IIT-BHU Foundation receives $1mn grant to create Entrepreneurship Centre

Centre to focus on software innovation, allowing students to explore technology and business

HT Correspondent

letters@hindustantimes.com

VARANASI: The IIT-BHU Foundation, a US-based all volunteer, non-profit association of IIT (BHU) alumni, announced that Jay Chaudhry, IIT (BHU) graduate (EEE '80) and CEO and founder of cloud-based information security firm Zscaler, has donated $1 million to the IIT (BHU) Foundation. The donation will fund IIT (BHU)'s Entrepreneurship Center with a focus on student development, faculty development, and entrepreneurship development.

Jay Chaudhry's donation both establishes the Entrepreneurship Centre and provides four key elements to deliver on its promise of development. A Software Innovation Centre will be established which shall provide a platform where students will be able to learn and innovate in the areas of software development, quantum computing, cyber security, IoT and data analytics.

In collaboration with IIT (BHU), Deep Jariwala (MET '10) will help identify a faculty member to fill the role of 'Jay Chaudhry Professor of Software Innovation', who will oversee and manage the Software Innovation Centre. In addition to a professorship and Innovation Centre, Chaudhry's generous donation will fund a lecture series on software innovation and a software technology seed fund. Both of those initiatives are being managed by Vish Narayanan (EEE '83) on behalf of IIT (BHU) Foundation. Jay Chaudhry has founded five successful tech companies in the US: Zscaler, an industry leader in cloud security; Air Defense, a wireless security firm; Cipher Trust, the first email security gateway; Core Harbor, a managed ecommerce solution firm; and Secure IT, the first pure-play Internet security service. "The education I received at IIT (BHU) played a pivotal role in preparing me for the business world." says Chaudhry,

Jay Chaudhry

who graduated from IIT (BHU) with a Bachelor of Technology in Electronics Engineering in 1980. "This Entrepreneurship Centre will help educate young students to navigate their careers and learn practical skills to allow them to be more competitive in the world of cyber security. My hope is that the Entrepreneurship Centre will afford students with big dreams and aspirations the same opportunities I was fortunate enough to experience."

Arun Tripathi (MEC '97), president of the IIT (BHU) Foundation, noted that Chaudhry is a proud example of the heights that IIT (BHU) alums can reach. "Jay Chaudhry is an inspiration for students," Tripathi said. "With this gift, we've secured funding that will help student development, faculty development and entrepreneurship development at IIT (BHU), blazing a trail of entrepreneurs of the future. As alumni, we all have a strong desire to rejuvenate our Institute, advance its mission, and strengthen its reputation as a world-class college of engineering. Jay's gift helps us achieve all that and more."

Director of IIT-BHU Prof Pramod Kumar Jain and the Board of Governors also expressed their gratitude and recognised the significance of the $1 million endowment. "The Entrepreneurship Centre will go a long way towards enhancing the education and development of students, the retention of the best talent in the world on our faculties, and the promise of young entrepreneurs on our campus. It's this support from current alums for future alums that keeps IIT (BHU) at the forefront. We couldn't be prouder to leverage this amazing donation for so many of our students to follow in Jay's inspiring footsteps." Dr Jain said.