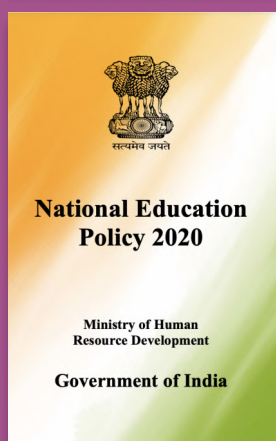# Alma Communiqué
Alumni Newsletter (Dec. 2021)

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

Institute Updates

1. Our alumnus Sh. Jay Chaudhry (ECE '80), the CEO and Founder of cloud-based information security firm Zscaler, has endowed the IIT (BHU) Foundation, a US-based non-profit association of IIT (BHU) alumni, with a US $1 million donation. This donation will fund IIT (BHU)'s Entrepreneurship Center focusing on student, faculty, and entrepreneurship development. Further, Dr. Deep Jariwala (MET '10) will help establish a Software Innovation Center at the Institute and identify a faculty member to fill the role of the 'Jay Chaudhry Professor of Software Innovation' who will manage and oversee the Software Innovation Center. In addition to a professorship and Innovation Center, this donation will fund a lecture series on software innovation and a software technology seed fund.

2. Sangeeta Mishra, a fourth-year student from the Department of Chemistry, brought laurels to the Institute by winning TechGig Geek Goddess 2021, country's largest coding event for women in technology. Sangeeta outshined around 73,000 other female coders and was crowned as the Coding Champion in the event's 2021 edition.

Implementation of National Education Policy 2020

Implementation of National Education Policy 2020 in IIT (BHU), Varanasi

National Education Policy 2020
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Government of India

After implementation of NEP-2020, the Institute provides a greater flexibility for teaching-learning with a highly 'Student Centric' approach.

- The semester(s) drop option provides opportunity to students for startup/entrepreneurship/extended practical learning during regular academic programs as per their interest. The student may re-enter the academic program and earn the degree.
- The Institute has made detailed guidelines for credit transfer of courses from other Institutes and through NPTEL/SWAYAM etc. to give students greater flexibility to plan their academic career and pursue academic interest. Students can also earn credit during semester drop and transfer the earned credit for the award of degree.
- In line with recommendations of NEP-2020 for multidisciplinary learning, guidelines for open electives from another discipline are formulated to make the learning of open elective courses more meaningful.
- Further, a provision for 'Minor Discipline' courses was also introduced to provide students an opportunity to learn another academic area for the students doing very well in their major academic program. It is expected to supplement learning in the major discipline and help in developing interdisciplinary knowledge for problem solving in areas of engineering, technology and science. The minor courses will run during Vth to VIIIth semesters (9-11 credits each semester).
- Integrated Dual Degree students will be allowed to change their discipline after 4 years of B.Tech. in the original discipline and M.Tech. in the new discipline. This provides better flexibility to students related to their career options.

Message from the President of the Alumni Association of IIT (BHU)

Dear Alumnae & Alumni of IIT (BHU), Varanasi

In 2021, under the guidance of Dr. Kota Harinarayan, the Alumni Association of IIT (BHU) was formed. This is a Central Alumni Association which is in its nascent stage but is undertaking activities with your kind support. Our alumni are supporting students' welfare and other developmental activities through Institute programs. A Sports Complex, Hostels and Faculty Apartments were added to the Institute's infrastructure, with other projects in progress.

The new entrants, each year, are reminded of the great legacy left behind by our alumni. The Board of Directors will continue its mission to raise public awareness of the Institute, to grow its membership base, to assist with development of fundraising opportunities, and to promote exciting activities and events for our alumni.

I would like to invite you to Varanasi. You would be surprised at the huge improvement in infrastructure, general cleanliness of the city and our *ghats*. And most importantly, a rejuvenated *Kashi Vishwanath Mandir*, inaugurated by the Hon. Prime Minister Sh. Narendra Modi Ji. I felt the joy, ecstasy and divine peace in the atmosphere, being present there on this momentous occasion.

Shri Kashi Vishwanath Dham, Varanasi

Our Executive Board and Office Bearers are working for a group health insurance plan and welfare activities for the alumni and their parents. On this we will revert to you shortly. I would also request our alumni to register on the alumni portal to benefit from it: https://alumni-reg.iitbhu.ac.in
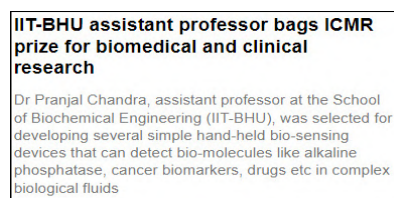
Our Executive Board joins me to wish you and your family a very happy, safe and prosperous New Year 2022.

Nitin Malhotra,
President
Alumni Association of IIT (BHU), Varanasi

Research & Development

Consultancy/Testing Projects
■ Nov ■ Dec

IIT (BHU) has continued to explore and experiment with new ideas to make groudbreaking discoveries. An MoU was signed between the Institute and M/s Premas Biotech Pvt. Ltd. on 6th December, 2021 for a period of three years.

Department	Name of funding agency	Period of project sanction
MEC	NCL, Singrauli	1.5 years
MEC	NCL, Singrauli	1.5 years
PHE	SERB	2 years
PHE	SERB	2 years
CHE	TransBharat Biofuel Pvt. Ltd.	1 year

Projects Sanctioned

Placements Updates

After more than a month of the starting of the placement season, IIT (BHU), Varanasi witnessed yet another occasion of the soaring placement statistics. The dedicated efforts of the Training and Placement Cell brought forward tremendous opportunities for the students. A total of 1199 offers were made in 329 companies and profiles till 5th January, 2022, which includes 241 Pre-Placement Offers (PPOs).

Faculty/Staff Achievements

Dr. Pranjal Chandra, Assistant Professor at the School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU), was given the Shakuntala Amir Chand Prize 2020 by the Indian Council of Medical Research (ICMR) for pioneering work in the area of biomedical and clinical research. Read more here.


Vipin Verma (Junior Asst., BME) along with his team Chitra and Aditi, recently published the book 'Project Love Temple,' the first installment in the series of Project Temple books.

Media Section

India's top woman coder title

Prize for biomedical research

IIT (BHU) recieves USD 1mn donation

160th birth anniversary of Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji

Remembering the great freedom fighter, educationist, and founder of Banaras Hindu University, Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji, on his 160th birth anniversary, celebrations were observed around the campus on the 25th December, 2021. Adorned by vibrant *rangolis* and lamp-lit decorations, the University commemorated the day by honoring his legacy and paying tribute to the revolutionary leader. Known for transforming the educational standards of the country and for being one of the torchbearers of the freedom struggle, his words 'Knowledge without humility is worthless' guides each and every student of this Institution onto the path of success with humility.
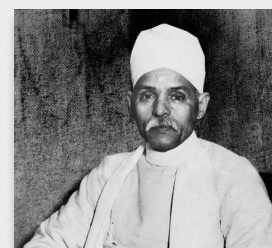
Student Updates

E-Cell's associated startup, MPYG (MultiPlayer Yoga Game), stood among the top 10 out of 150+ startups across India in the Cisco thingQbator Cohort-4 and received a pre-seed grant of INR 5 Lacs from Nasscom Foundation. Two of the student startups, MPYG and Acment, showcased their startups at the AIBA's Startup Street.

The **Film and Media Council** released the trailer of 'Councils: Life Beyond Academics'. An interview with IAS Officer Ms. Sweta Suman (BCE '16) was released. The Media Club published the Placement Highlights and with the Design Club, floated a Freshers' Survival Guide. A post on Types of Journalism was released along with the Meraki Series.

The **Games and Sports Council** saw the establishment of the Cycling Club, IIT (BHU). Nine students of the Institute held various spots on the leaderboards of the month-long event Slow Burn conducted by the Pan IIT Cycling Club. The Chess Club released a series of analyses on the World Chess Championship 2021 and conducted Freshers On Board, which saw the participation of 102 students.

At the **Science and Technology Council**, the Astronomy Club conducted a series of workshops, called 'Astropedia'. Their magazine was renamed 'Redshift', and its latest edition was published. SAE launched an automobile series - 'Autofy'. The Robotics Club conducted Hardwired event. Pratyush Singh, Neeraj Kamal, and Praveen Kumar, bagged second position in NSSC'21, organized by IIT KGP.
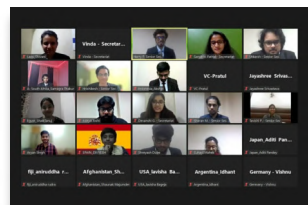
IITBHU Model United Nations, in collaboration with IIT G MUN, successfully organized 'Concilii 1.0: A Drug Control Strategy Summit' on 4-5th December 2021 as a pre-event to its flagship MUN conference scheduled for 4-6th March 2022. The event sought to facilitate deliberations on the emerging challenges of drug trafficking. The keynote address was delivered by the Hon'ble Director-General of the Narcotics Control Bureau (NCB) - Sh. SN Pradhan.

ShARE IIT BHU conducted a session on resume making and released a guide for the internship applications for winter '21 to help students crack off-campus internships. For Module 1, the junior members worked on a presentation on various issues.

Alumni Updates

SAIC concluded its Alumni Visiting Faculty Program, with 300+ students enrolling in 4 different courses taught by 9 alumni across different domains. The registration for the courses for the next semester has begun. Along with that, SAIC members volunteered in AIBA's 13th-14th Annual Excellence Award Function. SAIC, in collaboration with the Research Community of IIT (BHU), started a series of posts by the name of Glory O' The Old Grads.

IBGAA, in collaboration with the Club of Programmers, IIT (BHU), has started the 2nd edition of the GSoC Mentorship initiative for the year 2022. Alumni and previous GSoC students will be mentoring the students who are interested in the preparation of major open-source programs.

The **BHU Alumni Association, Chennai**, celebrated the 160th birth anniversary of the revered leader, Bharat Ratna Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji, on 25th December, 2021. An online meeting was hosted where the alumni came together to pay tribute to the founder of our century-old legacy.

The **Ninth Annual General Meet of BHU Engineers' Alumni, Lucknow**, was held on 26th December, 2021. The meeting was attended virtually by over 100 people. Dr. Rama Pati Dubey (EEE '65) was the Chief Host, and Sh. V N Gupta (MEC '76), the General Secretary of Alumni Association of IIT-BHU, was also present. The meeting was virtually addressed by Er. K B Mathur (EEE '52), Er. G K Bhatt (CIV '58), Er. B S Rai (MEC '61), Prof. Rajeev Srivastava, Dean (Resource and Alumni), Sh. Nitin Malhotra (CER '76), Sh. Rajeev Gupta (CHE '93), and Sh. Sunil Khanna (ECE '76).

Alumni Support

The Institute is grateful to its alumni community for the incredible support they have shown us in the session 2020-21. The Institute recieved a total of 10 donations from Sh. Jay Chaudhry (EEE '80), Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (MET '82), Sh. Nikesh Arora (EEE '89), Dr. Badri Prasad (MET '66), Sh. Awanish Awasthi (IAS, Home Secretary, UP Govt), Sh. Harsh Nath (CHE '72), Sh. Rakesh Aggarwal (EEE '78), the batch of 1964, Sh. Sanjay Bhargava, and from Industry under CSR Initiatives: Media.NET Software Pvt. Ltd for endowment awards, medals, scholarships, and other support. The donations would be utilised to enhance the quality of education provided to the students.

Alumni Startup Success Stories

1. Adda247, co-founded by Mr. Anil Nagar (ECE '02), has raised ~$20Mn in a Series B round led by WestBridge Capital, Info Edge India, Asha Impact & JM Financial.
2. HappyMinds, co-founded by Mr. Shashwat Agrawal (MEC '21), recently closed a merger with Wellness Mandala, co-founded by Mr. Rakesh Sarin (CHE '76).
3. Kohbee, founded by Mr. Rohan Sinha (CIV '17), Mr. Shashwat Aditya (MET '17), and Mr. Siddharth Singh Chauhan (CHE '17), has raised $235K in its pre-seed fundraising round.
4. Satvacart, founded by Mr. Rahul Hari (CSE '06), has closed a pre-series A round of funding from angel investors.

AIBA Annual Excellence Awards

The 13th and 14th AIBA Annual Excellence Awards were conferred by AIBA on 18th December, 2021 at the PHD Chamber of Commerce and Industries in New Delhi to recognize the alumni's excellent accomplishments in various areas. The alumni were conferred the awards by AIBA in the various categories, like Distinguished Alumni Awards, Young Achievers Awards, Lifetime Achievement Awards, and Jury Special Awards. The event saw global participation with Sh. Manoj Sinha, Lt. Governor of Jammu and Kashmir as the Chief Guest. For their dedication and hard work over the years, 16 alumni received various accolades.

Inspiring Alumni

Sh. Jay Chaudhry
(ECE '80)

A story that began 60 years ago in a quiet Indian village nestled at the foothills of the Himalayas. It is a story about a village boy who — through a combination of luck, hard work, and measured risk-taking — has become an inspiring story for millions of Indians. Jay Chaudhry was born in 1958, in a small village in Himachal Pradesh, India. His parents were farmers, with a modest plot of and that they used to grow wheat, corn, and sugarcane. Until he was in his late teens, the village had no electricity or running water. His high school headmaster picked up on his raw talent and started challenging him to excel in his studies. Jay didn't realize it at the time, but education would become his springboard to a different life.

After completing pre-university as a gold medalist at Himachal University, Jay set his sights on joining an engineering college. He recalls his path as "more accidental than designed or chosen." He was unfamiliar with the Indian Institutes of Technology (IITs) at the time, but another teacher who saw his potential encouraged him to apply. He was soon admitted to IIT (BHU), Varanasi, and became the first in his village to go to an engineering college.

At IIT (BHU), Jay studied Electronics Engineering alongside some of the best and the brightest students across India. He made lifelong friendships, some of which would play a big role later in his career. It was popular at the time to go to an American university to earn a Master's degree, and Jay became part of that trend.

In the late 1990s, the internet was beginning to take off in the US. Netscape, a pioneer internet startup had just debuted in public markets with a blockbuster IPO, inspiring a generation of young entrepreneurs. By this time, Jay had built up a decade of experience in technology across engineering, sales, marketing, and management roles in large companies like IBM, NCR, and Unisys.

As a token of gratitude to the Institute, Mr. Jay Chaudhry (ECE '80) has recently made a generous donation of US $1 million to the IIT (BHU) Foundation which will fund the Entrepreneurship Center at the Institute.

Reminiscing about his time at IIT (BHU) and the significance of entrepreneurial learning amongst the students, he commented, "The education I received at IIT (BHU) played a pivotal role in preparing me for the business world. This Entrepreneurship Center will help educate young students to navigate their careers and learn practical skills to allow them to be more competitive in the world of cyber security. My hope is that the Entrepreneurship Center will afford students with big dreams and aspirations the same opportunities I was fortunate enough to experience."

A Year of Alma Communiqué

12 Months. 11 Newsletters. 3000+ Readership.

As we conclude the year 2021, we are extremely grateful to our alumni for the support they have shown to Alma Communiqué - our alumni newsletter.

The feedbacks and criticisms, along with the encouragements are what helped us outdo our efforts with every edition.

While updating you on the developments across the Institute, we wanted to remind you of the student life that you once had here. Hoping to nudge those memories of Banaras to life, we worked towards crosswords and puzzles, facts and pictorial-quizzes, and musings that took us all back to the corridors of the campus.

As we send out the last newsletter of 2021, we hope that you had as much fun reminiscing, as we had creating it.

Thank you, and a very happy new year!

EDITIONS

SAIC is grateful to the Director, Dean (Resource & Alumni), Alumni Associations, and the entire IIT (BHU) fraternity for their constant support and blessings. We look forward to your valuable feedback. To share information for future editions, reach us at alumnicell@iitbhu.ac.in.

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