Alma Communiqué
Alumni Newsletter (April - May 2021)

> *Glory of the past,*
> *through the eyes of the future!*

Institute Updates

2 new M.Tech. programs (in AI and in IoT) to begin in CSE Dept. from July 2021

Establishment of TIIH at IIT (BHU), Varanasi

IIT-BHU has developed a system to extract toxic substance from water

My Journey into an Unfolding Future — Memoirs of a Mining Engineer, D.N. BHARGAVA

1. The Department of Computer Science and Engineering is going to start two full-time 2-year M.Tech. Programs viz. M.Tech. in Artificial Intelligence (AI) and M.Tech. in the Internet of Things (IoT). The programs will begin in the odd semester of the academic year 2021-22.

2. A Precision Engineering Hub (PEH) was inaugurated on 24th March, 2021, by Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director, IIT (BHU). The purpose of the hub is to serve as an ecosystem for product ideation and creation. The hub is built with the help of funds from Defence Corridor, Design Innovation Centre, and Technology Innovation Hub. It is divided into 4 phases operating on a 24-hour basis. The main focus of PEH is aligned with the national objective to support the Make in India and Atma Nirbhar Bharat initiatives. The latest technology that the hub is equipped with includes laser cutting machines, CNC machines, high strength color polymer HP Fusion Jet 3D printer, Markforge X7 composite 3D printer, and Ultimaker S5 Pro 3D printer.

3. A Technology Innovation and Incubation Hub (TIIH) was established to create an ecosystem that will foster innovation and entrepreneurship. An Incubation Centre in the name of Technology Innovation and Incubation Centre (TIIC) is established to bring the various schemes running in the Institute like NCL-IIT (BHU) incubation center, Cisco thingQbator and R-ABI under its ambit.

4. The scientists at IIT (BHU), Varanasi, have succeeded in the research of extracting many toxic substances from water by using ash made from teak and neem wood. The two different types of adsorbents made separate the harmful metals and ions from the water, making it potable. It can result in the cost reduction of R.O. purifiers being sold in the market. This method is not only eco-friendly but also inexpensive.

5. Shri Sanjay Bhargava announced 5-7 endowment scholarships, each worth approximately Rs. 10,000-12,000, on the occasion of his father's birthday on 16th April, 2021, for the students of the Department of Mining Engineering. In addition, he also announced 3 Gold Medals, 3 Best Project Awards for B.Tech., IDD, M.Tech. worth Rs. 5,000 each and one Best Faculty Award of Rs 25,000/- each year. He announced these Scholarships/Medals/Awards in honor of his father, Shri D.N. Bhargava, an esteemed alumnus of the 1953 batch of the Department of Mining Engineering. On this occassion, the Director, IIT (BHU) released the book "My journey into an unfolding future"- by Shri Deoki Nandan Bhargava.

6. IIT (BHU) and IIT Guwahati had signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to start a joint doctoral program. Beginning in July 2021, this academic collaboration is expected to deliver a significant boost in high quality research and lay a foundation for further academic collaborations for both the Institutes. The researchers under this program will have two separate supervisors and also the facility to do research work in both the Institutes, besides being awarded joint degrees from the Institutes.
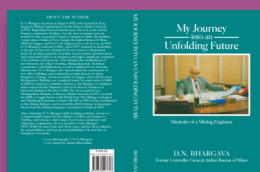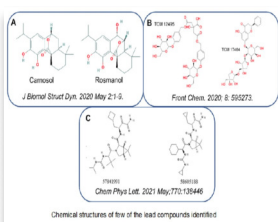
R & D: Patents

Valuing research and innovation, IIT (BHU) has kept exploring ideas and continued experimenting with them. Understanding its responsibility as one of the premier institutes of our country, the Institute has undertaken various initiatives in the Research and Development sector including patents and IPR. From March 2020 to February 2021, a total of 33 patents have been filed and the researchers are continuously working towards them. Portraying an overall extensive research culture, the patents have been filed by the researchers from the Schools of Biochemical, Biomedical, Material Science Engineering and the Departments of Ceramic, Chemical, Civil, Electronics, Mechanical, Metallurgical, and Pharmaceutical Engineering.

COVID-19 Related Updates

Research and Development

The Institute is working on several COVID-19 related projects, including one supported by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) of the Government of India. Re-purposing clinically approved drugs for possible treatment for COVID-19 by targeting SARS-CoV-2 main protease is being carried out by professors and scientists of the School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU), Varanasi.

Other Contributions

Other contributions made by the Institute include the development of Lateral Flow Electrochemical Bimodal Sensor for the diagnosis of COVID-19, masks and PPE kits using functional silver nanoparticles spray and non-touch sanitizer dispensers. The Institute, playing its role in the nation's fight against COVID-19, is also involved in training of police personnel and city administration regarding sanitization.

Oxygen Audit

The Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh announced the conduction of Oxygen Audit with the assistance of IIT (BHU) and two other institutions. The Institutes will assist the U.P. Govt. in conducting oxygen audits for proper monitoring of medical oxygen. This includes the implementation of a live-tracking system through the Management Information System's live report on the movement of tankers for demand, supply, and distribution of oxygen.
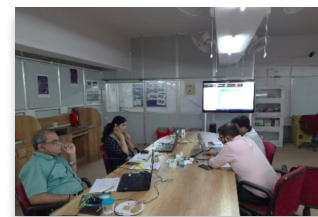
Collaboration to conduct oxygen audits

Media Section

Oxygen Audit   *Technex '21*

Innovation @ IIT (BHU)

R - ABI

On 12th March, 2021, Pusakrishi, ICAR-IARI organized a CoE Incubation Committee (CIC) meeting for final approval of the grant-in-aid for the 21 startups shortlisted in Cohort-3, four 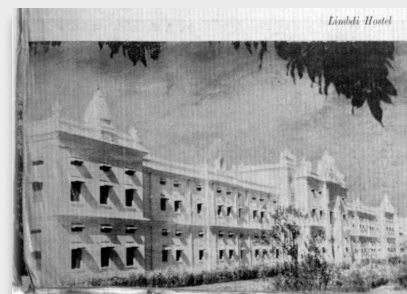of which were selected for the Prasfutan stage (Seed stage) and eleven for the Ankuran stage (Pre-seed stage). The committee sanctioned a total grant-in-aid support of Rs. 1.26 crore for the selected startups. They also conducted a progress review meeting to assess and discuss the accomplishments of Cohort 1 & 2 startups. Grihastha Georgic Pvt. Ltd., an incubatee at R-ABI (which was recently brought under the ambit of Technology Innovation and Incubation Centre), inaugurated their third retail store in Sigra, Varanasi. They process fresh farm products and supply them directly to the consumers.
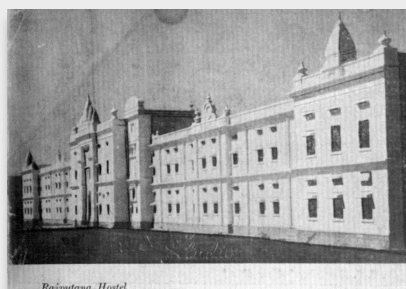
Did you know?

There were only 3 hostels in B.H.U. Campus till 1928, accommodating about 1100 students. The first hostel, constructed with the donation of Raja Baldeo Das Birla, was called the '*Raja Baldeo Das Birla Hostel*'. The second hostel, which was called the '*Sangidas Shapurji Broacha Hostel*', accommodated the students of the College of Engineering. Rai Sahib Sangi Das Jesiram had contributed Rs. 2.5 lakhs for the construction of this hostel. The third hostel, called the '*Ruiya hostel*', accommodated about 400 students belonging to the Colleges of Theology and Oriental Learning, Central Hindu College, etc.

Limbdi Hostel estd. 1928

With the increase in the number of students on the rolls, the need for more hostels was fulfilled with the generous donations of His Highness the Thakore Sahib of Limbdi, Seth Rameshwar Das Birla and, Seth Ram Gopal Sivaratan Mohta. The construction of two hostels viz., Limbdi and Rajputana Hostels, was undertaken with these donations. The two buildings were completed before the end of the year 1928 and they provided accommodation for about 400 students of the Engineering College. During the year 1929-30, nearly 1600 students were residing in the five hostels constructed till then. But Malaviyaji was not satisfied with this and continued his efforts in this direction. In December 1929, he laid the foundation-stone of another hostel. This hostel was to be built with the donation of Raja Dhanraj Giri of Hyderabad.

Rajputana Hostel estd. 1928

Students' Updates

E-Cell continued with their biweekly 'Founder's Speak' series, with Mr. Manish Gupta (MEC '94), co-founder and CEO of Indegene. The 'Know Your Department' series, aimed at acquainting the students with the various opportunities in their core field, was continued. RIEU organized a series of webinars by Mr. Krishna Pal Rajput, Ms. Sandya Sursala, and Mr. Saksham Gupta for the students of the Departments of Mechanical, Metallurgical, and Civil Engineering, respectively. Fusion 2021, an inter-thingQbator Ideastorm, was conducted in collaboration with IGDTUW, where Mr. Bonny Dave and Mr. Vemuri Ramana interacted with the participants.

The **Student Counselling Services** launched the 'Noteflix' app for notes and study materials, along with webinars on the art of writing, effective communication, and tech-enabled presentation skills under their initiative 'Exhort'. A webinar was held on 'Dealing with Peer Pressure' in collaboration with HappyMinds. The first edition of their annual celebration 'Dawn to Dusk' was organized on 10th April, 2021. A 'Virtual Heritage Walk' to Vishwanath Temple was also held.

The **Cultural Council** organized the Cultural Week '21 from 20th to 28th March, 2021. The 7 clubs of the Council conducted 25+ categories of events under the banners of Chitrakala, Cross-Roads, Jhankaar, Kshitij, Noor, Quizfest, and Varanasi Wordfest. Workshops by artists like Mr. Vikram Chandra and others were held. The event witnessed participation of 1500+ students. Harsh Mahesheka and Akshay Akash's team bagged the 3rd position in debate tabs in JUDO - Pre Eminence International Tournament.

The **Film and Media Council** successfully organized the 7th edition of 'FMC Weekend', the annual fest for the promotion of digital arts, from 9th to 11th April, 2021. The theme for this year was 'Canvas of Dreams'. Personalities like Varun Vagish and Swarnima Telang judged the event, while others like Rohit Dawesar, Srinivas Mohan, and Owen Davey shared their experiences.

The **Games and Sports Council** conducted the 'Girls' Weekend' from 20th to 21st March, 2021 to promote sporting culture among the girls of the Institute. Personalities like Ms. Padmini Rout and Ms. Nisha Mohota delivered the guest talks. The Chess Club won the Kashi vs. Prayag chess tournament, a three-match long team event against MNNIT Chess club. The year-long, intra-college IIT BHU Chess Grand Prix concluded with 12 rounds being held with the participation of 115 students. The council also took part in Win India 2.0, a sporting campaign spearheaded by the IITs.

The **Social Service Council** organized Jagriti '21, the Institute's annual socio-awareness and celebratory weekend, from 26th to 28th March, 2021. 'Winnovation' and 'Terrific Lights', two of the projects of Social Project Club, paved their way into the national finals of Hyundai Social Creators 2020. These were among 11 finalists from over 400 ideas from participants across 200+ colleges.

The **Science and Technology Council's** Club of Sustainability and Innovation has taken up long-term projects. A No-Code Workshop was conducted on 10th April, 2021. 'Shoot-O-Problem', an online event, was held on 12th April, 2021. For the ongoing session of 'RoboReG' talks, Mr. Shreyansh Daftry hosted a session on Machine Learning, Computer Vision and Robotics for Space Exploration. 17th April, 2021 witnessed Yuri's Night, the flagship event of Astronomy Club. A workshop on Radio Astronomy by Mr. Yash Agrawal was also held. A 'Think Talk' on Stellar Evolution by Prof. Annapurni Subramanian was organized. With their sheer hardwork and dedication, 23 students from IIT (BHU) got accepted into the prestigious 'Google Summer of Code 2021.'

Events @ IIT (BHU)

Technex '21

The 82nd edition of Technex, the annual techno-management fest of the Institute, was organized from 2nd to 4th April 2021. This year's theme was - 'Transcending Time'. The festival started strong with several participants in various events. Think talks were delivered by Dr. K. Radhakrishnan, Former Chairman of ISRO, Mr. Suresh Prabhu, former Cabinet Minister and India's Sherpa to G7 and G20, Mr. Anil Kumar, the co-founder of the Indian School of Business, Hyderabad, Mr. Paul Levitz, the former president of DC Comics, Mr. Dipak Misra, the 45th Chief Justice of India, Mr. Tapan Singhel, CEO, Bajaj Allianz General Insurance, and Mr. Joachim Frank, Noble Laureate (Chemistry 2017). A closing ceremony followed by prize distribution marked the end of this 3-day techno-management extravaganza.

IITBHU MUN '21

The 9th edition of the IITBHU MUN was organized from 16th to 18th April, 2021. The event hosted hundreds of delegates from over ten countries. The conference also contributed to the UNHCR MUN Refugee Challenge. The discussion was held on issues like the importance of increased participation of women in leadership and governance. The executive board members hailed from India, Germany, Malaysia, and Kenya. The event was endorsed by the Prime Minister of India, UNESCO, and the United Nations Information Centre, New Delhi.

Udyam '21

The Electronics Engineering Society successfully organized Udyam - its Annual Technical Fest, encompassing a broad spectrum of events. It witnessed over 700 individual and over 400 team registrations from around 35 colleges. More than 4500 coders took part in the CP Contest of Spybits globally with 22,000+ submissions.

Events by Dept. of Electrical Engineering

The Events and Workshops conducted by the Department of Electrical Engineering covered topics like Artificial Intelligence & Machine Learning, Competitive Programming, Digital Electronics, Power Electronics & Simulation, and Puzzles & Cryptography. The events witnessed participation of more than 450 students across all the years.

Alumni Updates

Student Alumni Interaction Cell

SAIC released a 3-post series around International Women's Day, celebrating the Alumnae of IIT (BHU) and shedding light on their journey. The cell launched its flagship 'Mentorship Program', wherein interested alumni mentors from 8 different domains were allotted to students on a one-to-one basis. The program also includes 'Career Guidance Sessions' with 7-8 alumni in each session. Out of eight domains, 5 sessions have already been conducted covering domains like MBA, Entrepreneurship, Civil Services, Finance, and Consulting. As a part of its AVF program, SAIC organized a webinar on Industry 4.0: the automation of traditional manufacturing and industrial practices using modern technology.
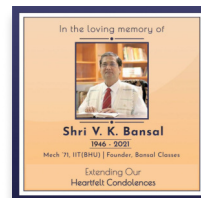
Benaras Alumni Association

BAA, with SAIC, conducted a webinar on technological self-reliance and cultural freedom by Prof. Durg Singh Chauhan. It revolved around the social role of Science and Technology in developing countries where the rural structure has been dominant, and poverty, population, and education are ever dormant.

IIT BHU Global Alumni Association

IBGAA, in association with SAIC, published articles covering the life and success stories of the alumni. On the occasion of Mother's Day, an interview was published with Mr. Ravi Teja Akondi (MEC '17), an alumnus and co-founder of iMumz, an app made mainly for expecting mothers. As a tribute to Late Shri V. K. Bansal Ji (MEC '71), an article was published covering his journey from being a student to changing the fate of millions of students. IBGAA and COPS collaborated to bring on-board 30 alumni for mentoring interested students and guiding them for their application in Google Summer of Code '21. After the selection of 23 students (2 first-yearites), IBGAA also released a detailed article and covered the journey of IIT (BHU)'s proud students.
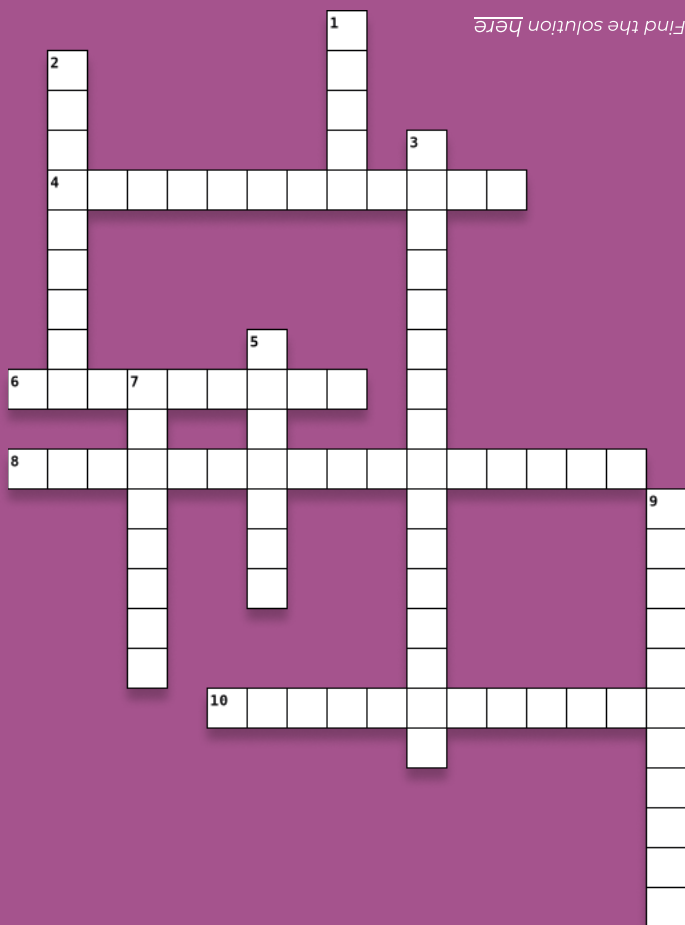
Western India Alumni Association

WIAA hosted a virtual event on the occasion of Holi by the name of Holi Milan. It was held on the evening of 27th March, 2021. The event saw a large gathering of IIT (BHU) alumni and students. It also had the address by the Dean (Resource & Alumni Affairs). Several alumni delighted the audience with old melodies. The Band of '82 had a theme performance on '*Ek Shaam Sahir Ke Naam*'.

Find the solution here

Varanasi Crossword

Across

4. The festival of lights, one of its kind
6. Oldest hostel, but not Limbdi
8. 'Harrr...... Harrr...... Mahadev!'
10. 'Bhaiya, do plate kar do, meethi chutney sath mein'

Down

1. Every auto-wala ever - '_____ BECHHYUU, _____ BECHHYUU!'
2. Notes? Drafter? Books? Transcripts? Kahaaniya? He has it all
3. Get the 50-year-old 'tamatar chaat' here
5. The piousness of Gautama Buddha
7. Laung Latta, Lassi, Rabdi - all in one place
9. Chief, Food and Logistics, Hostel Mess

Instructions

1. Open the link by clicking here, click on any box and start typing
2. Solve, Smile, Share!

To solve the crossword, click here.

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