



aspire
IITB Research Park
Foundation



THE INNOVERSE GRID



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VOLUME V

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY

MEMBERS' DAY 2026

SHAPING THE NEXT DECADE OF INDUSTRY-ACADEMIA COLLABORATION

ASPIRE - IIT Bombay Research Park Foundation was established with the purpose of creating an ecosystem where academia, industry, government, and entrepreneurs could come

together to translate research into real-world impact. Over the past decade, that vision has evolved into a vibrant platform that enables collaborative research, technology development, entrepreneurship, and innovation across disciplines.



Celebrating this milestone, ASPIRE Members' Day 2026 brought together nearly 300 leaders from academia, industry, government, and the wider innovation ecosystem to reflect on a decade of collaborative excellence while collectively envisioning the future of innovation. Centred around the theme, **Shaping the Next Decade**, the event showcased not only ASPIRE's journey over the past ten years but also its growing role as a catalyst for research translation, technology partnerships, and innovation-led growth.

Shaping the Next Decade

MEMBERS' DAY 2026

EVENT HIGHLIGHTS

The day began with an engaging Co-Creation Showcase, where collaborative teams comprising **Bhukhanwala Industries, CloudMojo, MNST, NeoDocs, and Rishabh Instruments**, together with IIT Bombay faculty and researchers, demonstrated technologies developed through sustained industry-academia engagement. More than a technology exhibition, the showcase reflected ASPIRE's collaborative ethos—bringing together scientific research, entrepreneurial thinking, and industrial expertise to address real-world challenges.

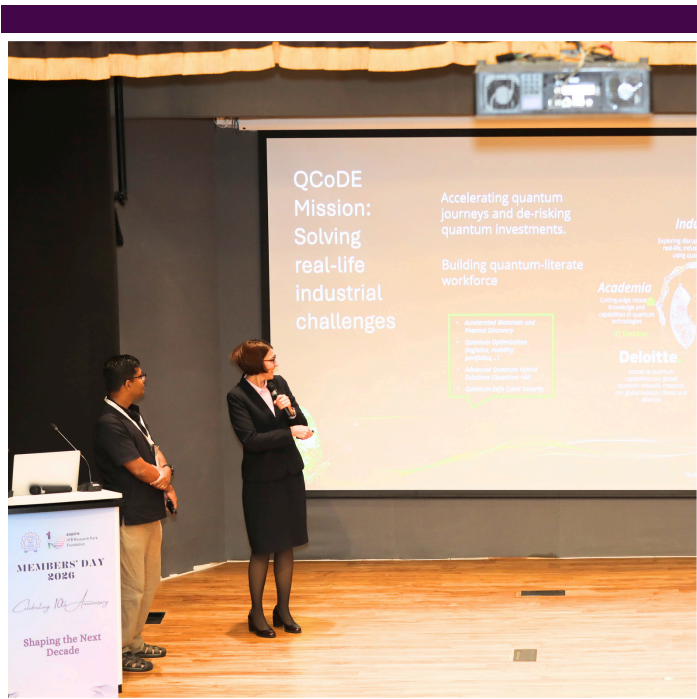
Setting the tone for the celebrations, **Prof. Vikram Vishal, Professor-in-Charge, ASPIRE IITBRPF**, reflected on ASPIRE's decade-long evolution and reaffirmed the institution's commitment to building deeper partnerships that accelerate research translation and create meaningful societal impact. The audience was then presented with the ASPIRE 10-Year Journey Film, chronicling the Foundation's growth and the partnerships that have defined its first decade.



RESEARCH TO REAL-WORLD IMPACT

One of the defining sessions of the day, **Research to Real-World Impact**, demonstrated how long-term collaborations between IIT Bombay and industry are transforming research into deployable technologies and scalable solutions.

Faculty-industry teams jointly presented collaborations spanning quantum technologies, hydrogen energy systems, autonomous aerial platforms, advanced steel manufacturing, and consumer product science.



**Prof. Siddharth Santra with
Dr. Renata Jovanovic**

Deloitte.

From quantum computing and AI-enabled quantum approaches to quantum-safe technologies, the session explored how next-generation capabilities can address complex enterprise challenges across cybersecurity, optimisation, finance, materials, logistics, and drug discovery.

More than a research initiative, QCoDE, Deloitte is building a translational platform that connects academia and industry to accelerate pilot projects, develop future-ready talent, and advance real-world quantum adoption.



**Prof. Pratibha Sharma alongside
Mr. Sameer Raikar**



Showcasing the IIT Bombay – Larsen & Toubro partnership, where cutting-edge research is advancing towards real-world deployment.

The collaboration is driving the development of compact hydrogen energy systems for autonomous and strategic platforms, combining IIT Bombay's expertise in materials science with L&T's engineering and deployment capabilities.

A compelling example of how industry and academia can accelerate technologies from the laboratory to the field.





Prof. Rohit Nanavati and Mr. Krishan Kumar



Exploring the IIT Bombay – ideaForge collaboration advancing the future of autonomous aerial systems.

The partnership brings together IIT Bombay's research in autonomous navigation and vehicle-agnostic guidance algorithms with ideaForge's expertise in product engineering and flight validation.



Prof. V. Nurni, Prof. S. Parida, and Dr. Thanki



Highlighting the growing IIT Bombay – JSW Steel partnership driving innovation in advanced materials and manufacturing.

Spanning advanced steel research, process optimisation, coatings, and technology development, the collaboration reflects a long-term commitment to solving complex industrial challenges through research-led innovation.



Prof. C. Subramaniam



Showcasing the IIT Bombay – Unilever collaboration advancing the science of next-generation consumer products.

Leveraging advanced Raman spectroscopy, the partnership is deepening the understanding of complex formulations to enhance product efficacy, moisture retention, and formulation optimisation for FMCG applications.

Collectively, the presentations illustrated a common philosophy: impactful innovation is built through sustained collaboration, where academic research and industrial expertise complement each other to move technologies from the laboratory to large-scale deployment.



MEMBERS' DAY 2026

Celebrate 10th Anniversary



Leadership Perspectives

The ceremonial session brought together distinguished leaders from academia and industry to reflect on the role of collaborative ecosystems in shaping India's innovation future. **Prof. Shireesh Kedare**, Director, IIT Bombay, **Prof. Milind Atrey**, Deputy Director (Academics, Research & Translation), **Prof. Ravindra Gudi**, Deputy Director (Finance, Infrastructure and Administration), **Prof. Vikram Vishal**, Professor-in-charge, and **Dr. Rajappa Tadepalli**, CEO, ASPIRE IIT Bombay Research Park Foundation, were joined by **Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani**, Co-Founder and Chairman, Hiranandani Group, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest.

Together, their addresses underscored the importance of fostering environments where research, entrepreneurship, industry, and policy converge to create technologies that drive national development. The session also marked the launch of ASPIRE's redesigned website, reaffirming the Foundation's commitment to strengthening engagement with its growing network of members, collaborators, and partners.

Fireside Conversation

Prof. Vikram Vishal & Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani



The fireside conversation between the Professor-in-Charge of ASPIRE, **Prof. Vikram Vishal**, and the Co-Founder and Chairman of Hiranandani Group, **Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani**, explored how research parks can evolve from physical co-location models into dynamic ecosystems that foster trusted, long-term partnerships between industry and academia. The conversation highlighted the need to move beyond physical co-location towards trusted, long-term partnerships that accelerate technology translation, nurture entrepreneurship, and build globally competitive innovation ecosystems.

"A research park is the bridge between imagination and implementation, between the laboratory and the market, and between academic excellence and national transformation."

Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani

Showcasing Strategic Technology Domains

Highlighting IIT Bombay's research strengths, the **Centre Talks: Strategic Technology Domains** session showcased four flagship centres driving innovation in nationally significant areas.

- **Prof. Mani Bhushan** presented the vision and capabilities of the Centre for Machine Intelligence and Data Science (C-MinDS)
- **Prof. Sai Vinjanampathy** highlighted advances from the Centre of Excellence in Quantum Information, Computing, Science and Technology (CoE-QuICST)
- **Prof. R. Murugavel** showcased research from the Centre of Excellence for Critical Minerals, Metals and Materials (CoE-CMMM)
- **Prof. Sandeep Anand** presented the work of the C1973 EV Powertrain Lab

Illustrating how each centre is translating cutting-edge research into opportunities for industry collaboration.



Voices from Industry

Showcasing Strategic Technology Domains

This session brought together senior industry leaders from different industries to share their perspectives on emerging technology trends, evolving industry expectations, and the future of collaborative innovation.

Representing healthcare, technology consulting, and advanced manufacturing, the speakers offered valuable insights into how academia and industry can work together to accelerate technology adoption and strengthen India's innovation ecosystem.



Dr. Akhilesh Sharma

President & Chief
Medical Officer, Alkem
Laboratories Ltd.



Ms. Soumala Sarkar

Senior Managing
Director, Accenture



Mr. Sachin Wagh

Vice President & Head
of Research &
Development, JSW
Motors Ltd.

They highlighted the importance of aligning academic research with evolving market needs, accelerating technology commercialisation, and creating collaborative environments where researchers, students, startups, and industry can jointly develop solutions with measurable impact.

Conversations that Will Shape the Future



Moderated by Dr. Rajappa Tadepalli, CEO, ASPIRE IITBRPF, the panel discussion "From Proximity to Partnership – The Journey" reflected on ASPIRE's evolution over the past decade. Joining the discussion were Prof. Vikram Vishal, Prof. Ravindra Gudi, Prof. Rajesh Zele, and Prof. Swaroop Ganguly.

Drawing on their institutional experiences, the panellists explored how research parks have evolved beyond shared infrastructure to become trusted facilitators of collaboration, technology translation, and interdisciplinary innovation.

Taking the conversation to the global stage, the Global Perspectives on Industry-Academia Partnerships session examined international models of collaborative innovation. Moderated by Dr. Aishwarya Ramachandran, Research Manager at Ashoka's Centre for a People-centric Energy Transition (ACPET), the panel featured Prof. Santosh Gharpure, Dean (Faculty Affairs), IIT Bombay; Dr. Renata Jovanovic, Chief Scientific Officer, Deloitte South Asia and Leader, QCoDE; Vanessa Pukal, Vice Consul and Trade Commissioner, Consulate General of Canada in Mumbai; and Mr. Sharad Sanghi, Founder & CEO, Neysa.ai. The discussion explored how global partnerships, effective technology transfer mechanisms, and collaborative innovation ecosystems can accelerate research translation and create long-term economic and societal value.



The programme concluded with ASPIRE Forward: Reflections, Recognition & Future Outlook, celebrating the faculty members, industry partners, research centres, startups, and collaborators whose collective contributions have shaped ASPIRE's first decade. The recognition ceremony honoured excellence in collaborative research, technology translation, student engagement, and ecosystem development—underscoring that ASPIRE's greatest strength lies in the partnerships it has nurtured.

The celebrations concluded with a focused Innovation Roundtable, where senior leaders from industry, IIT Bombay, and the broader innovation ecosystem engaged in strategic discussions to strengthen translational research, accelerate technology commercialisation, and shape the next generation of industry–academia partnerships.

As ASPIRE enters its second decade, Members' Day 2026 stood as more than a celebration of past achievements. It was a reaffirmation of a shared vision—one where collaborative research, purposeful partnerships, and innovation continue to create lasting impact for industry, academia, and society.





Celebrating the Partnerships Powering Innovation

Strong innovation ecosystems are built on strong partnerships. At ASPIRE – IITB Research Park Foundation Members' Day 2026, we celebrated the organisations and individuals whose contributions continue to strengthen the bridge between academia and industry.

The ASPIRE Awards recognise excellence in collaboration, research translation, talent development, and ecosystem building-honouring partners who have played a significant role in advancing innovation within the IIT Bombay ecosystem.

ASPIRE Institute Synergy Awards

Recognising collaborative excellence and institutional partnerships with the Office of the Dean IPS and IRCC (Office of the Dean R&D), IIT Bombay, for their continued support in strengthening industry-academia engagement.

ASPIRE Student Impact Partner Awards

Honouring organisations that have created meaningful learning opportunities, internships, projects, and industry exposure for IIT Bombay students.

Awardees: IHI, Tokyo Electron Limited (TEL), Bhukhanvala Industries, Baker Hughes, NanoSniff Technologies, and Emergy.

ASPIRE Knowledge Partners Awards

Celebrating IIT Bombay faculty members whose leadership and commitment have significantly advanced industry-academia collaboration and research engagement.

Awardees: Prof. Rahul Nabar, Prof. Satyam Priyadarshy, Prof. Ashutosh Kumar, and Prof. Sankalp Pratap.

ASPIRE Innovation Catalyst Partner Awards

Recognising organisations that have accelerated innovation through strategic partnerships, technology collaborations, and active engagement with the ASPIRE ecosystem.

Awardees: Deloitte, Honda, CloudMojo, and Applied Materials.

Special Recognition Awards

Honouring organisations that brought innovation to life through the Members' Day Co-Showcase, creating an engaging platform for technology demonstrations, conversations, and collaboration.

Awardees: Bhukhanvala Industries, MultiNanoSense (MNST), CloudMojo, Rishabh Instruments, and NeoDocs.

These recognitions reflect the collaborative spirit that defines ASPIRE. By bringing together researchers, faculty, startups, industry leaders, and students, the Research Park continues to create an ecosystem where ideas evolve into technologies, partnerships grow into long-term collaborations, and innovation delivers meaningful impact.

Testimonials

Voices from ASPIRE Members' Day 2026

ASPIRE Research Park represents much more than a co-location of industry and academia. It is a platform for meaningful engagement. True collaboration is built through a structured process of aligning goals, ideas, timelines, resources, and people. I am pleased to see the ASPIRE team fostering these relationships systematically, creating an ecosystem where researchers and industry leaders can understand each other's perspectives, build trust, and work together to translate research into real-world impact."

Prof. Shireesh Kedare, Director, IIT Bombay

"Having been part of ASPIRE Research Park's earliest discussions, it is immensely rewarding to see that vision become reality. Over the past decade, ASPIRE has played a pivotal role in translating IIT Bombay's research into real-world solutions by fostering meaningful collaboration between academia, industry, and startups. I look forward to seeing this ecosystem continue to grow and expand its impact."

Prof. Milind Atrey, Deputy Director (Academics, Research & Translation), IIT Bombay

"It is immensely fulfilling to see the vision evolve into a thriving innovation ecosystem. By connecting industry with IIT Bombay's research and talent, ASPIRE is accelerating technology translation, creating opportunities for students, and strengthening the pathway from the laboratory to the marketplace. Ten years is an important milestone, but more importantly, it marks the beginning of the next chapter."

Prof. Ravindra Gudi, Deputy Director (Finance, Infrastructure and Administration), IIT Bombay

Testimonials

Voices from ASPIRE Members' Day 2026

"Ideas must become intellectual property, and innovation must become national wealth."

"Innovation is never comfortable. Keep asking questions, keep learning, and remain a student throughout your life."

"ASPIRE is a much bigger platform than I had imagined."

Dr. Niranjan Hiranandani, Co-founder & MD, Hiranandani Group

"A clear definition is very important—who owns what, and who gets what when value is created."

Mr. Sharad Sanghi, Founder & CEO, Neysa.ai

"There is a place for everyone in the innovation ecosystem. The key is understanding the level of readiness and matching the right partners to the right stage."

Dr. Renata Jovanovic, Chief Scientific Officer, Deloitte

"Being part of ASPIRE Members' Day 2026 was a genuine privilege. Ten years on, what stands out is how far the industry-academia relationship has travelled — from polite talk to real partnership. The conversations across the day reinforced a conviction I share with many in this community: the breakthrough innovations of the next decade will not come from industry or academia alone, but from both working as equals — same risk, same credit, same skin in the game. IIT Bombay and ASPIRE have built the trust that makes this possible. It is now on all of us to make the next decade as ambitious as the moment deserves."

Soumala Sarkar, Senior Managing Director, Accenture



Celebrating 10 Years of
Industry–Academia Collaboration

MEMBERS' DAY
2026

Our Members



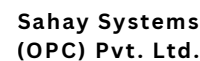
BHARAT FORGE



L&T Precision Engineering and Systems



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captures only a
part of the broader
ecosystem ASPIRE
continues to build.**

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