Alma Communiqué

Alumni Newsletter (Oct '22)

Read about the nostalgic alumni reunions, the exhilarating Spardha, and the divine Dev Deepawali celebrations in Banaras!
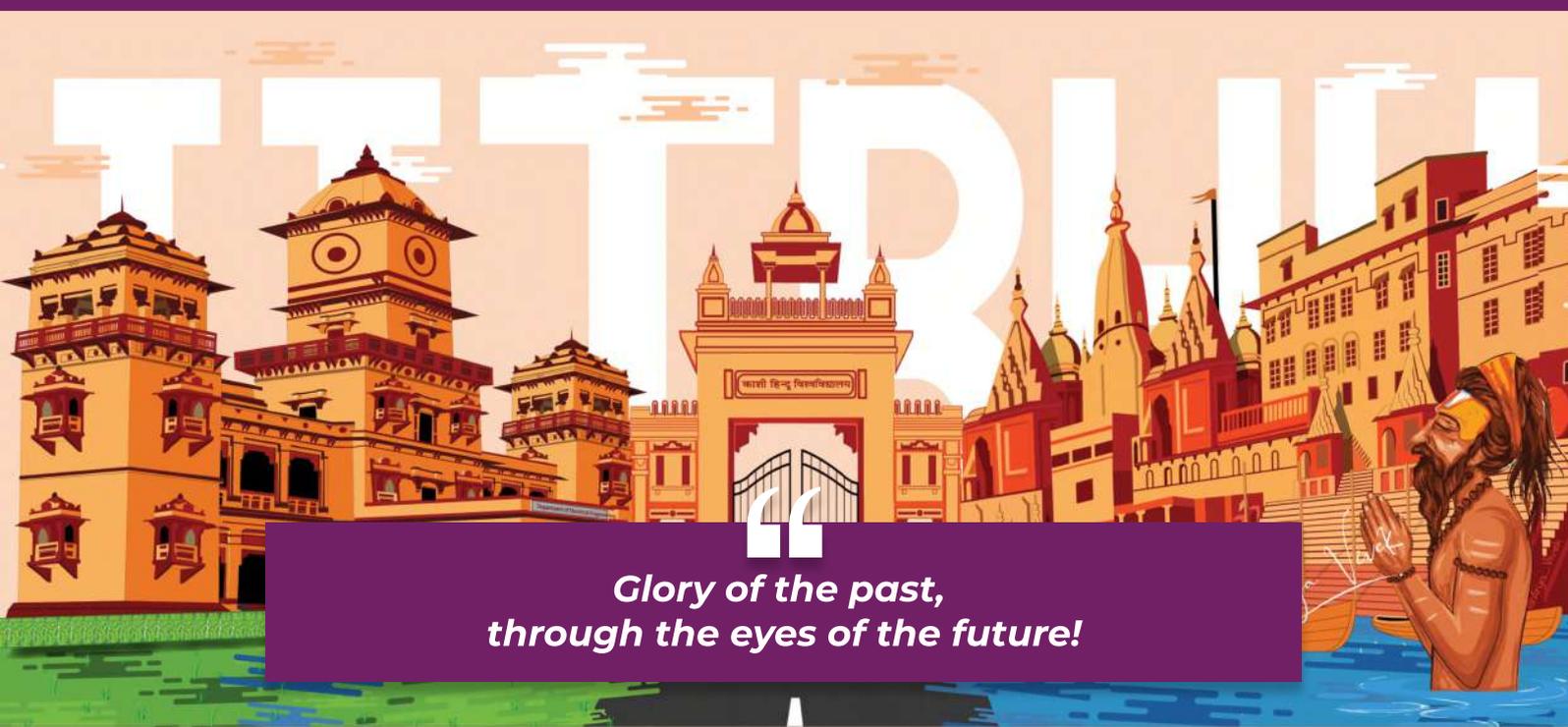
Glory of the past, through the eyes of the future!

Institute Updates

1. IIT (BHU) hosted a conference of Raisina Forum for Future Diplomacy on 13th October, 2022 as a part of the program hosted from 10th to 20th October, 2022 by the Observer Research Foundation (ORF) and Ministry of External Affairs, Govt. of India. A cohort with 35 diplomats from 31 countries engaged in discussions on history of Varanasi and IIT (BHU), research, innovation, startups, digital India, etc. The program was also attended by Prof. P. K. Jain, Director, IIT (BHU), Prof. Rajeev Srivastava, Dean (Resource & Alumni Affairs), other Deans & faculty members, Sh. Arvind Gupta (ECE '92 & Co-Founder and Head, Digital India Foundation), Dr. Samir Saran (President, ORF India), Mrs. Anjali Bansal (Founding Partner, Avaana Capital), Sh. Saurabh Chandra (MEC '01 & CEO, Ati Motors), Sh. Anurag Sinha (EEE '99 & Co-Founder and CEO, OneCard, FPL Technologies) and Sh. Rahul Raj (MET '08 & Inverted).

2. IIT (BHU), Varanasi signed an MoU with DRDO on 20th October, 2022 at DefExpo-2022, Gandhinagar to start a DRDO Industry Academia-Centre of Excellence (DIA-CoE). Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain, Director, IIT (BHU), Varanasi, exchanged the MoU with Dr. Samir V. Kamat, Chairman, DRDO in the presence of several other dignitaries. Initial phase of this center shall focus on accelerating research problems under the three verticals of Powder Metallurgy, Functional Electronics Materials, and High Power Microwave Sources and Devices. DRDO is known for its strength in the defense sector. IIT (BHU) will complement and provide support for technological solutions of cutting edge technologies for defense needs.

3. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Singh, Department of Physics, IIT (BHU) was awarded the second prize in the individual category in the Dare 2 Dream 3.0 contest conducted by DRDO during the DefExpo-2022. Dare 2 Dream 3.0 contest is an open contest and invites ideas to solve key challenges in emerging technologies that can help boost India's defence & aerospace capabilities. It is an innovation competition as a tribute to the former president and eminent scientist Dr. APJ Abdul Kalam.

4. IIT (BHU) participated in the #IInvenTiv RnD fair organized by the IIT Council under the guidance of Ministry of Education from 14th to 15th October, 2022 at IIT Delhi. 75 projects selected from the 23 IITs were showcased. Our Institute also participated with five projects in the categories of Electric Vehicles, Healthcare (including devices and digital health), Smart Cities & Infrastructure and Clean Energy & Renewables. This opportunity will allow industry leaders and startups to test their technologies locally, decreasing reliance on facilities abroad, and help achieve the objectives of the #AatmanirbharBharat and #MakeinIndia initiatives.

40th Reunion of the 1982 batch

The times spent with friends, the memories made, and the laughs shared during college are cherished throughout one's lifetime. After college, one constantly longs to return to those carefree days.

IIT (BHU) hosted the 40th reunion of the 1982 batch of alumni from 3rd to 7th November, 2022. Their faces beamed with joy as they recalled the pleasant memories of their alma mater. At the Gymkhana (Kings Pavillion) Ground, the class

of 1982 enjoyed a friendly T10 match against the current cricket team of IIT (BHU) students. They also visited the Kashi Vishwanath temple, Sankat Mochan, and also enjoyed the Ganga *aarti* from a boat cruise.

On 4th November, our Director, Prof. Pramod Kumar Jain presented the Distinguished Alumnus Award to Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (President & CEO, Agilysys) under the category of Profession. During his visit, Sh. Srinivasan also inaugurated the Student Activity Centre, made with the help of his contribution towards the Institute.

Spardha '22

IIT (BHU), Varanasi successfully organized the 37th edition of Spardha, the most awaited sports festival of North India, with athletes participating from across the country. The event had 2000+ competitors from 40+ technical

universities. This year, Spardha athletes competed in 19 games across three days from 14th to 16th October, 2022.

The opening ceremony was held on 14th October, 2022, at the Gymkhana Grounds. The IIT (BHU) Director, Sh. Pramod Kumar Jain, the Chief Guest of Honor, Sh. Vishesh Bhriguvanshi, captain of the Indian basketball team, and a special guest, Mrs. Purnima Pandey, a gold medalist from

Commonwealth Games graced the event with their presence. Sh. Bhriguvanshi addressed the athletes about sportsmanship and also shared experiences from his basketball days in Varanasi. He encouraged the young and

emerging sportspersons to never give up in face of adversity. The crowd witnessed a dazzling Mallakhamb performance at the opening ceremony and the stalls in the Rajputana ground acted as the retreat for the hardworking athletes. From exciting games to mouth-watering food catered with

love by the local businesses of Varanasi. The stalls engaged the onlookers and students alike.

The closing ceremony saw the Chief Guest, Sh. Vishal Krishan Yadav, Asian and Commonwealth Boxing champion, and the Guest of Honour, Sh. Mohit Chillar, an international Kabaddi star, delivering motivational speeches. Sh. Yadav recounted the early days of his career and congratulated all the participants and the winners.

The last day of Spardha '22 also witnessed some of the finest sporting actions, as everyone gave their best in the final attempt to win laurels for their institutes. IIT (BHU) reigned as champions once again and proved that Spardha is about achieving newer heights.

Welcoming the New Entrants!

The Institute warmly welcomed a group of eager and enthusiastic students for the academic year 2022-2023; this time in the offline mode!

A total of 2009 students joined the Institute this year taking admission in various departments and schools. These young minds, with impressionable hearts and filled with enthusiasm, are all set to explore and uphold our 100-year-old legacy.

Number of admissions in each program

Program	Number
B. Tech.	1167
B. Arch	21
IDD	389
M. Tech.	336
M. Pharm.	47
M. Sc.	48
Ph.D.	101
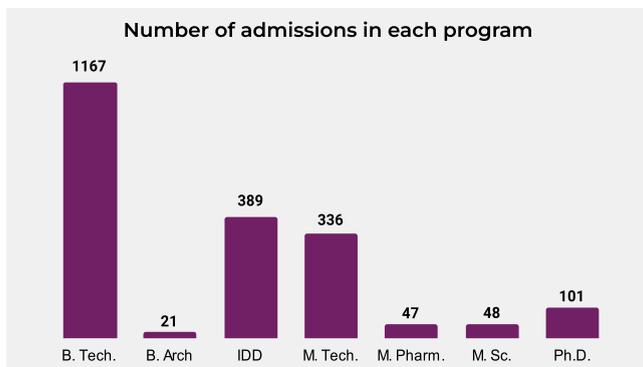
Innovation @ IIT (BHU)

After screening of the applications received under Cleantech Innovation Challenge (CTIC), total 54 start-ups pitched their ideas in front of the experts under different categories. The details are given as:

CTIC presentations under the category 'CSR-Education, Health, Social Innovations' on 23rd September, 2022

Faculty	Department / School
Prof. Ajit Kumar Mishra	Department of Humanistic Studies, IIT (BHU)
Prof. Kamalesh Kumar Singh	Department of Metallurgical Engineering, IIT (BHU)
Dr. Pranjal Chandra	School of Biochemical Engineering, IIT (BHU)

CTIC presentations under the category 'Opencast Mining Technologies' on 27th September, 2022

Faculty	Department / School
Dr. Rajesh Rai	Department of Mining Engineering, IIT (BHU)
Dr. Ashok Jaiswal	Department of Mining Engineering, IIT (BHU)

CTIC presentations under the category 'Sustainable Agriculture' on 3rd October, 2022

Faculty	Department / School
Prof. Ramesh Chand	Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU
Prof. Satish Kumar Singh	Soil Science & Agricultural Chemistry, Institute of Agricultural Sciences, BHU

Media Section

IIT (BHU) to get DRDO centre of excellence, MoU signed at DefExpo
CITY / BINAY SINGH / Oct 22, 2022, 08:29 IST

Spotlight on future diplomacy at IIT-BHU programme
CITY / BINAY SINGH / TNN / Updated: Oct 16, 2022, 11:51 IST

IIT (BHU) signs an MoU at DefExpo 2022 with DRDO

IIT (BHU) hosts program of Raisina Forum for Future Diplomacy

Faculty Achievements

Dr. Prodyut Dhar, Assistant Professor at the School of Biochemical Engineering was selected among the top five winners under the prototype development category in the National Bamboo Innovation Challenge 2022. The award was conferred to Dr. Dhar and his team for their technological innovations and development in the Bamboo sector which opens up new business opportunities for industries and start-ups. The project is inline with Government of India's initiative of banning the utilization of single use plastics (#AtmanirbharBharat and #SwachBharat).

Dr. Sanjeev Kumar Mahato, School of Biomedical Engineering, received the 'Dr. Arthur Saravanmuthu Thambiah Award' by the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) (NAMS) for the year 2022 at the convocation ceremony held on 12th November, 2022, during its 62nd Annual Conference at Sawai Man Singh (SMS) Medical College, Jaipur. The award was conferred by the Chief Guest of the function Hon'ble Speaker of Lok Sabha Sh. Om Birla and the President of NAMS, Prof. Shiv Kumar Sarin. He was also honoured with a membership of the National Academy of Medical Sciences (India) (NAMS).

Dr. Rabindra Mohanty, Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical Engineering, has been selected for the Young Engineer Award 2022 by the Indian National Academy of Engineering (INAE). This national award is given each year to Indian scientists under 35 years of age, working in broad fields of engineering. The selected awardees will receive a prize money of Rs. 1 lakh, along with a citation in the INAE annual convention. They will become INAE Young Associates on the conferment of the award and will continue to be so until they reach 45 years of age. Dr. Mohanty's engineering research contributions resulted in the development of software solutions that can be deployed to operationalize power system protection schemes for power transmission and distribution networks.

Students' Updates

Under the **Science and Technology Council**, the Business Club conducted a session on 'Product Deck Making' under their 'Placement Interview Preparation' initiative, which aims to prepare final-year students for business role interviews. Another session, aimed at preparing students for the Flipkart APM campus hiring tests, was held. A Financial Modeling and Valuation workshop was conducted in collaboration with Upsurge, a Finance E-learning company.
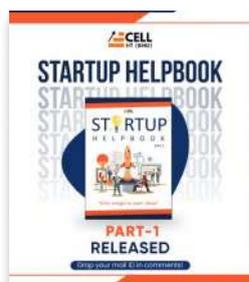
E-Cell IIT BHU received registrations from 60+ student startups of IIT (BHU) for their 'Build With Us Cohort', a program encouraging students to build their ideas into MVP. The cell hosted Aditya Arora, CEO of the Faad Network, for a session on 'Intern to Investor', wherein he shed light on the fundamentals of startups and investing. The first module of the 'Startup Helpbook' was launched for students across the country with emphasis on idea generation for aspiring entrepreneurs to find and build on their ideas.

At the **Film and Media Council**, the Animation Club conducted workshops on 'VFX and After Effects'. The Outreach Club captured memories of the graduating batch and shot a series of interviews as Guest Diaries. The Design Club worked on multiple projects, including the India Film Project (IFP). The Photography Club participated and won the 50-hour photography challenge by IFP, securing the first position.
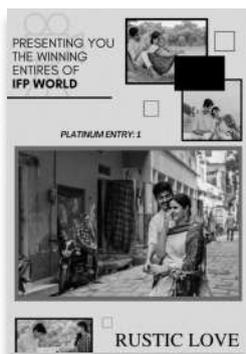
Alumni Updates

Global Alumni Meet (GAM)

Global Alumni Meet 2022, conducted in Santa Clara, was a truly memorable event. It saw massive participation from 1966 to 2021 batch! Sh. Murli Thirumale (ECE '82) and Sh. Jagadish Bandhole (CSE '95) led the event as chair and co-chair. Sh. Puneet Goyal (EEE '94) conceived the event and led the charge from the IBGAA board.

With the help of three sponsors: Informatica, Palo Alto Networks, and Juniper Networks, and our esteemed alumni Sh. Amit Walia (CER '95), Sh. Nikesh Arora (ECE '89), and Sh. Raj Yavatkar (ECE '80), the event raised $110k, making it the highest corporate sponsored alumni event to date.

A team of dedicated volunteers made the event possible with their hardwork. Individuals and startups stepped up and sponsored the event with a special mention to Sh. Shirish

Sathaye (ECE '84), Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (MET '82), Sh. Murli Thirumale (ECE '82), and Sh. Jagadish Bandhole (CSE '95), who each contributed $10k and raised the bar of Champions, the highest category among the sponsors.

Sh. Manoj Sinha (CIV '79), honorable Lt. Governor of Jammu & Kashmir, graced the event with his presence. The event was a great success, boasting 300+ registrations and 250+ attendees with $200k+ budget!

For more info, visit connect.iitbhuglobal.org!

Student Alumni Interaction Cell (SAIC)

SAIC, in collaboration with The Business Club, IIT (BHU) and ShARE IIT BHU, successfully conducted an Ask Me Anything session on consulting with Sh. Shobhit Shubhankar (CHE '15) as the speaker. The final session of the Weekly Panel Discussion Series on SDE was conducted by alumni from the industry. This marked the successful completion of the Mentorship Program 2021-22. Two guest lectures were conducted on 'Media Environment' and 'Industry 4.0'. The session on the Media Environment saw Sh. Ramesh Srinivasan (MET '82) as the guest lecturer along with Sh. Arun Anant (CHE '85) as the alumni faculty, and Sh. Vineet Saxena was the speaker for the Industry 4.0 session, accompanied by Sh. Rajeev Gupta (CHE '95).

Alumni Achievements

Sh. Bhanu Prakash Srivastava (MEC '86), Director of BEL, assumed additional charge as Chairman & Managing Director and Director (Marketing) on 1st November, 2022. Before this, he served as General Manager of the Advanced Defence Systems-Navy (ADSN) Strategic Business Unit at BEL's Bangalore Complex.

Dr. Deep Jariwala (MET '10), an Assistant Professor at the Department of Electrical and Systems Engineering at the University of Pennsylvania, USA won the Nokia Bell Lab's Prize 2022, along with his colleagues, for their proposal based on memory enhanced computing architectures on III-Nitride Ferrodiodes.

Prof. M. V. Kartikeyan (M.Tech. '85, Ph.D. '92) has been appointed as the new Director at Indian Institute of Information Technology, Design and Manufacturing, Kancheepuram (IIITDM Kancheepuram).

Sh. Rakesh Gupta (MEC '80), has been awarded the prestigious award, Distinguished Alumnus Award by NITIE-Bombay as their alumnus. He has served as the first Chief of HR for India for Daimler India Commercial Vehicles (Bharat Benz), Senior EVP for a Tata Group Company, is now a freelancer in Business Consulting.

A Tale of Hardwork and Persistence

From a curious young child to a bright scholar, Ms. Shloka Negi has been there and has done it all!

The recipient of the prestigious President's Gold Medal, along with 11 other medals, she was the brightest star at IIT (BHU)'s 11th Convocation Ceremony. With a knack to always excel, she immersed herself completely in all her endeavors.

Ms. Shloka Negi (PHE '22)

After giving JEE in 2018 and getting admitted to Pharmaceutical Engineering, she began her illustrious undergraduate journey. When the students of her batch were toiling for a branch change, she decided to explore the field of Pharmaceutics and dropped out from a possible branch change, a decision many would gladly opt for.

Apart from shining bright in Academics, she excelled in singing and was an active part of the Indian Music Club. Two years down the line, COVID hit, but her persistence did not let that be an obstacle; she completed two renowned internships DAAD-Wise and MITACS in a span of 5 months while the pandemic was wreaking havoc across the country.

She worked her fingers to the bone for another two years and was deservingly awarded at the 11th Convocation, where she received her medals with her head held high with pride and her eyes watery with tears.

Currently pursuing her Ph.D. from the University of California, Santa Cruz, in Biomolecular Engineering and Bioinformatics, it took her some time to adapt to the situation; living alone in a foreign land brings out a plethora of difficulties. But just like her academics, she is smashing all problems out of the park. As a part of her curriculum, she is rotating between various laboratories and completing projects.

With a magnificent research career ahead of her, she looks back to her undergraduate days at the college, missing the foggy mornings at the *ghat*, the fun entangled journeys of Inter-IIT and the jamming at IMC room.

As the interview came to a close, she finished with a note to the incoming batch: "Traverse across all the fields, never abandon the branch you are allotted, and always look ahead for challenges!"

# Dev Deepawali: Carnival of the Gods

Dev Deepawali, one of the most anticipated festivals of Varanasi with people flocking from all parts of the world to witness as the ghats shimmer with lakhs of *diyas* and be amongst the chants of "*Har Har Mahadev*", is celebrated on the full moon of the *Kartik* month of the Hindu Calender.

This year, the divine festival was celebrated on 7th November, a day earlier than Kartik Purnima, due to the lunar eclipse on that day. Spectacular *aartis* were performed with bells clanging at Varanasi's *ghats* to welcome the Gods to the land of Kashi. The people of Varanasi witnessed a spectacular laser show, and eco-friendly fireworks lit the skies. A replica of Amar Jawan Jyoti was created at Dashashwamedh Ghat as a tribute to the brave soldiers of India.

On 7th November 2022, almost 21 lakh *diyas* lit up the city of Kashi, With more than 10 lakh *diyas* on along the *ghats* of *Maa Ganga*. About 2 lakh *diyas* glistened amongst the darkness on the sands of the east bank, creating a magical effect. The welcoming floral decor of the temples across Varanasi, especially of the Kashi Vishwanath temple, enlightened the aura of earthen diyas as the night fell.

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