



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **One Day Workshop on Sustainable Cities and Communities to Avoid Adverse Effect on the Environment on 8<sup>th</sup> August, 2023.**

## PATRON

**Prof. Pragati Kumar**  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

## EDITOR

**Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi**  
Chairperson, Media Cell

## DESIGN & DRAFT

**Mr. Girdhari Lal Sharma**  
Office Assistant, Media Cell

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Mr. Om Parkash**

## Campus Jottings

### Prof. Pragati Kumar takes over as Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU

Prof. Pragati Kumar has assumed the prestigious role of Vice-Chancellor at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. His appointment was made by the Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, the Lieutenant Governor of UT of Jammu & Kashmir. Prof. Kumar brings with him a wealth of experience, having served as a Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering at Delhi Technological University. Throughout his distinguished career, Prof. Pragati Kumar has shown immense dedication to his field of expertise, which includes Active Networks, Analog Integrated Circuit, Non-linear Circuit Design, and Analog Instrumentation. His vast knowledge and academic prowess extend to other leadership roles as well, such as Head of the Department of Electrical Engineering and Dean of Industrial Research Development at Delhi Technical University. With over 32 years of professional and research experience, Prof. Kumar has established himself as a prominent member of various prestigious academic institutions in the country. He has authored more than 55 publications in reputed International/National Journals, books, and conferences. His appointment as Vice-Chancellor for a period of three years holds great promise for Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. His expertise in teaching and research is expected to propel the university towards greater success in all its endeavors. Upon assuming his new position, Prof. Pragati Kumar received a warm and cordial welcome from all Deans, Registrar, Finance Officer, and other senior functionaries of the University. His presence at the helm is sure to bring about positive developments and advancements for the institution.



### National Seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" held at SMVDU



A day-long national seminar on "Smart Materials: Current Scenario and Future Prospects" was conducted at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The seminar was meticulously organized by the School of Mechanical Engineering under the Faculty of Engineering at SMVDU. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor at the School of Mechanical Engineering and the coordinator of the program, provided a comprehensive overview of the seminar's objectives. The primary aim of the seminar was to acquaint the participants with the various applications and advancements in smart materials within the realm of Mechanical Engineering. The inaugural session of the seminar was graced by Dr. Ankush Anand, In-charge Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, who presided as the Chief Guest. Dr. Anand, in his address, inspired the students and participants to delve into the diverse applications and potentials of smart materials. Esteemed speakers, including Dr. Ravi Pratab Singh from NIT Kurushetra, Dr. Akhil Kajuria from IIT Jammu, Dr. Ankush Anand from SMVDU, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq from SMVDU, delivered enlightening lectures on various advanced materials. The discussions also focused on the critical aspect of sustainability related to these materials. The seminar provided an excellent platform for the participants to present and engage in fruitful discussions about the latest innovations, trends, challenges, and solutions in the domain of Mechanical Engineering, particularly concerning smart materials. Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Assistant Professor at the School of Mechanical Engineering and co-coordinator of the program, expressed his heartfelt gratitude during the vote of thanks. The coordinators extended their appreciation to the Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Padam Shri Professor Ravindra Kumar Sinha, and Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar of SMVDU, for their invaluable support in successfully organizing this enriching day-long seminar. The event undoubtedly contributed significantly to fostering knowledge exchange and advancements in the field of Mechanical Engineering and smart materials.

## Celebration and Day Observed

### JKPCC and SMVDU celebrate World Environment Day



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Pollution Control Committee (JKPCC), celebrated World Environment Day with great enthusiasm. World Environment Day, an initiative by the United Nations, aims to raise awareness and promote action for the protection of our environment. During the celebration, Vice-Chancellor Prof. R.K Sinha, along with Sat Paul Pakhru IFS, Regional Director JKPCC, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar SMVDU (JKAS), Sh. Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer JKAS, and Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, planted saplings in the picturesque campus of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. They also took a pledge to preserve and protect the environment. A collage competition on the theme "Mission Life" was organized in the foyer of the Auditorium, where students showcased their artwork depicting the deplorable condition of the environment due to various human activities. The thought-provoking work of the students received appreciation from all attendees. The event commenced with the lighting of the lamp by the dignitaries at the Matrika Auditorium of SMVDU, followed by the playing of a pre-video by students of Biotechnology regarding the theme "Mission Life" set by the Government of India. During his keynote address, Prof. R.K Sinha emphasized the importance of environmental awareness and individual contributions towards saving the planet from global warming. He shared insights from his Ganga Rejuvenation

Plan and highlighted the need for sustainable consumption and development. He also stressed the significance of raising awareness about environmental issues and reducing plastic debris and micro-plastics from entering the aquatic environment. Sat Paul Pakhru IFS emphasized the roles of society and the community in preserving the environment from pollution and degradation. He mentioned the efforts of the Pollution Control Committee of UT of Jammu and Kashmir in monitoring pollution levels and installing pollution mitigating infrastructure. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology, emphasized the interconnection between a cleaner environment and the health of people in her opening remarks. A cultural troupe led by Vijay Kumar and Party from JKAACL captivated the audience with folk songs and dance performances centered around the theme of environment protection. The event concluded with a skit presented by students on "Mission Life." About 500 students, staff, and faculty, along with Deans, Heads of Schools, and Section Heads of various departments, attended the event. Dr. Sharada presented the vote of thanks, and to commemorate the International Year of Millets, Shree Anna (millets like Jowar, Bajra, Buckwheat) was served to guests at the University Guest House. The event highlighted that millets are a healthy and environmentally friendly alternative to current food choices.

## SMVDU organizes Marathon on International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking



In commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking, a 3 km long marathon was organized by the Board for Sports Activities at the university. The purpose of this marathon was to promote healthy living and raise awareness about the dangers of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The event witnessed active participation from students, faculty members, and non-teaching staff of the University. Additionally, the children of campus resident faculty and staff members enthusiastically joined in the marathon. The collective participation showcased the university's commitment to combating drug abuse and fostering a healthy lifestyle. During the marathon, the participants carried placards adorned with various slogans highlighting the adverse effects of drug use and the significance of preventing drug abuse on World Drug Day. This visual display aimed to sensitize the community and encourage them to actively contribute to the fight against drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The marathon commenced with the gracious presence of Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, President of the Board for Sports Activities, who flagged off the event. Under the competent coordination of Mr. Sumit Sharma from the Sports wing, the marathon was successfully conducted, leaving a lasting impact on all participants. By organizing this marathon, the university not only promoted physical fitness and well-being but also took a proactive approach in addressing the pressing issue of drug abuse and illicit trafficking. The event brought together the entire university community in a collective effort to create awareness and work towards a drug-free and healthier society.



## SMVDU celebrates International Yoga Day

NSS unit of SMVDU celebrated 9<sup>th</sup> International Yoga Day on 21<sup>st</sup> June, 2023 in collaboration with the Department of Tourism J&K and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages. The event was organized at the serene and picturesque location of Jhajjar Kotli. The event started with yoga session and afterwards performance of yoga in form of various poses by expert yoga practitioners. Dr. Balbir Singh, Associate Professor, delivered a talk on work life balance to students. Around 50 students from SMVDU participated in the said event along with faculty and staff members of University. Officials from Department of Tourism J&K and J&K Academy of Art, Culture and Languages thanked SMVDU authority for their support and participation in the said event.



## External Experts

### Expert lecture on "Teaching to Transformation" conducted at SMVDU

In response to the observed impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on the Quality of the Teaching-Learning process and the Quality of Teacher-Student interaction, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University's Directorate of Quality Assurance (DQA) took proactive measures. On 6th June 2023, an interactive session was organized with faculty members to discuss the challenges and explore effective ways to address them. The event featured an enlightening lecture by Dr. Sanjay Kumar, Chairperson of the Value Education Cell at Birla Institute of Technology, Mesra. His talk, titled "Teaching to Transformation," shed light on the crucial role of teachers in the post-pandemic scenario, where the learning patterns of students have undergone slight changes. The session aimed to provide teachers with insights into adapting their teaching methods to better suit the evolving educational landscape. Dr. Balbir Singh, Associate Professor from the School of Mechanical Engineering, welcomed all the participants and introduced the esteemed expert, Dr. Sanjay Kumar. The interactive session proved to be an invaluable opportunity for teachers to reflect on their roles and responsibilities in contributing to the nation-building process through education. Dr. A. K. Das, Director of DQA, expressed his gratitude to Dr. Sanjay Kumar for sharing his valuable suggestions and expertise on value education. The session enabled faculty members to gain new perspectives and strategies for fostering a conducive and effective learning environment in the post-pandemic era. Through such initiatives, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University continues to prioritize the enhancement of the teaching-learning process and the overall quality of education, ensuring the holistic development of its students.

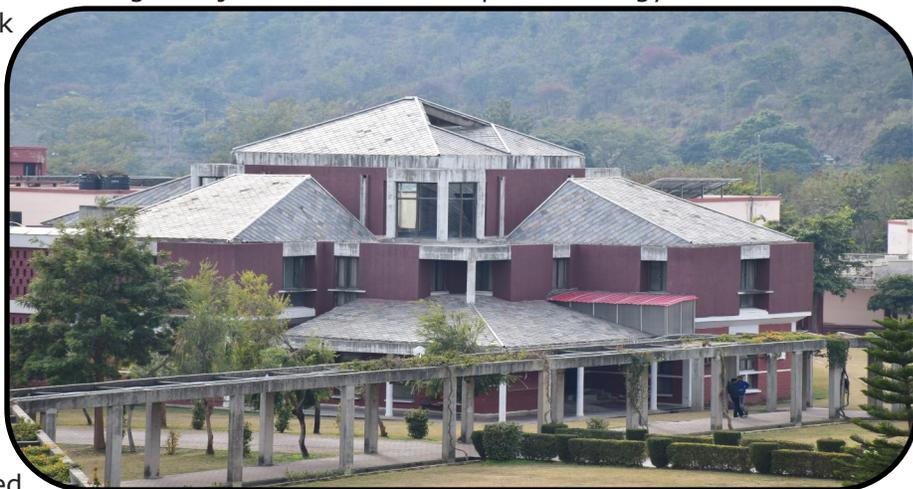


# Faculty/Staff Updates

## Talk Delivered

### SMVDU Faculty delivers invited talk at SAE India

Dr. Ankush Raina and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Assistant Professors from the School of Mechanical Engineering at SMVDU, collaborated to deliver an insightful joint talk on the topic "Tribology of NanoFluids for Automotive Applications." The talk was a part of an online Professional Development Program webinar series hosted by the Society of Automotive Engineers, India. Participants from both industry and academia attended the event. During the webinar, the speakers delved into various applications of tribology in the automobile sector, shedding light on the usage of nanoadditives in lubricants, sustainability aspects of lubrication, and global and Indian market trends. They also discussed



the challenges associated with tribology in the automotive industry. One significant aspect of the talk was the presentation of research findings conducted at SMVDU in the domain of nanolubrication. The speakers emphasized how embracing better tribological practices could extend the lifespan of lubricants and, in turn, contribute to reducing the carbon footprint of the entire automotive sector. Dr. Ankush Raina and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq expressed their gratitude for the support received from the School of Mechanical Engineering and the SMVDU administration, which enabled them to conduct the studies shared with the participants. The webinar provided an excellent platform for sharing valuable insights, promoting knowledge exchange, and fostering innovative approaches in the field of tribology for automotive applications. The collaboration between industry experts and academia further strengthened the understanding of advancements in this critical area, facilitating more sustainable and efficient practices within the automotive industry.

## Student Updates

### SMVDU student selected for Google Summer of Code

Dhruv Shrivastava, a Computer Science Engineering student at SMVDU, has achieved a significant milestone by being selected for the Google Summer of Code program i.e.(is a global, online program focused on bringing new contributors into open source software development). This prestigious program is known for its high competitiveness. It offers students worldwide the opportunity to work on open-source software projects for a duration of 12 weeks, guided by experienced mentors. Dhruv's project focuses on developing software for MIT App Inventor, a user-friendly platform that allows individuals to create mobile applications without requiring any prior programming experience. This presents an exciting opportunity for Dhruv to gain practical skills in software development while actively contributing to the open-source community. SMVD University extends its best wishes to Dhruv as he embarks on this endeavour and hopes that he continues to excel in his future pursuits.



## SMVDU scholar bags best paper award at Intl Conference

Ms. Rohini Raina, a scholar from the School of Computer Science and Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), achieved a remarkable milestone by receiving the best paper award at the esteemed international conference on Innovation & Research in Science and Technology for Sustainable Development (ICIRSTSD-2023). The conference, held on 25-26 May 2023, was organized by OP Jindal University Raigarh in association with the Institution's Innovation Council (Ministry of HRD Initiative). The primary objective of the conference was to provide a platform for researchers to present and discuss the latest sustainable innovations, trends, concerns, and practical challenges in the field of science and technology. Ms. Rohini Raina presented a paper titled 'A Review of Machine Learning Approaches for Detection and Classification of Leukemia Disease,' co-authored by Dr. Naveen Kumar Gondhi, Assistant Professor at SMVDU. The paper focused on computer-assisted diagnoses for the early detection and classification of Leukemia, a critical form of blood cancer. The research aimed to offer insights into cost-effective methods for the timely diagnosis of this life-threatening disease. The expert panel at the conference highly appreciated the significant contribution made by Ms. Rohini Raina and acknowledged her exemplary work in the field. In recognition of her outstanding paper, Ms. Raina was bestowed with the best paper award and received a well-deserved cash prize. The conference witnessed more than 200 papers presented by authors from diverse countries, making Ms. Raina's achievement all the more exceptional. The remarkable work showcased by Ms. Rohini Raina exemplifies the commitment of SMVDU scholars to make a positive impact in their respective fields of research. Her efforts in leveraging machine learning for improved leukemia detection and classification hold great promise for advancing medical diagnostics and enhancing healthcare outcomes.



## SMVDU organized cleanliness drive on World Environment Day

NSS SMVDU, in collaboration with the district administration of Reasi, demonstrated its commitment to environmental preservation by organizing a cleanliness drive on the occasion of World Environment Day. The drive focused on collecting plastic waste along the National Highway NH-144, with a total of 15 teams assigned by the district administration to clean the Reasi-Katra highway. The NSS SMVDU team actively participated in the initiative and covered a distance of 2.5 Km during the drive. The dedicated efforts of the volunteers resulted in the collection of approximately 40 Kg of plastic waste, contributing to the ongoing efforts to combat plastic pollution. Around 20 enthusiastic volunteers participated in the drive, which lasted for approximately 1.5 hours. Among them, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, the NSS Programme coordinator, actively contributed to the cause. Their collective determination and passion for environmental conservation played a crucial role in the success of the cleanliness drive. The commendable efforts of the NSS



volunteers were recognized and appreciated by Prof. R. K. Sinha, the Vice Chancellor of the university. Such initiatives underscore the university's commitment to environmental responsibility and sustainable practices. By actively participating in the cleanliness drive, NSS SMVDU showcased its dedication to promoting a cleaner and greener environment. The collaborative effort with the district administration of Reasi reflects the shared vision of fostering a sustainable and eco-friendly community.

## SMVDU students participate in Swachh Bharat Mission Grameen Orientation Program

On June 9th, 2023, a group of interns from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University actively participated in a one-day Orientation program organized by the Directorate of Rural Sanitation of Jammu and Kashmir. The program took place at the PWD Guest House in Gandhinagar, Jammu, with the primary objective of acquainting the participants with the internship's goals and relevance. The following students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University attended the program: Tanish Bawa, Bigan Kumar, Pawan Kumar, Anshu Kumar, Pooja Tomar, Neha Sharma, Amit Kumar, Anil Sharma, Dhruv, and Harvanshi Verma. During the orientation program, the students were presented with valuable information about the



internship's objectives and significance through engaging audio-visual presentations. The esteemed chief guest for the occasion was Sh. Charandeep Singh, the Director of Rural Sanitation, Jammu, who graced the event with his presence. Distinguished speakers during the program emphasized the crucial importance of the ODF Plus mission initiated by the Government of India. This mission focuses on various aspects, such as waste management, water conservation, and rural sanitation, all contributing to the endeavor of achieving Open Defecation Free (ODF) status. The team representing Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University included Ms. Pooja Tomar, the student coordinator, and Dr. Anil Kumar Tewari, the Nodal Officer of Swachh Bharat Abhiyan at the university. Their active participation and dedication showcased the university's commitment to the Swachh Bharat Abhiyan and its contribution to nationwide sanitation initiatives.

## Awareness programme on "Cyber Jaagrookta" conducted at SMVD University

The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized an awareness program titled "Cyber Jaagrookta" in the nearby villages. The team visited Chak-Bhagta, Sirah, and Dheerti to conduct this significant awareness program. The primary objective of the program was to raise awareness about cyber-fraud and to educate the local communities about potential safety measures to protect themselves from cyber threats. Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta, a faculty member of SoECE at SMVDU, explained the reasons and underlying causes of cyber fraud during the program. Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, another faculty member from SoECE, emphasized the significance of such awareness initiatives, considering the rapid growth of online activities and the need to safeguard individuals and communities from cyber-crimes. Dr. Sumeet Gupta, also a faculty member of SoECE, emphasized the responsible use of mobile phones and highlighted their genuine applications to promote a safe online environment. The program coordinators ensured that the participants gained a comprehensive understanding of cyber-crime and its implications, aligning with the social responsibility of the university and supporting the Government of India's initiative to combat cyber threats. By reaching out to the nearby villages, the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering demonstrated its commitment to societal well-being and safety by empowering individuals with knowledge and awareness to protect themselves in the digital age.



## SMVDU researcher declares qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Mr. Yogesh has achieved a milestone by qualifying for the award of a Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degree in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). His research focused on the topic of "Fabrication, Characterization, and Mathematical Analysis of Lead Sulphide-Based Thin Film Devices for Nanoelectronics and Optoelectronic Applications," which holds immense promise for the field of nanoelectronics and optoelectronics. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Purnima Hazra, Assistant Professor at the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU, Mr. Yogesh dedicated himself to his research work, resulting in numerous published research papers in reputable international journals indexed in SCI/SCIE. The diligent researcher also had the privilege of presenting his research findings in various national and international conferences, contributing to the dissemination of knowledge in his field of expertise. Mr. Yogesh expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Dr. Purnima Hazra, and the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for providing essential facilities and fellowship support throughout his research journey. The esteemed Vice-Chancellor, Prof. R.K. Sinha, and other members of the committee extended their heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Yogesh on this remarkable achievement and wished him a bright and prosperous future ahead. His dedication and contribution to the realm of nanoelectronics and optoelectronics stand as a testament to the academic excellence and research prowess fostered at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.



## ALUMNI CORNER

### SMVDU Alumni Receives "University Gold Medal" and "Rajeev Naaz Memorial Gold Medal"

Dr. Adishree Vats, an alumni of SMVDU and a Ph.D. degree holder in the subject of English, under the supervision of Dr. Anurag Kumar and Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi, received two gold medals: "University Gold Medal" and "Rajeev Naaz Memorial Gold Medal" for securing first position in M.A. English (2016) at the Special Convocation held at Zorawar Singh Auditorium, University of Jammu, on 22<sup>nd</sup> June, 2023. The historical day was held in the presence of Honorable Vice President of India and Chief Guest, Shri Jagdeep Dhankar ji, Honourable Lieutenant Governor, J&K and Chancellor, University of Jammu, Shri Manoj Sinha ji, Advisor to Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor, Higher Education, Sh. Rajeev Rai Bhatnagar, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council, Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Umesh Rai, Controller of Examinations, Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan, Registrar, University of Jammu, Prof. Arvind Jasrotia and other dignitaries.





**World Environment Day celebrations at SMVDU to raise awareness about environmental issues and to encourage actions to protect and preserve our planet. Events and celebrations took place to mark the occasion.**





