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A Statement by the Faculty Association IIT Madras

The Faculty Association of IIT Madras is deeply saddened by the loss of a young student of IIT Bombay on 18th September 2026. No words can ease the grief of his parents and family, and we extend our heartfelt condolences to them. We also stand with his friends, classmates and the wider student community of IIT Bombay, who are mourning the loss of one of their own. The death of any student is a loss to the entire academic community, and it is a reminder that our institutions must keep making the wellbeing of every student a central priority.

At a time of such grief, we believe it is important that the circumstances be examined fairly and through due process. We note the statement of the IIT Bombay Faculty Forum that Prof. Suryanarayana Doolla, as course instructor and invigilator, acted in accordance with the Senate-approved academic procedures of the institute. Faculty members across the IIT system are entrusted with upholding the integrity of examinations, and they must be able to discharge this responsibility in good faith, following established institutional procedure, without fear of personal vilification.

We therefore urge that:

1. Any inquiry into the incident be conducted by the appropriate institutional and legal authorities in a fair, transparent and time-bound manner, with full respect for the dignity of the student and his family.
2. No individual be held responsible, publicly or in the media, before such a process has run its course. Premature conclusions, media trials and speculation, including on social media, cause lasting harm to all concerned and do not serve the cause of justice or the memory of the student.
3. The inquiry also look into whether institutional procedures for handling academic malpractice give students enough support, counselling and safeguards at moments of acute stress, so that such situations are handled with both integrity and compassion.

We appeal to all stakeholders — students, faculty, administration, media and the public — to show restraint and sensitivity, and to allow the process to establish the facts. The IIT Madras Faculty Association stands in solidarity with our colleague at IIT Bombay, and equally with the students and families of our institutions, whose wellbeing and trust are the foundation of everything we do.

Sincerely,

Prof. Ethayaraja Mani
President, Faculty Association IIT Madras