



IIT Bombay celebrates 80th Independence Day with call for responsible nation building

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The Indian Institute of Technology Bombay celebrated the 80th Independence Day with enthusiasm and patriotic spirit on August 15, 2026. The celebrations were held near the iconic arch facing the Nandan Nilekani Main Building on the IIT Bombay campus.

The ceremony began at 9:00 a.m. with the unfurling of the National Flag by Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay in the presence of Chief Guest Shri Suhas Mehta, Distinguished Alumnus, IIT Bombay. The National Anthem and National Song were presented on the occasion, creating an atmosphere of pride and patriotism.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Kedare said that Independence Day is not only an occasion to celebrate freedom but also a reminder of the responsibility of every citizen towards the nation. He emphasised that nation-building begins with everyday actions such as maintaining harmony, respecting India's unity in diversity, following discipline, protecting the environment and encouraging the use of Indian goods and services. He said that these collective efforts can contribute to building a stronger and self-reliant India.

Chief Guest Shri Suhas Mehta said that India is at an important stage in its development and must aim to become a global leader in innovation, science and technology. He called upon engineers, scientists and entrepreneurs to ensure that technological and economic progress is accompanied by social responsibility, environmental protection and compassion. He emphasised the need for India to aspire not only for economic prosperity but also to become a wiser and values-driven society.

The celebrations also featured a vibrant cultural programme presented by students, showcasing India's spirit of unity in diversity.

Faculty members, staff, students and their families participated in the celebrations. The programme was also broadcast live on the Institute's YouTube channel, enabling wider participation by the IIT Bombay community.

The campus was decorated with tricolour-themed lights and decorations. The celebration concluded with a renewed commitment to contribute to India's progress, prosperity and nation-building.

The celebrations were followed by the IIT Bombay Staff Excellence Awards (IITB-SEA), instituted in 2025 to recognise outstanding contributions by non-teaching staff. The Lifetime Staff Excellence Award was presented to Shri Ramesh Boke, while Individual and Team Excellence Awards were presented to staff members from various departments.

The Director and the Chief Guest also felicitated Ms. Varsha Vinod Mhapankar, Ms. Vrushali Dattaram Sansare, Shri Prakash Bhaskar Ranade and Ms. Tabassum Zahid Majgaonkar for completing 40 years of dedicated service to IIT Bombay. Their contribution was acknowledged as an example of dedication and institutional commitment.

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