



# Alma Communiqué Alumni Newsletter (Jan. 2021)



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



Prof. Pramod K. Jain  
Director, IIT (BHU), Varanasi

## Message from the Director, IIT (BHU), Varanasi

*Greetings to everyone!*

*As we turn pages to a new edition of the Alma Communiqué, we look back to see how far we've come since then. Filled with the consistency of progression, this newsletter is a testament to the activities that take place in the Institute. Even though the pandemic brought its own set of challenges, we've managed to stay intact and flourish. We welcome a new issue of the newsletter, along with the hope of more communication among us all.*

## Institute Updates

1. In a recent study published by Stanford University, 14 professors from IIT (BHU), Varanasi have been featured among the top 2% of scientists worldwide on the basis of an international evaluation of their research papers. The study is published in the journal - Public Library of Science (PLoS) Biology and has placed 1500 Indians, from various fields in this list. Substantiating the quality of research work in the Institute, this list has placed IIT (BHU) on the global map of science and research.

3. The PARAM Shivay (IIT (BHU), Varanasi) supercomputer has been ranked 10th in the list of Top Supercomputers in India. The list was created with support from CDAC's Terascale Supercomputing Facility (CTSF), Bangalore. The PARAM Shivay has a peak processing speed of 833 TeraFLOPS and 60% of its processing power is meant for local use. The rest is used for other CFTIs and research labs across the nation.

2. Setting a precedent for academic collaboration, IIT (BHU) and IIT Guwahati signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU), offering a joint doctoral programme (Ph.D.) from July, 2021. For the first time in history, two IITs have come together to promote such multidisciplinary academic programs and research. As per the NEP 2020, such collaborations between prestigious institutes would aid in the multidisciplinary academic development of the nation.

4. The 9th Convocation of IIT (BHU), Varanasi, will be held on 8th February, 2021, 9:30 A.M. onwards. Shri Jay Chaudhry ji (CEO and Founder of Zscaler), an illustrious alumnus of Electronics Engineering (batch of 1980), will grace the event as its Chief Guest. The Convocation will be held in online mode due to the COVID-safety protocols of the Institute.



## Infrastructure Updates

Infrastructure development is the need of the hour for us. Apart from several up-gradation works (Ground floor of the existing library building, renovation of kitchen block of S.C. De Hostel, Vishwakarma Hostel, Boundary wall of S.C. De Hostel, etc.) carried out by IWD, major works completed through CPWD (civil) in the last 1 year are: (i) Construction of Girls Hostel (G+6), (ii) Extension of School of Materials Science and Technology building, (iii) Construction of Teaching & Learning Centre (G+1) building, (iv) Construction of faculty apartments (Two blocks: A & B), (v) Construction, renovation and up-gradation of the ground floor of the existing library building. Apart from the completed projects, a total of 5 infrastructure projects are ongoing, details of which will be shared in the next issue of the newsletter.

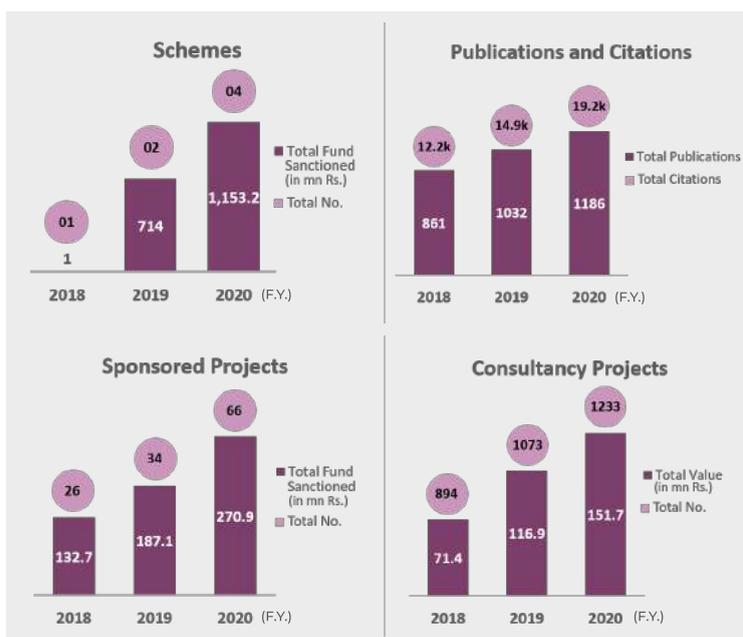
## Research and Development

Understanding its responsibility in the growth of our country, the Institute has been focusing on improving its research and development. Research contributions by the faculty and the students of the Institute are mentioned below:

Total no. of patents published/granted after 2012: 128/01

Particular	2020-21*	No. of Projects
Sponsored Projects (Total Sanction Cost)	Rs. 19,83,27,234 /-	29
Consultancy (Received Amount)	Rs. 10,10,64,384 /-	837

\*Apr. '20 - 19 Jan. '21



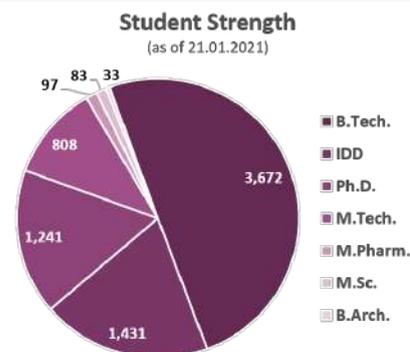
## Placement Statistics



In such tough times, the placement season was held online with the dedicated efforts of the Training and Placement Cell. A total of 729 offers were made till 22nd December, 2020, and the number is still increasing. The season is still going on and the students are acing every opportunity presented to them. Despite the uncertain and difficult times, the placement season is turning out to be an impressive feat.

## Institute Statistics

After onboarding the new batch online, the Institute now has 7300+ students across 18 academic sections that include 11 Engineering Departments, 3 Science Departments, 3 inter-disciplinary Schools and 1 Humanities & Social Sciences Section.



The Institute faculty is dedicated to the all round upliftment and overall development of the student body. The Institute boasts of a total faculty strength of 319 members, which includes 306 regular faculty members.

## Innovation @ IIT (BHU)

An IIT (BHU) and DIC, BHU initiative, Design and Innovation Centre (DIC) carries out design and prototyping projects. With 330+ innovative ideas (144 already funded), recent DIC activities are: the creation of a Maker's Space, a design excursion to nearby villages and providing support to the Indian Refractory Association.

The RKVY - RAFTAAR Agri Business Incubator (R-ABI) has incubated 95 start-ups focusing on Bio-tech, Food Tech, etc. With 390+ applications, ANKURAN (Pre-Seed Stage) and PRASFUTAN (Seed Stage) are some of the programs offered, apart from other outreach activities.



Cisco and NASSCOM Foundation jointly set up the Cisco thingQbator Makerspace to drive innovation in the field of 'Internet of Things' (IoT). It also organised a session on "Revenue Strategies to Hack Growth" recently.



Cisco thingQbator supports prototype building and has 1227 ideas, 347 projects, 170 prototypes, and 9 startups. Some college startups like Kyukey, Asha, etc. have been felicitated by the Nasscom Foundation and have bagged prizes at the national level.

Team AVERERA, focused on developing energy-efficient EVs, was a runner-up team at the Shell Eco-marathon Asia in 2019 with an efficiency of 465 km/kWh. It is currently working on the development of self-driving vehicles, incorporating autonomy features through perception, localization and path planning.

The U.P. Govt. has also made IIT (BHU), Varanasi a primary partner in its prestigious Defence Corridor project. The Institute has inked an MoU with the Uttar Pradesh Expressway Industrial Development Authority and Rs. 69 crores have been allocated for creation of R&D facilities in niche areas as Center for Defence Materials and Precision Engineering. The proposal envisages the Institute as a hub for skill development for defence industrial needs.

Clean Electric is building electric trucks for inter/intra city applications. The team has built a sample prototype Electric Tata Ace and is working on a B-prototype. Having won the Best Technology Award in TIE UNIVERSITY GLOBAL 2020, among 17 teams, Clean Electric is now working upon the Telematics unit & VCU.



first-ever Cyber Security team was selected under COPS. IIT (BHU) had the 7th highest number of accepted proposals in GSoc '2020 from all the universities in the world.

The Social Service Council celebrated virtual Diwali and Christmas with children of *bastis*. Case study events were organised with themes like 'Sustainability Tomorrow' and reducing 'Pollution in Ganga'. A webinar on 'Loneliness in teenagers and young adults' was also organised.

## Students' Updates

The Students' Parliament is organising yoga sessions for all students and faculty. It has continued the ILS with a talk by Prof. M.D. Srinivas, a theoretical physicist & a renowned scholar in Indian Mathematics and Astronomy.



SAIC initiated the 'Back to Banaras' series to nudge alumni to recall their college memories. The AVF Program was conducted online with an added course on Deep Learning. SAIC maintained alumni relations during the pandemic by assisting alumni associations in their various online events.

E-Cell launched 'Founders' Speak', a biweekly webinar series where entrepreneurs share their journey. Chase Unicorn - a 3 round competition was organised, where the elevator pitch round was judged by stalwarts of the industry.

The Student Counseling Services organised a 7-Day Digital Detox Program and launched their Skills Bootcamp with workshops on Ethical Hacking, Excel, etc. The SCS Toastmasters, Skills Saturday, Intern Diaries webpage, and the "Noteflix" app are other SCS initiatives.



The Cultural Council organised 'The Thespian Talk' featuring 'Divyendu Sharma' aka 'Munna Tripathi' from the Mirzapur series. A session was also organised with Mr. Varun Grover (2003 batch), to cover the basics of screenplay writing. ABBA's Kashi Utsav witnessed huge participation from all the clubs of the Cultural Council.

The Film and Media council conducted surveys on topics like National Education Policy and directed several Outreach and Photography series like the Placement series and Product Photography respectively. Renowned artists conducted workshops on Filmmaking, Photography, Journalism, Graphic Designing and Animation. The council also represented the Institute in prestigious national level events.

The Games and Sports Council organised a chess tournament followed by a talk by Ms. Harshita Guddanti, Women International Master. The All-India Chess League was also conducted wherein the Institute qualified for the finals among 20 institutes. The Council also took part in the Fit India Cyclothon, a part of the Fit India Movement.

The Science and Technology Council organised a robotics competition based on Image Processing. The Business Club stood 2nd in the first PAN IIT Crypto-Trading Event and organised events with Groww, IIM - A, PM School, etc. The Astro club discussed the Jupiter-Saturn Conjunction with freshers. XÆA-12 was organised for freshers to learn building prototypes. After launching "Lite Hai!" app to provide details on student workshops/events, the



## Alumni Updates

### Alumni in focus

The 9th Convocation of the Institute will be graced by Shri Jay Chaudhry Ji as the Chief Guest. An alumnus of Electronics Engineering from IT BHU (batch of 1980), he is the CEO and Founder of Zscaler, a cybersecurity company. Prior to this, he has also founded AirDefense, CipherTrust, CoreHarbor and SecureIT.



Shri Jay Chaudhry,  
CEO & Founder, Zscaler

### Message from the Chief Guest, 9th Convocation

Dear friends,  
I heartily congratulate the batch of 2020. Graduating from one of India's best engineering institutes, especially during such trying times, is truly a milestone. I am excited to share the lessons I've learned on my journey from Morvi hostel to Zscaler, on 8th February, 2021. Remember, we all have the ability and responsibility to positively impact our community and make the world a better place. I eagerly look forward to the upcoming convocation. I also wish luck to the newsletter team for releasing the first edition of 2021. I am sure our alumni readers will feel nostalgic and will be delighted to read about the recent developments in our Alma Mater.

### Australia Meet

IBGAA recently organised an alumni reunion in Melbourne, Australia, where the alumni met on an idle day to spend some quality time together.



### Mess Workers Campaign

The Students' Parliament, Alumni Associations and the IIT (BHU) administration, with the support of the alumni community, collected Rs. 61 lakh, which were distributed swiftly, giving relief to about 400+ families of mess workers, dhobis, and hostel maintenance staff. The Students' Parliament also helped in creating the bank accounts for all these families.

### Future Series: Web Summits

A web summit series was launched by AIBA on the future of various rising sectors in India. The first summit was on the 'Future of Education' with Dr. Mohandas Pai as the main speaker and Dr. Arvind Gupta moderating the session. The session on 'Future of Healthcare' was held later with Shri Kota Harinarayana as the Chief Guest. Five budding entrepreneurs were awarded \$1000 worth of AWS (lead



sponsor of the event) credits. The 3rd session on the 'Future of Environment' was recently held on 17th January, 2021.

## Alumni Batch & Branch Ambassadors

The Alumni Batch and Branch Ambassadors (ABBA) Council was formed by AIBA with ~100 alumni ambassadors from batches of 1953-2020 from multiple branches. It organised Double Diwali Bonanza which saw two distinguished alumni, Prof. Pankaj Chandra and Prof. Paddy Padmanabhan talk about their books and ideas. Kashi Utsav, the second event witnessed a showcase of talents by students and alumni.

## Other Activities

1. IBGAA and SAIC collaborated to publish a series of articles covering detailed stories of various developments related to the Institute. Some of them were the Mess workers campaign, 14 professors featuring in a Stanford university's list of top 2% global scientists, and a startup showcase about the growing startups founded by IIT BHU alumni.



2. PanIIT USA organised 'IIT2020', with 500k+ attendees. It was a carousel of events with IIT (BHU), Varanasi having one of the highest participation. The conference also witnessed addresses from CEOs, COOs of various companies including IBM,

FedEx, etc. IIT2020 acted as a platform to showcase ideas, grow networks, and learn from others' experiences.

## Alumni Support

The Institute is grateful to its Alumni Community which has always come forward in times of need and volunteered for providing support and guidance. In the session 2019-20, the Institute received 19 Endowment funds with a total amount of Rs. 1.049 cr. along with 11 special endowment funds. 14 alumni scholarships and 16 alumni medals are benefitting the student body in their growth and development.



The Institute is glad to have such a huge and enthusiastic alumni community and wishes to continue to enhance its bonds by getting in touch with more alumni. It seeks advice and feedback for a vision that will help the Institute excel in every domain. With many such initiatives coming up, the Institute looks forward to active participation from our alumni in guiding students and developing the Institute.

## Campus Corner



Prof. Rajeev Srivastava  
Dean (Resource & Alumni  
Affairs), IIT (BHU), Varanasi

## Message from the Dean (Resource & Alumni Affairs)

Dear Alumnae and Alumni,

As we complete a year of everything moving online, we are reminded of how we are bound by the Institute and the fond memories associated with it. The methods of communication might have varied over the years, yet our sentiments remain the same. Endorsing the first issue of 2021, I applaud the consistent determination of SAIC and their ability to outdo their efforts and hereby welcome the newsletter.

SAIC is grateful to Director, IIT (BHU), Varanasi and Dean (Resource & Alumni Affairs) for their constant encouragement and guidance that made this newsletter possible. We thank our Alumni Associations and the entire IIT (BHU) alumni fraternity for their blessings. To share information for further editions, reach us at [alumni@iitbhu.ac.in](mailto:alumni@iitbhu.ac.in)

## Contact:

[dora@iitbhu.ac.in](mailto:dora@iitbhu.ac.in)  
[resource@iitbhu.ac.in](mailto:resource@iitbhu.ac.in)  
[alumni@iitbhu.ac.in](mailto:alumni@iitbhu.ac.in)

## Connect with us:



## Editorial Team, SAIC:

Sanskriti, Shubhangi  
Aditi, Aishwary, Madhav, Rishija  
Arya Vivek