



CELEBRATING CENTENARY



STUDENT ALUMNI INTERACTION CELL, IIT (BHU), VARANASI

Alma Communiqué

Alumni Newsletter (Feb '22)

Read about the newly orchestrated IIT (BHU) Research Excellence Fellowship and the recent developments in your alma mater!



Institute Updates



1. The 'Vigyan Sarvatra Pujyate' program was organized from 22nd-28th February, 2022 across 75 cities in the country, the center of which was IIT (BHU), Varanasi. The event took place during the National Science Week under the *Azaadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav* series. It commenced with the occurrence of the opening ceremony, after which knowledge and awareness were imparted in topics related to science, inventions and innovations. India's scientific heritage and technological excellence were showcased at this event. This program acquainted people with how science has played a major role in transforming India.

2. IIT (BHU), Varanasi has received a contribution of Rs. 5 crore by our alumni Sh. Naresh C. Jain (MEC '67) through the IIT (BHU) Foundation, which is a US-based non-profit association of IIT (BHU) Alumni. Naresh is a prolific philanthropist and the founder of Diamond Express Car Wash Inc. This donation will help establish the Institute's new school, which will bear his name as the Naresh C. Jain School of Decision Sciences and Engineering. This School will train the technical workforce of the Institute and beyond in people and process management by having motivated and dedicated faculties with an enabling course curriculum that provides layered learning experiences. The School will offer M.Tech. and Ph.D. programs with an emphasis on practical learning and applied research. The focus will be on four key research areas: Logistics and Supply Chain Management, Manufacturing Systems Engineering, Healthcare Systems Management, and Agribusiness Management.

3. IIT (BHU), Varanasi has received a contribution of Rs. 1.33 crore by the 1994 Batch Alumni to establish 3 Research Excellence Fellowship programs. The fellowships aim to identify and acknowledge the immense hard work of the faculty members in the field of research, one from each of the three Departments of Chemical Engineering, Mechanical Engineering, and Metallurgical Engineering. The proposed fellowships will be offered for two years. The program was initiated by our alumni Sh. Manu Srivastav and Sh. Srikanth Kommu of the 1994 Batch.

4. The I-DAPT Hub Foundation, IIT (BHU) recently announced its collaboration with the US National Science Foundation (NSF) in the field of Data Analytics and Predictive Technologies (DAPT) to solve societal challenges. Supported by the National Mission on Interdisciplinary Cyber-Physical Systems (NM-ICPS), Ministry of Science and Technology, the I-DAPT Hub Foundation is anticipated to provide a financial support of about Rs. 1 crore for research on DAPT and its application in transport, telecommunication, health and family welfare.

Institute's Foundation Day

The Institute celebrated its foundation day on the occasion of Vasant Panchami, behind which is an interesting tale.

Arrangements were made for laying the foundation stone of the University at Nagwa in the Southern part of the city of Varanasi opposite to Fort of Ramnagar. Necessary land at this site was acquired for laying the foundation stone and elaborate arrangements were made for the function. At an auspicious moment on 4th February, 1916 Lord Hardinge, the then Governor-General and Viceroy laid the foundation stone of the University in the presence of a distinguished assembly of Governors, Princes, and the elite of India. Perhaps it was for the first time, the highest representatives of the Sovereign and the Rulers of so many States had met to bring into existence an educational institution which sought to combine modern efficiency and the highest spiritual ideals of ancient India.

During the preceding fortnight and the four days succeeding the 4th February, 1916, various sacred rites and ceremonies were performed. A series of lectures, named University Extension Lectures were delivered on the 5th to 8th February, 1916 by distinguished specialists like Dr. J.C. Bose, Dr. PC. Ray, Mrs. Annie



Besant, Prof. C. V. Raman, and others. Mahatma Gandhi who had just returned to India from South Africa, had come to Banaras to attend the Foundation stone laying ceremony at the invitation of Mahmana Malaviya Ji, addressed the audience on 6th February. The closing functions were held on 8th February 1916, on the occasion of Vasant Panchami.

An Artisan course was started on 11th February, 1919. Thus, the Benares Engineering College was the first to start functioning on the University campus, and within a couple of years it started attracting students from all over India.



Lord Hardinge delivering the address



Lord Hardinge laying the Foundation Stone



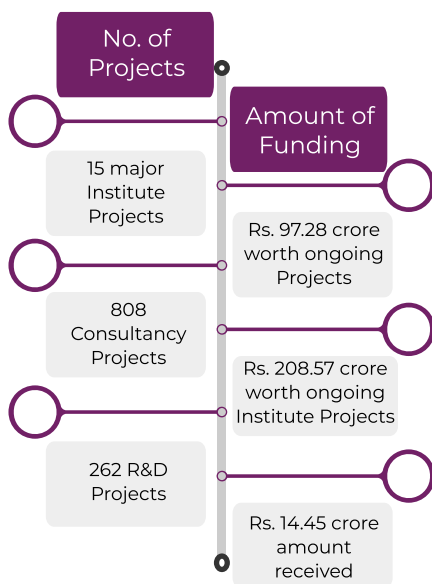
At the Technology Innovation and Incubation Centre (TIIC), the second RIC of COHORT-4 start-ups was organized on 14th February, 2022. In the first RIC held in August, 2021, 30 start-ups, 10 seed and 20 pre-seed, were shortlisted from domains like Waste to Wealth, Food Processing, Precision Farming

Agri Supply Chain, and Farm Mechanization. Based on the progress of the first RIC, the Committee members recommended 20 start-ups to present their idea in front of the Centre of Excellence Incubation Committee (CIC) organized by the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI) Pusa, New Delhi. The selected start-ups in CIC are recommended grants with financial support of up to Rs. 5 Lakhs and 25 Lakhs for pre-seed and seed, respectively.

Research & Development

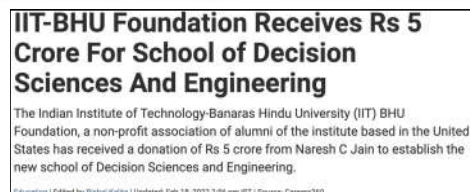
Building a research culture, the Institute has always strived to undertake various research/consultancy projects to nurture this zeal of innovation further. This has led to remarkable growth in the number of such projects and the funding received therein.

The number of R&D projects doubled from 113 in 2017-18 to 262 in 2021-22, and major Institute Projects also increased from 9 to 15. The consultancy projects in 2017-18 were 894 as compared to the 808 received in 2021-22. The number of ongoing Institute Projects tripled, and the ongoing Projects doubled from Rs. 63.62 crore and Rs. 45.47 crore in 2017-18. The total amount increased from Rs. 7.14 crore to Rs. 14.45 crore from 2017-18 to 2021-22.



R&D Statistics for the Year 2021-22

Media Section



Donation for School of Decision Sciences and Engineering



Collaboration with US science foundation



Rs 1.33 crore donation by alumni



E-Cell in collaboration with I-DAPT Hub Foundation, a section-8 company at IIT (BHU) focused on helping the startups backed by Data Analytics and Predictive Technologies, organized the I-DAPT Hub Pitch Challenge. Hult Prize, the world's largest student competition to create new social businesses, was organized

by joint efforts by the E-Cell, Hult Prize BHU, and the Business Club. 'Communicating with Charisma', a session to acknowledge how communication can improve teams and enhance workspace culture, was held with Kisha Gupta, Head of Global Academic Relations, Infosys, in collaboration with Startup Grind Jammu.

The Film and Media Council successfully conducted FMC Weekend, India's biggest digital arts college fest, providing people a platform to showcase their talent and meet pioneers in the



field of digital arts. Hosting competitions and workshops on animation, cinematography, design, media creation, photography, and vlogging, the FMC Weekend attracted enthusiasts from all over India. Many competitions were conducted exclusively for freshers in the fields of design, screenplay writing, and photography. The Media club won the journalism event at the outfest of IIM Indore.



At the Games and Sports Council, the Chess Club stood 23rd globally and 2nd in India, at the 2nd Annual Kasparov Chess Foundation University Cup. The Council started the 'Fitness Month', a four-week long exercise challenge from 14th February to 13th March, 2022, where each day, students need to complete a set of events followed by a cooldown.

At the Science and Technology Council, Astronomy Club organized workshops on astrophotography and Space Flight Simulator. The attendees were introduced to the basics of rocket science, and competitions were held. The SAE conducted TRIATHLON, a series of events and workshops on F1 car modelling and simulation in collaboration with Tech Analogy. A workshop was also conducted, specifically for the freshers, on the 'Basics of Automobiles'.



The Social Service Council volunteers visited the Kakarmatta basti on Republic Day. Chatrapati Jayanti, Foundation Day, and Basant Panchami were also celebrated with the bastis in weekly calls. The Health and Hygiene Club spread awareness about sanitation. The Social Projects' Club included freshers in various projects like Eye gaze, Winnovation, and Krishi. Team Easy-Connect has qualified for the semifinals of H-Social Creator. At Sahyog, volunteers conducted various academic activities for school children via calls.

The Student Counselling Services organized the ,21 Day Habit Challenge,. Life Circle started Life Discussion, Dr. Laxman Yadav enriched the event. Mr. Yogesh Kabir guided the Leadership Program. The workshops 'Public Speaking



101' and 'Notion 101' were organized. 'Getting Started with No-code' was led by Mr. Harshit Krishna Chaudhury. 'Encore' sessions were held to guide students on various career opportunities. Further, a discussion on higher studies abroad was steered by Mr. Dhiraj Srivastava.

CIF offers sophisticated instruments and technical expertise to assist the faculty and the students in research and industrial R&D. The facility is equipped with state of the art facilities like CNC Mill and CNC lathe, Prototyping Machine for electronic circuits, Magnetic Property Measurement System, Tribometer, NMR (500 MHz), thin-film & powder XRD, BET, XRF, ICP-MS, high-resolution SEM and TEM, etc.

Did you know?

Dhrupad Mela is a five-day music festival held every year during the months of February and March to preserve the rich legacy of Dhrupad Music and hosts artists from all over India. Dhrupad is considered one of the oldest forms of Hindustani classical music. Currently in its 48th iteration, the festival was organized at the Tulsi Ghat.



Dhrupad Mela



Alumni Updates



SAIC continued with the conduction of the 'Alumni Visiting Faculty' program with an enrollment of over 300 students. The Cell launched its flagship 'Student Alumni Mentorship Program', wherein interested alumni mentors from over 8 different domains will be allocated to students from second year and above on a one-to-one basis. Further, 'Career Guidance Sessions' will also be organized under this initiative. The newsletter for the month of January was released, and a session was organised on the higher education opportunities abroad by Mr. Piyush Ranjan. SAIC also started a new initiative, 'The IIT (BHU) Lingo', on the Cell's Instagram page.

Student Achievements

Devadutta Dash, a 3rd year B.Tech. student from the Department of Computer Science ranked among the top 15 students selected from India into the IUSSTF Viterbi-India Program for a summer research internship at the Viterbi School of Engineering, University of South California, Los Angeles. This eight week program aims to promote research and capacity building in front line areas of engineering and technology.

Central Facilities

Supercomputing Center

A Supercomputing Center is set up at the Institute under the National Supercomputing Mission. The supercomputer, PARAM Shivay, has a peak processing speed of 833 TeraFLOPS. 60% of its processing power is for local use by the IIT (BHU) and BHU research community, and the rest is for other CFTIs and research labs across the nation. The system is a sophisticated mix of CPUs and GPUs with relevant systems and application software based on open source. The Center is commissioned under the Make in India program and was inaugurated by our Honorable Prime Minister, Sh. Narendra Modi, on 19th February 2019.



Central Instrument Facility (CIF)



The Central Instrument Facility (CIF) is a recently formed specialized core facility at IIT (BHU). Its mission is to provide futuristic research infrastructure and quality education services in support of advanced instrumentation.

Alumni Achievements

Dr. Deep Jariwala (MET '10) and Dr. Pratyush Tiwary (MET '07)

Dr. Deep Jariwala (MET '10) and Dr. Pratyush Tiwary (MET '07) are among the 118 recipients of Sloan Research Fellowships, 2022. The Alfred P. Sloan Foundation awards Sloan Research Fellowships to recognize the young scholars to support their future breakthroughs and careers as leaders in their fields. Dr. Deep M. Jariwala is currently an assistant professor at the University of Pennsylvania. He is a device and materials engineer. Dr. Pratyush Tiwary is presently an assistant professor at the University of Maryland College Park. He uses computational chemistry to solve practical problems in biology and materials science. In recognition of their stellar performances and their unique potential to make substantial contributions to the field of Chemistry, both of them will receive \$75,000.



Alumni Startup Success Stories

1. SchoolMitra, a SaaS-based school management startup co-founded by our alumnus, Mr. Abhishek Kumar (ECE '10), partnered with an Ed-tech company Eupheus Learning.
2. BrightChamps, a growing startup in the Ed-tech space, co-founded by our alumnus Mr. Ravi Bhushan (CSE '05), acquired a financial education platform, Education10x.
3. NeuraFarms.ai, a GeoAI startup founded by Mr. Yash Shah (BCE '17) and Mr. Bhavesh Patidar (CIV '15), was acquired by an AI-first vertical SaaS company, AiDash.
4. iMumz, a pregnancy startup cofounded by our alumni Mr. Mayur Dhurpate (CIV '17) and Mr. Ravi Teja Akondi (MEC '17), has become a part of the top 100 startups under the AppScale academy initiative by Google Play.

IIT (BHU) Research Excellence Fellowship



The Institute announced the inception of the IIT (BHU) Research Excellence Fellowship for the faculty of the Institute. This initiative was made possible by the generous donations of Rs. 1.33 crores by the Alumni of the 1994 Batch of IIT (BHU).

This fellowship program has been established with the vision to identify and encourage faculty members to conduct research in the selected fields, as approved by the selection committee. The MoU was signed by our alumni Sh. Manu Srivastav and Sh. Srikanth Kommu (Representatives of the 1994 Batch Alumni of IIT (BHU)), and Prof. Rajeev Srivastava, Dean (Resource and Alumni Affairs) of the Institute. The

fellowships will continue on a perpetuity basis except for the area of research.

The IIT (BHU) Research Excellence Fellowship for the faculty shall be awarded to recognize the immense hard work of faculty members in research, one from each of the three Departments of Chemical Engineering and Technology, Mechanical Engineering and Metallurgical Engineering.

The areas of research and specializations identified for the award of fellowship, subject to change every term, include:

- Renewable Energy and Sustainability Science in Chemical Engineering
- Manufacturing, Design, Thermal and Fluid Engineering in Mechanical Engineering
- Computational Materials Engineering, Sustainable Materials, Corrosion Fatigue, and Hot Corrosion, Fatigue, and fracture, Ferrous Process Metallurgy in Metallurgical Engineering.

The regular serving faculty members of the Institute will be eligible for this fellowship program. The proposed fellowships will be offered for a period of two years. However, a recipient may be reconsidered. In no case shall this fellowship be available to a faculty member for more than four years, either in continuation or part. The selection committee consists of five members: two members from the IIT (BHU) 1994 batch (Sh. Manu Srivastav and Sh. Shrikanth Kommu) and three senior members from the Institute, as nominated by the Director.

Remember When...



As the wheels of time move, moments spent at college with friends turn into treasured memories. When shared, these cherished tales of fun, wit, and humor act as a source of hope and happiness for others. One such memory was the 1960 trip to the Jog Falls. Remembering the thrilling visit to the base of the Jog Falls, Sh. V. P. Chandan (ECE '61) remarked, "There was just one toilet for the entire batch, which caused a line-up for the same in that fateful morning."

Holi is a festival of great joy and fervour. Nothing beats playing Holi with your friends while on campus. Rewinding back to the Holi celebration of 1963 at Dey Hostel, Sh. S. C. Agarwal (MIN '63) recalled, "Since there was no hostel after De, we were kicked out of university in 1963." The alumnus further shared, "It was a German camera by the name 'BILLORA'. Developing and printing job was done by Veer Studio situated at the farther end of the Lanka market."



*Photo credits: Sh. V.P. Chandan (ECE '61), Sh. S.C. Agarwal (MIN '63)

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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