

**UPCOMING EVENTS**

- **National Seminar on "Essentials of Product Development" on 3rd May, 2023.**
- **One Week Workshop on "Blockchain and Cryptocurrencies" from 22nd–26th May, 2023.**
- **Two Day Workshop on Electric Vehicle from 25th –26th May, 2023.**
- **National Seminar on Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects on 7th June, 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

VC, SMVDU Attended 36th Convocation of IGNOU at Jammu

Indira Gandhi National Open University (IGNOU) conducted its 36th Convocation simultaneously at 33 Regional Centres nationwide, including the Regional Centre Jammu and Srinagar. The convocation ceremony for the Jammu Regional Centre took place at the Convention Centre Jammu. The esteemed chief guest for the Jammu convocation was Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. A total of 10,506 students from the Jammu Regional Centre successfully completed their studies and were eligible to receive Diplomas and Degree Certificates during the 36th Convocation. This includes



4,536 students from Master Degree programs, 5,230 students from Bachelor Degree programs, 469 students from Diploma/Post Graduate Diploma programs, and 271 students from Certificate/Post Graduate Certificate programs. During his convocation address, Prof. R K Sinha commended the efforts of the Regional Centre functionaries for their dedication in expanding educational opportunities in the region. He emphasized that the awardees should use their educational achievements to benefit the world and highlighted the collective responsibility to work for the progress of society and the country as a whole.

DST-SERB Sponsored National Workshop on Green Hydrogen Production Organised at SMVDU



The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a 2-day workshop, sponsored by DST-SERB. The workshop saw the participation of over 30 attendees from across India. The esteemed presence of Padma

Shri R. K Sinha, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Dr. Mansa Ram Nouni, former Adviser at the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy, GOI, and Dr. Ajay Koul, Dean of FoE, graced the event. The workshop aimed to create awareness about harnessing hydrogen as an energy source and its potential benefits for society. Prof. M. Eswaramoorthy, Head of SOME, along with Dr. Yathesth Anand, Assistant Professor at SoME, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Assistant Professor at SoEM, organized and convened the workshop. The event featured speakers from diverse fields who shared their expertise on utilizing hydrogen from various sources and highlighted government policies and initiatives in the field. Topics included techniques for utilizing hydrogen, alternate sources of hydrogen, and the limitations in achieving the green hydrogen mission. Notable speakers included Dr. Mansa Ram Nouni, Dr. Ravail Singh, Senior Scientist at CSIR-IIIM Jammu, Dr. B Satya Sekhar from IIT Jammu, Prof. Kannan Iyer from IIT Jammu, and Dr. Ravi Kumar Arun from IIT Jammu. Dr. R.K. Mishra presented the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to DST-SERB, the Government of India, all participants, the university administration, and the faculty and staff of SOME for their dedicated efforts in ensuring the success of the workshop.

Celebration and Day Observed

Dept. of Archives J&K, SMVDU celebrates World Heritage Day



The Department of Archives, Archaeology and Museums, in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Jammu Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture and Languages, and Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (Jammu Chapter), celebrated World Heritage Day at Matrika Auditorium in SMVDU. Prof R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, was the chief guest. The event witnessed the presence of academicians, heritage enthusiasts, archaeologists, architects, storytellers, writers, and art lovers. Prof R K Sinha emphasized the importance of appreciating India's heritage and encouraged students to develop a keen interest in the rich heritage and culture of the country. He applauded the efforts of the Archives Department for involving university students in the preservation and promotion of heritage. He also highlighted the presence of antiquities from the Harappan civilization to the Dogra rulers in the Jammu region. Dr. Lalit Gupta, a distinguished culture and art historian, described the Jammu region as a mini-India and emphasized the involvement of youth in raising awareness about heritage. He shared insights about the sculptures carved on the walls of the Charai Muttal Bawlis and discussed the legend surrounding their construction. Arvind Kotwal, coordinator of Heritage Tourism at INTACH, highlighted the importance of documenting and preserving the built heritage of Jammu. Dr. Sangeeta Sharma, Assistant Director of Archives, briefed the audience about the rich heritage of the Jammu region, particularly highlighting the Charai Muttal Bowli as a prime example of Bawli architecture. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar of SMVDU, stressed the significance of disseminating information about culture and heritage and their conservation. The audience enjoyed a captivating folk performance and Kudd performance, which further deepened their appreciation for intangible cultural heritage. Students from SMVDU recited Hindi and Dogri songs during the event. Dr. Rakesh Kumar and Dr. Kamini from the Board of Cultural Activities at SMVDU coordinated the event. The students and faculty of SMVDU also visited the Charai Muttal Bowli site. World Heritage Day aims to raise awareness about the importance of heritage and encourages the preservation and promotion of both tangible and intangible heritage in the country.

Faculty/Staff Updates

Talk Delivered

SMVDU, Faculty Delivers Expert Lecture on NEP 2020

Dr. Balbir Singh, Associate Professor at the School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, delivered an online expert lecture on 'National Education Policy 2020: Challenges and Opportunities for Teachers of Higher Education Institutions'. The lecture was part of the Faculty Development Program on 'Innovative and Emerging Thrust Areas of Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering' held from 03-08 April 2023. The program was organized by Sandip Foundation's Shri Ram Polytechnic in Sijoul, Madhubani, Bihar. Dr. Singh provided insights into the revolutionary transformation brought about by the new education policy in India. He highlighted key aspects such as multidisciplinary and holistic education, blended learning, choice-based credit systems, flexible learning options, skilling and employability, research and internships, and a streamlined regulatory framework. The NEP 2020 aims to create a teaching-learning environment rooted in Indian culture, values, and traditional knowledge systems to regain India's historical position as the Visvaguru. The lecture attracted renowned academicians, industrialists, and scholars from across India.



SMVDU Faculty Delivers a Talk on 17 SDGs

Prof. Eswaramoorthy from SMVDU delivered an invited talk on the "National Green Hydrogen Mission 2023" at Adhiyamaan College of Engineering in Hosur, Tamil Nadu. The talk focused on sustainable development goals, green hydrogen generation, safety standards, and the mission's expected outcomes. Students and faculty engaged in an interactive session, gaining valuable insights on sustainable energy practices. The talk fostered awareness and emphasized the significance of green hydrogen in India's energy landscape.



Paper Presented/Published

- Dr. Balbir Singh, Associate Professor from the School of Mechanical Engineering, completed the NPTEL Online Certification course titled 'Designing Learner-Centric MOOCs' with Elite + Gold result organized by IIT Bombay during Jan-Feb 2023.
- Dr. Balbir Singh completed the UGC approved Short Term Professional Development Programme on 'Implementation of NEP2020 for University and College Teachers' from 23 February to 03 March 2023, with an 'A' Grade. The program was organized by the Staff Training and Research Institute of Distance Education, IGNOU, New Delhi.
- Dr. Balbir Singh delivered an online expert lecture on 'National Education Policy 2020: Challenges and Opportunities for Teachers of Higher Education Institutions' in the Faculty Development Program on 'Innovative and Emerging Thrust Areas of Civil, Electrical, and Mechanical Engineering' held from 03-08 April 2023. The program was organized by Sandip Foundation's Shri Ram Polytechnic in Sijoul, Madhubani, Bihar.

Student Updates

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

Ms. Insha Altaf has successfully completed her Ph.D. in the School of Computer Science & Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, J&K. Her research focused on "An End to End Framework for Collision Detection and Victim Management in Intelligent Transport System," under the guidance of Dr. Ajay Kaul, Associate Professor at the same school. Throughout her Ph.D., Ms. Insha has published papers in prestigious journals and presented her research at international conferences. She expressed gratitude to the Technical Education Quality Improvement Programme (TEQIP-III) for providing fellowship support during her Ph.D. She also acknowledged the School of Computer Science and Engineering and the School of Biotechnology for their assistance and facilities. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, and other committee members congratulated her on her achievement and wished her a successful future.



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

Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, a Research Scholar at the School of Economics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully completed his Ph.D. in Economics. His research focused on "A Study of Infrastructural Development and Its Impact on Agricultural Production in Jammu and Kashmir" under the guidance of Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, Assistant Professor, and Dr. Roop Lal Sharma, Assistant Professor. Mr. Sharma has published papers in ABDC-ranked journals and presented his research at national and international conferences. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, the vice-chancellor, and other committee members congratulated Mr. Sharma on his achievement and wished him a successful future.



Ms. Heena Shoket, Researcher at SMVDU, Declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Heena Shoket, a research scholar in the School of Biotechnology at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, has successfully completed her Ph.D. Her research focused on "Investigation into the Genetic interactions of F-box Motif Encoding gene YDR131C with Certain Replication Fork Associated Factors in *Saccharomyces cerevisiae*" under the guidance of Dr. Narendra K Bairwa, Assistant Professor, and Prof. V. Verma, Former Professor. Ms. Heena Shoket presented her research at international conferences and published her findings in SCIE journals. She expressed her gratitude to the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, and the funding agency DBT, DST GOI for their support. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. R.K. Sinha, and the committee members congratulated her on her achievement and wished her success in the future.



Mr. Shailesh Pandita of SMVDU Declares Qualified for the award of Ph.D.

Mr. Shailesh Pandita 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 "A Study of Consumer Adoption Behaviour in Ride Sharing Economy" under the supervision of Dr. Hari Govind Mishra, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, Katra. Mr. Shailesh Pandita has published his research work in high-premier ABDC, SSCI and Scopus-indexed international journals, and he has presented his research papers at several international conferences. The scholar expresses his gratitude



to the School of Business, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during his research work. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Mr. Shailesh Pandita, and wished him a bright future ahead.

SMVDU Scholar Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Mr Sajid Ali Rather has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the School of Business, Faculty of Management by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "Inclusive and Sustainable Power Sector Reforms in the State of Jammu and Kashmir" under the supervision of Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU. Mr Sajid Ali Rather has published various research papers in Australian Business Deans Council (ABDC) Journal Quality List indexed journals and presented his research papers at ASDI SDC Research Synergy and other International Conferences. At present, the candidate is working in NHPC's subsidiary CVPP in Jammu & Kashmir. The scholar expresses his gratitude to the School of Business, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during his research. Padma Shri Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Mr. Sajid Ali Rather and wished him a bright future.



SMVDU Scholar Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Mr Gourav Kumar has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Computer Science and Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "Hybrid Evolutionary Neural Networks Approach for Stock Market Prediction" under Prof. Sanjeev Jain, Vice-Chancellor, Central University of Jammu and Dr Uday Pratap Singh, Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, SMVDU. Mr Gourav Kumar has published various research papers in SCI/SCIE-indexed journals and presented his research papers at international and national conferences. At present, the candidate is working at Satish Dhawan Centre for Space Sciences, Central University of Jammu. The scholar expresses his gratitude to the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during his research. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Mr. Gourav Kumar and wished him a bright future.



SMVDU Scholar Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Shipra Misra has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "Effectiveness of Destination Advertising : An Empirical Study of Tourism in Jammu & Kashmir" under the supervision of Dr. Kakali Majumdar, Associate Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU, Katra. Ms Shipra Misra has published her research work in high-premier ABDC and UGC indexed journals and she has presented her research papers at several national and international conferences. The scholar expresses her gratitude to the School of Business, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research work. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU and other committee members congratulated Ms. Shipra Misra and wished her a bright future ahead.



SMVDU Scholar Declares Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Navleen Kour has successfully completed her Ph.D. in the School of Computer Science & Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. Her research focused on "A Vision-based Approach for Classification of Abnormal and Normal Gait using Effective Learning Models" under the supervision of Dr. Sunanda and co-supervision of Dr. Sakshi Arora. During her Ph.D., she published research papers in highly reputed SCI/SCIE and SCOPUS indexed journals, and she also created her own dataset published on Mendeley. Ms. Navleen expressed gratitude to the TEQIP-III scheme for fellowship support and acknowledged the School of Computer Science & Engineering for providing necessary facilities. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, and the committee members congratulated her on her achievement and wished her a successful future.



Arjun Puri of SMVDU Declares Qualified for the award of Ph.D.

Mr. Arjun Puri S/o Smt. Shakuntla Puri and Sh. Vijay Kumar Puri R/o Trikuta Nagar Ext. Jammu, has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the school of computer science and Engineering (CSE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on title, "Improved Techniques for Handling class imbalance and missing values in datasets" under the supervision of Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU. The candidate has published research papers indexed in SCI/SCIE ranked journals and has presented papers at Scopus indexed international conferences. The candidate has expressed his gratitude to the Supervisor Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta and Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Sinha, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished him a bright future ahead.



SMVDU Hosted Visit of Govt. Higher Sec. School Akhnoor



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University hosted a visit by students from Govt. Girls Higher Sec. School Akhnoor as part of an outreach program. Around 100 students, accompanied by their teachers and principal, participated in the visit. The purpose of the visit was to enhance their knowledge and awareness about higher educational institutions, under the direction of the directorate of SAMAGRA Shiksha. NSS volunteers from the university joined the school team during the visit. University officials, including NSS Coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and senior faculty members, welcomed the school officials and students, providing a brief introduction to the university. The students were motivated to pursue higher education after completing their class 12th. The school team had the opportunity to visit various facilities, including the university library, central workshop, and auditorium. The school principal expressed gratitude to the university for hosting the visit, and Vice Chancellor Prof. R.K. Sinha appreciated the efforts of the Dean Student Welfare team and NSS volunteers for organizing the visit.

NSS SMVDU organized awareness session in Govt. High School

The NSS unit of SMVDU Katra organized an awareness session on personal hygiene and health at Govt. High School in Kakryal village. The session focused on the primary wing students of the school. NSS Volunteer Saaniya demonstrated proper handwashing before meals, emphasizing the importance of personal hygiene for a healthy body. To make the message more accessible, volunteers performed a play. They also inquired about the students' food habits and the school's mid-day meal menu for the week. At the end of the session, refreshments were distributed to the students. The school principal appreciated the efforts of the NSS volunteers and discussed ideas for future visits. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator of the University, congratulated the volunteers for the successful organization of the event.



SMVDU hosted visit of Govt. Girls Higher Sec. School Jammu



SMVD University hosted a visit from approximately 60 girl students, accompanied by their teachers and principal, from Govt. Girls Higher Sec. School in Bakshi Nagar, Jammu, as part of an outreach activity program. The visit aimed to enhance knowledge and awareness among students about higher educational institutions, under the direction of the directorate of SAMAGRA Shiksha. NSS volunteers from the University accompanied the school team during the visit. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and workshop Supdt. Er. Deepak Byotra welcomed the school officials and students, providing a brief introduction to the University. The students were motivated to consider joining higher educational institutes after completing their class 12th. During the event, the school team visited the university library, central workshop, and auditorium, where they received information about the admission process for various courses from admission chairman Dr. Balbir Singh. The Principal of the school expressed gratitude to the University authorities for hosting the visit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. R.K. Sinha, commended the efforts of NSS volunteers in organizing the visit. This visit provided a valuable opportunity for the girl students to learn more about higher education institutions and explore the possibility of pursuing higher education in the future. It reflects SMVDU Katra's ongoing commitment to promote education and raise awareness about higher education among students in the surrounding regions. The University aims to provide opportunities for young students to explore their academic interests and pursue their career aspirations.

NSS SMVDU organized Sahaj Yoga Workshop



The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra organized a Sahaj Yoga workshop for students on Monday. The workshop aimed to introduce students to the concept of Sahaj Yoga, which is based on the philosophy that every human being is born with a subtle mechanism inside that when awakened, gives a "Spontaneous Union with the Divine." The Sahaj Yoga team from Jammu and Kashmir, led by state coordinator Shri Avinash Sharma, conducted the workshop. The team comprised around 15 members, and more than 300 participants attended the workshop in the University auditorium. Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep, NSS Coordinators, along with Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, HoD School of Economics, and Dr. Pankaj Biswas welcomed the Sahaj Yoga team from Jammu. The session proved to be very fruitful for students and had a calming and soothing effect on their minds. In the current stressful times, such workshops are the need of the hour for students. Vice Chancellor Prof. R.K. Sinha appreciated the initiative and emphasized the importance of organizing more such events for students. The workshop was a success, and the students were encouraged to practice Sahaj Yoga regularly to help them achieve balance and inner peace.

NSS SMVDU organized weeklong plogging sessions

NSS unit at SMVD university organized week-long plogging sessions as a part of "FIT India" and "Clean Campus Drive" initiatives. The drive started daily in the morning at 6:30 am with a fitness programme and afterwards all volunteers performed activities related to cleanliness inside the campus. Volunteers were engaged in various activities during cleanliness like sweeping of roads and other pathways, collecting leaves, making water collection area for small plants etc. Daily volunteers were assigned different groups and each group was allocated one location to be cleaned in the campus. Around 50 volunteers participated daily in the said programme. NSS Coordinator and Co-coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. kamaldeep appreciated the efforts of NSS student coordinators for organizing these sessions.



SMVDU remembers Jalianwala Bagh Massacre



NSS SMVDU Katra organized a poster making competition on Jalianwala Bagh Massacre. The event was organized to make students aware about the historical incident on April 13, 1919, in which British troops fired on a large crowd of unarmed Indians in an open space known as the Jallianwala Bagh in Amritsar in the Punjab region. That incident became a turning point for our freedom fight and connected all Indians against Britishers. Around 30 volunteers participated enthusiastically in the event. Students showcased their creativity during the poster making competition. All the required materials for the poster making was provided by NSS team volunteers. NSS volunteer Anshika coordinated the event with other volunteers successfully.

VYOM SMVDU organized Astronomy activities

VYOM Astronomy Club, SMVD University organized a weeklong astronomy activities in which Astro photography, presentation on space, rocket activity and Astronomy related presentations and discussions were organized. Students of different departments of the university participated in these programs and benefitted new information about space. Water rockets were used in rocket related activities to provide general knowledge about rocket launching. A detailed information related to the real rocket science was provided through demonstrations & presentation, as well as a detailed discussion was held on India's space success and achievements. Black holes, supernova topics were discussed in detail. VYOM's Student Coordinator Piyush Bhardwaj, Sadhvi had contributed in organizing these events, along with this, the co-operation of VYOM's coordinators Ayush Arya and Milind Shukla.

