



IITM, Pune Celebrates the 80th Independence Day

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The Indian Institute of Tropical Meteorology (IITM), Pune, celebrated the 80th Independence Day of India on 15 August 2026, bringing together the IITM community to commemorate the nation's freedom and reflect on the Institute's contribution to scientific advancement and national service.



The celebrations commenced with the collective rendition of "Vande Mataram," the National Song of India, followed by the hoisting of the National Flag by Dr. Suryachandra Rao, Director, IITM, and the collective singing of the National Anthem, "Jana Gana Mana." Dr. Suryachandra Rao subsequently addressed the gathering and highlighted IITM's scientific achievements and its vision for the years ahead.

In his address, the Director emphasised that scientific independence goes beyond the freedom to conduct research. It encompasses the ability to generate knowledge, develop indigenous technologies and translate scientific discoveries into solutions

that serve the nation and society.



The address highlighted several major initiatives and achievements of IITM during the past year, including Weather and Climate Innovation for Startups and Entrepreneurs (WICE 2026) and the establishment of a dedicated incubation centre for weather and climate technologies. The Institute's Bharat Forecast System, advances in seasonal, extended-range and short-range forecasting, AI-enabled forecast products, and the application of weather and climate information for disaster management were also highlighted.



IITM's expanding observational and technological capabilities, including the Bharat Climate Observation Network (BCON), urban meteorological observations, lightning and cloud studies, indigenous weather instruments and low-cost technologies, were

also featured. The Institute's high-performance computing facility Arka and the integration of physics, observations and machine learning continue to strengthen India's capabilities in Earth system science.

The Director also highlighted IITM's research publications, doctoral research, national and international collaborations, scientific recognitions and efforts to translate research into applications with tangible societal impact.



A significant highlight of the celebrations was the inauguration of the Weather Radar Exhibit at the main entrance of IITM, showcasing the Institute's scientific capabilities and its contribution to weather and climate research.

The celebrations also included a Tree Plantation Drive led by the Director, IITM, along with the Project Directors, reaffirming the Institute's commitment to environmental responsibility and a sustainable future.

The 80th Independence Day celebration reflected IITM's continued commitment to scientific excellence, indigenous innovation and service to the nation.

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