

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- IIC sponsored one day Workshop on Quiz on "Emerging Business Scenario in India" on 14<sup>th</sup> March, 2023
- Two-day National Seminar on Precarious Lives, Vulnerability and Violence in Indian Public Sphere from 16<sup>th</sup> – 17<sup>th</sup> March, 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****SMVDU and Excise Dept Organises Mansar to Mahoregarh Trek**

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, in collaboration with Excise Department Jammu, organized a one-day trekking event from Mansar Lake to Mahoregarh Fort. The event was aimed at promoting soft adventure activities like trekking, adventure camps, hiking, etc., in Mansar and adjoining areas during winter. A group of 150 trekkers from SMVDU participated in the event and were flagged off from Mansar by Kusum Sharma, Dy. Excise Commissioner Executive Jammu. The event was also aimed at spreading awareness about drug abuse and encouraging youth to pursue a healthy lifestyle and take part in sports and adventure activities. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU, emphasized the need for cleanliness to be maintained in the Surinsar Mansar Wildlife sanctuary and thanked the Excise Department for sponsoring such events to motivate youth and keep them away from anti-social activities like drugs. Ved Prakash, CEO SMDA, invited the participants to explore heritage destinations like Mahoregarh Dhergarh, Purmandal, and Babore temples located in the jurisdiction of SMDA. Suraj Prakash Lochan ETO Samba and Rupali Vaid ETO Udhampur Excise Range talked about the menace of drug abuse and emphasized the need for community help, parental assistance, and proactive role shown by all sections of society. The seven-kilometer trek from Mansar to Mahoregarh Fort offered beautiful panoramic views of the nearby hills while ascending the trail. The trekkers were enchanted by the beauty of serene Mansar Lake and the greenery on offer. At the culmination of the trek, the participants were given certificates by the Chief Guest. The students from SMVDU shared their experiences and said that such trails give an opportunity to enjoy nature at its best and hoped for joining more treks organized by the University and the Excise Department in the near future. The event was a great success in promoting adventure activities and spreading awareness about drug abuse among youth.

**Workshop on Entrepreneurship Skills Organized at SMVDU**

SMVD University organized a workshop focused on developing entrepreneurship skills, attitudes, and behaviors. The event was held under the National Innovation and Start-up Policy and Institution Innovation Cell, and it included participants from various undergraduate and postgraduate programs. The workshop was inaugurated



by Dr. Supran K. Sharma, the Dean of the Faculty of Management and Chairman of the event. Dr. Jyoti Sharma, the Head of the School of Business, discussed the necessary traits for entrepreneurship and the development of entrepreneurs. Dr. Deepak Jain, the Coordinator of the Workshop, presented on identifying and pursuing business opportunities. Mr. Arjun Singh, a Research Scholar, moderated the workshop. Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Co-Coordinator of the workshop presented vote of thanks. The workshop also featured a successful entrepreneur, Mr. Rajneesh Sharma, who shared his experiences and offered advice to the students on topics such as branding, packaging, pricing, and logistics. The aim of the workshop was to instill entrepreneurial skills in aspiring managers so that they can initiate their own ventures in the future.

### **National Level Training Program for IFS Officer on Disaster Management Begins at SMVDU**



The School of Business at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a three-day national-level training program on "Disaster Management" for Indian Forest Service (IFS) officers, sponsored by the Ministry of Environment, Forests and Climate Change, Government of India. The program, which is the 15th in a series of successful training, aimed to equip IFS officers with the necessary skills for effective disaster management. At the inaugural function, Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, the Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, highlighted the importance of preserving the environment and creating awareness about its ill effects. Dr. Jyoti Sharma, Program Coordinator & Head, SoB, stressed the importance of education for disaster management preparation, rather than learning through tragedy. Dr. Suparn Kumar Sharma, Dean Faculty of Management, formally welcomed the delegates and elaborated on the aim of the program. Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Associate Professor, School of Business, introduced the SMVDU Technology Incubation Centre to the IFS officers and expressed his gratitude to the Vice-Chancellor for his constant support. The training program included IFS officers from several Indian states and utilized various strategies, tools, practical exercises, case studies, and multicultural discussions to explore the key issues faced when handling disaster situations. Mr. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, highlighted the crucial role of IFS officers in conserving natural resources for human sustenance and shared his experiences of disasters in Jammu and Kashmir. Dr. Deepak Jain, a Member of the Organizing Committee, delivered a vote of thanks to the different departments whose contributions were essential for the successful conduct of the program.



## SMVDU Organizes Seminar on Patent Filing and Startup

As part of the institutional innovation council, an online seminar titled "Mentorship Support in Patent Filing and Startup" was delivered by Dr. Adarsh Kumar Pandey, a Professor at the Research Centre for Nano-Materials and Energy Technology, Sunway University, Malaysia. The seminar aimed to provide professional and career development opportunities for both teachers and students by giving them hands-on experience in drafting patents and an overview of the patent filing procedure. The goal was to encourage faculty and students to file patents for their projects and future startups. The session was highly interactive, with Dr. Kapil Chopra and Dr. Yatheshth Anand serving as Convener and Co-Convener, respectively. They facilitated the query session and expressed their appreciation for Dr. Pandey's informative and thought-provoking presentation and the active participation of the attendees.



## EPFO Regional Office Jammu Organizes the "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 - Awareness Program" at SMVDU



The Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO) Regional Office Jammu held an "Nidhi Aapke Nikat 2.0 - Awareness Program" at SMVDU, providing handholding support to stakeholders and addressing their suggestions, inputs, and grievances. The program aimed to facilitate services for the SMVDU community, including the settlement of claims, grievance redressal, and various online initiatives such as balance inquiries, filing online claims, and COVID-19 advance claims. The EPFO Enforcement Officer, Mr. Parmod Kumar Singh, provided a hands-on demonstration and addressed the officials' issues and problems during the seminar. The program was attended by officials from SMVDU, including the Registrar Nagendra Singh Jamwal JKAS, Finance Officer Neeraj Gupta JKAS, Deans, Directors, Faculty, and non-teaching staff, as well as officials from SMVDSB and Narayana Hospital. Attendees benefited from making minor changes to their details, and the program made efforts to address grievances and cases the same day. Overall, the EPFO Regional Office Jammu was appreciated for its initiative in organizing the program.

## Nodal Centre for Virtual Lab IIT Roorkee

SMVDU is proud to announce that its Nodal Center for Virtual Lab Collaboration with IIT Roorkee has been operational since February 2023. The Virtual Labs project is a venture of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, and aims to improve the quality of laboratory and practical training provided to Engineering and Science students across the country. Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, assistant professor, has been appointed as the Nodal Coordinator for Virtual Lab IIT Roorkee. Under this initiative, laboratory facilities in various disciplines of engineering and science education are virtualized using the internet and related technologies. This allows students to access the lab of their choice and perform experiments at a convenient time slot. The experimentation and learning process are further strengthened by detailed in-

instructions, theory, and analysis given with each experiment. The initiative has been found to be useful for the learning of students of electronics engineering and electrical engineering, and in the present semester, Analog Electronics Lab will use virtual labs for practicals along with a conventional hardware lab. Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj expressed his gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, Registrar, Dean of FOE, and Head of the School of ECE for starting this initiative.

## Celebration and Day Observed

### SMVDU Celebrates World Wetlands Day at Surinsar



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, in collaboration with the Directorate of Tourism, Jammu, celebrated World Wetlands Day at Surinsar Lake, a designated Ramsar site. The event included a keynote lecture delivered by Padma Shri Prof. RK Sinha, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, who emphasized the importance of water bodies like Surinsar Lake in providing drinking water supply, recharging groundwater, and providing refuge to flora and fauna. Prof. Sinha stressed the need for preserving wetlands in Jammu and Kashmir for the sake of sheltering local and migratory birds, ensuring food chain health, and avoiding harmful consequences of climate change, water-food security, and disaster management. He also highlighted the cultural and social significance of the wetlands, particularly Surinsar and Mansar Lakes in the Jammu region. A lake walk around the Surinsar Lake was undertaken by faculty members, research scholars, and students from the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, who enjoyed the scenic beauty of the place and sighted wild birds and rare turtles. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology, spoke about the need for preserving the wetlands and water bodies of Jammu and Kashmir and called upon the young bird watchers to be ambassadors of nature conservation. Ved Prakash, CEO Surinsar Mansar Development Authority, who was the Guest of honour, informed the audience about the steps taken by SMDA to preserve Sunisar-Mansar Lakes and its importance in generating tourism-related income for the local economy. The program also included a debate and poster competition on the topic "it is the time for wetland restoration" with awards distributed to the winners. The event concluded with a formal vote of thanks presented by the Event Co-Coordinator Dr. Sharada Potukuchi. World Wetlands Day is celebrated each year on 2nd February to raise awareness about wetlands and their conservation.



# Faculty/Staff Updates

## Talk Delivered

### Dr. Jindal of SMVDU Delivers a Talk on 'Geopolymer Concrete' (GCEON-2023) at CSIR Chennai

Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, a faculty member of the School of Civil Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, delivered an invited lecture on "Geopolymer Concrete utilizing Industrial Waste and Recycled Aggregates for Environmental friendly construction." The lecture was held online as part of the advanced course on "Geopolymer Concrete" (GCEON-2023) on 2nd and 3rd February 2023 at CSIR- Structural Engineering Research Centre, CSIR Campus, Chennai. During the lecture, Dr. Jindal addressed the increasing demand for infrastructure development and the impact of the cement manufacturing process on the environment. He also discussed the use of various agricultural and industrial waste materials and demolition wastes in the development of Geopolymer Concrete as a sustainable alternative to conventional cement concrete. The lecture was well-received by participants and highlighted the significance and scope of research in Geopolymer Concrete for budding civil engineers and research scholars.



### SMVDU Faculty Conducted a Session in International Workshop

Dr. Rashmi Taggar, a faculty member of the School of Business at SMVD University, conducted a session at an international workshop on innovations in research methodology and quality concerns in pedagogical studies – NEP 2020. The workshop was organized by the Govt. College of Education, Jammu and was held over two days. Dr. Taggar's session focused on the different types of triangulation used in research and its application in social sciences. Triangulation helps to ensure the credibility and increased validity of the collected data by reducing bias. Faculty members and scholars from the UT, other states, and countries participated in the workshop.



## Paper Presented

### SMVDU Faculty Presents a Paper at NIT Pondicherry

Prof. E. Muthusamy, from the Mechanical Engineering Department of SMVDU, presented a technical paper titled "Performance Evaluation of Solar Air Heater with and without Thermoelectric Generator" at the ENT 2023 Conference, held virtually from 2-4 February 2023 at the National Institute of Technology in Puducherry Karaikal. The paper discussed the use of a thermoelectric generator to improve the performance of a solar air heater, and was well-received by the conference attendees, which included researchers, academicians, and industry experts from all over the world.



# Student Updates

### SMVDU Participated in the Students Exchange Program under EBSB AKAM

From 23rd to 27th January 2023, a group of twenty-five students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) participated in a student exchange program under EBSB and Azaadi ka Amrit Mahotsav at AMET University, Chennai. The program provided the students with a comprehensive experience of the

# EK BHARAT SHRESHTHA BHARAT STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

Pair State

Tamil Nadu

&

Jammu & Kashmir



city tours, temple visits, and visits to museums, libraries, heritage sites, and monuments. The students also had the opportunity to enjoy authentic south Indian delicacies served on banana leaves while being entertained with melodious songs and dance forms, which helped to sensitize them to the culture of Tamil Nadu. The students also participated in cooking, preparing chapati, dosa, sambar, and curry. To show respect and honour the hospitality and warmth of the host institution, both students and faculty members dressed in traditional south Indian attire. Talks on Universal Human Values and South Indian Culture were organized to showcase the nuances and intricacies associated with human endeavours. Additionally, the students participated in the March past followed by cultural programs on Republic Day, which were collaboratively performed by the AMET Cultural team and the students from SMVDU. The Founder and Chancellor of AMET University and the Vice Chancellor distributed certificates and mementoes to the participants. Overall, the program provided a unique cultural experience for the students and helped to broaden their perspectives.



## NSS SMVDU Organized an Awareness Rally on "Drug Abuse"

The NSS unit of SMVDU Katra organized an awareness rally against drug abuse in Sirah village of Panthal block. The rally aimed to spread awareness among the people about the harmful effects of drug abuse and to encourage parents to keep a close watch on their children to prevent them from falling prey to addiction. Around 100 enthusiastic volunteers participated in the rally, which started from the University premises and covered the market area of Sirah village before reaching the police check post near DPS Katra School. The volunteers then returned following the same route. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, praised the volunteers for organizing the rally successfully. Vice Chancellor, Prof. R. K. Sinha also congratulated the volunteers for their efforts in organizing the much-needed campaign.



## SMVDU Researcher Receives UGC Fellowship

Pooja Tomar, a Ph.D. scholar in the School of Philosophy & Culture at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, has been awarded the Savitri Bai Jyotirao Phule Single Girl Child Fellowship (SJS GC) for the 2022-23 academic year by the University Grants Commission (UGC) on February 7th, 2023. She is currently working under the supervision of Dr. Anil Kumar Tewari in the field of Indian Philosophy of Language. The SJS GC is one of several fellowships offered by the UGC to support the higher education of single girl children. The PG Indira Gandhi Scholarship for Single Girl Child is another such scholarship available to single girl children. The UGC has consistently encouraged female students to pursue higher education, and these fellowships serve as an important means of facilitating that pursuit.



## NSS SMVDU Organized an Awareness Rally with MAM College Jammu

The National Service Scheme (NSS) group at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) in Katra collaborated with M.A.M. College Jammu to organize an awareness rally aimed at advocating for a reduction in plastic usage. The NSS team from SMVDU was requested by M.A.M. College Jammu to conduct a session with their own NSS volunteers and organize the awareness rally. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the NSS Coordinator at SMVDU, conducted the session, during which he briefed the students about various activities conducted by NSS SMVDU in the past year. The primary objective of the session was to encourage students to participate in NSS activities to develop their personalities and contribute to the community. Dr. Vishal Sharma, the NSS Programme Officer at MAM College, expressed appreciation to the NSS team from SMVDU. The awareness rally was held on the college campus, with both NSS teams working together to advocate for reduced plastic usage. Prof. Dr. G.D. Singh Rakwal, the Principal of MAM College, lauded the efforts of the NSS groups and suggested that they organize more such events in the future.



## SMVDU, B Tech(Mech.Engg.) Student Presented Technical Paper in ENT 2023

Shubh Prakash, a BTech Mechanical Engineering student at SMVDU, presented a paper titled "Transient Heat Transfer Studies on Different Positions of Thermoelectric Generator Integrated Solar Air Heaters for Buildings" at the first International Interdisciplinary Conference on Energy, Nanotechnology, and Internet of Things (ENT 2023), which was held virtually in February 2023. The conference was organized by the National Institute of Technology Puducherry. In his presentation, Mr. Shubh Prakash discussed various operating and design parameters using a transient heat transfer model applied to different positions of the thermoelectric generator. The technical paper was co-authored by Shivam Sharma, Naman Mahajan, Shivam Bhat, Eswaramoorthy M., and Ravi Kumar Goyal. The conference provided a platform for students and researchers to exchange ideas and share their research findings in the field of energy, nanotechnology, and Internet of Things. Mr. Shubh Prakash's presentation was well-received, and his research could contribute to the development of sustainable energy solutions for buildings.



## Mr. Ishfaq Hamid Qualifies for Ph.D in Economics

Mr. Ishfaq Hamid, a Research Scholar at the School of Economics at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully completed his Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Economics. His research topic was "Impact of Corruption, Democracy, and Political Stability on Foreign Direct Investment (FDI) Inflows in SAARC Countries," which he completed under the supervision of Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Assistant Professor at the School of Economics, SMVDU. Mr. Hamid received the Centrally Sponsored ICSSR Doctoral Fellowship for his research, and he has published research papers in SCI/SCIE/SSCI and ABDC-ranked journals. He has also presented his research at various international and national conferences and has worked on different research projects sponsored by ICSSR and NITI Aayog. Currently, he is working at MICA -Ahmedabad. Mr. Hamid expressed his gratitude to the School of Economics at SMVDU University and ICSSR for their support and facilities that helped him carry out his research work. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, the Dean of FOM, the Head of SOE, and other committee members congratulated him on his achievement and wished him a successful future. The research conducted by Mr. Hamid has significant implications for understanding the factors that affect FDI inflows in SAARC countries, which can inform policy decisions and promote economic development. His success in completing his PhD and publishing his research papers in prestigious journals is a testament to his hard work and dedication, and it is a significant accomplishment for SMVDU.



## SMVDU Research Scholar delivers a talk on Android malware at Kazakhstan

Ms. Monika Sharma, a Ph.D. Scholar at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, delivered a lecture on her research topic, 'Android Malware Detection,' at the Eurasian National University in Kazakhstan. The university, ranked 227th in the world, provided an excellent platform for Ms. Sharma to discuss different Android malware attacks that occurred over the past year. Her talk covered various malware detection techniques, including static analysis, dynamic analysis, and hybrid analysis, as well as machine learning methods for Android malware detection. Ms. Sharma's expertise and knowledge, gained during her pursuit of a Ph.D. under the guidance of Dr. Ajay Kaul, an Associate Professor at SMVDU, is a testament to the quality of research being conducted at the university. The students at Eurasian National University showed great enthusiasm for the topic, reflecting the relevance and importance of the research in today's digital age. Overall, Ms. Sharma's lecture was an excellent learning experience for the students, providing them with valuable insights into the field of Android malware detection.





## SMVDU PhD student Presents a Paper at an International Conference

Ms. Pooja Tomar, a PhD candidate in the School of Philosophy & Culture at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra, presented a research paper titled "Digital Media and the well-being of I" in the Philosophy track of the International Conference on Multidisciplinary Research Perspectives-2023 [ICMRP:23]. The conference was organized by The Bhopal School of Social Sciences on the 16th and 17th of February 2023. The objective of the conference was to provide a platform for academic and industry research outputs, develop a strong research culture among industry and academic professionals, enhance free and accessible knowledge sharing, and educate the community of scholars on current topics and issues in the industry and academia. The conference also focused on the interconnectedness of academia and industry and fostered research presentations, journal publications, and professional development. Shri Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Head of the School of Philosophy & Culture at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, chaired the Philosophy and Sociology session at the International Conference and was an expert in the Philosophy track.



## SMVDU Students Participated in NEST'23 Organized by ANS-IIT Jammu

The Department of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University participated in a one-day workshop called National Energy and Science Technology (NEST'23) on Nuclear Power Programme, organized by the American Nuclear Society-IIT Jammu at the IIT-Jammu Campus. The workshop was attended by faculty members, including Prof. Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, and students from the Department. During the workshop, students were given detailed information about the Physics of Nuclear Reactors, Types of Nuclear Power Plants, Potential & Advances in Nuclear Power, Reducing Radiation Exposure & Waste Management Approaches, and other related topics. They also had the opportunity to interact with renowned nuclear scientists and professors, including Dr. Sugilal Gopalakrishnan (Head, Fuel Processing Unit, BARC), Shri. Shiv Abhilash Bhardwaj (Former Chairman, Atomic Energy Regulation Board), Dr. Debabrata Datta (Ex-Associate Director, Nuclear Power Corporation of India Ltd.), and Prof. Kannan Iyer (Dean Faculty Affairs & Sr. Professor, IIT Jammu). The interactions with the guest speakers allowed the students to get their doubts resolved, and they also gained valuable knowledge about Nuclear Science and India's progress in the Nuclear field. Overall, the workshop provided an excellent platform for the students to learn about Nuclear Power Programme and interact with experts in the field, which would help them in their future endeavors.



## SMVDU Engineering Fraternity Interacts with Experts from IIT Roorkee



The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a demonstration and interaction session with experts from IIT Roorkee. The event was well-received by students, who showed great interest in the projects showcased on the Virtual Lab platform. The session was coordinated by Dr. Vikram Singh and Neeraj Tripathi, with support and assistance from Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Nodal Coordinator and faculty member at the School of ECE at SMVDU. The visiting experts, Mr. Rajeev and Pankaj, conducted a live demonstration of various projects and interacted with the students to answer their queries. Dr. Anil Bhardwaj stated that similar meetings would be conducted in the future, and the virtual lab project would be made available to other colleges as well. The event proved to be a valuable learning experience for the students, and they were able to gain practical knowledge and insight into the latest developments in the field.

## Short Term Training Program at NITTTR Chandigarh

Er. Arjun Kotwal, a Lab Assistant at the School of Mechanical Engineering, and Mr. Kewal Krishan, a Workshop operator (Machinist) at the Central Workshop of the School of Mechanical Engineering, have successfully completed a 5-day Short Term Course on 'CNC Machine operator and Programming' from 20th to 24th February 2023 at NITTTR Chandigarh. The course focused on providing the participants with practical knowledge and skills on CNC machine operation and programming, and it was designed to enhance their proficiency in handling CNC machines. The course will enable them to work more efficiently and effectively in the School of Mechanical Engineering's workshop and will also enhance their career prospects.



# Glimpses of Wetland Day at Surinsar

