



Alma Communiqué

Alumni Newsletter (Nov. 2021)



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

Institute Updates



1. Our alumnus Mr. Nikesh Arora (EEE '89), the CEO of cybersecurity leader Palo Alto Networks, has endowed the IIT (BHU) Foundation, a US-based non-profit association of IIT (BHU) alumni, with a US \$2 million donation. He will donate US \$1 million by forgoing his yearly pay, and Palo Alto Networks will contribute another US \$1 million. The gift will seed the Foundation's Access Fund, which will help underserved students attend the Institute through scholarships. Started in December 2021, incoming students are invited to apply for the scholarships through the [Foundation's website](#), with the recipients being chosen based on financial need.



2. IIT (BHU) scientists claim to have developed a first-of-its-kind device in India for producing ultra-pure hydrogen on-site. The device is 100% indigenous, and every component is created in the Institute facilities. According to the team, at a time when India has pledged to zero net emissions by 2070 at the COP26 Climate Summit, this is a significant development in the nation's sustainable development goals.



3. Shyama Varshney BENCO-64 Best Educator Award - 2021 was conferred to Dr. R.K. Singh, Associate Professor, Department of Electrical Engineering by the Director of IIT (BHU) in the presence of all the Deans and Head of Electrical Engineering Department on 3rd December, 2021, for displaying overall excellence in teaching. The award was instituted by the BENCO 1964 batch in memory of their batchmate Late Shyama Varshney, and carries a certificate, citation, and a cash prize of amount Rs. 25,000/- in the form of a demand draft.

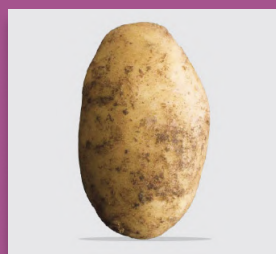


4. The Institute began with the placement drive of the session 2021-2022. Beating the COVID stalemate, the Institute has witnessed one of its best placement seasons. During the initial 4 days, around 300 companies have made 1134 offers with 34 international packages. These include 241 Pre Placement Offers as well. Further, the highest CTC bagged by the students this year stands at INR 2.16 Crores.

Connect back with your alma mater!

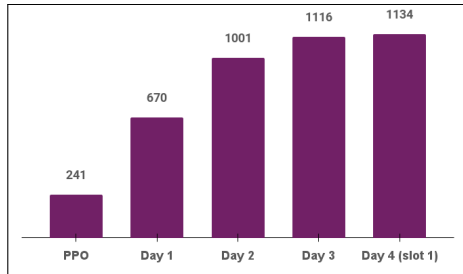
If you've eaten this in combination with every other vegetable, you are a true *aaloo-mni* of IIT (BHU), Varanasi! This is probably what makes us the incredible engineers we are. Most certainly our amazing profs had something to do with it. And the labs, and the workshops, and the hostels, and the festivals, and Gangaji, and the ineffable aura that enveloped us in the graceful two-toned buildings we inhabited.

Whatever it is that happened to us in the fabled pincode of 221005, it shaped us for life. Just visit alumni-reg.iitbhu.ac.in to reconnect with the institute that made us who we are!



Placement Updates

With the onset of winters, IIT (BHU) began with the placement drive of the session 2021-22. The Training and Placement Cell has put in months of sincere work, from building and managing portals to finally hosting the interviews. Operating from the halls of the Rajputana Hostel, they have ensured one of the Institute's finest placement spells yet. Preparing from the solitary confines of their own houses, the diligence, and patience of all the students has shattered even the COVID stalemate. We have then witnessed record packages along with a very high placement rate.



Cumulative No. of Offers

With almost 300 companies hiring students, 1134 offers have been made in the initial 4 days with 34 international packages. These include 241 PPOs, wherein the apical CTC stands at 52.2 LPA. On Day 1 itself, 87 companies made 429 offers to the students, with the highest package of INR 2.16 crores being given by a reputed multi-national company. The lowest package for Day 1 stood at an impressive 12 LPA. Top recruiters include Google, Microsoft, Amazon, DE Shaw, Tower Research, Wells Fargo, Uber, Oracle, Standard Chartered, Adobe, JPMC, Accenture, Morgan Stanley, Goldman Sachs, Graviton, Rakuten, Jaguar, and Walmart, to name a few.



Growth in placements over the year

Media Section

Hindustan Times
Alumnus donates \$2mn to IIT-BHU Foundation

IIT Correspondent
VANANASI : The IIT-BHU Foundation, a US-based all-volunteer, non-profit association of IIT (BHU) alumni, announced that Nikesh Arora, an IIT-BHU alumnus and CEO of cybersecurity firm Palo Alto Networks, has endowed the IIT-BHU Foundation with a \$2 million donation.

The donation will fund the Foundation's Access Fund, enabling scholarships for under-served students to attend the premier institute.

Becoming students will be able to apply for the scholarship awards through the Foundation's website starting December 2021, with recipients selected based on financial need. All awards through the fund will be managed by the Scholarship Committee with Kumar Jayant (IEEE SPS) as the chair, with the dean of academic affairs and dean of resources and alumni from the Institute also sitting on the committee.

According to a press statement, "IIT-BHU provides a paradigm for concrete technology, and it's an honour to help deserving students gain access to these educational opportunities," said Arora, a 1997 Electrical and Electronics IIT (BHU) graduate.

"As alumnus, we know firsthand of the school's remarkable programmes, facilities and faculty. Together with Palo Alto Networks, IIT-BHU Foundation, we intend to support the education of the under-served students."

US \$ 2mn donation

THE ECONOMIC TIMES
IIT Varanasi researchers develop India's first device for on-site production of ultra-pure Hydrogen

Ultra-pure Hydrogen

THE TIMES OF INDIA
IIT-BHU student bags Rs 2 crore package from US company in placement

US \$ 2mn donation

ANI
South Asia's Leading Multimedia News Agency

GeekGig Coding Challenge - Open Round

IIT BHU student Sangeeta Mishra wins India's top women coder title beating 73 thousand programmers at Geek Goddess 2021

ANI | Updated: Dec 01, 2021 12:56 IST

New Delhi [India], December 1 (ANI/TechGig): IIT BHU's third year student Sangeeta Mishra beats 73 Thousand women technologists to win the champion's crown at TechGig Geek Goddess 2021 edition.

India's Top Women Coder

Innovation @ IIT (BHU)

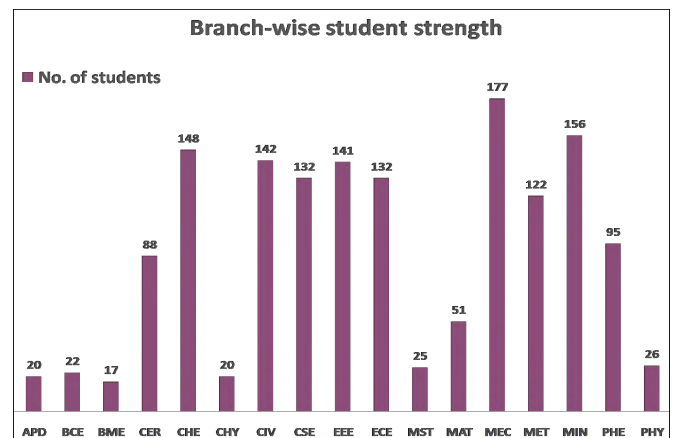
RKVY-RAFTAAR Agri-Business Incubator (R-ABI) launched an Agripreneurship Orientation Program (AOP) in September for 30 startups (20 startups for the pre-seed stage and 10 for the seed stage). AOP consisted of 60 hours training and mentoring program for startups, concluding on 11th November, 2021. Twenty distinguished speakers from various domains were invited to conduct thirty sessions.

At CISCO thingQbator, two events were organized for the COHORT-4 startups. The 4th part of the webinar series 'Startup Track' was hosted by Team Enable on 15th November, 2021, and on 28th November, 2021, the founders of Multiplayer Yoga Gameplay explained about yoga postures.



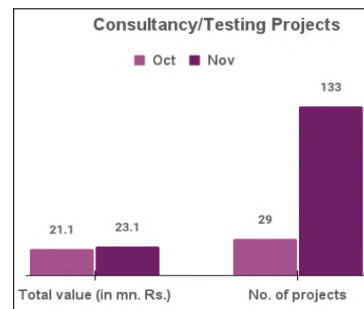
New Entrants

The admission process has been completed for the new batch. 1514 students have joined the Institute across 17 academic sections. The gender ratio has continued to improve, with 293 female students joining the batch of 2021. Also, 81 students have joined the preparatory course for 2021.



Research & Development

Promoting the research culture, the Institute has continuously undertaken various research/consultancy projects to nurture this zeal of innovation further.



The Institute filed three patents and got four patents published in the month of November. Moreover, the Institute also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with Adroiech Information System Pvt. Ltd. The MoU was signed on 9th November, 2021.

Department/School	Funding agency	Period of the Project Sanction
HSS	Mahatma Gandhi National Council of Rural Education	5 months
PHY	DRDO	3 years
MET	CARS, DRDO	4 years

Projects sanctioned in the month of November

Students' Updates

E-Cell, in collaboration with GoToPitch.ai hosted a two week-long virtual pitching competition, which included talks by



Mr. Shashank Tyagi and Prof. John Kojiro Morikawa. AMA session was organized with Ms. Aditi Sinha and a webinar titled 'Entrepreneurship, Startup Valuations, and It's Reality' was hosted with Mr. Aswini Bajaj. A Founder's Speak Session, one was organized with Mr. Anubhav Dubey.

The **Cultural Council** along with Association of IIT (BHU) Alumni (AIBA) conducted Kashi Utsav, which saw the participation of both students and alumni. 'Mimic It' is being organized for students to enact their favourite characters. Collaborating with the Board for Recreational Activities IIT-D, a debate based on National Education Day was conducted.

The **Film and Media Council** released 'SHAFaq', a short film that made it into the top 100 at India's largest film-making challenge, IFP, was released. The council completed the Inktober '21 series and came up with paradisiacal clicks of Rajasthan and Varanasi. The club members also won prizes in photography competitions organized by IIT Dhanbad and BIT Mesra. They published 'Apropos of preparatory course' and released episodes of Unscripted 4 & 5. A weekly series, 'Meraki', offering digital art enthusiasts to learn from professionals' insights and experiences, was also launched.



In the **Science and Technology Council**, a workshop on stellar evolution was conducted. A workshop on Google Summer of Code was also held. A talk on 'Introduction to Supply Chain Management' with Mr. Manansh Thakur, an AMA session on 'Product Management and Strategy' with Mrs. Paridhi Mishra (CER '16), and released the second edition of Casebook. The SAE organized quizzes on various topics. Finally, Moulik Ketkar of the Astronomy Club won first prize in BAHFest of Anveshan, IISER, Thiruvananthapuram.

Social Service Council's Kashi Utkarsh celebrated Diwali at Kakarmatta and Lahartara *bastis*. At the Social Projects Club, the front end framework is ready for Easy Connect and the



QR code generated is ready for the Digital Label project. The Health and Hygiene club conducted a 'healthy' food cooking event. At Sahyog, the importance of Diwali was conveyed and role exchange between students and volunteers was done to celebrate Children's day.

Alumni Updates

SAIC began with the Mock Interview initiative for the placement season of December '21. A total of 150+

registrations were made, with 100 interviews being conducted so far. The newsletter for the month of October was released and a session on the opportunities in space industry by Mr. Amit Pandey was organized. In Industry 4.0: the speakers, Mr. Rajeev Gupta and Mr. Vineet Saxena discussed the current trends of automation and data exchange in manufacturing technologies.



Alumni-funded Scholarships

Kasi 1981 Alumni Foundation Scholarship

The online application window for KAF81 2021-22 scholarships is now open till 24th December, 2021. The scholarship is offered to the students of B.Tech./IDD (all years) at IIT (BHU) who are economically weak or have high academic performance. Started in 2017, KAF81 Scholarship has benefited 93 students so far, with 36 students receiving scholarship in 2020-21 alone. For more information about the scholarship and start an application, visit www.kaf81.org. Read about KAF81's story here.

IIT (BHU) Foundation Scholarship

The IIT (BHU) Foundation Scholarship is endowed by the generous contribution of Sh. Nikesh Arora (EEE '89), the Chairman/CEO, Palo Alto Networks. This scholarship will provide financial support (semester fees) to incoming qualified students.

The 2021 application period is now open and will continue until 7th January, 2022. To learn more about the program and start an application, visit the Scholarship Program page at <https://www.iitbhufoundation.org/scholarship>. If you have any questions or need any help, please feel free to reach out to support@iitbhufoundation.org.

Alumni Achievements

Dr. Hridesh Rajan (CSE '00)

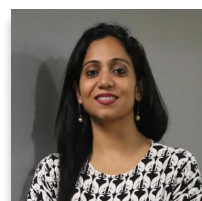


Dr. Rajan, the Kingland Professor of Data Analytics or Cognitive Machine Learning and chair of Computer Science, has been named AAAS Fellow with the American Association for the Advancement of Science. His recent research and educational activities aims to decrease

entry barriers to data-driven sciences. He leads the NSF-supported Dependable Data Driven Discovery Institute at Iowa State and is the Midwest Big Data Summer School's founding general co-chair.

Smt. Nandita Sinha (CER '03)

Smt. Nandita Sinha has been named the CEO of Myntra, effective 1st January, 2022. She will join Myntra from group company Flipkart, where as Vice President, Customer Growth and Marketing, she is currently leading the overall charter for marketing. She has 15 years of experience across e-commerce & FMCG, focusing on P&L management and marketing. She is the first female CEO of the group.



Alumni Startup Success Stories

1. BrightChamps, a startup in Ed-tech space, co-founded by our alumnus Mr. Ravi Bhushan (CSE '05), raised \$51 million in another round of funding.
2. Trademo, a startup in the supply chain market, founded by Mr. Shalabh Singhal (EEE '09) raised a total of \$12.5 million in the seed round of funding.
3. Resync, a Singapore based startup in the IT and services sector, co-founded by Ms. Jayantika Soni (EEE '11) raised a fund of \$2 million in its series A round of funding.
4. Biryani By Kilo, a company in the restaurant business, co-founded by Mr. Vishal Jindal (EEE '92) raised a fund of \$35 million in its series B round of funding.

Inspiring Alumni



Sh. Nikesh Arora
(EEE '89)

In a world where power, fame, and stability are the most coveted and sought-after endeavors, it's rare to find someone who forgoes these comforts to challenge the unchallenged. From landing in the States with just two suitcases and a pair of white socks to becoming one of the most successful executives in the world, Nikesh Arora's story is one of passion, courage, and a dose of determination.

Nikesh Arora was born on 9th February 1968 in Ghaziabad in the state of Uttar Pradesh. His father was in the Indian Air Force, so he spent the majority of his childhood packing and moving all over India with his family. Being a defense kid, always on the move, he went to various Kendriya Vidyalayas across the country and completed his schooling at The Air Force School in Delhi.

Known to be the rockstar executive with a flamboyant personality today, Nikesh recalls being a 'nerd' who liked to spend his time studying when he was younger. Clearing NTSE, a national talent hunt examination, he was awarded a scholarship that was only offered to 200 people nationwide at that time. He describes that period to be the inflection

point of his life as people around him started noticing the potential he possessed and pushed him to make the most of his caliber.

He joined the Indian Institute of Technology (BHU), Varanasi, in 1985 to pursue engineering and graduated with a Bachelor of Technology degree from the Department of Electrical Engineering in 1989. After his graduation, he started working at Wipro, selling computers to government officials but shortly quit his job to pursue higher education. In 1990, at the tender age of 21, he left for Boston with two bags full of dreams, \$3,000 borrowed from his father's life savings, and the belief of his mother, who was willing to let her son cross the seas. He went on to get an MBA from Northeastern University in 1992 and joined Fidelity Investments as an analyst. He then continued his studies alongside his job, acquiring a Master's degree in Finance from Boston College.

With the vision to give back to his Alma Mater and increase access to quality education, Mr. Nikesh Arora recently made a generous donation of US \$2 million to establish the IIT(BHU) Foundation Access Fund, enabling scholarships for underserved students to attend the premier Institute and prepare for technology careers. He will forgo his annual salary to contribute \$1 million, with cybersecurity leader Palo Alto Networks adding another million.

To read more about his journey, [click here](#)



Banaras ki Baatein

*The auto ki journey from station to campus,
Could not anticipate what the years held for us.*

*I entered the yellow gate that stood so tall,
Soon it was 'Har Har Mahadev' all year long.*

*I was saved by the trips to LC and VT,
Cholla samosa could then solve all our BTs!*

*Life synced into morning classes and evening bakar,
The mehfil started wherever the friends were.*

*I remember the uproar when the fests were close,
I also remember the silence of memories composed.*

*Cold mornings were bearable with arrival of Malaiyo,
The lights on ghats made my nights glow.*

*Years I could spend walking in the galliyan alone,
There's no bit of Banaras I have yet outgrown.*

*Reminiscing now of how much I loved and grew,
Truly, you may leave Banaras but it never leaves you!*

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 alumnice11@iitbhu.ac.in.

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