

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **National Seminar on Essentials of Product Development** on 27<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.
- **DST SERB-sponsored National Workshop on Green Hydrogen Generation: Research Issues and Opportunities** from 27<sup>th</sup> – 28<sup>th</sup> April, 2023.

**PATRON**

**Prof. R. K. Sinha**  
*Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor*

**EDITOR**

**Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi**

**DESIGN & DRAFT**

**Mr. Girdhari Lal Sharma**

**PHOTOGRAPHY**

**Mr. Om Parkash**

## Campus Jottings

### School of Languages & Literature Organises a Book Release Function



The School of Languages and Literature at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, organized a book release function at the Matrika Auditorium. The book, titled "Glimpses of Dogra Culture and Heritage," authored by renowned writer Ashok Kumar Sharma, was jointly released by Padmashree Prof. RK Sinha, Vice Chancellor SMVDU, and noted writers and Padmashree awardees Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, Dr. Jatinder Udhamपुरi, and Sh. Mohan Singh. During the event, Prof. R.K Sinha, Vice Chancellor SMVDU, emphasized the need for promoting local culture, heritage, and literature among the younger generation through institutions of higher education. He congratulated Ashok Sharma for his outstanding work, which has immense literary value and expressed hope that the book would fulfill the aspirations of those who wish to know more about our regional folk literature, culture, and heritage. Prof. Shiv Nirmohi, an eminent Dogri Scholar, Poet, writer, and Padmashree awardee, congratulated Ashok Kumar Sharma and said that his book would help in highlighting Dogra Culture at an international level. Dr. Jatinder Udhamपुरi, a noted Dogri writer and Padmashree awardee, complemented Ashok Kumar Sharma for his valuable collection of articles on regional folk literature and culture. He appreciated the efforts of the author in showcasing Dogra traditions, culture, and heritage. Eminent writer and Padmashree awardee Mohan Singh, in his address, said that Sharma's book presents an authentic picture of Dogra culture and heritage, and each of his articles shall inspire the readers. He complimented all native writers for contributing to the growth of Dogri literature. During the event, the author of the book, Ashok Kumar Sharma, shared his experiences in the research and documentation process and his wish to publish this collection of literary pieces, which are, in fact, documents of our cultural heritage. The program was attended by a large number of intellectuals, writers, faculty members, research scholars, students, and others. Dr. Isha Malhotra, the coordinator of the program, extended a vote of thanks to all the dignitaries and the audience present at the event. The program was a grand success and witnessed the presence of a galaxy of intellectuals, faculty members, scholars, and students.



## SMVDU, Excise Dept. Organizes Heritage Walk to Babore Temples



The Excise Department Jammu, in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized a Heritage Walk to Babore temples at Manwal, the ancient capital of the Dogra region. The event was flagged off by Prof. RK Sinha, Vice Chancellor SMVDU, and Rajiv Magotra, Principal of the Excise and Taxation Training Institute. The walk covered five temple sites spread over one kilometer and witnessed an enthusiastic gathering of historians, academicians, artists, and students. During the walk, the participants were made aware of the prominent historical, architectural, and cultural aspects of the Babore temples, which are being maintained by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). These temples reflect the zenith of Nagara temple building movement in North India. In his address, heritage expert Ashok Sharma briefed everyone about the historic essence and architectural grandeur of the temples, namely, Devi Bhagwati Temple, Dera Babore, Kala Dera One and Two, and Dera Temple. He emphasized the need for preserving and protecting the ancient heritage of the Jammu region, which has a unique place in the Indian Sub-Continent. Rupali Vaid, ETO Udhampur-Reasi Range, stressed the need for preserving the cultural heritage of the Jammu region, while Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU, emphasized the need for organizing more such events and giving more exposure to students to the rich culture and heritage of the Jammu region. The students of the School of Architecture and Civil Engineering, who were the main participants of the event hailing from different parts of the country, showed keen interest in the ornate carvings and style of temple building. They captured the temples through photographs, videos, and sketches and expressed their desire for the temples to be included in the UNESCO heritage sites. The event was marked by a scintillating folk song and dance performance by Ram Ditta and party.



## JKST&IC Sponsored Brainstorming on Still birth, Infant Mortality and Birth Defects held at SMVDU

A one-day brainstorming meeting on "Stillbirth, Congenital Malformations, and Infant Death among Newborns in the Jammu and Kashmir Region" was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, Dept. of Science and Technology, Govt. of J&K. The meeting was organized by the team of ICMR-CAR scientists and scholars led by Dr. Girish, Dr. Sonali, Ms. Minerva, Mr. Rajeshwar, and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, the organizing secretary and principal coordinator of ICMR-CAR, SMVDU. The purpose of the meeting was to address the crucial issues related to stillbirth, congenital malformations, and infant deaths.



Padma Shri Prof. RNK Bamezai, former Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU and Ex-Dean Life Sciences JNU, chaired the meeting, and representatives from various institutes in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir attended. During the meeting, experts shed light on different aspects of stillbirth and congenital anomalies prevalent in Jammu and Kashmir. Prof. Bamezai suggested identifying biomarkers for stillbirth, congenital malformations, and infant deaths. Representatives from various institutes in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir, including Mrs. Sunita Razdan Dhar, Joint Director JKST&IC, Prof. Ghansham Saini, Head of Department of Paediatrics, GMC Jammu, Dr. Rakesh Raina PHC, Akhnoor, Dr. Dinesh Kumar, Dean Academics, AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Audesh Bhat, Central University of Jammu, Dr. Javeed Iqbal Department of Pediatric Respiratory Medicine (ERS) SKIMS, Dr. Renu Sharma, Dr. Ritesh Kumar from AIIMS Jammu, Dr. Anand Yelne Consultant Pediatrician, Dr. Sonia Nagyal Consultant Pathologist, Dr. Arunima Consultant Gynae, Dr. Kamaljeet Kaur, Consultant Paediatrician of SMVDNH, Katra, Dr. Anindya Goswami and Dr. Mohd. Jamal Dar Principal Scientists of CSIR-IIIM, Jammu, Mrs. Pushpa Oraon Associate Professor SMVDCON, Katra, Dr. Ruchi Shah from the University of Kashmir, and Dr. Ekta Rai from SMVDU, shared their insights. Dr. Rakesh Kumar presented the vote of thanks to the participants and expressed his gratitude to Padma Shri RK Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, for his continuous support and motivation, and the J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council for sponsoring such a critical area for brainstorming.

## Theatre Festival "Trikuta-Natya-Ustav " Inaugurated at SMVDU

The Trikota-Nataya-Utsav Theatre Festival took place from March 13<sup>th</sup> to March 21<sup>st</sup>, 2023, at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University campus. Reputed theatre groups from Jammu performed, providing an opportunity for the audience to acquaint themselves with the rich theatre culture of the region. During the inauguration of the festival, Vice Chancellor Prof. RK Sinha emphasized that cultural heritage is the spirit and soul of any society, and it is essential to project it to younger generations. He highlighted the rich tradition of theatre in the region and the festival's potential to provide an excellent opportunity for students to relish the excellent performances. He urged everyone to work



collectively to overcome the challenges of reviving art, culture, and languages and organize more such events. The festival will allow the artists to showcase their talent and inspire students to take an interest in theatre. Padamashree awardee Narsingh Dev Jamwal, a noted Dogri Play writer, speaking on the occasion, said that Jammu has notable playwrights, directors, and theatre artists. He noted the challenge of doing justice to their literary works and lauded the efforts of the late Kavi Rattan in laying the foundation for the serious drama movement in Jammu and Kashmir. Many prominent theatre personalities were present at the event. On the inaugural day, the Viraj Kala Kendra theatre group performed the Shah-Shahni Dogri drama, captivating the audience. Other plays scheduled for the festival included Pagla Ghoda (Hindi) by Young Hill Thespians, Bali and Shambu (Hindi) by Bhartiya Kala Sangam, Teeth (Nukkad-Dogri) by Rangyug, and Ashad K aek Din (Hindi). Dr. Rakesh, Chairman BCA, informed about the activities to be carried out during the theatre festival. Dr. Kamni, Vice Chairman Board of Cultural Activities (BCA), in her welcome address, gave a brief overview of the different phases of theatre in SMVDU and urged everyone to contribute towards making the festival a success.

### **Badal Sarkar's Modern Classic Play 'Pagla Ghoda' Staged at Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU**



On the second day of the ongoing Festival of Plays organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, the Hill Thespians presented a captivating performance of Pratibha Agarwal's Hindi translation of Badal Sarkar's renowned Bengali play "Pagla Ghoda" at the Matrika Auditorium. Written in 1967, the play deals with women's issues and highlights their subjugation in the patriarchy-entrenched Indian social system and its effects on both men and women. The play employs surrealistic elements and begins in a cremation ground at night, where four men are waiting for the incineration of a young woman who has committed suicide. To pass the time, they play cards and drink liquor. The spirit of the young, nameless girl on the pyre prompts the men to share their stories, and they narrate their love stories, revealing their guilt in sacrificing their love instead of taking a risk in fear of social disapproval. Directed and designed by young Sunil Sharma, the play was an engaging presentation by five amateur actors who were able to navigate between the intense layers, subplots, and intertwining backstories of all five characters. Sunaina Kumari slipped effortlessly into multiple roles of Malti, Mili, Laxmi, and Ladki, using perfect timing of intermittent dialogues and free-flowing on-stage movements that knitted the narration together. She successfully modulated her sonorous voice and changed the colors of her dupattas to render individuality to all four female characters. Sunil Sharma played Satu, Javed Gill played Kartik, Neeraj Sethi played Shashi, and Shubham Rajput played Heemadari. The production design was marked by well-thought-out and executed blocking, movements, and physical behavior. The music and light design added emotional intensity to the scenes. The performance was witnessed by a large audience, including Prof. RK Sinha, the Vice Chancellor, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS Registrar, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS Finance Officer, deans, directors, faculty, staff, and a significant number of students.



## On Third Day of Theatre Fest, Bali and Shambhu Staged at Matrika in SMVDU

On Wednesday, the third day of the ongoing Theatre Festival, the play Bali and Shambhu was staged at the Matrika Auditorium. The play was presented by the Bhartiya Kala Sangam as a part of the ongoing 'Triakuta Natya Ustav'. Written by Manav Kaul, a Baramula-born-Mumbai-based writer/actor, and directed by Mohit Mehra, the Hindi play 'Bali and Shambhu' tells the story of two senior inmates of an old age ashram. Shambhu, who is grumpy and irritable, does not like sharing a room with Bali, who is extroverted and young at heart. However, he eventually comes around to accommodate him. Shambhu is bad-tempered because of his traumatized memory of his daughter Titli, who haunts him as a spirit. Bali, on the other hand, is forced to take refuge in the old age home because his family does not want him with them. After a series of conflicts, the



two diametrically opposite characters eventually become one. Sandeep Verma played the role of 'Shambhu', the cantankerous old man, and Vivek Sangotra played the role of boisterous 'Bali'. The chemistry between the two, who also show mischievous sides, brought alive a simple tale with a lot of heart. The perfect timing of both actors, along with small gestures and movements, created moments of subtle pathos as well as humor on stage. Swinging from one emotion to another, the play steered away from becoming excessively sentimental. The set design was simple, with two diagonally placed cots in the foreground. The freeze frame and synchronization between the change of lights with the change of scenes and controlled background music added to the overall quality of the performance, which slowly and steadily evolved as a well-orchestrated melody. Kajal Bhagat played the role of 'Titli', Bobby Thakur played Gautam, Seeta played Jhilmil, and Ayaan played Shubankar. All of them did a commendable job. The backstage team included Aditya Bharati for lights, Tavleen Kaur for costumes, Ankit Sharma for music, Lakshmi Sharma for makeup, and Rajat Kholi/ Aditya Sharma for set design. Sh. Arvinder Aman, an additional secretary and retired JKAACL Jammu, was the guest of honor at the program. Present at the event were Prof. RK Sinha, Vice Chancellor, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS Registrar, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS Finance Officer, deans, directors, faculty, staff, and a large number of students. Overall, the play was an immersive performance that was savored by the audience.

## On Fourth Day of Theatre Festival 'Triakuta-Natya-Utsav', a Nukkad Natak in Dogri 'Dheeth' was staged at SMVDU

The play, staged by Rangyug, was witnessed by Vice Chancellor, Prof. R.K Sinha, Registrar Nagendra Singh Jamwal, faculty, staff, and students of SMVDU. In his address, Prof. Sinha emphasized the importance of such festivals. The play depicted the journey of a Saint and his disciple towards 'Indralok'. On their way, they reached the holy city of Jammu, where the Saint decided to descend. First, they wanted to take a dip in the sacred Tawi River, but upon finding the water polluted, they avoided it. They then proceeded towards the Jambwant Cave, which was all covered by a long row of shops selling junk food and other eatables. They encountered a group of people weeping bitterly over the death of a friend who had apparently died from drinking yoghurt kept in a recycled polythene bag for about a week. The funeral procession was stuck in a lane that had shrunk to less than two feet due to illegal and unauthorized encroachments on both sides. In disgust, the Sadhus decided to fly away.



## **'Ashadh-Ka-Ek-Din' Staged during Theatre Fest "Trikuta-Natya-Utsav" at SMVDU**

Mohan Rakesh's "Ashadh ka ek Din" is considered to be the first modern Hindi play. It was staged on the concluding day of the "Trikuta Natya Utsav" Festival of Plays, organized by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, at Matrika Auditorium today. "The Performers" presented the Hindi drama, directed by Vijay Goswami, which revolves around Kalidasa and the muse Mallika, whom he abandons in his quest for fame and recognition, leading to his disillusionment. The play is divided into three acts. The first act portrays the pleasant union of Mallika and Kalidasa, where she merges her identity with him and craves to settle down with her family. In the second act, Kalidasa leaves his Himalayan village for Ujjaini to attain the status of a good poet and become involved in stately affairs. In the concluding act, he comes back to Mallika and realizes his mistakes. At the end of the drama, he desires to marry Mallika but cannot fulfill it. Considered an actor's paradise and their litmus test, today's performance saw competent performances by amateur actors who, driven only by their passion for theatre and without any pedagogical support, have been the backbone of the drama movement in Jammu. Nisha as Mallika impressed with her portrayal of a love-smitten damsel who encourages her lover to leave in search of greater things only to put herself in hardship for the rest of her life. Neha Lahotra exhibited her acting skills in enacting the role of Ambika, Malika's aging mother, on a journey from maturity to a state of withering. ManojBhat, as Kalidas, with steady dialogue delivery and measured movements, was striking in the role of a genius who ultimately realizes his folly of being self-centered. Vijay Goswami, as Vilom, who later sires a daughter with Malika, did bring out the feud between the two poets. In the concluding scene, he seemed to steal the show upon the off-keyed Kalidas. Other members of the cast who also gave good performances were Tapeswar Dutta as Matul, Ravinder Manhas as Dantul, Ashish Sharma as Nikshep, Karishma as Rangini, Saugandhi as Sangini, Ridhim as Priyangumanjari, Pradeep Sharma as Anuswar, and Gaurav Sharma as Anunasik. The special effect of the cry of the infant was perfectly timed. However, the background score, especially the rendition of the raga, could have been more effective in the "jor" rather than in "drut." Dogri writer and Padma Shree awardee Sh. Mohan Singh was the chief guest of the program, and Smt. Shashi Rattan and Sh. Lalit Gupta were the guests of honor. Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS Registrar, deans, directors, faculty, staff, and a large number of students witnessed today's play. Dr. Rakesh and Dr. Kamni from the Board of Cultural Activities (BCA) appreciated the theme of the play. The Theatre festival was dedicated to the memory of Late Kavi Rattan, a noted theatre personality and the first graduate from National School of Drama from the Jammu region.





## Two-Day International Conference Begins at SMVDU



The School of Languages and Literature at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a two-day international conference on "Precarious Lives, Vulnerability, and Violence in Indian Public Sphere" on March 16-17. The event was attended by renowned scholars, academics, and students. The inaugural session was initiated with an introductory speech by Dr. Isha Malhotra, Head of the School of Languages and Literature, SMVDU. Dr. Malhotra emphasized the conference's objective to examine the interface between literature and language within the critical framework of precarity beyond the parameters of insecurity and vulnerability in the Indian public sphere. The welcome address was delivered by Prof. V. K. Bhat, Dean FOHSS, who elaborated that addressing precarity requires a comprehensive approach that considers the political, economic, and social factors that contribute to various vulnerable conditions, as well as the perspectives and experiences of those who are most affected by them. Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal (JKAS), Registrar, SMVDU, informed the participants about the university's successful efforts in organizing such scholastic events and their relevance in propagating academic discourse. Padma Shree Prof. RK Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, formally inaugurated the conference as the chief guest. He emphasized the importance of such relevant themes in contemporary times and highlighted how "Precarity" has emerged as a central concern in scholarly research due to political mobilizations against unemployment and social exclusion. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Kanika Batra, Professor, and Director of Graduate Studies at Texas Tech University, on the topic "Precarity and Transgender Vulnerability: Bombay Dost and the Limits of Queer Intersectionality," who beautifully connected precariousness with the transgender community. The conference's topic was crucial since vulnerability can impact us all through our lives inevitably in many forms. Distinguished plenary speakers, including Dr. Om Prakash Dwivedi from the School of Liberal Arts at Bennett University, presented on "The Many Frames of Precarity." Dr. Anurag Kumar, the convener of the two-day international conference, proposed a formal vote of thanks. The research scholars, Ms. Devika Sharma and Ms. Eva Sharma, from the School of Languages and Literature, conducted the proceedings.





## INTACH Organises Heritage Volunteer Trg Workshop

INTACH, in collaboration with SMVDU, organized a one-day workshop to create awareness among youth about the importance of heritage conservation and protection. The workshop aimed to train volunteers in tangible and intangible heritage preservation. Prof. VK Bhat, Dean Faculty of Humanities, was the Chief Guest who inaugurated the workshop along with Purnima Dutt, Principal Director, INTACH, SM Sahni, Convenor, Jammu Chapter of INTACH, Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU, and Arvind Kotwal, Coordinator Heritage Tourism INTACH. In her keynote address, Purnima Dutt emphasized the need to preserve India's unique culture and her-



itage through young heritage volunteers. Prof. VK Bhat stressed the importance of involving students in heritage awareness and thanked INTACH for collaborating with SMVDU. Arvind Kotwal elaborated on the built heritage of Jammu and the need for its documentation and preservation. Kripal Singh, a heritage expert, talked about the rural art of Jammu and how it expresses the Dogra identity. Dr. Deepika Slathia delivered a lecture on the natural heritage of Jammu and Kashmir, highlighting its rich biodiversity, including unique flora and fauna. Dr. Sudhir Singh, Jt. Secretary BoSE, spoke about the intangible heritage of Jammu, with a special emphasis on crafts. Abhishek Das from Heritage Education & Communication Service, INTACH, stressed the importance of volunteerism and led group exercises. Dr. Lalit Gupta emphasized the need for involving youth in spreading awareness about heritage and the importance of having a modern museum in the Jammu region to display artifacts, handlooms, crafts, and rare paintings. The proceedings were conducted by Dr. Rakesh Thussu, President, and Dr. Kamni Pathania, Vice President Board of Cultural Activities.

## SMVDU Hosts One Day Workshop on Current Industrial Scenario: Opportunities and Challenges

The School of Mechanical Engineering (SME) at SMVDU hosted a one-day workshop on "Current Industrial Scenario: Opportunities and Challenges". Dr. Sanjay Mohan and Dr. Mir Irfan UIHaq, both assistant professors at SME, coordinated the event. The workshop focused on highlighting the various opportunities and challenges posed by advanced technologies in the industrial sector, particularly in the mechanical sector. The sessions were conducted by experts in the field, including Dr. Balbir Singh, an associate professor at SME, Dr. Ankush Raina, an assistant professor, and Mr. Ashwini Koul, AGM of Suzuki Motors Gujarat. Professor Eswaramoorthy Muthumswamy, the head of SME, along with Dr. R.K Mishra and other senior faculty members, graced the inaugural ceremony of the event. Dr. Ajay Koul, the Dean of FOE, conveyed his good wishes for the event and encouraged the faculty to organize more such workshops.





## SMVDU Organizes Quiz on Emerging Business Scenario in India



An inter-departmental quiz competition on "Emerging Business Scenario in India" was held at SMVDU. Thirteen teams were selected from various departments of the university. The participants were evaluated based on their knowledge of current affairs, business, economics, culture, art, literature, entertainment, and sports. The team of Siddhant, Humera, Rohit, and Vinay from MBA 4th semester and the team of Vinayak, Rajan, Divaya, and Aina from BBA 6th semester were the joint winners of the competition. The team of Hitesh, Shivali, Abhiyanta, and Simran from MBA 1st semester was the runner-up. A total of 52 students participated in this competition. The quiz competition was coordinated by Dr. Deepak Jain, along with Dr. Shazia Bukhari and Dr. Rashita Taggar, with the support of research scholars Tapas and Shahbaz. It was organized under the National Innovation and Startup Policy (NISP) 2019 by the Institution Innovation Cell (IIC) in collaboration with the School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

## Celebration and Day Observed

### School of Biotechnology, SMVDU Celebrates World Water Day at Mansar





Mansar Lake, a world renowned Ramsar Site is home to aquatic and avian bio diversity. World Water Day is celebrated each year to raise awareness about the precious water and inspire action to tackle the water scarcity and resultant environment crisis. The event focuses on raising awareness and taking action to tackle the global water crisis faced by a billions of people living without access to water for drinking, irrigation and livelihoods. The event started with the keynote lecture by Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha Padamshree and Vice Chancellor of SMVDU. Prof Sinha emphasized the need for taking firm steps to stop water pollution including setting up of Sewage treatment plants for urban areas and effluent treatment plants for industrial units. " Our holy rivers and lakes are under severe pressure due to effluents, heavy metals, micro plastic and sewage and we need to mitigate the ill effects of water pollution" he said. He spoke at length about the cultural, religious and spritual significance of Mansar and its importance in providing drinking water, micro irrigation, nutrient exchange, recharging of aquifers and bio-diversity preservation. " we need to have Lake Management plan for Surinsar and Mansar lakes so as to have sustainable eco- friendly tourism. Head School of Biotechnology, Dr. Ratna Chandra highlighted the importance of sacred water bodies like Surinsar - Mansar lakes in sustaining livelihoods and educating students about environment. She stressed the need for more such field visits to aware the students. Kirpal Singh, Heritage expert spoke about the importance of water bodies in Jammu region and their significance in Dogra culture. " Our bawlis, Step wells, sacred river sites ( Bheds ), Springs ( Nags ) ,Naga temples, folklore, legends and traditions are closely associated with Dogras respect for water bodies " he said. The program started with the welcome address by the coordinator of the event Dr. Shafaq Rasool, faculty member, SoBT. Nagendra Singh Jamwal JKAS, Registrar SMVDU also interacted with the students emphasized the need for eco tourism and making local stakeholders aware and responsible about preserving the water bodies. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head SoBT, emphasised the need for raising awareness regarding the critical issues of depleting ground water, rampant consumerism, Wheat - Paddy cycle and excessive use of chemicals in agriculture to bring positive change. A special attraction of the event was Nukkad Natak staged by Rangyug, an acclaimed Theatre group. The street play was related to the theme of the event was presented by the artists of Rangyug. The event was attended by more than 150 student participants from SMVDU. The students of SoBT actively participated in the poster making competition related to World Water Day theme: "Accelerating Change" and cash prizes and certificates were given to the winners of the competition. A lake walk around the Mansar Lake was undertaken by faculty members, research scholars and students from School of Biotechnology, SMVDU. The event concluded with formal vote of thanks presented by the Event Co- Coordinator Dr. Indu Bhushan.

### SMVDU Celebrated International Women's Day

NSS SMVDU celebrated " International Women's Day" by forming symbol of girl child by human chain. The day is celebrated every year worldwide on 8th March to have no discrimination against women in any form. The day represents gender equality and women empowerment. NSS Coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar welcomed all the participants and highlighted the objective of celebrating women's day. NSS volunteer Ms. Sumegha shared her thoughts on the day in the form of a poem. The event was held in the university stadium. Around 100 students participated in the said event. The event was conducted successfully by the NSS volunteers. NSS co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep were also present during the event. Vice chancellor Prof. R. K. Sinha appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers.





# Faculty/Staff Updates

## Paper Presented/Published

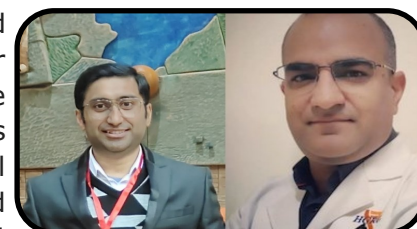
### SMVDU Faculty Presents Paper on Materials, Design and Manufacturing

Prof. Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, a faculty member of Mechanical Engineering at SMVDU, presented a technical paper and chaired a session at the 2nd International Conference on Materials, Design, and Manufacturing (ICMDM 2023) held at Anna University Chennai from February 23rd to 25th, 2022. The inaugural address was given by Prof. R Velraj, Vice-Chancellor of Anna University. The technical paper presented by Prof. Muthusamy was titled "A Comparative Study on Optical and Thermal Performance of Parabolic Trough Concentrator Using a Bundle of Absorber Tubes," in which he emphasized the importance of using a bundle of absorber tubes to achieve higher thermal and optical performance of parabolic trough collectors compared to using single absorber tubes. Other invited speakers from top-ranking institutes in India and abroad presented talks on ongoing research topics, and many external participants presented their research work via offline mode. Prof. Muthusamy also chaired the session on "Newer Product Development" stream along with Dr. Balakrishnan, Engineering Manager at Caterpillar. The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Anna University Chennai organized the conference.



### First Genetics Study of AI Scoliosis Presented at Banaras Hindu University

Researchers from the School of Biotechnology at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Mr. Hemender Singh and Dr. Swarkar Sharma, recently participated in the 23rd Annual Convention of ADNAT and International Conference on Precision Medicine held at Banaras Hindu University, Varanasi from March 10th to 13th, 2023. The conference brought together 310 delegates from 17 states in India and 20 international speakers from 13 countries, featuring a total of 40 invited lectures and 70 poster presentations of high quality. Mr. Hemender Singh presented his Ph.D. research work conducted under the guidance of Dr. Swarkar Sharma and Dr. Ekta Rai at SMVDU. His research, which is the first-ever genetic study of Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis (a spinal disorder) in India, showed an association between developmental and bone morphogenetic pathway genes and Adolescent Idiopathic Scoliosis pathogenesis. Based on his work, Mr. Hemender was selected as a candidate for the prestigious Dr. PM Bhargava Award for the conference and won the first prize in the poster presentation. During the conference, Dr. Swarkar Sharma delivered an invited talk on precision medicine and the extensive work of the Human Genetics Research Group (HGRG) in the population of Jammu and Kashmir. In his talk, Dr. Sharma emphasized the gaps in genetic studies in Jammu and Kashmir due to limited resources and trained manpower in the region. He shared the research designs developed by HGRG to overcome these challenges and facilitate genetics research with the objective of precision medicine in the region. Dr. Sharma also presented an online open-access database, [www.jkdna.in](http://www.jkdna.in), created by the group for the use of researchers, scientists, and clinicians worldwide, to utilize human genomics data for healthcare research and the benefits of humankind.



### SMVDU Faculty Bags Best Paper Award

Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra was awarded with the best paper award in the International Conference of Advanced Materials & Technologies for Industry 4.0 (ICAMT 4.0) organized by Bannari Amman Institute of

Technology during 23-24, March 2023. The objective of the ICAMT 4.0 was to bridge the gap between current industrial demand and innovations in materials and advanced technologies. Dr. Raina presented a paper on the title "3D Printing of hybrid materials for tribological applications" was co-authored by Dr. Mir Irfan UlHaq, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The research aimed at providing an insight on the sliding wear applications of the 3D printed polymeric materials. The conference experts appreciated the work carried out by the team. More than 200 papers were presented from by the authors from different countries in offline and online mode. Dr. Raina expressed his gratitude to the Faculty In charge Research lab, Dr. An-kushAnand and Head, SME, Prof. E. Muthusamy for facilitating the research work. Dr. Raina also expressed his gratitude to Padama Shri Prof. R. K. Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU for allowing him to attend the Conference and present his research work.



## **Talk on Hydrogen Management and Nuclear Reactor Containment Organized at SMVDU**



The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an Invited Talk on Hydrogen Management and Nuclear Reactor Containment, coordinated by Dr. Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, a Professor, and Dr. Yathesth Anand, an Assistant Professor at the institute. The event included a session by expert Prof Kannan N. Iyer, Senior Professor of Mechanical Engineering and Dean of Faculty Welfare at IIT Jammu, who shared his extensive knowledge and expertise on the emerging field of hydrogen management and nuclear reactor containment with the attendees, comprising students, faculty members, and researchers. Using computational fluid dynamics with some case studies, he briefed the participants on the different research problems in hydrogen management and nuclear reactor containment, providing valuable insights into the current research trends and challenges in these areas. The talk was well-received, and the students had an opportunity to interact with Prof Iyer and learn from his vast experience. The faculty members from the School of Mechanical Engineering were also present and found the talk informative and engaging. The Invited Talk on Hydrogen Management and Nuclear Reactor Containment was a success, providing a platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas in this vital field of research. The School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU, is committed to promoting and supporting such events that foster academic and research excellence



## Publication

Savita Sharma, Jyotsna Sharma, Deepika Singh and Sharada Mallubhotla. (2023) Seasonal variation of boeravinone B content in plant parts of Boerhaavia diffusa L. Israel Journal of Plant Sciences, DOI: <http://dx.doi.org/10.1163/22238980-bja10077>.

## Student Updates

### NSS SMVDU Celebrates Zero Tolerance Day

On 1<sup>st</sup> March, NSS SMVDU celebrated "Zero Discrimination Day" by organizing a human chain formation in the shape of a butterfly at the university stadium. The butterfly is the symbol of this day, representing harmony and peace among humans. This day is celebrated annually worldwide to promote equality among people and eliminate discrimination based on gender, caste, religion, color, height, weight, and other factors. The message of this event is to live and let others live happily. The event was successfully conducted by NSS volunteers, and around 350 students participated in it. NSS Coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep also attended the event, and the Vice Chancellor Prof. R. K. Sinha appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers.



### NSS SMVDU Organized Shramdaan Activity in Sirah Village

NSS SMVDU organized shramdaan activity in Sirah village with main focus on cleanliness drive. The event started with an awareness rally in the market area of the village with the message "Say No To Single Use Plastic". Afterwards, a cleanliness drive was organized in the market area for around 2 hours. During the drive mainly single use plastic waste was collected. More than 100 volunteers participated enthusiastically and collected 112 Kg of plastic waste during the said drive. Wall painting was also done by 10 volunteers during the Shramdaan activity. NSS Programme coordinator & co-coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep also participated in the drive. Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. K. Sinha appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers.



### NSS SMVDU Organized Poster Making on Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh

NSS SMVDU Katra organized a poster making competition on Shaheed-E-Azam Bhagat Singh. Around 50 volunteers participated enthusiastically in the event. The event was organized to make students aware about the contribution of Shaheed Bhagat Singh in India's fight for freedom. Students showcased their creativity during the poster making competition. All the required materials for the poster making was provided by NSS team volunteers. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar appreciated the efforts of volunteers for organizing the event.



## SMVDU Hosted Visit of Govt. High School Tikri

SMVDU Katra hosted visit of students from Govt. High School KotliJijjan, Tikri, Udhampur under out-reach activity program . Around 50 students along with their teachers and headmaster participated in the visit. The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions under Rashtriya Avishkaar Abhiyaan (RAA). NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction of the University. Students were motivated to join higher educational institutes after completing their class 12th. During the event the school team visited university labs, auditorium, central workshop, sports complex, hostel etc. In the end refreshment was also provided to the school students. Mr. Sanjeev Kumar, Headmaster of the school thanked University authorities for hosting the visit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. R.K. Sinha appreciated the idea of such visits in the University.



## SMVDU Organizes Weeklong Yoga Sessions

National Service Scheme at SMVD University organized week long yoga sessions to commemorate the upcoming 9<sup>th</sup> International Day of Yoga (IDY) on 21st June 2023. NSS SMVDU is committed to inspiring a "Mass Movement for Health and Wellbeing" through Yoga. Yoga leads to mindfulness in students and improves their mental peace. Mental health is also very important in today's world. NSS volunteers are actively participating in these yoga sessions under the guidance of yoga instructor Shri Gurmelji. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar informed that these regular yoga sessions will be organized till Internal Yoga Day for staff and students of the University. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Ravinder Kumar Sinha congratulated the NSS team for starting these regular sessions for students.



## SMVDU Researcher Declares Qualified for the Award of PhD

Ms. Meenu Sharma, a Research Scholar at the School of Economics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics. Her research topic was "Impact of Micro Finance on Women Empowerment: A Study of Jammu Region," and she completed her studies under the supervision of Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU, and co-supervision of Dr. Roop Lal Sharma, Assistant Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU. Ms. Sharma has published research papers indexed in ABDC-ranked journals and presented several research papers at national and international conferences. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, the vice-chancellor, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Sharma on her achievement and wished her a bright future ahead.





## **Ms. Amina Khan Awarded PhD in Electronics and Communication Engineering at SMVDU**

Ms. Amina Khan has been awarded the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, Jammu and Kashmir. Her research work focused on "Optimized Self-Configurable UAV-Assisted Network for Disaster Recovery and Management" and was carried out under the guidance of Dr. Sumeet Gupta, Associate Professor, and co-supervision of Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor, School of Electronics and Communication Engineering. During her PhD program, Ms. Khan published four SCI/SCIE peer-reviewed international journal articles, one SCOPUS journal article, and one book chapter with a reputable publishing house. She also presented several papers at international and national conferences. Ms. Khan expressed her gratitude to The Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP-III) scheme for providing the fellowship during her PhD program. She also acknowledged the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering for providing her with all the necessary facilities and support for conducting her research work. Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Ajay Kaul, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Manish Sabraj, Head, School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Khan on her achievement and wished her a bright future ahead.



## **SMVDU Researcher Declares Qualified for the Award of PhD**

Ph.D. student Mr. Sunny Kumar Sharma from the School of Mathematics at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has successfully defended his Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics on the topic, titled "A Study on Metric Dimension and Its Variants of Certain Plane Graphs," under Dr. V.K. Bhat, a professor at the School of Mathematics, SMVDU. Mr. Sharma's research work has earned him the publication of multiple research papers in SCI/SCIE indexed journals. Additionally, he has presented his research at various national and international conferences, showcasing his impressive work on a global platform. Mr. Sharma's accomplishments have not gone unnoticed. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, the Dean of FoS, the Head of SoM, and other committee members have extended their heartfelt congratulations on his achievement and wished him a successful future. Mr. Sharma's success in completing his Ph.D. and publishing his research papers in prestigious journals is a testament to his hard work and dedication.



## **Ms. Sunali Bindra of SMVDU Declares Qualified for the award of PhD**

Ms. Sunali Bindra has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) award in the School of Business by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "Knowledge as a source for Dynamic Capability: A Case of Indian Enterprises" under the supervision of Dr. Hari Govind Mishra, Associate Professor, and Dr. Deepak Jain, Assistant Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, Katra. Ms. Sunali Bindra has published her research work in high-premier ABDC and Scopus-indexed international journals, and she has presented her research papers at several international conferences. The candidate is presently working as an Assistant Professor at Symbiosis Centre for Management & Human Resource Development (SCMHRD), Pune, Maharashtra. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Sunali Bindra, and wished her a bright future ahead.



### **SMVDU Researcher Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D. Degree**

Mr. Arvind Kumar Yadav, a researcher from the School of Economics at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, has successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. Under the guidance of Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Faculty at the School of Economics, SMVDU, he conducted empirical analysis on "Maternal Health Care Services Utilization in India" and has published scientific research papers in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the SSCI, SCI, SCOPUS, and ABDC ranked journals. Mr. Yadav has also presented his research work at various national and international conferences. He is currently serving as an Assistant Professor in the Department of Economics at Akal University, Talwandi Sabo, Punjab. The scholar expresses his gratitude to the School of Economics, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during his research work. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU; Dean, Faculty of Management; Head, School of Economics, and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished him a bright future.



### **SMVDU Researcher Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D. Degree**

Ms. Parul Sharma D/o Mr. Narinder Sharma and Mrs. Suman Lata R/o 134/2 Shiv Nagar, TalabTillo, Jammu has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Physics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. She worked on the topic "Synthesis, Structural and Spectral Studies of Doped Alkali-Alkaline Hybrid Vanadates" under the supervision of Dr. Kamni Pathania, School of Physics, SMVDU.

