



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **One Day International Webinar on Electric Vehicle Dynamics and Design Calculations on 29<sup>th</sup> Nov, 23.**
- **World "AMR Awareness Week" is being organized from 18<sup>th</sup> -24<sup>th</sup> Nov, 23.**
- **7<sup>th</sup> India International Folk Festival on 28th Nov, 2023.**

## PATRON

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

## EDITOR

**Dr. Anurag Kumar**  
Chairperson, Media Cell

## DESIGN & DRAFT

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

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Mr. Om Parkash**

## Workshop on Sanger Sequencing held at SMVDU



A Two Day Workshop on Sanger Sequencing was held in the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, Katra in association with Thermo Fisher. The inaugural session was attended by more than 150 undergraduate and postgraduate biotechnology students of SMVDU along with participants from various colleges of Jammu and Kashmir, University of Jammu, University of Kashmir, Central University of Jammu, and other professional institutes at Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU. Dean Faculty of Sciences, Dr. Sunil Wanchoo was the Chief Guest of the occasion and Dr. V. V. Tyagi, Dean Research and Development was the Guest of Honour. Dr. Wanchoo laid stress on the genetic awareness of the population and was hopeful that in future he could envisage that many entrepreneurs will come forward and start using these facilities. Dr. Anil Kumar and Dr. Vibha Pandey from Thermo Fisher delivered the keynote lecture on nuances of Sanger sequencing and introduced the Sanger sequencer-SeqStudio to the participants. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, School of Biotechnology, SMVDU briefed about the department to the participants such as the courses and facilities provided by the school to the students of SMVDU. Dr. Sharada Poutkuchi, Coordinator of the workshop welcomed all the guests and participants and made delegates aware about the mandate of the capacity building project under which the workshop is being held. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Katra interacted with the speakers and participants and directed the department to increase the footprint of these training and capacity building. This is to reiterate that the said project is funded by the Department of Higher Education, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir especially for the training of faculty from higher education institutes of Jammu and Kashmir. The workshop was organized by Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and Dr. Indu Bhushan from the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU. Dr. Rakesh presented vote of thanks and informed that such workshops in the school will be held regularly to train and educate the faculty, staff and other medical professionals from UT of Jammu and Kashmir.



## SMVDU Faculty in top 2% scientists from India listed by Elsevier & Stanford University

Three faculty members of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi, Dean (R&D) and faculty in the School of Energy Management, Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Associate Dean (Academics) and faculty in the School of Civil Engineering and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, faculty in the School of Mechanical Engineering figure in the list of top 2% worldwide scientists, published by Elsevier Database and Stanford University in the month of October 2023. Dr.



Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi is actively working in the research area of Solar Thermal Energy Storage, Phase Change Materials and its Applications, PV/Thermal System, Solar Wastewater Treatment and Desalination System. He has published 230 research papers in SCI/Scopus data base and has more than 15000 citations and 51 H-Index to his credit. Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal working in Geopolymer Concrete in the field of Civil Engineering and Ecofriendly construction materials, has published more than 50 research papers in various peer reviewed and SCI and Scopus indexed journals. He also has expertise in the field of 3D printing concrete as well as waste material utilization in construction materials. Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq is working in the area of Materials Tribology, 3D Printing, Green Lubricants and Cutting Fluids. Dr. Mir Irfan having more than 60 publications in Scopus data based to his credit is currently working in the field of Development of New Light weight and Sustainable Metal Matrix Composites for different applications. These faculty members have been ranked in this list for their research publications of repute, citations and their lifetime contribution to their fields of research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University congratulated the faculty members for their achievement of recognition in the list of top scientists globally and conveyed his best wishes for future endeavors.

## The Entrepreneurship Development Program begins at SMVDU

Entrepreneurship Development Program sponsored by the Higher Education Department of J&K inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The Program, tailored specifically for college students, has witnessed enthusiastic engagement from students representing diverse colleges across different districts of the Jammu region. The program commenced with the ceremonial lighting of the lamp. In his inaugural address, Chief Guest of the occasion, Sh. Satish Kaul, Resident Director, Emcure Pharmaceuticals Limited, expressed his pleasure to be among the students and encouraged them to come forward and pose any doubts they have in their minds regarding the hurdles towards becoming a successful entrepreneur. Dr. Supran Kumar Sharma, Program Coordinator and Director, Directorate of Quality Assurance, SMVDU underscored the program's core objectives. He emphasized that the focus of this program is to motivate students to engage in introspection and become familiar with the typical marketing practices employed by small-scale entrepreneurs. Dr. Kumud Ranjhan Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU emphasized that one should remember that entrepreneurship is a journey filled with ups and downs. Dr. Raghvendra Kumar Mishra, Dean of Students Welfare shared valuable insights. In the ever-evolving landscape of entrepreneurship, the ability to identify and harness underutilized resources can be a game-changer. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU appreciated the efforts and conveyed warm greetings and wishes for the success of the program. Dr. Sharada Potukuchi, Associate Professor, School of Biotechnology extended her formal gratitude in a vote of thanks mentioning fund support of the Higher Education Department of J&K. Sh. Nagendra S. Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU facilitated the smooth conduction of the event.



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## Orientation Programme organized at SMVDU for UG and PG Students



SMVDU organized an orientation program for the students of Masters and Integrated Programmes. The Orientation program is envisaged to help students transition into their new academic environment and role and align expectations to the values that SMVDU upholds as a university and community together. The program began with the recital of the National Anthem followed by a lamp-lighting ceremony at Matrika Auditorium. The chief guest of the function, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU graced the occasion and delivered the inaugural address. He welcomed the incoming batch in the SMVDU family and urged each one of them to take responsibility to contribute to the university. He advised the students to make the best out of the course, and the faculty provided to them. He urged the students to enjoy their studies and their sports while on the ground. Further, he encouraged the incoming students to remain inquisitive and to enjoy their lives and study by consistently working with a purpose in life. He also advised them to decide on their future course of the journey as to whether they would like to become, job creators or job seekers, and work towards achieving their dream. It was followed by brief orientation remarks by Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs. He addressed the students for making the best of every opportunity and to stay optimistic. He wished them good luck for embarking on their new journey. The event was attended by the Deans and the Heads of the schools of various faculties of the university. The orientation remarks by all the dignitaries present on the occasion encouraged and motivated the students to learn with enthusiasm and passion. The students were familiarised with the academic rules and regulations of the university by Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean of Academic Affairs. She gave a detailed account of academic rules for educating the newly admitted students regarding the smooth conduct of academic activities and a brief overview of various centers and clubs. The newly admitted students were administered a 10-point Kalam oath to instil values and morals in youth for becoming responsible citizens. The event concluded with the formal vote of thanks proposed by Dr. Shafaq Rasool. The proceedings of the event were carried out by Mr. Saksham and Ms. Amook, students of the School of Biotechnology, and the event was coordinated by the Academic Affairs section of the University.

## Scientific and Technical Outreach Program held at SMVDU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in association with the Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC), Department of Atomic Energy, Government of India, organized a One Day Scientific and Technical Outreach Program at the SMVDU campus. The program was attended by more than 300 students from various schools and departments along with the faculty and staff members. The inaugural ceremony was graced by Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs. Scientists from BARC, including S. Prabhakar, specializing in Food Irradiation



Sameer Mandal, expert in Nuclear Reactor Technology; R. K. B. Yadav, specialist in Radiation Safety in Health & Environment; Heema Rao, Head PA&FL Section, R. K. Mishra, and Yatin Thakur shared the dais. The program was organized by the School of Energy Management, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra with Dr. Vineet Veer Tyagi, Dean of Research and Development, and Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Dean of Research & Development, Dr. Yatheshth Anand and Dr. Jitendra Sharma as organizing team. Dr. Jitendra Sharma co-convenor in his welcome address emphasizes the importance of such partnerships. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU in his speech highlighted the University's achievement and its endeavours to organise such programmes. He stressed that such a program is very important for the student to pursue a career in the field of Nuclear Science & Renewable Energy. In his speech, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU said that this event will be helpful for the students in shaping their future. The Scientific and Technical Outreach Program, organized by the Scientists from BARC aims to create awareness about Nuclear Energy and its application. The scientific Outreach and Training program was unique in nature as it involved quizzes, expert lectures, and skits. The response from the students who attended the workshop and participated in the quiz sessions was overwhelming. The winners were awarded certificates. Dr. Yatheshth Anand expressed thanks to Bhabha Atomic Research Centre (BARC) for their unwavering support and partnership in making this initiative a reality.

## SMVDU organized Heritage Walk at Mansar Lake



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in association with the Department of Excise and Taxation, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir organized a heritage walk and lecture at Mansar Lake, in order to promote the rich cultural heritage of the area. The program started with a welcome address by Dr. Kamini Pathania, Vice President of the Board of Cultural Activities, SMVDU, Katra, and event coordinator. The Chief Guest of the occasion Mr. Ved Prakash, JKAS, CEO of Mansar-Surinsar Development Authority, reiterated the efforts of this team and the goal of the UT administration in developing Mansar-Surinsar as a religious tourism hub in the region. Mr. Kripal Singh, a heritage activist from Jammu discussed various types of heritage ranging from monuments like Mubarak Mandi, festivals of Dogra people, and art and archaeological sites in Jammu and advised students to be an ambassador in preserving the heritage by their actions. A heritage walk flagged by the CEO of Mansar Surinsar Development Authority Mr. Ved Prakash, JKAS around the Mansar Lake was undertaken by faculty and students of SMVDU. A cultural program by Ramditta and Party enthralled the audience with folk, traditional songs, and dances of the region. During the lake walk, students were shown various important sites adjoining Mansar Lake. Experts informed students about the folk-lore which links the origin of Mansar-Surinsar lakes with the *Mahabharata*. President of the Board of Cultural Activities of SMVDU, Dr. Rakesh Thusoo, thanked Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, and Mr. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS and Registrar, SMVDU for encouraging the board to organize such events and educating the students about the cultural heritage of Jammu region. The event was supported by Dr. Ankush Raina, Dr. Rahul Sharma, cultural coordinators, and Dr. Pankaj Biswas from the School of Physics, SMVDU. It would be worth mentioning the unique feature of J&K with regard to having three Ramsar sites i.e., Wullar, Hokersar, and Mansar-Surinsar. Ramsar Sites are wetlands of international importance.

## **SMVDU organizes Awareness Campaign on Women's Rights & Domestic Violence**

The Internal Complaint Committee (ICC) and National Service Scheme (NSS), SMVDU joined hands to organize a One Day Awareness Campaign on Women's Rights and Domestic Violence (Prevention of Sexual Harassment Act) on 13<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at the Matrika Auditorium. Sexual harassment and domestic violence are common issues faced by women in today's society. These issues pose a problem often encountered in workplaces, homes and violate the women's right to equality, life and liberty. It creates insecurity, reduces the quality of life and jeopardizes the well-being of women at their work places and homes alike. The purpose of the Campaign was to create awareness on women's rights and domestic violence since all are expected to have the basic awareness regarding POSH Act, 2013 and, should respect the dignity of women. SMVDU bears the responsibility to organize training programs or workshops for the Officers, Functionaries, Faculty and Students as indicated in the SAKSHAM Report (Measures for Ensuring the Safety of Women and Programmes for Gender Sensitization on Campuses) of the Commission, to sensitize them and ensure knowledge and awareness of the rights, entitlements and responsibilities enshrined in the Act and under the HEI regulations. The Chief Guest for the event was Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU and Guest of Honor, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Registrar, SMVDU and Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS, Finance Officer thanked the invited dignitaries and the event organizers for bringing to fore this sensitive subject. They illuminated on the sensitization of gender issues, the inclusion of empathy and requested the students to appeal if they face sexual violence so that the perpetrators don't get emboldened. In this context two expert lectures were delivered. Ms. Kiran Thakur, Advocate, Jammu High Court spoke about 'Rights, Responsibilities, and Remedies: Domestic Violence Awareness Workshop' and briefed the students about the basics of Domestic Violence, its types and examples of abuse one might be inflicted upon, followed by an interactive illustration demonstrating the guidelines of the Domestic Violence Act. A video documentary on



'Why Indian households normalize domestic violence' was consequently played. It was followed by the next guest Lecture on 'Sexual Harassment and Police FIR' by Ms. Neeta Verma, a Criminal Lawyer, and a member of the International Council of Jurists and practicing Advocate at the Supreme Court of India. She elucidated the details of the Sexual Harassment Act and the POSH Act, and the different sections under ICC that fend off sexual violence. The audience was made aware about the Universal helpline numbers (WHL) and One Stop Centers (OSC) available in case they need to lodge a complaint. An eclectic mix of cultural performances including poem recitation and singing were brought in by the culturally active students of SMVDU. The event was organized by the team comprising of Dr. Sharada Potukuchi, Dr. Sunanda, Mr. Vinod Kumar, Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Ms. Anu Suri, Members of the ICC; Ms. Minerva, Ms. Manya Verma, Ms. Samiksha, Student Members of ICC; Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Dr. Kamaldeep, the Coordinators of NSS Unit of SMVDU and Mr. Jaipal Jamwal Staff associated with ICC and the student volunteers from various Schools of the University. The vote of thanks was proposed by Mr. BK Bhatia, Placement Officer, SMVDU. The campaign ended on a patriotic note with the orchestration of the National Anthem.

## Celebration and Day Observed

### NSS SMVDU celebrated International Non-Violence Day



NSS unit of Shri Mata Vishno Devi University, Katra celebrated Gandhi Jayanti as International Non-Violence Day. NSS volunteers formed a Human chain to support Non-Violence in their lives. The event started with the welcome address by NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar was the chief guest of the occasion and Dean of Students Welfare, Dr. R. K. Mishra was the guest of honor of the event. They shared their thoughts on the lives of our great leaders, Rashtrapita Mahatma Gandhi and Shri Lal Bahadur Shastri ji. A small documentary on Khadi was also displayed on the occasion. NSS volunteers, Ojashvi, Suhani and Akanksha recited poems. NSS volunteers, Parvallika and Parakh Rajput anchored the whole event. More than 100 students actively participated in the event. Refreshment was also served at the end of the event.

### Vikalp SMVDU celebrated Dussehra 2023

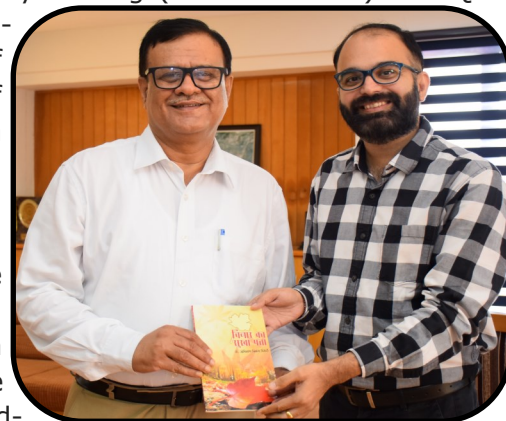
On the 24<sup>th</sup> of October, 2023, Vikalp celebrated Dussehra at SMVDU which commemorates the victory of good over evil. It symbolizes the triumph of Lord Ram over the Lanka king, Ravana. The volunteers took the opportunity to teach students about the importance of the Dussehra celebration and the nine avatars of Maa Durga through Ram-Leela and storytelling, respectively. The event started at 5:00 PM in LT4 with a small introduction about the event and Diya lighting by our honored guests, Dr. Anil Bhardwaj, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and Dr. Purnima Hazra. After that, storytelling was performed about Maa Durga and her nine avatars who were worshipped during Navaratri which embarks on the importance of this festival. It was then followed by an amazing dance by our little artists of Vikalp. Next in the event was the Ram-Leela, performed by the volunteers in a very out-of-the-ordinary way,



showcasing some of the important scenes and lessons from the Ramcharitmanas. After that, a very energetic and lovely dance was performed by the Vikalp students. The event was concluded with inspiring and encouraging words from our guests and refreshments distributed among the students. More such events will be organized in the future, allowing students to know their rich, colorful, and unique culture.

### **Hindi Cell, SMVDU organized Hindi Pakhwada & its Prize Distribution Ceremony**

Hindi Pakhwada 2023 and its prize distribution ceremony was organized by Hindi Cell (Hindi Prakoshth), SMVDU, in which various competitions were organized which were Summarization (Sankshepan), Essay Writing (Nibandh Lekhan), Memoir Writing (Smriti Lekhan), Poetry Writing (Kavita Lekhan) and Quiz (Prashnottari). University students and children of SMVDU fraternity participated enthusiastically in the event. The organization of the Hindi Pakhwada was led by Milind Shukla, Student Secretary of Hindi Cell and was coordinated by Pooja Kharra, Suhani Sharma and Dheeraj Kumar. The winners of Hindi Pakhwada were honored by Vice Chancellor & Patron, Hindi Cell Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar. In Junior Category; Chetna Wadhawan, Ipshita Verma, Aarohini Bhardwaj, Rudransh Wadhawan and Anshila Bhardwaj were awarded. In the Senior Category; Lavkush, Sonu Kumar, Divyanshi Singh, Madhukar Kumar, Abhimanyu Raj Jha, Subhash Chandra Chaurasiya, Bhumi Puri, Abhishek and Sakshi were awarded. The Vice Chancellor inspired all the students, and extended his best wishes. Student Secretary Milind Shukla provided detailed information regarding the activities of Hindi Cell and Hindi Pakhwada Events. Nodal Officer Hindi Cell, Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi presented the Self-Written Book "Chinar Ka Sukha Patta" as a memento to HVC and expressed his gratitude for attending the program.



## **External Experts**

### **Motivational Lecture organized for Fresher Students at SMVD University**

School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra organized a Motivational Lecture on 'Embracing Failure as a Stepping Stone' delivered explicitly by Mr. Yogesh K Verma, CEO, Perfect Square, New Delhi for the Fresher students who have joined various Undergraduate and Postgraduate Programs in the current Academic Session. Mr. Verma has immense experience with the corporate world having worked as General Manager - Special Nutrition Business, Heinz and prior to that has spent 25 years with Nestle India Limited in different positions such as National Key Institutes Manager, Regulatory Affairs Manager, Branch Manager, etc. He has also represented India as a Delegate through Confederation of Indian Industries (CII) in Codex Committee on Nutrition and Foods for Special Dietary Uses (CCNFSDU), a CODEX body, meeting continuously for three years 2008-2010. He is the Founder Director of Alimente', a premium food Company. He is currently an esteemed Faculty at Indian Aviation Academy and a Skill Expert Member of the DBT-PG Programme Advisory Committee at SMVDU. He is an expert Council Member to many research firms like Advantus Global-China, Third Bridge, UK, GLG (Gerson Lehrman Group) New York, USA and manages Perfect Square - A Training & Business Consultancy Company. The objective behind organizing the lecture was to strongly promote positive values and problem solving as new-age skills to the young minds. The students actively interacted with the expert with an overwhelming response to his question. The event was also attended by Deans, Heads of Schools, Faculty, Staff members and Research Scholars of the University. The speaker deliberated on



the importance of a positive approach in life, especially when one is facing a crisis and unforeseen obstacles. He discussed that the people with positive attitude always remain hopeful and see the best even in difficult situations. In contrast, those with negative attitudes may be more pessimistic and disagreeable, and typically expect the worst outcome in tough situations. He thanked Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs; Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head, Biotechnology; Dr. Sharada Potukuchi and Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Coordinators of the DBT-PG Program who organized event at short notice and for giving him a platform for sharing his views with the young minds of the University.

## SMVDU organized Expert Lectures on Floating Solar PV and Landslides

School of Civil Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized expert lectures on 'Floating Solar PV' and "Landslides" to promote interdisciplinary studies in alignment with the National Education Policy, encouraging students to explore beyond the conventional boundaries of civil engineering. The event commenced with an opening note from Dr. V. K. Dogra, Head of the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE). The expert, Dr. Manish Kumar from Himachal Pradesh



University passionately discussed the importance of civil engineers in advancing research and development in new technologies for the frames that support floating solar PV systems. He introduced the audience to the latest trends in solar PV development, shedding light on the potential of floating solar solutions in harnessing renewable energy sources. Dr. Kumar's presentation was both educational and inspiring, emphasizing the role of civil engineering in the renewable energy sector. Following this, the other expert, Dr. Mahesh Sharma, also from Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla, spoke on "Landslides." He not only elucidated the causes and mechanisms behind landslides but also shared valuable insights on mitigation techniques. To exemplify the importance of the subject, Dr. Sharma presented several case studies of recent landslides in Himachal Pradesh, showcasing the real-world consequences of these natural disasters. His comprehensive presentation left the audience with a heightened awareness of the potential dangers and preventive measures associated with landslides. Concluding the event, Dr. Vaibhav Sapkal, delivered the valedictory speech, summarizing the significance of the day's discussions and emphasizing their relevance to the field of civil engineering. The event was coordinated by Mr. Srijan, and Mr. Gautam Narula, the latter also delivered a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the esteemed guest speakers, students, and faculty for their active participation. The event was a resounding success in promoting innovation, knowledge exchange, and academic enrichment among the students and faculty.

# Faculty/Staff Updates

## Publication

Mahima Sharma, Sahil Bharti, Anindya Goswami and Sharada Mallubhotla. 2023. Diversity, Antimicrobial, Antioxidant, and Anticancer Activity of Culturable Fungal Endophyte Communities in *Cordia dichotoma*. *Molecules-MDPI*, 28, 6926, DOI: <https://doi.org/10.3390/molecules28196926> (Published 04.10.2023) (SCI-E Impact Factor: 4.93).



# Student Updates

## SMVDU organized Ek Tareekh Ek Ghanta Ek Saath Shramdaan Event



NSS volunteers of SMVDU Katra organized Ek Tareekh, Ek Ghanta, Ek Saath event as part of Swachhata Hi Sewa in collaboration with district administration, Reasi at Panthal block in which remarkable cleanliness drive was performed at Panthal marketplace and Amrit Sarovar. Swachhata pledge was also taken by all participants before starting the cleanliness drive. Around 200 participants actively participated in this drive and collected around 200 kg of single use plastic waste. Shopkeepers were also educated about the importance of cleanliness in their nearby vicinity. This initiative saw active participation from various stakeholders and attended by Assistant Commissioner Development, Dr Anirudh Rai, Assistant Commissioner Panchayat, Shri Pardeep Kumar, BDO Katra, Mr. Manoj Raina, BDO Panthal, Ms. Mehak, students and staff of Government Higher Secondary School, Panthal led by Principal Smt Rachna Sharma, DDC Panthal, Shri Rajinder Mengi, Sarpanch, Suresh Kumar, Sarpanch, Rajinder Thappa, PRI members, Market Association Members along with University NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for successfully organizing the event.

## SMVDU, Students presented paper in an International Conference CISCE 2023



B Tech final year students of the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented a technical paper in the International Conference on Creative and Innovative Solutions in Civil Engineering (CISCE-2023). Kevin Somra, Pooja Kharra and Sagar Singh presented a paper titled "Use of Sustainable Material as Column Filler in Soft Clay Bed Reinforced with Stone Column: A Numerical Study". Another group of students Abhivek Singh and Harshit Vatsa also presented a paper titled "A study on the behaviour of soft clay under embankment loading". Both the groups were guided by Mr. Srijan (Assistant Professor, SoCE). The conference was organized by Department of Civil Engineering, Malaviya National Institute of Technology Jaipur. The paper of the students will be published in IOP Conference Series: Earth and Environmental Science (Scopus Indexed).

## NSS SMVDU organized Art of Happiness Workshop



The National Service Scheme (NSS) unit of SMVDU Katra organized the "Art of Happiness" workshop. The workshop was conducted by renowned motivational speaker Shri Raj Kumar Dogra from Swarangan Meditation Charitable Trust (NGO), Jammu. The event started with a welcome address by NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar. The speaker Shri Raj Kumar Dogra emphasized not comparing oneself, complaining about anything, and criticizing others. The first priority of everyone should be one's mental health. NSS volunteers Suhani Rajput and Suhani Sharma anchored the event. More than 100 students enthusiastically took part in this workshop, which proved to be a profound and enjoyable learning experience for all participants. Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Balbir Singh, Dr. Manoj Gupta, and NSS co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep were also present during the workshop. Vice-chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS volunteers for organizing the event.

## NSS SMVDU organizes Cleanliness Drive



NSS volunteers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a cleanliness drive in Sirah village. The event was organized in collaboration with Block Development Office, Katra under the aegis of 'Swachhta Pakhwada'. The main motive of the drive was to collect single use plastic waste from the market area of Sirah village and to aware shopkeepers about the cleanliness. More than 50 NSS volunteers actively participated in the said event and collected around 30 Kg of plastic waste. The NSS volunteer Abhishek Sharma coordinated the whole event along with other volunteers. NSS coordinator and co-coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers in organizing the event.



## SMVDU Students participated in the Foundation Day Celebration of CSIR-IIIM, Jammu

The 82<sup>nd</sup> Foundation Day of the Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR), was celebrated on 9<sup>th</sup> October 2023 at CSIR- Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu. On this Occasion an exhibition cum poster presentation session for scholars and start-ups was organized. The event also marked as an open day to all the school and college students in which 60 students from B.Sc. and M.Sc. Biotechnology from the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra participated. They were accompanied by Dr. Indu Bhushan, Dr. Raju Shankarayan, and Er Arvind Yadav.



The students visited various labs of the institute and interacted with expert scientists and research scholars and were briefed on the ongoing research at the Institute in different disciplines of Plant Biotechnology, Cancer Pharmacology, Instrumentation and Infectious Disease Section etc. The students also interacted with two alumni from the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU, Dr. Gurleen Kour, Scientist in Pharmacology Division and Dr. Rashmi Sharma, Scientist in Infectious Diseases Division at IIM-Jammu. The visit was organized and managed by Dr. Asha Chaubey, Senior Scientist and Chairperson, Students Visit Committee at IIIM Jammu in collaboration with the Head, School of Biotechnology, Dr. Ratna Chandra. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts on both sides and encouraged the faculty and students to visits such institutes quite often.

## SMVDU Students and Faculty Members attended North Tech Symposium 2023 at IIT Jammu



The students of of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University accompanied by faculty members, Dr. Balbir Singh, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Mr. Sudesh Kumar and Mr. Shashi Bushan Kotwal attended the North Tech Symposium 2023 at Indian Institute of Technology Jammu on 13<sup>th</sup> of September. The North Tech Symposium was held from the 11<sup>th</sup> to the 13<sup>th</sup> of September, promoting collaboration between the Indian Army, academia, and the industry. The Symposium featured exhibitions of the start-ups promoting "Atmanirbhar Bharat". These start-ups showcased indigenously designed and manufactured defence equipments and provided a platform for the students and faculty of SMVDU to interact with them, and gain knowledge of the challenges and possible solutions of the present and future technology. The symposium also facilitated networking opportunities for students and faculty members from different institutions, fostering connections that could lead to collaborative research endeavours and career opportunities.

## NSS SMVDU initiated "Swachhta hi Sewa" Campaign

NSS unit of SMVDU, Katra organized a cleanliness drive in Sirah village under the aegis of "Swachhta hi Sewa" campaign. The main motive of the drive was to aware villagers about importance of cleanliness and to collect single use plastic waste. NSS volunteers started the event with an awareness rally by chanting slogans. More than 60 NSS volunteers actively participated in the said event and collected around 85 Kg of plastic waste. Village roads were also swept by volunteers. NSS coordinator and co-coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Dr. Kamaldeep appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers. Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated team NSS for the initiative.



## SMVDU Students awarded in the Sanskrit Olympiad

Three students of M.A. Vedic Studies of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University got the first, second, and third positions respectively in the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The "Sanskrit Olympiad" was organized by Central Sanskrit University, New Delhi, on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 2023 with the help of "Little Guru Organisation" for the first time. The result was declared on 25<sup>th</sup> September 2023 by the Vice-Chancellor of Central Sanskrit University. The program of Vedic Studies is running under the School of Philosophy and Culture. Akshey Bharti got the first position, Danish Vaid got the second position and Varun Sharma got the third position, under the guidance of Mr. Krishna Kumar Pandey (guest faculty) and Mr. Keshav Kumar Pandey (guest faculty). In this competition, 12467 students from 750 schools/ gurukuls/organizations/ colleges/universities participated. The Head of the School, Mr. Sumanta Sarthi Sharma congratulated the students and wished them for their better future.



## NSS SMVDU organized Fit India Freedom Run

NSS SMVDU organized "Fit India Freedom Run" under the aegis of 'Azadi Ka Amrit Mohotsav'. The motive of the run was to make students aware about the efforts of our freedom fighters. Nearly 150 students participated in the said event. The event was held at the university ground in the morning hours. All the participants also sang "Saare Jahaan se Accha Hindostan Hamara" at the end of the Run. NSS Programme coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar appreciated the efforts of all volunteers for organizing the event and informed that more such runs will be planned on regular basis. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated NSS volunteers for successfully organizing the event. The entire event was successfully coordinated by NSS volunteers.



## SMVDU Scholar bags Best Oral Presentation Award at Int'l Conference

Ms. Chitrakshi Chopra, Research Scholar at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), received the best oral presentation award at the International Conference on Recent Trends in Biomedical Sciences (RTBS-2023), organized by the Department of Medical Laboratory Sciences, Lovely Professional University, Punjab. The conference aimed to promote, encourage, and bring together researchers, scientists, pathologists, and medical service providers to share knowledge and recent advances made in their respective fields. Ms. Chopra, working under the supervision of Dr. Indu Bhushan, Faculty, SMVDU presented a paper titled "Microbial Communities in Women's Reproductive Health: Insights into Vaginal Microbiota and Implications for Well-being," co-authored by Ms. Malvika Mehta, Mr. Pankaj Suden, and Dr. Indu Bhushan. The research aimed to provide insight into the role of vaginal microbiome in various stages of life in females. The study also emphasized the significance of microbiota-targeted interventions that aim to optimize the composition of the healthy microbiome and shed light on the importance of translational investigations in this field. The experts at the conference appreciated the work carried out by Ms. Chopra. More than 200 papers were presented by the participants coming from different countries.



## SMVDU Scholar awarded at CRABECON Cancer Conclave

Mr. Rajeshwer Singh Jamwal, Research Scholar at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), working under the supervision of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Thusoo has achieved a significant milestone by securing the 3rd Prize for his oral presentation on his research "Towards Non-small Cell Lung Cancer in the Population of Jammu and Kashmir" at the prestigious CRABE-CON Cancer Conclave, held at Royal Park, Greater Kailash, Jammu. This national-level conference, held under the theme "Precision Oncology: A New Milestone", witnessed a huge gathering of experts and Clinicians from the field of cancer research to discuss and share ground-breaking advancements. Out of a pool of talented researchers and Clinicians, Mr. Rajeshwer Singh Jamwal was one of the five winners selected for an oral presentation, a testament to the quality and significance of his research. His presentation captivated the audience and judges alike, earning him the well-deserved Prize and a cash of Rs 4000/-. This is to reiterate that Dr. Rakesh's group has been tirelessly working in the field of cancer genomics for the last 11 years and has published more than thirty high impact research papers and seven PhDs have been awarded in the said field in UT of Jammu and Kashmir. Mr. Rajeshwer Singh Jamwal extends his heartfelt gratitude to his Supervisor, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Head, SoBT, Dr. Ratna Chandra, and Honourable Vice chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar for their unwavering infrastructural and administrative support. The study was supported by JKSTIC and DST-SSTP, Govt. of India Grant to the PI-Dr. Rakesh Kumar.



## SMVDU Volunteers participated in Meri Maati Mera Desh Amrit Kalash Yatra

NSS SMVDU volunteers participated in Amrit Kalash Yatra at Panthal block organized by district administration under the aegis of Meri Maati Mera Desh. The event was organized at Govt. Higher Secondary School, Panthal. Maati was brought from various villages of the Panthal block by their respective Panch and Sarpanch. The same was added to Amrit kalash for the Panthal block. It will go to district level, state level and then to National Capital in making Amrit vatika and Shaheed Memorial. The event started with cultural performances by school students and university NSS volunteers. NSS volunteers Suhani Sharma recited a Hindi poem on the occasion and Mridul sang a patriotic song 'Teri Mitti Mein Mil Jaavan'. North zone cultural team from Patiala presented a nukkad naatak on the occasion. Pledge ceremony for the



Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign was also organized. More than 400 participants were there during the celebration. BDO Katra, Shri Manoj Raina, DDC Panthal, Shri Rajender Mengi, team from 6th Battalion of CRPF, NSS coordinator of university Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Principal of school Smt. Renuka Sharma along with staff members were also present during the mega event. Vice chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated team NSS for participating in the campaign.

## IIT Jammu Hosts SMVDU Students on the 75<sup>th</sup> Anniversary of Transistor

The Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Jammu hosted a group of students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) on the occasion of the "75th Anniversary of Transistor," organized by the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society" (CASS). The visit was an opportunity for students to delve into the world of cutting-edge research and innovation. The eminent speakers during the event included Mr. Preet Yadav (Manager Chair, IEEE CASS Delhi chapter), Dr. Yogesh



Singh Chauhan (Prof. IIT Kanpur and IEEE EDS UP chapter), and Dr. Santosh Kumar Vishvakarma (Prof. IIT Indore and IEEE CASS MP chapter). The students were introduced to various scientific societies including the IEEE Circuits and Systems Society (CASS) and briefed about the membership benefits of the scientific societies and the cutting-edge 5-nm technology designing in IIT Kanpur labs through videos and presentations. The visit concluded with an engaging Q&A session, during which the SMVDU students had the opportunity to interact with the speakers and seek guidance on pursuing higher education and research in the field of electronics and electrical engineering. The students were thankful to the Head of the Department of Electronics and Communication, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj for arranging this wonderful visit and to Dr. Vikram Singh (Assistant Professor) for accompanying the students on the trip. Dr. Neeraj Tripathi (AP) for encouraging the B. Tech (ECE) 1<sup>st</sup> semester students to participate in this event.

## NSS SMVDU organized an Event at Government High School, Sirah

NSS SMVDU keeps organizing various events in nearby Government schools from time to time. This time NSS volunteers distributed creative charts in Government High School, Sirah. NSS volunteers were assigned the responsibility of making creative charts for the school classrooms. The idea was to help school students to learn different topics effectively. The various topics covered in the creative charts were Months' names, alphabets, parts of the body, different seasons, Air pollution, Parts of flowers, Trigonometry, personal hygiene practices, etc. More than 40 charts were donated to the school. Headmistress Smt. Rachna and other school teachers appreciated the efforts of University students. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator of the University also accompanied volunteers for the event. The university team also visited the play school wing on the school premises. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of the NSS SMVDU team.



## SMVDU organized Run for Unity on Rastriya Ekta Diwas

NSS SMVDU organized Run for Unity on the occasion of Rastriya Ekta Diwas to celebrate the birth anniversary of Iron Man Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel. The event was organized under the aegis of Meri Maati Mera Desh campaign. The Unity run was flagged off by the Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar. Before the start of the run all participants took the Rastriya Ekta Pledge. Volunteer Suhani Sharma recited a poem on the occasion. The unity run was started from the Administrative block to the residential area and then back to the starting point. Around 100 participants joined the event and covered around 3 Km distance during the run. NSS Program Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep thanked all the participants and volunteers for supporting the event.



## SMVDU Scholar delivered Lecture at Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Andhra Pradesh

The Department of CSE-AI/AIML, Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh organized a one-day guest lecture on 6th, October, 2023. Participants witnessed an enlightening lecture titled "Impact of Artificial Intelligence in Healthcare" by Mr. Abhigya Mahajan, Research Scholar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, working under the guidance of Dr. Baijnath Kaushik. The lecture aimed to equip participants with the essential skills and knowledge required for the role of artificial intelligence in healthcare. Mr. Mahajan covered various topics related to Artificial Intelligence, including their importance in the Healthcare system in India. Addressing the participants, Mr. Mahajan also discussed the challenges of integrating Artificial intelligence into Healthcare. The lecture was followed by a lively interactive session, during which attendees had the opportunity to pose questions and engage in discussions with Mr. Mahajan. Participants appreciated the insightful and practical advice offered during the session, which they believe it would significantly benefit their knowledge regarding Artificial Intelligence. The principal Dr. K. Kiran Kumar expressed his gratitude to Mr. Mahajan for sharing their expertise and knowledge with the academic community at Chalapathi Institute of Technology, Guntur, Andhra Pradesh.



### **Alisha Mahajan has been declared Qualified for the Award of Ph. D. Degree**

Ms. Alisha Mahajan has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The scholar has worked on the topic, "Environmental Stringency and Environmentally Sensitive Goods: Trade Perspective of G-20" under Dr. Kakali Majumdar, Associate Professor, School of Economics, SMVDU. Ms. Alisha Mahajan has published various research papers in ABDC/SSCI indexed journals and has presented her research papers at international and national conferences. The scholar expresses her gratitude to the School of Economics, SMVD University for providing all necessary facilities and support during her research. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Alisha Mahajan and wished her a bright future.



### **Rohit Bhardwaj declared Qualified for the Award of Ph. D Degree**

Mr. Rohit Bhardwaj has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) degree of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). He has worked on the topic: "Role of Network Bricolage in Social Purpose Organizations – A Knowledge-based Dynamic Capability Perspective" under the supervision of Dr. Saurabh Srivastava and Dr. Rashi Taggar in the School of Business. Rohit Bhardwaj presented his research work at many conferences and has published 10 research papers in ABDC listed journals comprising two first authored papers in A ranked journals. Rohit Bhardwaj is now working as a Post-doctoral Fellow at Birla Institute of Management Technology (Noida). Prior to joining academia and research, he has worked as a professional rapper, DJ, and a hip-hop artist.



### **SMVDU Scholar declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D. Degree**

Ms. Malvika Ashok has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph. D) by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, "Automatic Segmentation of Organs-at-Risk in Thoracic Computed Tomography Images" under the supervision of Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Senior Scientist, Central Scientific Instruments Organisation (CSIO), Chandigarh, and co-Supervision of Dr. Manoj Kumar Gupta, Associate Professor, School of Computer Science & Engineering, SMVDU. Ms. Malvika Ashok has published various research papers in SCI/SCIE-indexed journals and presented her research papers at international conferences. During her Research period, she was getting Junior Research Fellowship (JRF) from the University Grants Commission (UGC). Currently, the candidate works at a High-end Computing Artificial Intelligence and Deep Learning Lab, SMVDU, Katra. The scholar expresses her gratitude 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. Malvika Ashok and wished her a bright future.

