides a national platform for emerging startups to connect with investors, industry leaders, and policy makers ahead of the global showcase in France.

The event will continue tomorrow (22nd March 2026) with additional startup pitching sessions, policy discussions, investor engagement and the Grand Finale and Awards Ceremony, where the best startup pitches will be recognized.

About Bharat Innovates:

Bharat Innovates 2026 is an initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, with strategic guidance from the Office of the Principal Scientific Adviser (PSA). It is designed to represent India's R&D-backed technology innovation prowess - nurtured at Higher Education Institutes (HEIs) and Centrally Funded Technical Institutes (CFTIs) - on the global stage.



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The programme identifies, mentors, and supports approximately 100 promising and path-breaking technology innovations at various stages of development (TRL 3–9), and presents them to a global audience comprising industry personnel, investors, policymakers, potential collaborators, and technology partners.

For more, please visit: <https://bharatinnovates.in/>

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 81 academic divisions. Over the last six decades, more than 75,000 engineers and scientists have graduated from the Institute. It is served by 760 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 19, 2025, IIT Bombay was ranked 2nd in India and 129th in the world in the Quacquarelli Symonds (QS) World University Rankings for 2026. For more, please visit: <https://www.iitb.ac.in>