

EPISTEME

August, 2026



1 Independence Day 2026: Celebrating Across Communities

Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI) marked India's 80th Independence Day on 15 August 2026 through activities across its office and field locations, bringing together team members and local communities in reflection and celebration.

In Kolkata, PFRI's online programme brought the team together for a reflective session on India's journey to independence, the role of local communities, post-independence social and institutional transformation, and the country's future aspirations. The programme concluded with the National Anthem.

The spirit of the occasion extended to PFRI's field locations. At Maipith in the Sundarbans, West Bengal, the day was celebrated at the research centre in the presence of local children, with the field officer leading the flag-hoisting ceremony. The gathering provided an opportunity for children and community members to come together and commemorate the national occasion.

In Begusarai, Bihar, the day was marked alongside PFRI's ongoing engagement with local communities and field-based initiatives. In Deoghar, Jharkhand, a member of the PFRI team represented the organisation at the local Independence Day programme.

2 Raksha Bandhan 2026: A Bond of Protection with the Mangroves

This Raksha Bandhan, the Progyan Foundation for Research and Innovation (PFRI) celebrated the day at the CRACK Centre, Tipligheri, Sundarban by tying Rakhi to mangrove trees.



Across these locations, the celebrations reflected PFRI's continued engagement with communities through research, learning, participation, and field-based initiatives. The occasion also offered an opportunity to reflect on the connection between national development, community participation, and the pursuit of a more inclusive and sustainable future.



For us, this was more than a celebration. It was a promise to protect the mangroves that protect us.

Mangroves:

- Store and capture carbon
- Protect the coastline from erosion
- Reduce the impact of cyclones and storm surges
- Support biodiversity
- Provide food, resources and livelihoods to coastal communities

But the Sundarban mangroves are facing growing threats from climate change, rising sea levels, increasing salinity, erosion, habitat loss and human activities.

Protecting mangroves needs more than plantation. It needs regular monitoring, scientific research, restoration planning and strong community participation.

At PFRI, we combine field observations, geospatial analysis, data-based assessment and technology to better understand mangrove ecosystems and support restoration and conservation.

The Rakhi we tied today represents a simple message:

The ecosystems that protect us also need our protection.

Protecting mangroves means protecting biodiversity, coastal communities, livelihoods and the future of the Sundarban.

This Raksha Bandhan, let us strengthen our bond with nature.

