

Alma Communiqué

Alumni Newsletter (Mar '22)

Read about: The 10th convocation ceremony, the recent developments in the Institute, and the Women of IIT (BHU)!



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

Institute Updates



1. The 'ANSYS Fellowship Award', was announced on 24th February, 2022 at the signing of an MoU between IIT (BHU), Varanasi, and Ansys Software Private Limited. The award would be presented to four female or underprivileged M.Tech. students at the Institute, undertaking projects in domains such as healthcare, environmental sustainability, conservation of resources, or other socially relevant aspects of technology. Under this initiative, the students would be awarded a one-time grant of Rs. 1.5 lakh, followed by a monthly fellowship amount of Rs. 15,000.



2. An agreement was signed between IIT (BHU), Varanasi and Niigata University, Japan on 2nd February, 2022 to promote cooperation in education, joint research, and exchange of students and faculty members. The students will be selected and nominated by the home university. Discussions were held on recognition of credits, the language of education, tuition fee waiver, and others. Prof. S. B. Dwivedi, Dean of Academic Affairs, IIT (BHU), highlighted the unique courses offered at the Institute. Sh. Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director of IIT (BHU), and Prof. Tatsuo Ushiki, President of the Niigata University stated that the initiative will help to establish strong collaboration and friendship between the two Institutes.



3. The Department of Architecture, Planning, and Design, IIT (BHU), has been nominated as an expert under the Expert Heritage Body by the National Monuments Authority under the Union Ministry of Culture. The department is now responsible for heritage consultations to restore and conserve places of historical and archaeological significance in the eastern, central, and northern parts of India. The ancient cities of Ayodhya, Kashi, and Sarnath, sites such as Sanchi Stupa, Taj Mahal, Fatehpur Sikri, are also included in this region.



4. In its introductory year, the IIT (BHU) foundation scholarship was awarded to 21 students from the incoming class of 2021. Seeded by a US \$2 million grant from Sh. Nimesh Arora (EEE '89) in collaboration with Palo Alto Networks, the IIT (BHU) Foundation Scholarship provides scholarships to deserving students of IIT (BHU), Varanasi. It will be awarded at three funding levels based on the fee structure applicable to the incoming student. Once a student is selected, the scholarship will continue for a total of four years, subject to certain academic conditions.



5. Sh. Ananth Narayana PSV has contributed Rs. 5 lakh to establish a Gold Medal for best Ph.D. thesis from Mining, Metallurgy, Ceramics Engineering, and the Material Science Department in the name of his father, late P. Satyanarayana (P.S. Narayana) who graduated from the Department of Mining and Metallurgy of the Benares Hindu University in 1933. The gold medal shall be named as 'PS Narayana Gold Medal'. For selecting the best thesis award, the research scope must have originality, focused on developing practical solutions and development of sustainable and durable technologies for unique applications for industry and government.

10th Convocation Ceremony

Ecstatic students, proud smiles, and promise for a better tomorrow: this describes the batch of 2021, on the day of their Convocation Ceremony.

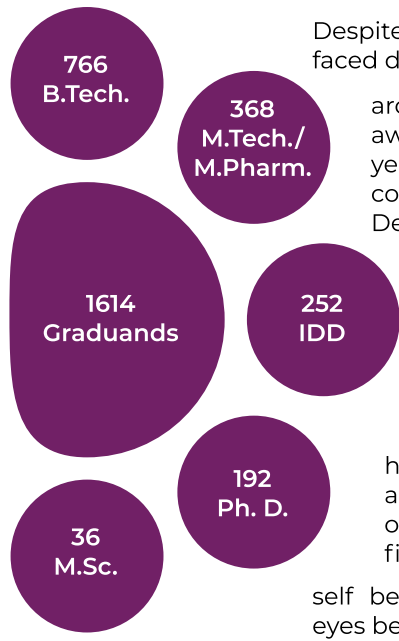
Continuing with the legacy laid by Bharat Ratna Mahamana Pt. Madan Mohan Malaviya Ji, another batch of students stepped out of the Institute, all prepared to leave their mark. The 10th convocation ceremony of IIT (BHU), Varanasi was held on 10th April, 2022. The halls of Swatantrata Bhawan were filled with students who are ready to take their next step in the world.

The convocation was graced by the presence of Sh. Somanath S, Secretary of Space, Chairman of Space Commission, and Chairman of the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO), as the Chief Guest for the event. In his career spanning almost 36 years, Sh. Somnath served in many positions at LPSC and VSSC, and was also the Director of Vikram Sarabhai Space Centre (VSSC). The BoG chairman of IIT (BHU), Padma Shri Dr. Kota Harinarayana, former scientist at DRDO and former president of the Aeronautical Society of India, also honored us with his presence.



Recognizing the talent and consistency that walked through the halls, 84 medals were awarded to 58 students at the convocation ceremony of the Batch of '21, portraying exemplary skills, dedication, and showing commendable performance. The cheer on their face was a sight to behold, with all the medalists adorning the medals and the zeal of the crowd to excel and chase betterment was truly encouraging.

The 'Shri Aditya Kumar Awasthi Endowment Award' of Rs. 1 lakh, instituted this year, was given to Sh. Aneesh Amarendra Namjoshi for securing the first position at the B.Tech. in Metallurgical Engineering Examination, 2021.



Despite the enormous challenges faced due to the COVID pandemic, around 1614 graduands were awarded their degrees this year. 766 students from B.Tech. courses, 252 Integrated Dual Degree holders, 368 M.Tech. / M.Pharm. students and around 192 Ph.D. scholars completed their journey at IIT (BHU). The awarded degrees are a testament to the consistent hardwork by the students, and their abilities to overcome pressure. Smiles filled with pride, a sense of

self belief, and a sparkle in their eyes best described the graduands.

Two of the students, shining even brighter, were the recipients on the President's Gold Medal and the Director's Gold Medal. Their academic excellence and stellar participation in co-curricular activities is exactly what helps IIT (BHU) break new grounds.

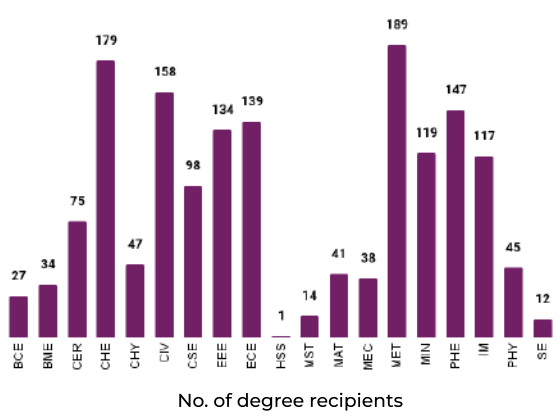
Students In Focus

Receiving the President's Gold Medal was a moment of euphoria for **Kushal Tibrewal** (EEE '21), whose face gleamed as he walked up to the stage to receive the honour. Reminiscing upon his journey, he said, "every achievement is just a checkpoint."



The recipient of the Director's Gold Medal, **Pulkrit Gupta** (MET '21), was in high spirits and even higher in zeal on the day of the Convocation. He encouragingly advised, "do not limit yourself to your rooms. Try to do as many things as possible while prioritising academics."

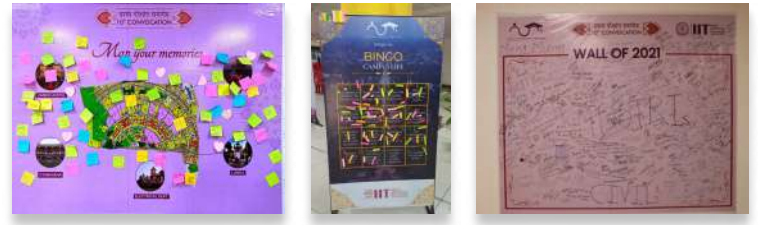
The graduands were spread across 19 disciplines and branches, with this very Institute binding, and connecting, them all. The total number of graduands in the various branches are:



On the day of the convocation, it wasn't just medals and degrees that were being given to the students. The Institute and the Student Alumni Interaction Cell took the students down the lane of nostalgia, nudging the most loving and fond memories out of them.

With the 'Map Your Memories' flex, the students wrote down the fondest souvenirs given to them by some specific places in the campus, and witnessed each other laugh, smile, and even spill the secrets they had kept close to them.

Their advises, too, have been immortalised on the flex of 'Wall of 2021', where nostalgia collided with the inevitable wisdom that comes with becoming alumni. The Bingo, the Instagram flex, and so much more witnessed the final cherishing moments that ceremonially transitioned them from students to alumni.



As we witness another batch of students graduate, we celebrate the new beginnings in their lives, and wish them very best for the future. Lastly, not all goodbyes are final, not all 'see-you-again' are empty: as alumni, we know that the graduands would never quite graduate!

Media Section



10th Convocation IIT (BHU), Varanasi



Agreement signed b/w IIT (BHU) and Niigata University



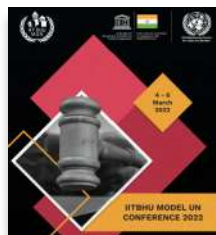
IIT (BHU) nominated as expert for heritage sites

Institute Facilities

The much awaited 'Ramesh Srinivasan Students Activity Center' is complete and ready for use. The construction of the 3-story Activity Center was seeded by a \$1.3 million gift by the IIT (BHU) Foundation Inc., from our alumnus Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (MET '82), President & CEO - Agilysys Inc., USA. Catering to sports enthusiasts, the Students Activity Center would benefit the students and faculty of IIT (BHU), Varanasi. Well-rounded students with intellectual ability equal to their emotional intelligence is a hallmark of IIT (BHU), and his gift will help ensure that this continues to be true in the future.



Events @ IIT (BHU)



The 10th edition of IITBHU Model United Nations Conference was organised between 4th-6th March, 2022. The event was organised in collaboration with the United Nations Information Centre (UNIC) for India and Bhutan, New Delhi, under the patronage of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural

Organization (UNESCO). 250+ delegates from 15+ nationalities participated. The event was graced by Sh. Akhilesh Mishra, the Ambassador of India to Ireland, Sh. Abhay Kumar, the Ambassador of India to Madagascar and Comoros, and Sh. M. K. Mohapatra, the Ambassador of India to Guatemala. The eminent dignitaries highlighted the importance of diplomacy and communicated their best wishes to the Secretariat and the delegates.

The 83rd edition of Technex, the annual techno-management fest of IIT (BHU), was conducted from 11th-13th March, 2022. The three-day event was inaugurated by the Director, Prof. P. K. Jain. Several Think Talks were organized, delivered by famous personalities such as Prof.



Jeffrey Ullman (Turing Awardee), Dr. Shailesh Kumar (Chief Data Scientist, Jio), Mr. David Brin (NASA advisor), Sh. Sandeep Jain (Founder, GeeksForGeeks), Namita Thapar (Judge at Sony's Shark Tank), etc. Technex '22 also saw band performance by the Indian Army at Rajputana Ground.

Several competitions with cash prizes and informative workshops were also organized. Six sessions were held, educating students on several web-related topics such as cloud computing, ethical hacking, and robotics.

A blood donation camp was organized under Technex '22 where 135 people registered and 121 were able to donate.

Students' Updates

The Students Counseling Services conducted a webinar on 'Sleep and Social Media' as part of their 21 Day Habit Challenge. During the closing ceremony, a session by Mr. Virendra Mishra, titled 'From Habits to Habitude', was held, which focussed on sustaining habits. A 'Freelance Content Writing' webinar was also held.



The Cultural Council, along with its 7 clubs, organized the annual inter-branch fest, Aagman, for the freshers where they were given the opportunity to participate in various events. It was the freshers of Mining Engg. that came out on top.



At the Science and Technology Council, SAE conducted workshops on Blueprint 1 & 2, Hydracs, and Replica, and organized a CAD modeling event. The Robotics Club concluded with La Robo Liga. The Business Club conducted the freshers' event, 'BASH 4.0 - Business Associates'

Special Hour'. Sh. Toshi Prakash, Sh. Amitava Sahu, Sh. Punit Chawla, Sh. Sanket Dantara, and Sh. Ravinder Singh Chawla enriched the guest speakers' panel.

At the Social Service Council, the volunteers of Kashi Utkarsh began weekly offline visits to the bastis and those of Sahyog Club visited Tikri school and Guria NGO. The importance of

Holi and the need to switch to eco-friendly version of the festival was discussed. At Social Project's Club, Team Terrific Lights represented IIT (BHU) in the Inter IIT Tech Meet 10.0. The club also went for the regionals of H-Sector Creator. Further, Health and Hygiene Club organized a meeting with Mrs. Neeki Singh, an international yoga instructor.

Students' Achievements

The students of IIT (BHU), Varanasi excelled in Flipkart Grid 3.0 Robotics Challenge, a national level competition. The team developed an in-house Multi Agent-Pickup and delivery system consisting of a swarm of robots cooperating to achieve complicated tasks.

Alumni Updates

A centenary lecture on 'Two-Dimensional Materials and Heterostructures for Next-Generation Electronics and Photonics' by Dr. Deep Jariwala (MET '10) was organized by the Department of Metallurgical Engineering, IIT (BHU), The Indian Institute of Metals, Varanasi Chapter & the Student Affiliate Chapter and The Metallurgy Society, IIT (BHU).

SAIC organized an interactive session on 'Higher Education Opportunities Abroad' by Mr. Piyush Ranjan (MET '12). They conducted a Think Talk in collaboration with Technex '22, which was addressed by Dr. Shailesh Kumar (CSE '95) and Prof. Jeffrey Ullman. They



also conducted a series of sessions, called 'Alumnae Diaries', as part of the women's week highlighting the achievements of our alumnae. The first session of the series featured Ms. Irina Ghose (EEE '93), the Chief Operating Officer of Microsoft India. IRS Resham Dwivedi (UPSC AIR 273) (MIN '17) was the guest speaker for the second session. On the occasion of International Women's Day, the Cell launched the campus edition of #IamRemarkable, a Google initiative empowering students to celebrate their achievements.

Alumni Achievements

World Book of Records, London awarded the Certificate of Commitment to Dr. Manu K. Vora (CHE '68), Member of AICTE NEP 2020 Implementation Committee, India, and President of Blind Foundation for India, Naperville, Illinois, USA, for his commitment to promoting safety against the COVID-19 pandemic. He was also appreciated for his efforts to alleviate human suffering during the pandemic.



Ms. Irina Ghose (EEE '93) has been recently appointed as the Chief Operating Officer (COO) of Microsoft India. As the COO, she is responsible for driving end-to-end operations for Microsoft in the country. A proponent of Women in Business and Technology, she is a recipient of the 'Inspirational

Women's Award' at Microsoft. She is the founder of MyLittleBit, a philanthropic foundation focusing on education and jobs for underprivileged girls. She is also actively engaged with 'Microsoft for Startups' and is a Trustee at SonderConnect.

Simple Harmonic Holi: a time to remember



What better than reminiscing about the *hostel-wali* Holi, amidst the colours, happiness, and friends? If you were at campus around the 1950s or 1960s, you must remember the Simple Harmonic Holi that took over the hostels of IIT (BHU) and filled them with laughter.

The chronicle revolves around the tense days of exam preparation and exhilarating Holi celebrations.

Waste machine oil was collected in drums from college workshops and hair oil from the rooms of the students on the eve of *Holika Dehen* in preparation for the main event. A paste prepared with mud, machine oil, hair oil, and water was spread on the verandah of one wing for 70 to 100 feet.



The excitement brought out the mischievousness of students, and so they collected towels and clothes hanging dry or bicycles kept outside rooms, and tied them to the mango tree in the center of Limbdi. The motto was simple: have fun while college days still existed.

As the day of Holi came around, so did the tales of thrill and fun. The shenanigans began at seven in the morning, when the inmates donned white kurta-pyjama and looked at the floor with complete fascination. The inaugural sliding was done by the first years, who had to slide across the floor without raising their heads or legs. Not following the rule would only lead to re-doing it!



After the first yearites, came the seniors who followed the same path and indulged themselves in this squirrely task.

After this grand celebration, the students engulfed in the mud would visit selected teachers and principals for Holi Milan and treat them with sweets. On coming back, everyone would clean themselves up and have a grand fiesta in their mess. The Carnival would end with the ravishing of sweets and Gulal Holi at Godowlia.

As we celebrated and shared photos of Holi on campus in 2022, the alumni revisited their time of youth. With this story, we hope to take you back to the days when it did not matter if you were covered with mud and oil - all that mattered was that you were there with people you love.

The Women of IIT (BHU)

Year - **1976**

Number of women graduated - **01**

The graduation of that one woman in a batch of hundreds of men was among the tiniest beginnings of the changing dynamics of the tech-industry.

Fast-forwarding to 2021, a whopping 300 girls joined the Institute. Each of them from a different background, and rising from different circumstances.

A casual conversation with an alumnae of our Institute often reflects how the road frequently gets lonely, with no fellow women walking beside one. In a field with a low women to men ratio, we have constantly witnessed communication gaps, difficulty in mixing up, and hesitancy in asking for tips and realized that STEM, specifically Engineering, has always been thought of as a male-dominated field.

This is exactly where their resilience has come into play. Despite that, despite everything- they grew to prominence in their industries, paving the way for many others to follow. As of today, we have endless inspiring stories of success. Struggles, nevertheless existent, could not bind the many women, who stepped in this Institute and into the world, into shackles of helplessness. They have repeatedly demonstrated that it is not gender that makes a difference, but a strong will and rational approach.

An entrepreneur, a COO, and a CEO: they have all walked the roads from their hostels to LTI and back again - while silently leaving their mark on the world.

With safe spaces created by the alumnae, and a support from family that was pretty uncommon years ago, we believe that the stories being built in the rooms of *Gamcha* (GSC), IIT (BHU) Girls Hostel, and SC Dey today, will inspire generations to come.

With the passing of another Women's Day, we celebrate all those women who supported and celebrated their existence and continued weaving tales, silently yet stubbornly.



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.

Contact:

Prof. Rajeev Srivastava,
Dean (Resource & Alumni)
dora@iitbhu.ac.in, alumnice11@iitbhu.ac.in

Connect with us:



Newsletter Team, SAIC:

Akshil Ahuja, Anika Singh, Garima Gakhar,
Faiz Aman, Ruchira Naskar,
Anshika Jindal, Sanskriti Pathak