



# Alma Communiqué

## Alumni Newsletter (Feb. 2021)



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

### Institute Updates



MoU between IIT (BHU)  
and Reliance Foundation

1. Aiming to facilitate long and short term projects, the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) and IIT (BHU), Varanasi signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) on 23rd December, 2020 to establish a Regional Academic Centre for Space at the Institute. This regional level initiative is the fifth such centre in the country, focusing on advanced research in space technology, science, and applications relevant to the space programme. The objective is to encourage student-centric research activities in the region. It would also include short term programmes for B. Tech. and M. Tech. students.

2. The Coal Quality Management & Utilisation Research Centre will be set up in IIT (BHU), Varanasi, under an MoU signed with the Northern Coalfields Limited. The first of its kind, it will be equipped with a state-of-the-art facility for researching on clean coal technology to enhance the quality of coal. It aims to impart knowledge and develop human resources through doctoral research, postgraduate dissertations and B. Tech. Projects, besides professionally catering to the industry's needs.

3. Aiming to mentor and incubate start-ups under the I-DAPT HUB Foundation, an MoU was signed between IIT (BHU), Varanasi and HDFC Bank Ltd., under which the HDFC Bank will contribute Rs. 50 lakh for the duration of the year 2021. The I-DAPT HUB Foundation shall utilise this grant towards its administrative, skill development and training programme expenses allocated/dispensed to the start-ups. The start-ups will be selected by HDFC Bank or from I-DAPT HUB Foundation incubated start-ups.

4. An MoU was signed on 4th February, 2021 between the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways and IIT (BHU), Varanasi. Aiming to research, develop, and deploy innovative technologies in road and highway infrastructure, it is focused on Speed, Scale, Safety and Sustainability. Under this MoU, an endowment fund for 10 years will be created to support Research and Development activities and IIT (BHU), Varanasi will support MoRTH officers to join PhD and M. Tech. programmes offered and also create a Professorial Chair to promote the joint efforts.

5. The Reliance Foundation has offered 40 scholarships to the students of IIT (BHU), Varanasi in the areas of AI and Computer Science from academic session 2020-21 onwards. Launched by Reliance Industries Limited Chairman Mr. Mukesh Ambani and Reliance Foundation Chairperson Mrs. Nita Ambani, students will have to enrol in their first year to avail the scheme. The selected UG students will receive up to a total of Rs. 4 lakhs (Rs. 1 lakh per year), and the PG students will receive up to Rs. 6 lakhs (Rs. 3 lakhs per year).

## Infrastructure Updates



The five ongoing projects in the Institute comprise of i) Dhanrajgiri Hostel-II (S+7) with Dining block (G+1) with a total no. of 402 double-occupancy rooms, ii) 64 flats (3-BHK) and apartments (S+8) for Faculty and Officers behind the Vivekanand Hostel, iii) Student Activity Centre with

Indoor Sport Facilities (G+2) in Rajputana Ground, which comprises of 4 Badminton courts, 2 Squash courts, 5 Table Tennis courts, 1 Carrom hall, 1 Chess hall, 2 Taekwondo halls, 1 Yoga and Meditation hall, 1 Gymnasium hall, 2 Boxing rings, 2 Office rooms, 2 Locker rooms, and a big hall for exhibition and Student Parliament activities, iv) Morvi Hostel-II (S+10) and Dining Block (2nd, 3rd & 4th Floor), with a total no. of 576 double-occupancy rooms and v) Faculty Apartments (S+10) (Two Block) near Vishwakarma Hostel, with a total no. of 80 flats (3-BHK).



Upcoming Student Activity Centre

## Research and Development

I-DAPT HUB Foundation is a Technology Innovation Hub (TIH) for technology development in DAPT (Data Analytics and Predictive Technologies) and other related areas under the National Mission on Interdisciplinary



Cyber-Physical Systems (NMICPS). Aiming for global support, the National Mission on DAPT (NM-DAPT) would work for various sub-programs and is suggested to be implemented over five years.



The scientists Prof. Vikash Kumar Dubey, of School of Biochemical Engineering of IIT (BHU), Varanasi, and Prof. Shyam Sundar, of Institute of Medical Sciences (IMS), BHU, have investigated and tested a new recombinant vaccine for Kala-Azar, against the Leishmania parasite that halts the

progression of the infection. This study provides insight into vaccine molecules evaluation against Leishmania infection, which might lead to death, if untreated.

Extramural Research Projects sanctioned to the faculty members in Jan. 2021	
No. of Sanctioned Projects	15
Cost of Sanctioned Projects (INR)	5,62,47,627.00
Dept. of Faculty Members	BCE, CHY, BME, CHE, CSE, PHY, PHE, MST, MET, MEC
Funding Agencies	SERB, DRDO, DBT, CSIR, NPIU, Industry Kantas Track Pack India Ltd.

## 9th Convocation

IIT (BHU) organised its 9th Convocation Ceremony on 8th February, 2021 at Swatantrata Bhawan. The dais was graced by the virtual presence of our Distinguished Alumni, The Chairman, BoG, Padma Shri Dr. Kota Harinarayana, and the Chief Guest of the Ceremony, Shri Jay Chaudhry (Co-founder & CEO of ZScaler), with the physical presence of the Director, IIT (BHU), Dean (Academic Affairs) and the acting Registrar. The Convocation Address by the Director was followed by the felicitation of medalists and the Chief



Sh. Jay Chaudhry

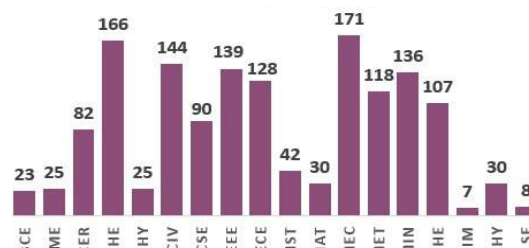


Dr. Kota Harinarayana

Guest's Address. With over 1481 graduates receiving their degrees, the Convocation marked the celebration and the beginning of a new chapter for the Batch of 2020. The graduand statistics are as given below:

Number of degree awardees/graduands			
PhD	M.Tech./M.Pharm.	IDD/IMD	B.Tech.
143+	294	259	775

No. of Degree Recipients



### Students In Focus

Receiving the Presidents' Gold Medal was a dream come true for Ankan Bohara (CSE 2020), who has always aspired to be the best. Reminiscing upon his journey, he summed himself up, saying - 'Hard work beats talent.'



A euphoric Ananya Gupta (EEE 2020) received the Directors' Gold Medal for her academic excellence and stellar participation in co-curricular activities. Encouragingly, she said, 'Explore, have faith, and be confident!'

## Placement Statistics

Continuing the stellar performance this year despite the unprecedented times, the placement season progressed online with the dedicated efforts of the Training and Placement Cell. A total of 845 offers were made till 19th February, 2021, with the highest and average CTC being Rs. 64,26,578 and Rs. 18,34,099 respectively, with the number still increasing. With consistent efforts during the pandemic, the students are acing every opportunity that is being presented to them.

	B.Tech.	IDD	M.Tech.	PhD
Offers	604	180	52	9
Placed	515	146	52	9

Till 19th February, 2021



## Students' Updates

The **Students' Parliament** coordinated the conduction of the Convocation Ceremony and collected higher education data for the NIRF annual MHRD rankings. An Institute Lecture was conducted as a part of ILS on 3rd February, 2021, by Mr. Gaurang Rath (IAS). The Parliament approved the Gymkhana activities and college festivals to be held in virtual mode. General queries of the student body were discussed in a session on 16th February, 2021.

**E-Cell**, continuing with their series 'Founders' Speak', saw 100+ participants in the session where Mr. Krishna Vedati (CSE, 1991), Co-founder & CEO of Tynker, shared his journey. Know Your Department sessions were held for students in core research fields. RIEU organised a webinar hosted by Mr. Kumar Vikrant, PhD, Hanyang University, and Mr. Harsh Agarwal, MS (Robotics), Carnegie Mellon University for students from Chemical & Electrical Engineering, respectively.

**Student Counselling Services** continued the Skills Bootcamp and launched their 21-Day Habit Challenge. Several workshops were held; including 'Meditation 101', 'Industrial Applications of Deep Learning and AI', and 'Roadmap to Top Tech Companies', which was organised in collaboration with COPS and Programming Pathshala.



The **Film and Media Council**, continuing the ongoing product photography series, revealed the 'Virtuoso' series, appreciating life stories of 'out of the box' creators. FMC weekend featured realistic animations and renders by the Animation and Cine club, and artwork by the Design club. Apart from winning inter-college digital art events, the council organised photography, writing and B-roll making competitions and workshops on creating digital art content.



The **Cultural Council** organised the 'India Quiz' on Republic Day, which saw 300+ participants. The Annual intra-freshers competition, Aagman (aka 'Faccha' or 'Manthan'), was conducted virtually from 29th to 31st January, 2021. It witnessed an all-time

high, 600+ participation (260 winners) in 25 different categories - ranging from Debates and Group Dances to Band events and Theatre's Monoact.

The **Games and Sports Council** conducted Basic Fitness Challenges for freshers and held an interactive session with IM Erik Kislik with an exhibition Chess match. Motivational talks were given by Shri J.P. Singh (Current Indian Basketball Head Coach) and Maj. Gen. (Retd.) P.K. Sehgal.

The **Social Service Council** volunteers celebrated a virtual Republic Day with the children of *bastis* and govt. schools, where the children recited poems, displayed their drawings and performances.



The **Science and Technology Council** organised workshops on Black Holes, Neural Networks, and Transmission Systems. Sessions were held on Microeconomics, GSoC Mentorship, Research Writing, and Robotics. The Business Club collaborated with the Finance, Economics, and Business Clubs of IIT Bombay, Guwahati, Delhi, and Roorkee to conduct FinFest focusing on Finance and Economics. While

the Club Of Programmers organised the COPS Week, which included competitions on Software Development, Machine Learning, and Cybersecurity, the Robotics Club organised iMaze, a Robot Control and Image Processing event.



## Alumni Updates

SAIC ensured the smooth conduction of its Alumni Visiting Faculty Program by coordinating the conduction of 3 ongoing courses. The Cell organised webinars in collaboration with ForeignAdmits to create awareness on foreign opportunities in MS, PhD, and MBA. After a session on the ISB YLP Program in collaboration with Business Club, SAIC released the January edition of the Alumni Newsletter and designed the Alumni section for the updated Institute website. Detailed articles and stories covering the professional journeys of two alumni entrepreneurs and Shri Jay Chaudhry were published in collaboration with IBGAA. Apart from continuing the 'Back to Banaras' series, SAIC launched its Instagram page with a series of posts covering the 100-year journey of the Institute.



IBGAA, in collaboration with COPS, created a Slack workspace for student mentorship. Currently, a channel for guiding students on cracking the Google Summer of Code (GSoC) has been set up. Thirty ex-GSoC alumni have been connected with 124 current students from the Institute. Under this arrangement, groups of 3-4 students are mentored by an alumnus each. In the future, a similar initiative will be taken for mentoring students for MS/PhD, MBA and foreign internships. For more info, [click here](#).

AIBA organised a web summit in collaboration with SAIC and E-Cell on the 'Future Of Environment' on 17th January, 2021, with a special focus on technology solutions encompassing core engineering as well as digital technologies related to clean air, water and municipal solid waste management and recycling.



BAA and SAIC, together organised a webinar on 'Self Management for the Achievement of Happiness and Career Excellence' on Google Meet, supervised by our alumnus, Dr. S. K. Kak, on 30th January, 2021. He's been an advisor to DRDO for various projects, has 41 papers published worldwide, and has delivered 150+ talks, guest lectures, and seminars on various topics ranging from Communication Systems to Life Skills.

## Campus Crossword

### Across

2. The Ghat of eternal flame
4. This place is centuries old but has an 80s name
5. The market near Dasashwamedh
6. BHU's Birla Mandir
8. The Gate of 17.3850° N, 78.4867° E
9. Wrestler's Buttermilk

### Down

1. Ek Chai, Do Samose, Chaar Dost, all in one place
3. Buddha gave his first sermon here
7. The river which gave Kashi its new name

### Instructions

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

*To solve the crossword, [click here](#).*

[Find the completed crossword here](#)

## Campus Corner: The 100 Year Story



1919



1930s



1960s



2020

1920s

1940s

2012



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

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