ALMA COMMUNIQUÉ

Alumni Newsletter (Oct-Dec '23)

Institute Updates

IIT (BHU) ranks 684 in the QS World Sustainability Rankings 2024

Thermal Mechanical Physical Simulation Lab inaugurated at IIT (BHU)

1. IIT (BHU), Varanasi, secured the 336th position globally for good governance in the QS World Ranking Sustainability 2024, released on 5th December, 2023. Highlighting the Institute's accomplishment, Prof. Vikash Kumar Dubey, Dean of Research and Development, emphasized its unwavering commitment to ethical decision-making and transparent governance. Notably, IIT (BHU) also attained a global ranking of 303 in knowledge exchange and 503 in environmental impact, contributing to its overall global rank of 684 in sustainability.

2. Established in 1923 with a vision of achieving excellence, the Metallurgical Engineering Department at IIT (BHU), Varanasi, marked 100 years in 2023. The department commemorated this significant milestone by hosting METCENT, a three-day event from 26th to 28th October, 2023, that featured insightful discussions led by renowned metallurgists and industry experts from around the nation. The inaugural ceremony was graced by the distinguished Chief Guest, Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (MET '82), President and CEO at Agilysys Inc. Subsequent activities at METCENT included alumni meet, research conferences, and various competitions conducted for the student community.

3. A campus dialogue on the topic 'Reflections on Science in the Aftermath of the Coronavirus Pandemic' was organized at the Institute by the Research Cell, IIT (BHU) on 16th October, 2023. The session was hosted by Padma Bhushan Prof. Padmanabhan Balaram, former Director of IISc Bangalore, where he discussed various topics, including the History of Science, the Evolution of the Pandemic, and more.

4. A team of scholars from IIT (BHU) embarked on a collaborative 'Science Exchange Visit' to the Faculty of Engineering, Niigata University, under the SAKURA Program by the Japan Science and Technology Agency, from 6th to 26th November, 2023. The team consisted of Assistant Professors Dr. Sudip Mukherjee from the Biomedical Department and Dr. Bhuvaneshwari from the Chemistry Department, and students Mr. Uttam Kumar, Ms. Sarita, Mr. Prateek Agrawal, and Mr. Amit Yadav.

5. The Thermal Mechanical Physical Simulation Lab was inaugurated at the Institute by Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director, IIT (BHU). The lab is equipped with advanced features, including induction heating for non-conductive specimens and a cryo-quench for subzero temperatures, and it primarily targets the physical simulation of processes related to mechanical engineering, material science, ceramics, civil engineering, and metallurgy.
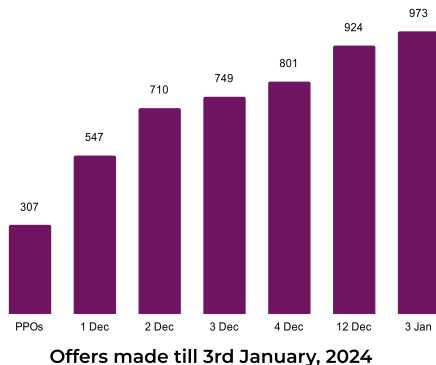
6. The Mechatronics Lab at IIT (BHU) was inaugurated on 26th December, 2023, by Sh. R. N. Tripathi (MEC '71), Managing Director of Ved Sassomeccanica (India) Pvt Ltd., Kanpur. Aimed at providing a dedicated space for students and scholars to engage in interdisciplinary research, this laboratory is a significant milestone in driving innovation in mechatronics. During the inaugural ceremony, Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director, IIT (BHU), expressed gratitude for the crucial support in advancing research and innovation in mechanical science and related fields.

Internship/Placement Updates

The diligence and determination of students are crucial in securing promising career opportunities, and the college applauds them for their continuous efforts and unmatched enthusiasm throughout the procedure.

With the dedicated efforts from the Training and Placement Cell, IIT (BHU), the college witnessed a sturdy recruitment process. As of 3rd January, 2024, a total of 353 internship offers were received. The highest stipend was Rs. 4,50,000 per annum, with an average of Rs. 98,597 per annum.

Various companies made 973 Placement offers, including PPOs, with the highest domestic package of Rs. 1.68 crores per annum. The average package stood at an impressive Rs. 24,11,720 per annum. Top recruiters include ServiceNow, D.E. Shaw, Oracle, Wells Fargo, Sciforn Solutions, Texas Digital, Nvidia, Sprinklr, Siemens EDA Google, Jaguar Land Rover and many more. A total of 9 international offers were received with CTC ranging from 45 LPA to 77 LPA.

Offers made till 3rd January, 2024

PPOs	1 Dec	2 Dec	3 Dec	4 Dec	12 Dec	3 Jan
307	547	710	749	801	924	973

Research and Development

Recognizing the significance of an institution's commitment to R&D, IIT (BHU), Varanasi, continues to dedicate complete efforts to the execution of its research projects.

Between 1st October, 2023 and 31st December, 2023, eleven patents were filed, 6 were published, and 18 were granted. Furthermore, 400 testing/consultancy projects were carried out within this period, which received funding amounting to Rs. 5,74,64,577. Notably, 23 projects valued at Rs. 6,73,12,472 also got sanctioned.

Media Section

IIT BHU ranks 336th in QS World Ranking Sustainability 2024

IIT (BHU) successfully conducts METCENT 2023.

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Ajay Pratap, Assistant Professor at the Department of Computer Science and Engineering, was awarded the Young Engineer Award at the 36th National Convention of Computer Engineers hosted by the Institution of Engineers (India) (IEI). He has been awarded in the 'Computer Science' category for his noteworthy contributions in this domain.

Dr. Ankit Gupta, Assistant Professor and MoRTH Chair Professor at the Department of Civil Engineering, received the 'Award of Recognition' presented by the Director of CSIR-CRRI. He was awarded for his outstanding contribution to Bitumen and Road Construction Technology at the 3rd Global Road Construction Conference (GRC 2023) held on 8th-9th November, 2023 at Hotel Leela Ambience, Delhi NCR.

Dr. Brahmeshwar Mishra, Professor of Pharmaceutical Engineering and Technology Department, received the prestigious Prof. M L Schroff Memorial Pharma Ratan award during the National Pharma Summit 2023 held in New Delhi on 26th November, 2023. His research area includes the development of nanomedicine for targeted treatment of various cancers, diabetic wound healing, pain, and inflammation. With more than 250 articles published under his name, he has guided 28 Ph.D. students and 85 M.Pharm/M.Tech students.

Dr. Hiralal Pramanik, Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering & Technology, received recognition as a Fellow of the Indian Institute of Chemical Engineers (IIChE) on 26th December, 2023. Moreover, he was commended for the award on 27th December, 2023 during the CHEMCON-2023, held at Heritage Institute of Technology, Kolkata.

Dr. Pranjal Chandra, Associate Professor at the Department of Biochemical Engineering received the 'Prof. Sushil Kumar Innovation Award 2023' on the birth anniversary of distinguished scientist, Prof. Sushil Kumar and 3rd Memorial Oration at the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR) National Botanical Research Institute, Lucknow. He was honored for his contribution to the field of deployable nanohybrid system for the monitoring of picloram in rice water and soil samples.

Student Updates

E-Cell IIT BHU hosted the Entrepreneurship Masterclass this month to ignite the entrepreneurial spirit among listeners through real-world case studies. Mr. B.V. Jagadeesh, a renowned Silicon Valley serial entrepreneur and seasoned angel investor, was invited as the guest speaker for the event. He was joined by Mr. Anand Sivaraman, CEO at Eneffen Technologies, and Mr. Shourya Agarwal, Founder of Flam. The cell also conducted a session on 'Awareness of Intellectual Property Rights' on 3rd October, 2023, which was hosted by the National Intellectual Property Awareness Mission (NIPAM). The speaker for the session was Mrs. Pooja Kumar, an Entrepreneur and Startup Facilitator, who gave the audience valuable insights into intellectual capital generation in our country.

The **Research Cell, IIT (BHU)** became official after 2 years since its establishment as the Research Community. The cell launched the third edition of Sophomitra, a research mentorship program for 2nd-year students. Hosted by Padma Bhushan P. Balaram Sir, former Director of IISc Bangalore, the cell helped in conducting a campus dialogue on the 'Reflections on Science in the Aftermath of the Coronavirus Pandemic'. An Ask Me Anything session was also organized with IUSSTF Khorana and Viterbi Scholars to guide applicants for internships in the USA. Moreover, the cell conducted a workshop on R Programming Language in collaboration with COPS as part of their Multiverse of Languages Series.

At the **Science and Technology Council**, the Club of Programmers performed splendidly at the ICPC camp at IIT Delhi, bagging 3 gold, 7 silver, and 2 bronze medals. The club organized an array of workshops on topics such as GoLang, C++ STL, Open-Source, etc. The Robotics Club successfully concluded MazeX'23, a

hardware navigation-based event for freshers, witnessing participation from 300+ first-year students. Also, a team from the club reached the finals of Robo Nautica, held at IISc Bangalore. The ASTRO Club participated in the National Students' Space Challenge organized by IIT Kharagpur, securing 2 gold, 2 silver, and 3 bronze medals. Meanwhile, Team Trident at the Society of Automotive Engineers Collegiate Club worked on nose cone manufacturing, braking system design, and pedal casting. Furthermore, the Business Club assisted students in the placement season by releasing Casebook 2023, providing detailed approaches to case interviews from top-tier organizations.

The **Social Service Council** celebrated Gandhi Jayanti through various activities under Special Mission 3.0, such as an on-campus Cleanliness drive and a Plantation drive. They also organized a visit to the Solid Waste Management Plant in Karsana, U.P., on 14th October, 2023. The Social Projects' Club conducted its annual flagship event, Abhipraya, which comprised five competitions. The Sahyog club celebrated Daan Utsav, celebrating the joy of giving through numerous activities. Moreover, the Health and Hygiene Club wrapped up its medicine collection drive with over 100 donations.

At the **Student Counselling Services**, the International Exchange Council hosted an interactive session with Danish Ambassador H.E. Freddy Svane, and a guest talk by former ISRO scientist, Dr. V Sheshagiri Rao, to assist the students in the research domain. The Academics Council organized 'Remedial Classes' and

'Discipline Change' sessions to help freshers ace their examinations. The Wellness Council organized the '21 Days Habit Challenge', enabling 365 students on campus to build five habits - digital detox, yoga, exercise, sleep, and morning routine. Further, the Skill Development Council organized workshops titled 'Achieve Effective Email Writing' by Sh. Sudeep Tandon (ECE '06), Vice President at DHL Global and 'Cultivating Mental Toughness, Building Resilience', a Commando Talk by Captain Yashika Tyagi, a veteran of the Kargil War and recipient of the President Award.

Events @ IIT (BHU)

Kashiyatra'24 Theme Launch

The **Theme Launch event of Kashiyatra'24** unfolded amidst great exuberance at the Rajputana Ground on 20th October, 2023. Demonstrating the theme for this year - 'Cadence Kaleidoscope: Old Soul, New Groove', each club at the Cultural Council came up with lively performances, showcasing the convergence of timeless gold and modern trends. Followed by an immersive Dandiya Night, this IIT (BHU) exclusive event echoed with electric excitement and was also graced by the presence of Prof. Lal Pratap Singh, Dean (Students' Affairs), who served as the Honorable Guest for the evening.

Novice Fiesta

E-Cell IIT BHU organized its annual freshers-exclusive event, **Novice Fiesta**, from 6th to 8th October, 2023, to provide students with first-hand exposure to the entrepreneurial world and equip them with the necessary skills. This 3-day long event comprised of freshers' only activities and contests with the objective of making

them learn about entrepreneurship as they engaged in health competition. Furthermore, the fiesta had insightful guest talks planned each day to inspire young minds and guide them as they venture deep into this dynamic field.

Spardha'23

The 38th edition of **Spardha**, the annual sports fest of IIT (BHU), was held from 13th to 15th October, 2023. With over 2600 participants hailing from 40+ esteemed colleges across India, Spardha'23 provided a platform for these athletes to exhibit their exceptional talent. The grandeur of the event was exemplified by a star-studded opening ceremony, graced by sports personalities like Naveen Punia, the Indian handball vice-captain, and kabaddi sensation Rahul Chaudhari.

The Best Outstation Trophy was awarded to Shiv Nadar University, with Delhi Technological University and IIT Kanpur closely following behind, setting new standards for excellence in sportsmanship. The fest concluded with an impressive closing ceremony featuring Deepak Niwas Hooda, an Indian kabaddi star, and

accomplished MMA fighter, Ritu Phogat. This edition of Spardha yet again testified that it is not just a sporting event but a celebration of talent, camaraderie, and hard work.

It was not just students involved in the pursuit of excellence in sports, but our alumni also displayed their skills at the Alumni Sports Meet '23, held on the same dates as Spardha'23. Organized collectively by SAIC and Spardha, IIT (BHU), Varanasi, the event witnessed the participation of alumni across a number of batches.

Alumni Updates

Dean (Resource and Alumni Affairs)

Dr. Hiralal Pramanik, Professor at the Department of Chemical Engineering and Technology, has been appointed as the Dean (Resource and Alumni Affairs) at IIT (BHU), Varanasi. Commencing his tenure on 1st January, 2024, Prof. Pramanik is dedicated to coordinating with the alumni fraternity, strengthening Institute-alumni relations and collaborating for greater Institutional development. Please feel free to reach out to him at dora@iitbhu.ac.in in case you have any queries or seek any assistance from your alma mater.

Student Alumni Interaction Cell (SAIC)

SAIC, in collaboration with COPS, successfully conducted its first 'Beyond the Degree' session in Artificial Intelligence with Dr. Shailesh Kumar (CSE '95), Chief Data Scientist, CoE AI/ML at Jio, on 28th October, 2023. Another session, in collaboration with the Electronics Engineering Society, was hosted by Sh. Vinaytosh Mishra (ECE '02), Director of Thumbay Institute for AI in Healthcare, and Sh. Amit Morya (ECE '02), a Senior Program Manager at Google Singapore. The subsequent sessions explored Off-Campus Opportunities in Data Analytics, led by Sh. Kumar Shivam (MIN '23), a Senior Product Analyst at Media.net and in Product Management, featuring insights from Sh. Manav Jain (CSE '23), Smt. Subhanjali Gupta (CHE '23), and Smt. Vaishnavi Tiwari (CHE '22).

Under the Alumni-Guided Mock Interviews initiative, more than 320 interviews, including five in-person sessions, were conducted successfully by 70+ alumni, guiding 300+ students in 7+ domains. Furthermore, the cell organized a 'Last Minute Interview Prep' session by our esteemed alumnus, Sh. Utkarsh Singh (CSE '17), providing a step-by-step guide for clearing interviews.

Spardha Alumni Meet

The Institute witnessed Spardha Alumni Meet '23 from 23rd to 26th November, 2023. The event featured a variety of sports, including football, cricket, badminton, lawn tennis, and more. These sports were organized by alumni of batches ranging between 1998 and 2022, bringing them back to the campus to compete among themselves and with the students. Commencing in 2018, this annual tradition has consistently brought together the community, fostering bonds through shared sportsmanship.

Reunions

The Institute reverberated with nostalgia and laughter as the batch of 1964 celebrated its 60th reunion at the campus on 22nd November, 2023. The event began with a warm welcome by the Dean (Resource and Alumni Affairs) to the gathering of 25+ alumni and their spouses, followed by addresses from the Institute's Director and Prof. Brij N. Agrawal, representing the BENCO-64 batch. A Gala dinner was also organized to culminate this special day.

The reunion of the 1993 batch was held from 17th to 19th November, 2023, witnessing the participation of 30+ alumni. The alumni took a trip down memory lane as they visited their departments, interacted with their HoDs, and shared a lunch at the mess of the Satish Dhawan Hostel.

The Institute also hosted the 20th reunion of the CSE 2003 batch from 24th to 26th November, 2023. The event commenced with a walk around the campus, lunch at the Visvesvaraya mess and a friendly volleyball match. Further, CodeFest, IIT BHU, and SAIC collaboratively organized an exclusive interaction of the alumni with students of the Computer Science Department at ABLT-4.

Alumni Achievements

Startup Success Stories

1. Metlok Pvt. Ltd., founded by Amitabh Sinha (MEC '78), has recently won two prestigious National Level Awards, the SME 100 Awards and the National 5S Excellence Award, showcasing its commitment to excellence and innovation in the manufacturing industry.

2. Biryani By Kilo, co-founded by Sh. Vishal Jindal (EEE '92), has successfully raised US $ 9 million in its Series C funding round.

3. Blubirch, co-founded by Sh. Amit Goel (MET '98) and Sh. Sapan Jain (PHE '98), raised US $ 6.37 million in a Series A round with Cornerstone Venture Partners Fund (CSVP Fund) and Capital 2B fund.

4. Husk Power Systems, co-founded by Sh. Manoj Sinha (ECE '99), who also serves as the CEO, raised more than US $ 100 million in various funding rounds.

5. Stimuler, co-founded by Sh. Akshay Akash (CHE '23), Sh. Ankit Kumar Pandey (CHE '23) and Sh. Anesh Srivastav (MEC '23), raised US $ 1 million in its seed funding round.

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 alumnicell@iitbhu.ac.in.

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