



UPCOMING EVENTS

- Introduction session on 3D Printing Technology on 11th Sept, 24.
- One-day awareness program on "MEPF Solutions for Sustainable Design of Built Environments" in collaboration with Institute Innovation Centre of SMVD University on 17th Sept, 24.
- Workshop on Artificial Intelligence 13th Sept, 24.
- श्री माता वैष्णो देवी विश्वविद्यालय में हिंदी पखवाड़ा का समारोह 15 से 27 सितंबर तक!
- AI Hacathon from 20th- 21st of September, 2024.

PATRON

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Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

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Students Induction Program-2024 inaugurated at SMVDU



Student Induction Program-2024, inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University to welcome newly admitted students across B.Tech, B.Arch, B.Design, B.A., B.Sc, BBA, Design your Degree, MA, MBA and M.Sc and M.Tech programs. The program commenced today at the Maitrika Auditorium where more than 500 students from pan India participated. Inaugural function started with Lamp lighting by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Registrar, SMVDU, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma and Deans of various streams and recitation of Sarswati Vandana by students. Addressing the students, Chief Guest, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar extended his congratulations to the new batch and emphasized the diversified curriculum of choices of subjects in all branches to be opted as an advantage of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 and shared his vision with new students inspiring them to take challenges in life. Three programs namely B.Tech in Mathematics and Computing, BioTech and Bachelor of Design along with Design your Degree program starting from this academic session. Four Year UG program (FYUP) as per NEP2020 also starting from this academic session. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Chairman, Student Induction Program, extended a warm welcome and motivated students to embark on their higher education journey with enthusiasm. Prof. RK Mishra, Dean, Students Welfare, Prof. K R Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. Ahsutosh Vashist, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. AK Das, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences greeted students with their welcome notes of warm gestures. Further, senior students of University mesmerized audiences by their group singing and Bhangra performance. The newly admitted students took an oath comprising ten principles, formulated by former President of India, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, emphasizing values such as integrity, humanity, nationalism, and good citizenship. The event was organized by Academic affairs Section and Universal Human Cell, coordinated by Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Dr. Anil Kr Bhardwaj, Dr Kamaldeep, Dr Madhu Mangal, Dr Amit Kr Sinha, Dr Varun Dutta and various student volunteers from the different streams of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Organizing Secretary of the Program, Dr. Pooja Sharma, Asstt. Professor from the School of Computer science and Engineering delivered the Vote of Thanks, concluding the event on a positive note.

SMVDU in Collaboration with JKSTIC, Udhampur deliberates on “Empowering Climate Action: Strategies for Sustainable Future”



School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, a leading educational institution and promoter for sustainability and environmental conservation organised one-day awareness program focused on “Empowering Climate action: Strategies for Sustainable Future” in collaboration with J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council, Udhampur. The primary objective of this initiative was to equip us with the knowledge, tools, and inspiration needed to drive meaningful climate action. Through insightful discussions, expert presentations, and interactive sessions, we will explore strategies to not only mitigate the effects of climate change but also to adapt and thrive in an evolving world. In his keynote address Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU highlighted the steps taken by SMVDU in organizing high quality awareness programmes, workshops and conferences. He stressed that such event help in broadening the knowledge base of the participants. Prof. Pragati Kumar highlighted various aspects Of Strategies for Sustainable Development. He said that by raising awareness among participants and the public, this awareness campaign would help us all realise how important it is to pursue sustainable growth and empowering climate change for sustainable future. Shruti Khanna District Coordinator JKSTIC highlighted the event’s objective to encourage the young minds across and hoped they would be role models with a particular emphasis on promoting climate change mitigation aspects. Prof. Deepak Pathania, Professor, Department of Environment Sciences, Central University of Jammu, Jammu laid emphasis on different strategies on how the waste can be collected and used to produce energy. He stressed on various aspects where the young minds should take a lead in combating the climate change. Dr. Rakesh Kumar Attri, Assistant Professor, Department of Environmental Sciences, University of Jammu, Jammu presented a talk on how it may assist the environment in the context of a global energy future. In addition to lowering the likelihood of environmental catastrophes, renewable resources help protect the planet's natural resources. Additionally, he presented different protocols being there to cater the climate change. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean R&D and Coordinator of the programme in his welcome address explained about the schedule of the awareness programme and stressed upon the need for the same. He stressed that our planet is facing unprecedented challenges, from rising temperatures and extreme weather events to diminishing natural resources and ecosystem degradation. The impact of these changes is felt across every corner of the globe, affecting communities, economies, and wildlife alike. We aim to deliberate on these aspects in such programmes. “It is crucial to promote knowledge and understanding of climate change action in order to expedite the shift towards a sustainable future.” added Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, and organizing secretary of the awareness programme. The inaugural function of the event co-coordinated by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean R&D was attended by Deans and Heads of different schools. The formal vote of thanks was given by Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor, School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVD University.

Quality QCFI Delhi Chapter - 17th Chapter Convention on Quality organized at SMVDU



This convention was inaugurated by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs of SMVDU as the Chief Guest. In his inaugural address, he emphasized on quality improvement of life using eight dimensions of quality given by Professor David A Garvin. He congratulated QCFI – Delhi Chapter for spreading the need of Quality Concepts in all the sectors across India. Dr. Purohit shared his views on various quality concepts. Mr A K Verma, Hon. Secretary during his welcome address said that our chapter is committed to reaching all kinds of organizations in the manufacturing and service sector. At SMVDU this is the 3rd convention where participants are going to share success stories. Mr G Venkataramanan, Chairman QCFI Delhi Chapter is especially concerned about sharing the best practices, like structured problem solving and TQM, with the students from the interior parts of the country so that we achieve much greater heights of operational excellence. And this will help the Skill India mission to not only achieve but surpass the fulfilment of goals. During last few years QCFI organized all conventions on TQM, Kaizen, Quality Circles and 5S etc in Engineering Colleges and University. In this convention 250 participants of 53 teams from more than 32 organizations such as Rashtriya Chemicals and Fertilizers, Bharat Electronics, RG Industries, Spark Minda, Vardhman Industries, Hero MotoCorp, NTPC, Ralson, JCB, Tata Power, Roop Polymers, Gabriel India, Lumax Auto, Mondelez, etc. presented their success stories. Valedictory Session was chaired by Prof. Supran Sharma, Director DQA, SMVDU. During his address he emphasized on the need of Building Quality Culture to face the present global challenges. Mr. Aniruddha Kaushik Chief Judge congratulated all the teams and management of participating organisations for providing their employees a stage to share their success stories. He also shared opportunities for improvements in their next projects based on Pre evaluation and case study presentations. Case study presentations were evaluated by Dr Irfan Ul Haq , Dr. Sanjay Sharma, Dr Varun Dutta faculty SMVDU along with Jury team from organisations Mr Arun Kumar-Mankind Pharma, Mr Sanjay Kapar-JCB, Mrs Poonam Paul-Vardhman. Dr S B Purohit. Students from various schools of SMVDU played an active role in the smooth conduct of the convention. The teams were duly felicitated. Credit of success in organizing and coordination goes to Mr B. K. Bhatia, Placement Officer SMVDU and Mr Ashwani, Ms. Ankita and Mr Santosh of QCFI Delhi Chapter. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU conveyed thanks to QCFI for organizing chapter convention at SMVDU and stressed on effective use of quality circles in solving day to day problems in the organizations.

Session on Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem organized at SMVDU

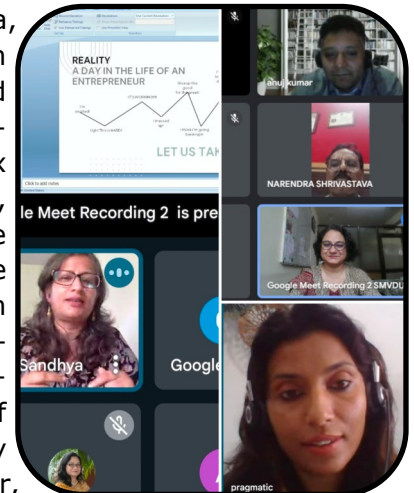
Institute Innovation Council (IIC), SMVD University organized an online Session for all students & faculty members. The online session on "Innovation and Start-up Ecosystem" was delivered by Mr. Kuldip Suri, Retired GM Power Grid Corporation of India and presently working with IndiGrid. Mr, Suri shared his proven management and leadership skills and multi-functional role with students and faculty members. He stressed upon mentoring skills to lead a team of qualified and expert Engineers. He briefed the students about Engineering aspects and various Innovation and startup aspects as far as the power sector is concerned. During his presentation Mr. Suri cited many examples about the topic and said that every innovation should undergo different phases for successful outcome. He emphasized the importance of

innovation and start-ups in driving economic growth and development. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Convener, Institute Innovation Council, SMVD University, coordinated the session and briefed about the IIC activities and need for such activities. Earlier Prof. Ashutosh Vaishshtha, President IIC, SMVDU and Dean Faculty of Management at SMVDU welcomed all the students, faculty and Mr. Suri and briefed about the IIC and business, innovation and startup activities in the university. The event aimed to promote entrepreneurship, encourage innovation, and create a supportive ecosystem for start-ups in the region. The IIC, SMVD University, is thankful to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVD University for his never ending support in such endeavors. The session ended with a vote of thanks by Dr. Yatheshth Anand and Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Nodal Officer IPMSC and Dean R&D respectively.



Workshop on Business Model Canvas held at SMVDU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University’s Institution Innovation Council (IIC), in collaboration with the Technology Business Incubation Center (TBIC) and the School of Business, organized a workshop on the Business Model Canvas. In the inaugural session, Ms. Vineeta Koul Lalotra, Director of Pragmatic Career Solutions, Pune, shared her learnings from the MBA program at SMVDU, reflecting on her experience on campus and in the hostel, and how these experiences shaped her journey in establishing her own venture. Lt. Sandhya Suri, an Indian Navy veteran, TEDx Speaker, Change Enabler, Art Life Coach, Author, Poet, and Consultant, discussed daily routine activities that can help individuals become more confident. She also elaborated on PRISM, the characteristics that enable people to become comfortable in being uncomfortable, encouraging them to step beyond perceived impossibilities. Prof. Anuj Kumar, Head of Research at Rushford Business School, Switzerland, and an alumnus of University College Dublin, Ireland, provided a deep dive into the features of the Business Model Canvas. He discussed the business models of globally recognized companies such as Airbnb, Apple, LinkedIn, Tata Motors, Uber, Instagram, and Tesco. The workshop attracted more than 80 participants, including faculty members, researchers, entrepreneurs, and students from various universities and institutions across India and abroad, joining this online workshop. Dr. Arti Maini and Dr. Rashi Taggar smoothly coordinated the event, ensuring a productive and enlightening experience for all attendees.



Induction Program held for New MBA Students at SMVDU’s School of Business



Vice-Chancellor and Registrar, SMVDU felicitated Security Supervisors for their Contribution during Independence Day Celebration

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University recognized the outstanding contributions of its security staff in a special ceremony held today. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, along with Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU, felicitated security supervisors Sh. Balbir Singh, Sh. Jai Singh, and Sh. Rattan Singh for their significant participation in the Independence Day flag-hoisting ceremony held on 15th Aug, 24 at SMVDU. SMVDU has a tradition of celebrating national days with great pomp and show, with enthusiastic participation from both the security staff and students. The felicitation ceremony, held a few days after the Independence Day event, was attended by Mr. Surinder Kumar, Assistant Registrar (Security) and Mr. Mithun Jamwal, Assistant Security Officer, SMVDU. Both officials praised the security supervisors for their exemplary service and commitment to the university. The Vice Chancellor and Registrar, SMVDU expressed their appreciation for the security staff's efforts in making the national celebration a grand success, reinforcing the university's commitment to recognizing and honouring the contributions of all its members.



SMVD University launches Week-Long Campus Plantation Drive

The NSS team at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has started a week-long campus plantation drive, aiming to plant 2,500 saplings of various species across the university campus. This initiative, supported by the Project led by Mr. Deeraj, Director of NGO Grow-Trees.com in association with the Wildlife Conservation Fund, Jammu & Kashmir and Eco-Watch, high-

lights the broader community effort in supporting environmental conservation efforts. This collaboration highlights the broader community effort in supporting environmental conservation efforts. The event started with the welcome address by NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, who provided an overview of the plantation drive's ob-



jectives. Dr. Kumar highlighted the significance of this endeavour in fostering ecological balance and community involvement. The event was graced by Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, Mr. Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Finance Officer, Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, and Dr. Kamaldeep, Asst. Prof. SMVDU along with other faculty & staff members of SMVDU. Their presence reinforced the collective commitment of the university's leadership to this environmental cause. It is pertinent to mention that Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, faculty member at SMVD University, along with his student team, volunteered to serve as an advisor in designing the campus plantation policy. As the week progresses, students, faculty, and staff will work together to plant and nurture these saplings, contributing to a greener and more sustainable campus environment. The event was coordinated by Ms. Sadhvi sharma and Mr. Abhishek sharma, NSS student coordinators.

Celebration and Day Observed

SMVDU celebrated 78th Independence Day

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University celebrated 78th Independence Day with national fervour and exemplary enthusiasm. On the occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar, the Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, unfurled the tricolour flag. In a compelling address, he highlighted India's journey towards becoming a self-sufficient and self-reliant nation despite challenges that it encountered such as partition and famine. It has achieved many laurels, moving ahead leaps and bounds under the visionary leadership of our Prime Minister. All Indians must take pride in the fact that the world is looking towards India with hope amidst global insecurities. The address was followed by refreshments to commemorate the event. Among the dignitaries present included Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Registrar, SMVDU, Shri Neeraj Gupta (JKAS), Finance Officer, SMVDU, Prof. Raghvendra Mishra, Dean, Student Welfare, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Ashutosh Vashishth, Dean, Faculty of Management, Prof. K.R. Jha, Dean, Engineering, Dr. Sunil Wanchoo, Dean, Sciences, Dr. A. K. Das, Dean, Humanities and Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean R&D and Heads of various schools and sections. The event also witnessed participation of administrative staff, faculty members, and students.



World Entrepreneurs' Day celebrated at SMVDU

The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in collaboration with the Innovation and Incubation Council (IIC), celebrated World Entrepreneurs' Day with a special event aimed at fostering entrepreneurial spirit and innovation among students. The event was organized by Dr. Varun Dutta, Dr. Sanjay Sharma, and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Assistant Professors at SMVDU. The highlight of the event were expert lectures delivered by Mr. Sourab Mengi, Assistant Manager at the Centre for Innovation, Incubation, and Business Modelling at JKEDI, and Mrs. Shivani Sharma, Assistant Faculty at JKEDI. Their talks focused on the latest policies and opportunities in the startup and innovation ecosystem provided by JKEDI, offering valuable insights to aspiring entrepreneurs among the students. Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Student Welfare, Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Convener of IIC, also addressed the gathering, emphasizing the importance of innovation and entrepreneurship in today's competitive world. The event was attended by several dignitaries, including Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean (R&D), Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Training and Placement Officer at SMVDU, along with faculty members and staff of the university. The students greatly benefited from the expert talks, gaining crucial information about various policies and support mechanisms available for start-ups and innovations through JKEDI. The event was a significant step towards nurturing the entrepreneurial ecosystem within the university, encouraging students to explore new ideas and venture into the world of start-ups.



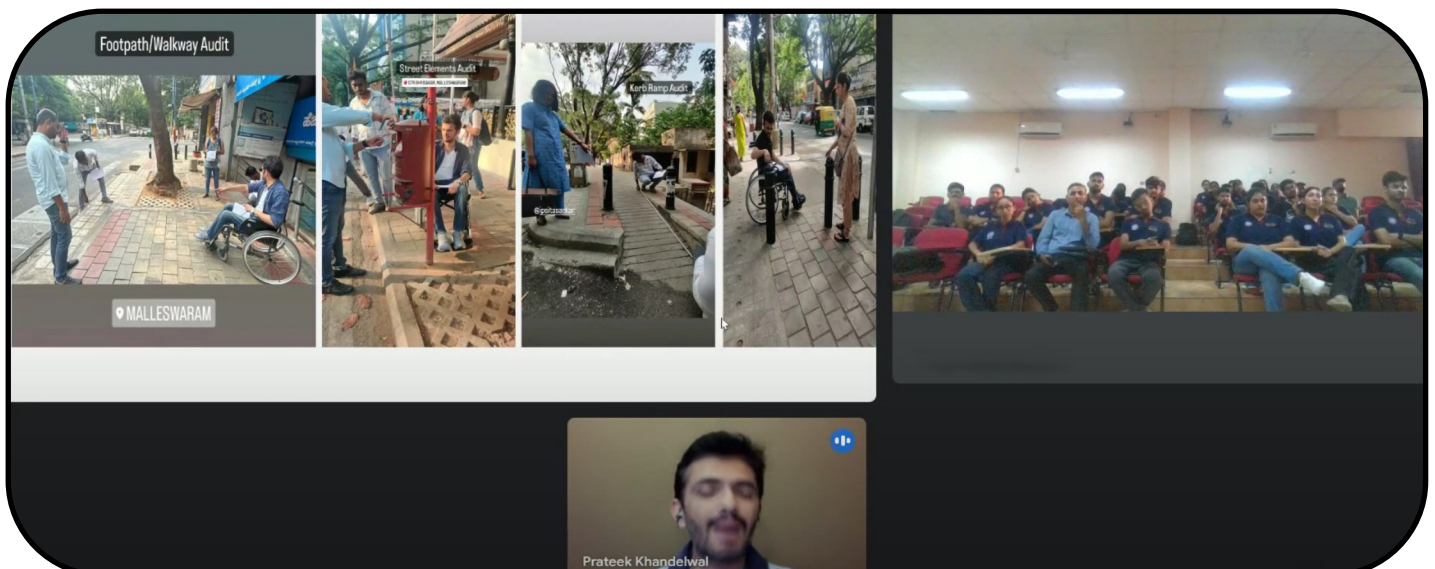
External Experts

Dr. Maruti Sharma conducted a Session on Master Your Mind for Success, Happiness, and Harmony at SMVDU



Dr. Maruti Sharma, a distinguished professional in the field of mental health and wellness conducted an interactive session on Master Your Mind for Success, Happiness and Harmony for newly admitted students under the Student Induction Program-2024 at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. During the lecture, Dr. Sharma emphasized the importance of mental clarity, emotional balance, and mindfulness as essential tools for achieving success and maintaining happiness and harmony. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, thanked Dr. Sharma for his valuable contribution to the SIP-2024. Dr. Sharma's lecture was not only enlightening but also empowering. It provided students with the tools they need to navigate their academic journey with a positive and proactive mindset said Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Associate Dean of Academics (Engg.) and Coordinator of the Student Induction Program. The event was well coordinated by faculty members Dr. Varun Dutta, Dr. Kamaldeep, Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Dr. Rajiv, and Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi. The event was concluded with a dynamic Q&A session, where Dr. Sharma answered questions from students, offering further guidance on topics such as stress management, mindfulness practices, and achieving life balance.

NSS SMVDU organized Expert Talk by Mr. Prateek Khandelwal, Founder & Managing Director- RampMyCity



The NSS Unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized an enlightening online expert talk by Mr. Prateek Khandelwal, the Founder and Managing Director of RampMyCity, Bengaluru. The session focused on creating a more inclusive and accessible society for persons with disabilities. Mr. Khandelwal is a leading advocate for accessible public spaces. Inspired by his personal experience following a 2014 accident, he has been actively working towards this goal since 2020. His organization, RampMyCity, is dedicated to creating a barrier-free environment for everyone. During the session, he shared his experiences, challenges, and the steps being taken to address the needs of the disabled community. The NSS volunteers were deeply inspired by Mr. Khandelwal's commitment to social change. The interaction provided them with a deeper understanding of the issues faced by persons with disabilities and the importance of creating an inclusive society. The session concluded with a lively Q&A session where students engaged in thoughtful discussions with Mr. Khandelwal. The session highlights the unit's dedication to cultivating a well-rounded student experience, emphasizing the significance of social responsibility and inclusivity alongside academic pursuits. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the session and thanked the speaker for the insights on the social challenges related to the physically disabled persons. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of the NSS team for organizing the event.

Student Updates

SMVDU scored a Position at State Level Agriculture Hackathon 2024

Students from the School of Computer Science and Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University were honored for their exceptional achievement at the State Level Agriculture Hackathon/ Agrithon 2024, organized by Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology (SKUAST). This prestigious competition, which focused on Precision and Economical Farming, attracted leading higher education institutions from across the Union Territories of Jammu & Kashmir and Ladakh. The competition, which spanned multiple phases, culminated in the final round at SKUAST Jammu on July 20, 2024. Our university's team demonstrated remarkable skill and innovation, securing second place. The team included Subhag Sharma, Tushar Taggar, Hridyanshu Slathia, and Vanshika Bakshi, all students of Computer Science and Engineering. They presented their groundbreaking project titled 'Deep Plant', which utilized machine learning and artificial intelligence to address critical issues related to crop failures and pest infestations, effectively overcoming local resource limitations. In a grand award ceremony held at the Baba Jitto Auditorium on 29th August, 24, the team's achievement was celebrated. Under the expert mentorship of Mr. Sanjay Sharma, Assistant Professor in the School of Computer Science, the team was awarded a cash prize of INR 50,000 for their outstanding performance. The Head of the School of Computer Science and Engineering congratulated the students for their dedication and innovative approach, emphasizing the high standards of education and mentorship within the department. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, also conveyed his best wishes to the winning team and encouraged all students to undertake such innovative projects to address real-world.



NSS SMVDU organized Expert Talk for Girl Students of Panthal School



NSS unit of SMVDU Katra organized an expert talk at Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Panthal. The speaker of the event was the renowned International Wellness Coach, Dr. Samita Gupta. She enlightened over 150 eager girl students with her expertise on the topic "Lifestyle problems in Adolescence Stage". Dr. Gupta, a certified nutrition and fitness expert, delivered profound insights into the holistic health and well-being of adolescent girls, covering physical, mental, and emotional aspects in contemporary society. Dr. Gupta's comprehensive discussion delved into the nutritional requirements, reproductive stages, and reproductive health of women, offering invaluable knowledge to the attendees. Dr. Samita Gupta's expertise, coupled with her passion for women's health and wellness, left an indelible mark on the audience, ensuring that the session was not only educative but also transformative. As the event concluded, students departed enriched and inspired to contribute towards a healthier and more equitable society. The event was part of 7 day special camp of NSS volunteers. The event was coordinated by NSS student coordinator, Ms. Sadhvi Sharma. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar thanked school authorities for their support. Principal Smt. Renuka Sharma also appreciated NSS SMVDU volunteers' efforts and thanked Dr. Samita Gupta for the informative talk. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS team for successfully organizing the event.

NSS SMVDU donated notebooks to Govt. School in Tareen Village



NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers organized a visit to Govt. Primary school in Tareen village under Panthal block. NSS volunteers donated notebooks to all the school students. Through a little skit, volunteers used the occasion to teach the children about good eating habits. The event was organized as a part of the 7 day special camp of the NSS unit of the University. Fruits were also distributed to all the students by the volunteers for their better health. NSS student coordinator Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar were also present during the event.

School authorities thanked NSS team for their donation. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers.

NSS SMVDU Volunteers organized Awareness Session on Female Hygiene



NSS volunteers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized an awareness session on "Female hygiene and sanitation". The volunteers spread awareness regarding the necessity of following proper sanitary as well as hygiene habits, among female housekeeping and security staff of SMVD University. While menstruation and menstrual hygiene are still taboo subjects in certain cultures, it is critical to make menstrual hygiene a fundamental component of women's healthcare and well-being in both rural and urban regions. Misassumptions surrounding certain menstrual hygiene practices were also discussed by NSS volunteers, Mridul Salaria and Suhani Sharma. NSS volunteers also distributed sanitary napkins to all the ladies after the awareness session. In many underprivileged and impoverished communities, many households cannot afford to buy sanitary pads and tampons, thus forcing young girls to make alternative protection methods. NSS student coordinator, Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event. The event was organized during the 7 day special camp of the NSS unit. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the session and emphasized on organizing such drives every month. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for organizing the event.

NSS SMVDU Team honored with Red Fort Independence Day Invite

The National Service Scheme unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University has achieved a significant national-level recognition. Two of its volunteers, Sadhvi Sharma and Harish Patel, along with Programme Officer Dr. Rajiv Kumar, have been invited as special guests to the 78th Independence Day celebrations at the Red Fort in Delhi. Their invitation is in honor of their exemplary work in creating the Amrit Vatika as part of the 'Meri Maati Mera Desh' campaign. This prestigious invitation allows the NSS members to represent Jammu and Kashmir at the historic event on August 15, 2024, in New Delhi. A total



of eight volunteers from Jammu and Kashmir have been selected as special guests for the celebrations at Red Fort. Their participation is a source of immense pride for the entire region. The NSS SMVDU unit has consistently shown its dedication to nation-building through various community service initiatives, and this recognition is a testament to their selfless efforts. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar offered his heartfelt congratulations to the selected volunteers and the Programme Officer for this remarkable achievement. Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh, also extended his best wishes to the NSS team for the event.

NSS SMVDU Team attended Independence Day Ceremony at Red Fort Delhi as Special Invitee

NSS SMVDU team attended Independence day ceremony at Red Fort New Delhi as special invitee. NSS volunteers Sadhvi Sharma, Harish Patel along with programme officer, Dr. Rajiv Kumar had been invited as special guests by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports for the historic occasion. It was a 3 day visit which included interaction with the Minister of Youth Affairs & Sports, Dr. Mansukh Mandaviya at the auditorium of Akshvaani Kendra. Team also interacted with state minister, Smt. Raksha Nikhil Khadse and Director NSS New Delhi, Smt. Vanita Sood. NSS volunteers had a great experience at Red fort event where Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi addressed the august gathering on the historic occasion. A total of 400 NSS volunteers were invited from throughout the country. Out of which 8 volunteers were from Jammu and Kashmir. It is pertinent to mention that NSS programme officer, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was the contingent leader for the regional directorate NSS New Delhi which includes volunteers from Haryana state, Delhi, Jammu Kashmir and Ladakh UTs. The 3 day visit also had sightseeing in Delhi including Prime Minister museum, India Gate, National Police Memorial etc. It was a great experience and proud moment for NSS SMVDU team. Team thanked Regional directorate NSS New Delhi and Ministry of youth affairs and sports for the special invitation. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar also congratulated the NSS team for the historic feat.



NSS SMVDU organized a Food Preparation Event at Govt. School



NSS unit of SMVDU Katra organized a food preparation event at Govt. Primary school in Sirah village. The event was organized to engage volunteers to work in a team and to have bonding with school students. NSS volunteers reached school with all the raw materials and other equipment required for food preparation. Volunteers worked in different groups to prepare various food items. Volunteers prepared food items such as mixed vegetables, poori, boondi raita and halwa in the school premises. Afterwards, Volunteers served the food to the school students and teachers. School students were very happy after having the special meal of the day. NSS volunteers regularly organize different events in all nearby Govt. Schools. NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event with other volunteers. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and staff member Mr. Avdhesh Gupta were also present during the event. School incharge Mrs. Monika thanked the NSS SMVDU team for organizing the event in the school. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and emphasized on organizing more such events in other schools also.

Students of Architecture of SMVD University interacted with DC Reasi and Common People on Urban Development Issues



The 9th semester students from the School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently embarked on an in-depth site visit to Reasi. The trip was organised and supported by Head SoALD, Ar. Abhiney Gupta and course coordinators, Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh and Ar. Vinod Kumar, and supported by student coordinators Aditya Agrawal and Vanshika Singh, on 16th August 2024. This visit was a crucial part of their academic journey, aimed at understanding the complex dynamics of urban and architectural challenges in the region. In this project, five sites were identified for potential urban development which were distributed among five groups of students, each site of significant importance within Reasi: Bhingarh Fort, the District Hospital, the Chenab Riverfront, the Railway Station, and the DC Office. These sites were carefully chosen to represent a broad spectrum of the city's architectural and infrastructural landscape, allowing the students to engage with a diverse set of challenges and opportunities. Throughout their visit, the students actively engaged with the local communities, conducting detailed surveys to gather firsthand information on the issues faced by the residents. This direct interaction provided invaluable insights into the everyday lives of the people of Reasi, revealing both the visible and underlying challenges that the community grapples with. The students' approach was holistic, as they not only focused on the specific sites but also studied the entire city to understand how these individual locations fit into the broader urban context. A pivotal moment of the visit was the students' meeting with the DC Reasi. During this discussion, the DC highlighted several pressing issues that the region faces, including significant water blockage problems and the ongoing challenges related to road infrastructure. These insights from the DC were instrumental in shaping the students' understanding of the region's needs and expectations. The interaction underscored the importance of their projects in addressing these real-world challenges. The visit served as a vital educational experience, equipping the students with a deeper understanding of the intricate relationship between architecture, infrastructure, and community needs. By engaging with local residents, surveying the area, and studying the city's overall layout, the students were able to identify key areas where architectural interventions could have a meaningful impact. As they prepare to translate these insights into their final

year projects, the students are now better positioned to develop site-specific proposals that not only address the immediate challenges identified but also contribute to long-term, sustainable solutions for the Reasi region. This collaborative effort between the students, their mentors, and the local community represents a significant step toward creating architectural solutions that are both innovative and deeply rooted in the needs of the people they are designed to serve.

Ph.D Degree Awarded

Doctoral Degree awarded to Mr. Suhail Gupta in School of Business, SMVDU

Mr. Suhail Gupta S/o Lt. Mr. Jagdish Gupta and Mrs. Arti Gupta has been declared for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Business by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, J&K. The candidate has worked on the topic "An Empirical Study on the Adoption of Digital Transactions among Rural Consumers in Jammu Region" under the supervision of Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Assistant Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, Katra. Mr. Suhail Gupta has published his research work in various reputed high-impact factor ABDC/SCI/SCIE and Scopus journals, and also presented papers in international conferences. The candidate thanked Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for granting all the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU), Dr. Ashutosh Vashistha (Dean Faculty of Management), and Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari (Supervisor, SOB) and other committee members congratulated the candidate and wished him a bright future ahead.



Ms. Saroj qualified for the Award of Ph.D. in Economics

Ms. Saroj, a researcher from the School of Economics at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has successfully completed her Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Economics. Under the guidance of Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena and Dr. Kirtti Ranjan Paltasingh, faculty members at the School of Economics, SMVDU. She conducted an empirical analysis on "Contract Farming, Market Risk and Farmer's Welfare: A Case of Wheat Growers in Haryana". Her research has been published in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the ABDC, SCI, and SCOPUS. Additionally, Ms. Saroj has presented her research work at numerous national and international conferences. Currently, she serves as an Assistant Professor (Economics) at Akal University, Bathinda, Punjab. She extends her heartfelt gratitude to the School of Economics at SMVDU for their essential resources and unwavering support throughout her research journey. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Professor Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. Roop Lal Sharma, Head, School of Economics, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Saroj and wished her a bright future.



Ms. Monika Kumari declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Monika Kumari D/O Sh. Maggar Singh and Smt. Raj Kumari, has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Computer Science and Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, Jammu. The candidate has worked on the topic entitled "Hybrid Approach To Remote Sensing Scene Classification" under the supervision of Dr. Ajay Kaul, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU. Ms. Monika Kumari has published various papers in SCI/SCIE-indexed journals and presented her research papers at international conferences. The scholar expresses her gratitude to her parents and supervisor for guidance, and to the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU, for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research. Prof (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Monika Kumari and wished her a bright future.



Ms. Akshita Gupta qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Akshita Gupta, D/o Sh. Ashok Kumar and Smt. Rajni Kumari, and wife of Mr. Anmol Gupta, has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, Jammu and Kashmir. She carried out her research under the guidance of Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta, Assistant Professor, SMVDU (currently on EOL). Her scientific research work entitled "Collaboration of UAVs and Fog Computing for Better QoS" has been acknowledged through publications in reputed international journals ranked by SCIE, and SCOPUS. She has published three SCI /SCIES indexed in peer-reviewed International Journals, one Scopus journal, one book chapter in a reputed book house, and several conference papers in international and national conferences. Additionally, she has been granted a patent by the German Patent and Trademark Office. She would like to express her sincere thanks to her supervisor, Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta, and to the School of ECE, SMVDU for all their support and resources during her research. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha (Dean, Faculty of Engineering), Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, (Head, School of ECE), Dr. Sachin Kumar Gupta (Supervisor), Dr. Manish Sabraj (Administrative Supervisor) and other committee members congratulate Ms. Akshita and wished her a bright future ahead.



Doctoral Degree awarded to Ms. Purna Katoch in School of Business, SMVDU

Ms. Purna Katoch D/o Mr. Suraj Singh Katoch and Mrs. Sangeeta Katoch has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in the School of Business by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, J&K. The candidate has worked on the topic "The Relationship of Entrepreneurial Orientation, Digitalization and Firm's Performance- A Study of Women Entrepreneurs of J&K" under the supervision of Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari, Assistant Professor, School of Business, SMVDU, Katra. Ms. Purna Katoch has qualified UGC-NET in Commerce and has published her research work in various reputed high-impact factor ABDC/SCI/SCIE and Scopus journals, and also presented papers in international conferences. The candidate thanked Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for granting all the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar (Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU), Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha (Dean Faculty of Management), Dr. Syeda Shazia Bukhari (Supervisor, SOB) and other committee members congratulated the candidate and wished her a bright future ahead.



Social Responsibility

Vikalp reconnects with Community through Successful Outreach Program



In a spirited effort to reconnect with the local community, Vikalp, a student-led educational initiative established in 2009, launched its first outreach program of the new session on August 11, 2024. The program, aimed at encouraging new enrollment and reaffirming Vikalp's commitment to accessible and quality education, marks a significant milestone as the initiative resumes its operations after a refreshing summer break. Starting at 2:00 PM from Gate No. 2 of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), a team of 15 dedicated volunteers embarked on a mission to engage with residents of Sirah Colony, Sool, and the surrounding areas. Through face-to-face interactions, they updated the community on Vikalp's reopening, addressing concerns and emphasizing the initiative's ongoing dedication to educational empowerment. By the time the program concluded at 4:00 PM, the volunteers had reached the maximum number of households, ensuring that Vikalp's message resonated throughout the community. Vikalp has long been committed to providing valuable learning experiences to students from nearby villages and the faculty area of SMVDU. This session, however, the initiative is placing special emphasis on the education of the children of construction workers currently employed at the university. Recognizing the unique challenges these students face, Vikalp has tailored daily classes, held from 5:00 PM to 6:00 PM in D-block, to meet their specific needs, ensuring that each child receives the support required to excel academically and personally. The success of this outreach program reflects Vikalp's broader mission to expand its reach and impact within the community. With robust support from the university's administration and faculty, the initiative is poised to conduct additional outreach programs, workshops, and co-curricular activities throughout the session. These efforts aim to further enhance educational opportunities for all students involved, fostering an environment where learning is both accessible and meaningful. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU and Shri Sumanta S. Sharma, Faculty Coordinator of Vikalp, have both applauded the students' efforts and the initiative's commitment to making this session a success. Their recognition underscores the importance of Vikalp's work and its vital role in the educational landscape of the region. As Vikalp continues its journey of educational empowerment, the initiative remains steadfast in its mission to enrich the lives of students and to make a lasting impact on the community it serves.

ALUMNI

Alumni of SMVDU, Dr. Ruchi Shah awarded DST-WISE-PDF

Dr. Ruchi Shah w/o Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and daughter of Suman and Mohan Shah has bagged most coveted research grant award WISE-PDF under the mentorship of Prof. Raies A Qadri, Department of Biotechnology, University of Kashmir. It would be worth to mention that Dr. Ruchi has done her PhD from School of Biotechnology, SMVDU. The "Women Scientists Scheme-WISE-PDF" is for research in basic and applied sciences by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for providing opportunities to women scientists. Dr. Ruchi thanked her funding agency DST-Govt. of India, her alma mater SMVDU and University of Kashmir for providing platform and infrastructure to scientists like her where they can excel in the field of STEM. She hoped that women from UT of JK will be the torch bearers of research and will lead the country in realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.



Glimpses of Independence Day



