POD PULSE

Newsletter Version 3 Issue 1

Institute Highlights

80th Independence Day Celebrations





IIT Indore celebrated the 80th Independence Day on August 15, 2026. The day commenced at with the unfurling of the National Flag by Director, Prof. Suhas S. Joshi, followed by the National Anthem and his formal address. The Director, alongside Prof. Rajeev Sangal (former Director of IIT BHU and IIIT Hyderabad), inaugurated new classrooms on the 4th Floor of the Lecture Hall Complex, followed by the launch of the institute's revamped website and new digital modules.

The morning featured a musical performance by the MCTE Mhow Army Band, along with vibrant cultural showcases by student clubs, including the Music Club, Srijan Poetry Club, Kaizen Dance Crew, Aaina Dramatics Club, and Nrityanjali.

Technological creativity and student innovation were featured in the Technical Exposition, organized by the Science and Tech Council. The expo brought together 14 technical clubs and 2 specialized teams presenting live demonstrations and working prototypes. The celebrations extended into creative student competitions, including Kalakriti's Art Contest and the "India Quiz: A Twist with Destiny", organized by the Quiz Club.





Department of Chemical Engineering Open House

On August 17, 2026, the Department of Chemical Engineering, organized the Chemical Engineering Open House 2026, providing a platform to showcase the department's academic activities, research initiatives, faculty expertise, and student research. It featured faculty presentations, a keynote lecture and Q&A session by Mr. Satish Agrawal, Senior Asset Manager at Total Energies India Pvt. Ltd., followed by a student poster presentation session. The Open House provided an opportunity for students to present their research, interact with faculty and peers, discuss their findings, and receive valuable feedback, while highlighting the integration of chemical engineering, computational mechanics, granular rheology, and machine learning in contemporary research.







EnRISE '26

IIT Indore hosted the International Conference on Environmental Research and Innovation for Sustainable Engineering (EnRISE 2026) on August 7 - 8, 2026. The flagship event was patronized by Director Prof. Suhas S. Joshi and jointly organized by the Algal EcoTechnology & Sustainability (AETS) Group, led by Prof. Kiran Bala (Mehta Family School of Sustainability), alongside the STWUTEE Lab, headed by Dr. Mayur Shirish Jain (Department of Civil Engineering).

Conceived as an interdisciplinary interface between environmental science and engineering practice, the conference featured six dedicated thematic tracks. These encompassed River









Health and Wetland Restoration, Wastewater Treatment and Resource Recovery, Solid Waste Management and Circular Economy, Emerging Contaminants, Environmental Policy and Governance, and Allied Areas in Sustainable Engineering such as AI, Life Cycle Assessment, and Geospatial Analytics.

The conclave drew international and national delegates, featuring keynote addresses by Guest of Honour Padma Bhushan Dr. Anil Prakash Joshi (Founder, HESCO), Prof. M. M. Ghangrekar (IIT Kharagpur), Prof. Ajay S. Kalamdhad (IIT Guwahati), Prof. Brajesh Kr. Dubey (IIT Kharagpur), and Prof. Sonil Nanda (Dalhousie University, Canada).

Samvardhan

The Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education, Government of India, in collaboration with IIT Indore, under the Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Programme, concluded the two-day "Samvardhan: From Academic Excellence to Sustainable Wellness" Capacity Building Workshop on Positive Mental Health, Resilience & Wellbeing at IIT Indore on August 30–31, 2026.





The session was presided over by Director, Prof. Suhas S. Joshi, in the presence of Dr. Jitendra Nagpal, Director-in-Charge, Institute of Mental Health & Life Skills Promotion, New Delhi, and Director, Expressions India, Dr. Jitendra Tripathi, Joint Secretary, University Grants Commission, Dean of Student Affairs, Prof. Amod C. Umarikar; and Registrar, Mr S.P. Hota.





The second day commenced with a Campus Jungle Walk and a Plantation Drive, highlighting the role of green, healthy campus environments in promoting well-being. A thematic workshop on "Identifying Flag Signs and Management of Specific Learning Disabilities, Prevention of Substance Use and Allied Areas" focused on early identification, appropriate interventions, prevention of substance use and strengthening student support systems.

Among the expert sessions, Prof. Rajeev Sangal, former Director of IIT BHU and IIIT Hyderabad, delivered an insightful talk titled "Holistic Wellbeing: Need for Mentoring Networks." He emphasised the importance of strong, accessible mentoring networks in supporting students' academic, personal and emotional wellbeing. The workshop also highlighted the significance of hostel ecosystems, mentoring networks, peer support and connected campuses in creating sustainable systems of student wellbeing.

Rashtriya Kartavya: Defence Technology Seminar

IIT Indore, in collaboration with MCTE, Mhow, hosted Rashtriya Kartavya 2026 on August 5, 2026, at Nalanda Auditorium. The defense technology seminar focused on army-academia partnerships and bridging frontline military requirements with engineering solutions. The event featured a live weapon display showcasing equipment across various army wings, including Infantry, Armored, Artillery, and Signals. A key highlight of the afternoon was an operational account of Operation Dadsara, delivered by Sena Medal recipient Lt. Col. Aman. Technical discussions centered on advancements in modern warfare, such as AI-assisted target detection, adaptive cyber defense, and communication and electronic warfare systems co-developed with IIT Indore.

The seminar concluded with an interactive "Know Your Army" quiz.

Leading up to the seminar, interactive build-up competitions were organized at Cafe Arena on August 4, 2026, including fitness challenges, an online chess meet, and an on-the-spot talent showcase where participants performed and spoke on the Indian Armed Forces.







Talks and Workshops

- On July 3, 2026, a talk on "Tank Ammunition – Research Opportunities" by Prof. R. D. Misal (DRDO / DIAT Pune) was organised.
- On July 13, 2026, BSBE organised a talk on "Exploiting our 'Second Genome' for Health and Wellness", by Prof. Sharmila Mande (Distinguished Chief Scientist and Head, Bio-Sciences and RnD at TCS).
- On July 14, 2026, BSBE organised a talk on "Data Analytics in Protein Science: My Experience of 30 Years", by Prof. Shekhar C. Mande (President, INSA).
- On July 21, 2026, DAASE organised a talk on "Bayesian Pathways to Cosmic Dawn and Reionisation: From HERA Visibilities to Galaxy Cross-Correlations", by Sohini Dutta (University of Manchester).
- On July 24, 2026, DAASE organised a talk on "21 cm observations and modal independent approach to remove foregrounds from CMB", by Dr. Rajib Saha (IISER Bhopal).
- On July 24, 2026, DAASE organised a talk on "Cosmic Microwave Background" by Dr. Srinivasan Raghunathan (University of California, Davis, USA).
- On August 5, 2026, CAMC organised a talk on "AI and Building a Greater Future through Co-Innovation and Collective Knowledge", by the Senior Leadership Team from TCS Research & Innovation.
- On August 12, 2026, DAASE organised a talk on "Dynamical stability and long-term evolution of planetary systems", by Dr. Hareesh Bhaskar (Indiana University Bloomington, USA).
- On August 12, 2026, DAASE organised a talk on "Cosmology, Galaxy Clustering, and the Euclid Mission", by Prof. Emiliano Sefusatti (INAF-Osservatorio Astronomico di Trieste / Roma, Italy).
- On August 13, 2026, the Department of Civil Engineering organised a talk on “Establishing Structural Safety Targets Using Socio-Economic Indicators”, by Prof. Mahesh D. Pandey, Professor at the University of Waterloo, Canada.
- On August 20, 2026, the CFA Club organised a talk on the "National Mutual Fund Olympiad (NMFO) 2026" by an NMFO Industry Speaker.

Fellowships, Scholarships and Awards

The following students secured prestigious international fellowships, scholarships, and awards accross diverse disciplines

- Nishant Gulabrao Pawar (MTech, AASE) – LIGO SURF 2026 Program, USA
- Naveen Kumar (PhD, Chemistry) – ANRF-ITS, Japan
- Siddharth Singh (PhD, BSBE) – Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Research Fellowship, USA
- Sameer Lakkad (BTech, ME) – Airbus CEDAR Scholarship, France
- Tamanna Singh (PhD, AASE) – IEEE GRSS International Travel Grant, USA
- Krishan Kumar Choudhary (MTech, BSBE) – PhD at NTU Taiwan, Taiwan
- Sayak Chakravorty (PhD, CE) – Mitacs Globalink Research Award (GRA), Canada
- Kapil D Ursal (PhD, BSBE) – ANRF International Travel Support, Italy
- Monika (PhD, SHSS) – International Conference Travel Grant, Mongolia
- Diksha Jaurker (PhD, ME) – ANRF International Travel Support (ITS), Republic of Korea.
- Mansi Singh (BTech, Engg. Phy.) – ERUA Research Cluster Membership (AICIED), Europe
- Aninda Pritam Roy (M.Tech, AASE) – Outbound Semester Exchange Fellowship for Colarado State University, USA. And recieved an IEEE IDEA Professional Development Microgrant of USD 500.
- Kuldeep Pathak (PhD, CSE) – SIAM Student Travel Award, USA
- Astha Sharma (PhD, CE) – Advanced Materials Science World Congress Travel Support, Italy
- Vikash Vishwakarma (PhD, EE) – International Scholar Program, Belgium
- Aayushi Chatterjee (PhD, SHSS) – Conference Travel Grant, Germany
- Kavita Singh (PhD, BSBE) – Indo-US Outbound Program, USA
- Anam Sabir (PhD, AASE) – Fulbright-Nehru Doctoral Fellowship, USA

- Rajendra Goud (Ph.D, ME): Represented IIT Indore at the 2nd International Conference on Future of AM (August 4-6, 2026, Singapore), presenting his research.





- Akhila Gouda (Ph.D,EE): Supervised by Dr. Saptarshi Ghosh, he won the John Volakis Travel Grant and an Honorable Mention in the Student Paper Competition.

- Mandira Brahma (M.Tech., DAASE): Published a book chapter titled "Design and Implementation of a Smart Waste Segregation Bin Using Fuzzy Logic" in Advances in Electronics and Communication Systems: Design, Applications, and Emerging Technologies.





- Ayush Garg (Ph.D., DAASE): Attended the 46th COSPAR Scientific Assembly in Florence, Italy, delivering two scientific talks.

Student Highlights

E-Summit '26

The Entrepreneurship Cell at IIT Indore hosted its annual entrepreneurship festival, E-Summit '26, on August 29–30, 2026, themed "Renaissance: Quills to Capital." Serving as an innovation platform in Central India, the two-day summit brought together students, startup founders, venture capitalists, and industry veterans for high-stakes competitions, live pitching sessions, and leadership interactions.

Participants competed for prizes worth ₹2.2 Lakhs across eight diverse challenges, including DevCraft (a 24-hour MVP hackathon), Boardroom (a corporate crisis simulation), Case Chronicles (a consulting strategy challenge), Product Breakdown, Design Odyssey (a UI/UX showdown), Think Like a VC, Entrivia, and Trading Vault (a forensic equity research track hosted in collaboration with Fin Maverick offering PPI opportunities). Beyond the competitions, the event featured PitchX for live startup funding evaluations, an Innovators Unplugged panel session with Shark Tank-funded startup founders Dr. Shivansh Bhalla (Founder, Cosmo Health), Mr. Radhesh Sirohiya (Co-Founder, Shyle Silver), and Mr. Ayush Bansal (Founder, iDreamCareer) sharing practical entrepreneurial insights, and a campus Food Fest. Keynote addresses under the Visionary Vault were delivered by Sundararaman Ramamurthy (MD & CEO, Bombay Stock Exchange) and Anup Gupta (Founder, MathonGo). The festival concluded with an entertaining stand-up performance by comedian Piyush Sharma, followed by the felicitation of competition winners at the closing ceremony.











Aerothon - HAL x IIT Indore









IIT Indore, in collaboration with Hindustan Aeronautics Limited (HAL), hosted the grand finale of Aerothon 2026 on August 7, 2026, and August 8, 2026. The national-level aerospace hackathon brought together 25 shortlisted teams from across India to tackle real-world aerospace engineering challenges involving Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning, Data Science, Optimization, and Scientific Computing. The top 25 teams advanced to the 24-hour Grand Finale at IIT Indore.

Over two days, participants worked to develop, test, and refine innovative solutions to two real-world aerospace problem statements presented by HAL. Teams collaborated with HAL experts, IIT Indore faculty, and mentors, gaining exposure to industry-oriented problem-solving and practical applications of emerging technologies.

The finale concluded with final presentations before an expert panel, with Mavericks, Aeronexus, Aeroworks, Skunkedworks, Vyoma, and Shunya emerging as the six winning teams.

Aerothon 2026 marked a collaboration between academia and industry, creating a platform for young innovators to apply their technical skills to meaningful aerospace challenges and contribute to the future of engineering and innovation.

Tarang





Tarang 2026, IIT Indore's first-ever online summer cultural competition series, brought together students to celebrate creativity and talent across diverse art forms. Organized by the Cultural Council in collaboration with various cultural clubs, the initiative featured competitions in poetry, photography, filmmaking, meme-making, visual art, and 3D rendering. Students had the opportunity to showcase their skills, gain recognition through official institute platforms.

Tamasha 2.0

Tamasha 2.0, organized by the Cultural Council of Students' Gymkhana at IIT Indore, was held on August 22, 2026, as a night of entertainment, games, and Hollywood fandom. The event began with a Marvel-themed quiz, followed by fun gaming activities. It also included Marvel-inspired merchandise and talent showcases. Later, students enjoyed a Hollywood-style DJ Night with dinner.

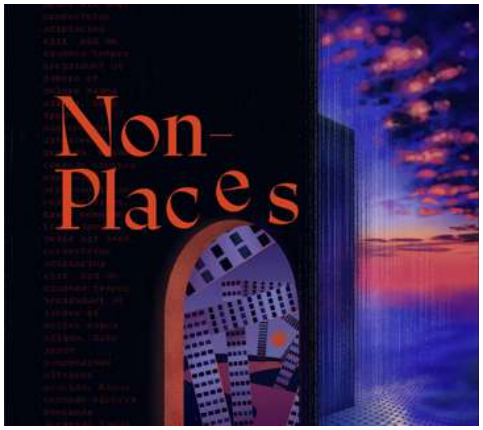


EBSB Sports Event

The EBSB Club at IIT Indore hosted a traditional sports evening on August 14, 2026. The sports included Tug of War, Kho-Kho, and Seven Stones (Lagori). The motto of the event being Ek Bharat, Shreshtha Bharat. The event concluded with the team Orbit securing the first position, followed by team Toofan, team Bhagat Singh, and Team Bapu.







Inscription' 26

The Literary Club launched its annual magazine, 'Inscription'26, on August 9, 2026, inviting readers to explore this year's theme, 'Non Places'. The edition journeys through transient spaces, fleeting connections, and quiet reflections, featuring articles, poetry, and candid reflections from graduating seniors. With its blend of creativity, nostalgia, and introspection, Inscription'26 takes readers through fleeting spaces, lingering thoughts, and moments that stay with us long after we move on.

Friendly Match IIT VS IIM

IIT Indore and IIM Indore came together for a friendly sports match on August 9, 2026, featuring lawn tennis and football. With enthusiastic support from the sidelines, the event showcased the energy of inter-institute sporting encounters and provided an evening of fun, excitement, and friendly competition for the IIT Indore community.





Genesis 5.0

Genesis 5.0, the nine-day induction programme at IIT Indore, was held from July 25, 2026, to August 2, 2026, for 588 new undergraduate students. The students were grouped into four houses—Medha, Ojas, Pragya, and Yukti—and took part in a mix of academic, cultural, physical, and life-skill activities. Sessions covered topics like design thinking, money management, human values, environment and energy, online safety, health, emergency skills, science and technology, and fire safety. Outdoor activities such as sunrise walks, jungle treks, lake visits, and tree planting promoted fitness, teamwork, and care for nature. Experts and faculty, including Prof. Rajeev Sangal, Prof. Chetan Solanki, and senior police officials, guided students through workshops and awareness sessions.











Alumni Highlights

Alumni Magazine Release

The ACR office formally announced the release of the IIT Indore Alumni Magazine (July 2026) on July 19, 2026, curated around the theme "Bridging Worlds with AI.". The magazine was released by Director, Prof. Suhas S. Joshi, alongside Dean ACR, Prof. Suman Mukhopadhyay. Centering on the transformative impact of artificial intelligence across research, industry, and societal advancement, the publication captures the expanding horizons of the institute's alumni network. The edition features insightful alumni interviews, a dedicated faculty spotlight, regional chapter updates, institutional milestones, and diverse creative writing pieces. Additionally, the issue highlights visual talent through its curated Photography Corner, which features selected student contributions.



Founders' Connect '26 x Ideathon



On August 30, 2026, the Alumni Cell of IIT Indore hosted Founder's Connect, the annual flagship initiative dedicated to entrepreneurial excellence and inspiring the next generation of student innovators. The session featured in-depth, podcast-style interviews and discussions with two distinguished alumni founders: Singh Sahab (B.Tech, MEMS, Class of 2021), founder of Domico, and Venkata Sai Vamsi Penupothu (B.Tech, EE, Class of 2015), founder of Runo. Both speakers reflected on their transformative career trajectories, shedding light on the genesis of their ventures and the process of translating technical engineering knowledge into viable, market-ready business models.

They offered their perspectives on navigating market uncertainties, embracing calculated risks, and executing strategic time management to balance demanding core academic coursework with early-stage venture development. Beyond business strategy, the founders took a moment to reminisce about their student days, highlighting the impressive infrastructural and institutional growth IIT Indore has achieved over the past few years. The session concluded with an engaging, interactive Q&A series, providing the incoming first-year cohort and aspiring entrepreneurs an invaluable platform to gain direct mentorship on product-market fit, venture scalability, and the evolving landscape of modern startups.









The session was followed by Ideathon, IIT Indore's inaugural live startup pitching competition, which provided shortlisted teams a high-stakes platform to present their business models and receive direct critique from the visiting founders. Following rigorous evaluations of innovation, market viability, and presentation delivery, the top five ventures—Zoopers, Earthly Cleanz, Mentor Me, Nexora, and Polytalk AI—were awarded prizes for their startup concepts and pitches.

Alumni Cell Tenure Change Ceremony





On August 25, 2026, the Alumni Cell hosted its Tenure Change Ceremony at Enrise by Sayaji, Rau, Indore, marking the official induction of the incoming heads and domain leads while commemorating the outgoing team's contributions. The event featured insightful addresses by Prof. Suman Mukhopadhyay, Dean of Alumni and Corporate Relations (ACR), along with faculty alumni Dr. Pradeep Kundu (Mechanical Engineering) and Dr. Maharshi Dhada (Mechanical Engineering). The speakers shared their perspectives on the institute's rapid campus development and highlighted the crucial role of alumni engagement in fostering student mentorship and institutional growth. The ceremony concluded with the formal transition of responsibilities and a celebratory dinner with faculty members.

Bus By Mhale

IIT Indore expanded its transit infrastructure with the induction of a new institute bus on July 27, 2026, supported through the CSR initiatives of M/s MAHLE Engine Components (I) Pvt. Ltd.
The formal handover ceremony was attended by the Director, Prof. Suhas S. Joshi, and representatives from the ACR Office alongside MAHLE corporate officials.









Pune Alumni Get-Together

On August 22, 2026, the ACR Office hosted an evening with the IIT Indore alumni community based in Pune, led by Dean ACR Prof. Suman Mukhopadhyay. The gathering brought graduates together to discuss institutional milestones, explore professional opportunities, and identify ways to strengthen alumni-institute partnerships. Through shared industry perspectives and forward-looking discussions, the session set the stage for stronger regional initiatives, better mentorship channels, and ongoing engagement to strengthen the institute's wider alumni network.



Hyderabad MoU Signing

On July 19, 2026, IIT Indore formally signed an MoU to establish the IIT Indore Alumni Association Hyderabad Chapter, expanding its regional footprint and fostering lifelong ties across graduating cohorts. The ceremony was held in the presence of Director Prof. Suhas S. Joshi and Dean ACR Prof. Suman Mukhopadhyay. During the occasion, Mr. Kondeti Vinay (B.Tech., Electrical Engineering, Class of 2023) was officially appointed as the President of the Hyderabad Chapter. The launch of the chapter provides a dedicated regional platform for professional collaboration, student mentorship, and industry engagement, further connecting alumni with their alma mater and strengthening the global IIT Indore community.

Research and Faculty Highlights



IIT Indore researchers, led by Prof. Hem Chandra Jha and Dr. Tarun Prakash Verma, have developed a patented, non-invasive oral cancer screening technique using saliva and oral swabs. Published in the British Journal of Cancer, the LC-MS-based method detects early metabolic and molecular changes before visible symptoms appear, offering a painless alternative to biopsies for mass screening.



Prof. Anirban Sengupta, faculty at IIT Indore, FIET, FBCS, FIETE was elected as distinguished Fellow of the Soft Computing Research Society (DisF-SCRS). As of now, Only 0.5 % professionals are recognized DisF-SCRS out of 14000+ members globally.





Dr. Khushubo Tiwari Devi, faculty at IIT Indore, received the WISER Award (Women Involvement in Science and Engineering Research), for her research on Hydrogen Reduction of Iron Ores in collaboration with Maria Jazmin Duarte Correa, Max Planck Institute for Sustainable Materials, Germany.

Faculty Updates

The Faculties Promoted in the tenure :

- Prof. Sunil Kumar (MEMS)
- Prof. Vinod Kumar (MEMS)
- Prof. Mrigendra Dubey (MEMS)
- Prof. Ram Sajeevan Maurya (MEMS)
- Dr. Dudekula Althaf Basha (MEMS, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Hemant Borkar (MEMS, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Balasubramanyam Appina (EE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Sumit Gautam (EE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Nagendra Kumar (CSE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Soumi Chattopadhyay (CSE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Gourab Sil (CE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Guru Prakash (CE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Kaustav Bakshi (CE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Mayur Shirish Jain (CE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Unmesh Govind Khati (AASE, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Ashish Kumar Rajak (ME, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Girish Chandra Verma (ME, Associate Prof)
- Prof. Abhijeet Balwantrao Joshi (BSBE)
- Prof. Hem Chandra Jha (BSBE)
- Dr. Parimal Kar (BSBE, Associate Prof)
- Prof. Amrendra Kumar Singh (Chemistry)
- Prof. Tridib Kumar Sarma (Chemistry)
- Dr. Abhinav Raghuvanshi (Chemistry, Associate Prof)
- Prof. Chidella Upendra (HSS)
- Dr. Kalandi Charan Pradhan (HSS, Associate Prof)
- Dr. Aratrika Das (HSS, Associate Prof)

Patents



- Prof. Neelesh Kumar Jain: *"System and Method for Vacuum-Assisted μ-Plasma Powder Additive Manufacturing (VMPP-AM) for Metallic Depositions" and "Ultrasonic Solid-State Additive Manufacturing (USSAM) Apparatus and Technology for Multi-material Laminates"*



- Prof. Hemchandra Jha: *"Biomarkers for the Detection of Infection-Driven Dysbiotic Gut and Neurological Diseases" and "A Composition for the Treatment of Epstein-Barr Virus Mediated Brain Diseases and its Method of Preparation"*



- Prof. Mukesh Kumar: *"Engineered Nanophotonic Structure Based on Electrically Controlled Composite Materials for Biochemical Sensing"*



- Prof. I. A. Palani: *"System And Method For Navigating Mobile Furniture Units"*



- Prof. Rajneesh Misra: *"Benzothiazole-Phenothiazine Derivative-Based Lung Cancer Therapeutic and Method Thereof"*



- Prof. Devendra Deshmukh: *"A Controlled Explosion Testing System for Analysis of a Specimen"*



- Dr. Sumit Gautam: *"Advanced Drone System for Extended Monitoring with Tethered and Autonomous Power"*



- Prof. Biswarup Pathak: *"Method and System for Identifying a Molecule of Artificial Deoxyribonucleic Acid (DNA) Nucleobase"*



- Dr. Lalit Borana: *"A Method for Grading Cement-treated Soil Sample"*

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