



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Workshop on Research Methodology Starts from 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Jan, 24**
- **Faculty Development Program on Artificial Intelligence, Machine Learning and Data Science starts from 15<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> Jan,24.**
- **Two Days Workshop on "Arduino for Physics Experiments" starts from 18<sup>th</sup> -19<sup>th</sup> Jan , 24.**
- **8-day Online training Program entitled "NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program" starts from 22<sup>nd</sup> -31<sup>st</sup> Jan, 24.**

## 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**

## Lt. Gov., Manoj Sinha addressed the 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation at SMVDU



The Lieutenant Governor, Shri Manoj Sinha while addressing the 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation ceremony of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, called upon the graduating students to set clear goals in professional career, identify problems and face them courageously to build Viksit Bharat@2047. Union Minister of Education and Skill Development & Entrepreneurship, Shri Dharmendra Pradhan was the chief guest of the occasion. Shri Dharmendra Pradhan, congratulated the students for starting their new journey and quoted that "Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi ji has emphasized on giving priority to competency over degree. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University is a research and design-centric university. I have full confidence that the students of this prestigious institution will lead this technology-based era, and become a major contributor to the progress of the society, nation and the world in the times to come,". In his address, the Lt Governor Shri Manoj Sinha asked the students to be patient, pursue their dreams with passion and capitalize the opportunity to learn new skills. "In the journey of Amrit Kaal, the country needs young consciousness and youthful thinking. Youth will shape the future. The world is changing faster than ever before and the youth needs patience to capitalize the opportunity to learn new skills. Never stop chasing your dreams and keep walking until you achieve your mission in life," the Lt Governor said. He said learning how to learn in real world is one of the greatest skills and not to be afraid of failures in the journey of life. "My advice to graduates entering professional career is never to stop learning. If you want to start a business then go ahead and do it, those interested in start-ups with new ideas must pursue it with passion. Don't be afraid of failures. A person learns best from failures in his life," the Lt Governor stated. Talking about the future beyond the campus, the Lt Governor said the contemporary areas today offer many opportunities and graduating students should evaluate their skills to execute the goals. "The journey of life beyond campus is like a mirror. Students get an opportunity to see their ideal self, explore their pas-

## SMVDU signed MOU with Central Public Works Department



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Central Public Works Department. According to the agreement, CPWD will provide its technical and management services for the construction of three buildings. These structures include a Pre-Engineering Academic Block and two hostels, one for boys and another for girls, each with a capacity of a hundred students. The construction of these buildings aims to enhance academic and hostel facilities to address the growing demand for classrooms and accommodations. The MOU signing ceremony saw the presence of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma (Registrar), Shri Neeraj Gupta (Finance Officer), and Shri Kamal Sharma (University Engineer) from SMVDU, alongside Shri Rakesh Kumar Dhiman, Additional Director General, Jammu Region, CPWD. The signing underscores the commitment of Honourable Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar and other SMVDU officials to the continuous growth and development of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University.

## One Day Workshop on Aero Modelling conducted at SMVDU



One Day Workshop on Aero Modelling conducted by the School of Mechanical Engineering and Automation and Emerging Technology Club at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. Mr. Yadvinder Singh Kokkhar, CEO, Khokhar Hobby Tech. Bhatinda, Punjab took a theoretical session on the theory of flight and conducted a practical session on flying handmade models of aircraft. Students of the AET Club have shown a keen interest in learning about making models and flying models. Students of the AET club are getting exposure to the latest technologies in the fields of Automation, robotics, 3D printing, aero-modelling etc under the mentorship of faculty mentors, Dr. Balbir Singh, Assoc. Professor, Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Assistant Professor and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor from the School of Mechanical Engineering. Chief Guest, Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU advised students to venture into the field of Drone and UAV having vast job potentials in the fields of agricultural, security and defence applications. Dr. Varun Dutta, Secretary of the Workshop facilitated the smooth conduct of the workshop and expressed a vote of thanks in the concluding session of the workshop.

## One-Day Awareness Program on "Cyber Crime and Safety" organized at SMVDU

A one day awareness program on "Cyber Crime and Safety" was conducted by the faculty members, comprising Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Mr. Ashish Suri, and Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal of the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The faculty members have visited Government High School, Sirah and Government Degree College, Kakryal for this awareness program. The key objective of the program was to spread awareness about possible safety measures against cyber-frauds. The program coordinator, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU Katra, highlighted the possible reasons and causes of cyber fraud. Mr. Ashish Suri, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU, has focused on the importance of this awareness program. Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal, Assistant Professor, SoECE, SMVDU, overviewed the technical depth of the cyber-crime reasons. The program coordinator, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, is thankful to the Honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar and Registrar, Shri Ajay Sharma for their kind approval to organize this awareness program for the benefit of society.



## SMVDU broadcasted Viksit Bharat@2047 launched by Hon'ble Prime Minister

Ideas for Vision of Viksit Bharat@2047 broadcasted at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, launched by Honourable Prime Minister at 10.30 am on 11<sup>th</sup> December, 2023. The program highlighted the vision of the Government of India to make India a developed nation by 2047, the 100<sup>th</sup> year of its independence. The vision encompasses various aspects of development, including economic growth, social progress, environmental sustainability, and good governance. Honourable Prime Minister



invoked the youth of the country to participate with their full potential to realize the vision of Viksit Bharat as they have the required energy and strength, desire, potential, talent and capabilities to play the pivotal role to lead India to Viksit Bharat by 2047. He further highlighted the role of the Teachers, students and Educational Institutions to ideate and contribute to the vision of Viksit Bharat. Therefore, they should start the outreach program to approach every youth in the country and convey the vision and mission of Viksit Bharat. The program was attended by all the students, faculty and staff members of the university. The program was addressed by Prof. R. K. Mishra, Dean of Students Welfare, Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean, Academic Affairs, Dr. Yugal Khajuriya, Dean of International and Alumina Affairs and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean of International and Alumina Affairs. The closing remarks were delivered by Shri Ajay Sharma, Registrar in presence of Shri Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer, SMVDU.

## SMVDU showcases Cultural Spectacle as a part of Viksit Bharat Utsav



In a vibrant celebration of India's rich cultural tapestry, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), in collaboration with Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages, brought forth the mesmerizing "Viksit Bharat Utsav." This event served as a captivating platform to showcase the diverse cultural heritage of the region and was held with great fervour at the university premises. The proceedings of the evening were carried out by Dr. Rahul Sharma, cultural coordinator, Board of Cultural Activities (BCA). Dr. Ratna Chandra, coordinator of the event delivered the welcome address and deliberated upon the Viksit Bharat@2047. Registrar SMVDU, Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma felicitated the artists and guests of the evening. The highlight of the evening was celebrity guest, Dr. Deepali Wattal. Dr. Wattal speaking on the occasion emphasized the significance of such events in fostering cultural harmony and promoting the heritage of the country among the younger generation. Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean Academics in her message deliberated upon the role of youth in leading India to Viksit Bharat by 2047. The cultural extravaganza, reverberated with the soul-stirring melodies by Dr. Deepali Wattal, traditional dances, and artistic expressions by Mr. Sunny Muju and group from JKAACL representing various regions of the UT of Jammu and Kashmir. The event aimed to foster a deeper understanding and appreciation of the regions' cultural mosaic while celebrating unity in diversity. Artists and performers showcased their talents, bringing alive the essence of different regions. Sh. Ajay Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, expressed his delight at the collaborative effort that culminated in such a splendid display of India's cultural richness. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor, SME and Cultural Coordinator, BCA proposed the vote of thanks. The event was possible with the coordinated efforts of President BCA, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Thusoo and Dean Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh and the Head SoBT, Dr. Ratna Chandra. The organisers acknowledgement the guidance and support of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor, SMVDU and Mr. Bharat Singh Manhas, JKAS, Sec. JKAACL for the successful culmination of event. The success of Viksit Bharat Utsav stands as a testament to the power of cultural amalgamation and the invaluable contributions of institutions like Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and the Jammu and Kashmir Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages in preserving and promoting the nation's rich cultural legacy.

## Training Program on "Materials Characterization Techniques" starts at SMVDU



ICT based one week training programme on "Materials Characterization Techniques", inaugurated at School of Physics, SMVDU in collaboration with NITTTR Chandigarh. The faculty members, technical staff, M. Tech. students and Ph. D. Research scholars from SMVDU and nearby institutes/ colleges are participating in the program. The primary objective of this STTP is to impart basic and practical knowledge of the advanced tools used for material characterization in research organizations and academic institutes. The training program includes a number of demonstrative experimental techniques which shall be carried out by experts in the field of synthesizing and characterizing materials. The participants also come across quizzes, assignments and discussions during session breaks. The main coordinators of the training programme are Dr. Pankaj Sharma, Prof. Ashok Kumar, from NITTTR Chandigarh and Dr. Pankaj Biswas and Dr. Kamni Pathania are the local coordinators from the School of Physics, SMVDU, who extend their gratitude towards Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honourable Vice Chancellor for his valuable support in organizing the training programme at SMVDU remote centre and Dr. S.K. Wanchoo, Head, SoP and Dean FoS, SMVDU for facilitating the program.

### Training Session on Implementation of e-Office conducted at SMVDU



The e-Office Cell and the Office of the Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, in collaboration with the J&K e-Governance Agency (JaKeGA), Information Technology Department of the UT of Jammu & Kashmir, conducted a training session on the 'Implementation of e-Office at SMVDU.' The session was attended by Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (Registrar), Sh. Neeraj Gupta (Finance Officer), Deans of Faculties, Heads of the Schools, other Section Heads, and staff members. Mr. Romit Singh, a resource person from JaKeGA, provided practical insights into the functioning of the e-office system. During the session, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (Registrar) and Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal (Nodal Officer, e-Office Implementation) addressed queries raised by the participants. The e-Office cell acknowledged the initiatives undertaken by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, in leading the digitization efforts within the University. Special recognition was extended to Ms. Anuradha Gupta, CEO of JaKeGA, Mr. Arun Panotra, Analyst IT JaKeGA, and the entire project team for their exceptional support in the swift implementation of e-Office at SMVDU.

### SMVDU Vice-Chancellor releases Book '*Nano Materials for Sustainable Tribology*'

Professor (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, launched the book, *Nano Materials for Sustainable Tribology* published by CRC Press, Taylor and Francis Group, United Kingdom. The book, jointly edited by Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SMVDU), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assistant Professor, SMVDU), Dr. Patricia Iglesias Victoria (Associate Professor, Rochester Institute of Technology, New York, USA), Dr. Sudhanraj Jeganmohan (Assistant Professor, Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary), and Prof. Ankush Anand (Professor, SMVDU), delves into the intricate



the intricate realm of nano materials and their pivotal role in fostering sustainable tribology. It explores innovative solutions for friction, wear, and lubrication challenges across various industrial sectors. The book launch event commenced with a comprehensive overview of its contents, covering a spectrum of nano materials and their diverse applications in ensuring sustainable tribology. The editors, while interacting with the dignitaries present, emphasized the significance of this pioneering publication in advancing scientific knowledge and promoting sustainable practices within tribology. Highlighting the university's commitment to cutting-edge research, the Vice-Chancellor commended the scholarly contributions encapsulated in the book. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Prof. Eswaramoorthy, Head School of Mechanical Engineering, provided insightful perspectives on the book's relevance in contemporary scientific discourse during their address at the event. Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU, congratulated the faculty members for their dedication and efforts. The book showcased the university's dedication to pioneering research and academic excellence. The event was graced by Sh. K. N. Rai, Technical Advisor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra and Mr. Vishavjeet Singh, Deputy CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board, Katra. Prof. Suparn, Director, DQA, SMVDU, and Mr. Joginder Sharma, PRO, SMVDU, were also present during the function.

### SMVDU Hosts Brainiac Challenge-2023 Quiz Competition



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) held the Brainiac Challenge-2023, a quiz competition engaging 56 students. The participants, organized into 14 teams representing diverse schools such as Business, Economics, English, Physics, Biotechnology, Mechanical Engineering, and Civil Engineering, demonstrated their intellectual prowess. Dr. Deepak Jain, serving as the quiz master, presented a diverse range of questions encompassing General Knowledge, Science, History, Culture, Management, and Engineering. The competition was not only a test of academic knowledge but also a platform for students to showcase their multidisciplinary understanding. The team of Amook, Ishika, Mahi, and Deepali

from the School of Biotechnology were the winners. The event witnessed active participation and enthusiasm from all students, highlighting their passion for learning. Dr. Arti Maini, the organising secretary, worked in collaboration with faculty members from various departments to ensure the smooth execution of the challenge. Expressing gratitude, Dr. Rashi Taggar acknowledged the support of Prof. Pragati Kumar, the Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, for fostering initiatives that contribute to the holistic development of SMVDU students. The Brainiac Challenge-2023 stands as a testament to the university's commitment to nurturing academic excellence and fostering a vibrant learning community.

## Celebration and Day Observed

### 554<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebration of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji organized by SMVDU and NH

The 554<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated by Sikh Sangat of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Narayana Hospital, Kakryal .

The event started with Akhand Paath in SMVDU campus residence of Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, SMVDU where in students, faculty and staff with their family were enlightened with Gurubani for three days. On 3<sup>rd</sup> day, Sangat of Narayan Hospital, Nursing college and SMVDU was mesmerized by Kirtan and Gurbani Vichar by prominent Kirtan Jatha from Jammu and Udhampur. Guru Ka Langer was served amidst



recitation of shabads. Everyone paid obeisance to the Guru Granth Sahib ji and got the blessings of Guru Sahib. The contribution of Hond and IK-Bani digital media channels in making whole function available to devotees across the world is highly appreciated. The Sikh Sangat whole heartedly honoured Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Gopal Sharma, CEO, Narayana Hospital, Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, SMVDU, Mr. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS, Finance Officer, SMVDU and Mr. M M Mathavan, Facility Director, NH in the function. The teaching from the Life of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji and the basic tenets of Sikhism namely Naam Japna, Kirat Karana and Vand chakna were reiterated in the event. Joint efforts of sikh sangat of SMVDU and NH especially Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Dr. Rajpal Singh from NH and Mr. Opinder Singh Sidhu, and students of SMVDU are highly appreciated in spreading communal harmony and brotherhood among devotees thronged the celebration.

# Faculty/Staff Updates

## Talk Delivered

### SMVDU Faculty delivers Talk at ASME Webinar on Additive Manufacturing

Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Assistant Professor, SME) delivered an invited talk on 'New Product Development & Additive Manufacturing' during a webinar hosted by the American Society of Mechanical Engineers, India. Dr. Haq spoke about fundamental concepts of New Product Development (NPD), and the technology of Additive Manufacturing (AM). Further, the mechanical aspects of AM parts such as tensile, compressive, and tribological properties were also discussed. The talk was attended by 150+ participants from across the globe. Also, the research work carried out in the area of Additive manufacturing was shared with the participants. A detailed discussion with the participants in the question and answer session was also held. Dr. Haq thanked the ASME India section and SMVDU authorities.



## Student Updates

### SMVDU Student bags the Best Oral Presentation Certificate at International Conference

Ms. Isha Kumari, a dedicated student pursuing studies at the School of Economics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently earned recognition for her exceptional prowess. At the International Conference on Recent Trends in Commerce, Management, Science & Engineering (ICCMSE-2023), hosted jointly by Maharani Cluster University (MCU), Bangalore, Karnataka, India, and RSP Conference Hub, Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu, India, Ms. Kumari clinched the prestigious Best Oral Presentation Certificate. This conference stands as a beacon for interdisciplinary collaboration, fostering the exchange of innovative ideas across Home Science, Science, Commerce, Management, and Engineering. The event was a convergence of diverse research communities, uniting to share their findings and visions. Its primary aim was to catalyze excellence among researchers, addressing contemporary issues and exploring cutting-edge topics spanning various domains. By congregating scientists, engineers, academicians, researchers, and professionals, the conference aimed to chart the course for future research endeavours, envisioning a better world for humanity. Under the expert guidance of Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, esteemed Faculty at SMVDU, Ms. Kumari presented a meticulously crafted paper titled "Impact of Healthcare Expenditure on Life Expectancy at Birth & Economic Growth in South Asian Countries." This insightful research, co-authored by Dr. Meenakshi Gupta, sought to unravel the intricate nexus between Healthcare Expenditure, Economic Growth, and Life Expectancy at Birth within South Asian countries. The conference experts lauded Ms. Kumari's diligent efforts, amidst over 150 papers presented by participants hailing from diverse corners of the globe. Her work stood out as a testament to rigorous inquiry and scholarly excellence, earning well-deserved acclaim among the scholarly community.



### SMVDU Students visited the Baglihar Hydropower Project

In an enriching educational excursion, students from the School of Civil Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) embarked on a visit to the renowned Baglihar Hydropower Project. The trip aimed to provide students with a comprehensive understanding of the various facets of hydropower generation, with a particular focus on the dam's energy dissipation structure. Under the guidance of Gautam Narula, Assistant Professor at the School of Civil Engineering, the students were immersed in a day-long





exploration of the 900MW capacity hydropower project. The visit commenced with a detailed discussion of the construction and operation peculiarities of the dam, shedding light on the critical elements that contribute to its functionality. Following the insightful discussion, students had the opportunity to visit the powerhouse, where they delved into the intricacies of the turbines, generators, transformers, and other essential components of the hydropower system. The visit served as a hands-on learning experience, allowing students to witness firsthand the inner workings of a significant energy generation facility. What set this educational trip apart was the emphasis on the strategic importance of the Baglihar Hydropower Project. Students gained a profound understanding of the project's significance, not only in terms of energy generation but also in its strategic implications. Notably, the entire project, excluding the dam, is situated underground, adding a unique dimension to the students' learning experience. The educational tour extended beyond the boundaries of hydropower, offering students insights into tunneling and soil stabilization techniques. This comprehensive exposure broadened the students' knowledge base, equipping them with practical skills that extend beyond traditional classroom learning. Gautam Narula, the organizer of the trip and Assistant Professor at the School of Civil Engineering played a pivotal role in ensuring the success of the visit. Dr. Vaibhav Sapkal and Mr. Srijan accompanied the students, providing additional expertise and guidance throughout the excursion. The Baglihar Hydropower Project visit proved to be a valuable and enriching experience for the SMVDU Civil Engineering students, offering them a holistic perspective on hydropower generation, dam construction, and associated underground infrastructure. The trip not only showcased the academic excellence of SMVDU but also highlighted the dedication of its faculty members in providing students with real-world exposure to their chosen field.

### **CUJ Faculty and Students visited SMVDU**



The School of Biotechnology and the School of Energy Management, SMVDU along with the Department of Environmental Sciences, Central University Jammu collaborated to organize a one day visit for the M.Sc. students and faculty from Department of Environmental Sciences to visit the various labs of the

School of Biotechnology and the School of Energy Management, SMVDU. The main objective of the visit was to provide a scientific platform to exchange the information on the research work being carried out in the two schools of SMVDU. The students visited the Bioinformatics Facility, Plant Tissue Culture, Molecular Biology and Microbiology Research Labs, Central Mass Array facility and the ICMR funded Centre for Advanced Research at the School of Biotechnology. Research Scholars from Biotechnology shared their knowledge with the students and explained about the various techniques and processes being carried out in their respective Labs. Students were taken to specialized sections and got a chance to understand the functioning of all the latest and updated instruments regularly being used at SoBT, SMVDU. The students showed their interests and actively participated in the visit. The visiting faculty members from Central University, Jammu included Prof. Richa Kothari, Prof. Deepak Pathania, Dean (Research & Development) Prof. Sunil Dhar, Dean Life Sciences, Dr. Pankaj Mehta and Dr. Dinesh Kumar. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head School of Biotechnology, Dr. VV Tyagi Dean (Research & Development) and Head School of Energy Management from SMVDU along with Prof. Richa Kothari, Head Department of Environmental Sciences, CUJ took the initiative in organizing the educational visit while Dr. Vinod Singh coordinated the event from SMVDU. It was an interactive forum for exchange of new knowledge and opportunities for stimulating young minds. The faculty members also interacted with the Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of faculty members involved and emphasised on having more such collaborative events between the two universities.

### **Biotechnology Students and Faculty undertake Industry Visit**



A one day industry visit as an essential part of the study curriculum was organized by the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra on 5<sup>th</sup> December 2023. The undergraduates and post graduate students pursuing Biotechnology visited the Kingfisher mineral water bottling unit and food processing unit at Panthal (Katra). Students had the opportunity to explore the different units of a distillation/ food processing plant and engage in insightful discussions with industry experts and were provided with a comprehensive briefing on the essential entrepreneurship skills required for establishing units under the start-up programs initiated by the Government of India. Students were provided with valuable insights into the intricate workings and processing methods involved in the production of various beverages. The students visited the various bio processing sections and had a firsthand experience of the various steps involved including pasteurization, filling, quality control checks etc. The students and the faculty also had an opportunity to interact with the founder chairman of this industry who encouraged the students to go in for start ups and emphasized on starting an industry at the local level generating livelihood opportunities for the local population. The visit was conceptualized and managed by the coordinator of the industrial and educational visits, SoBT, Dr. Indu Bhushan with the encouragement and coordination of Dr. Ratna Chandra, Head of the School of Biotechnology. The other faculty members accompanying the students included Dr. Vinod Singh, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, Er. Arvind Yadav, and Mr. Pankaj Suden. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi

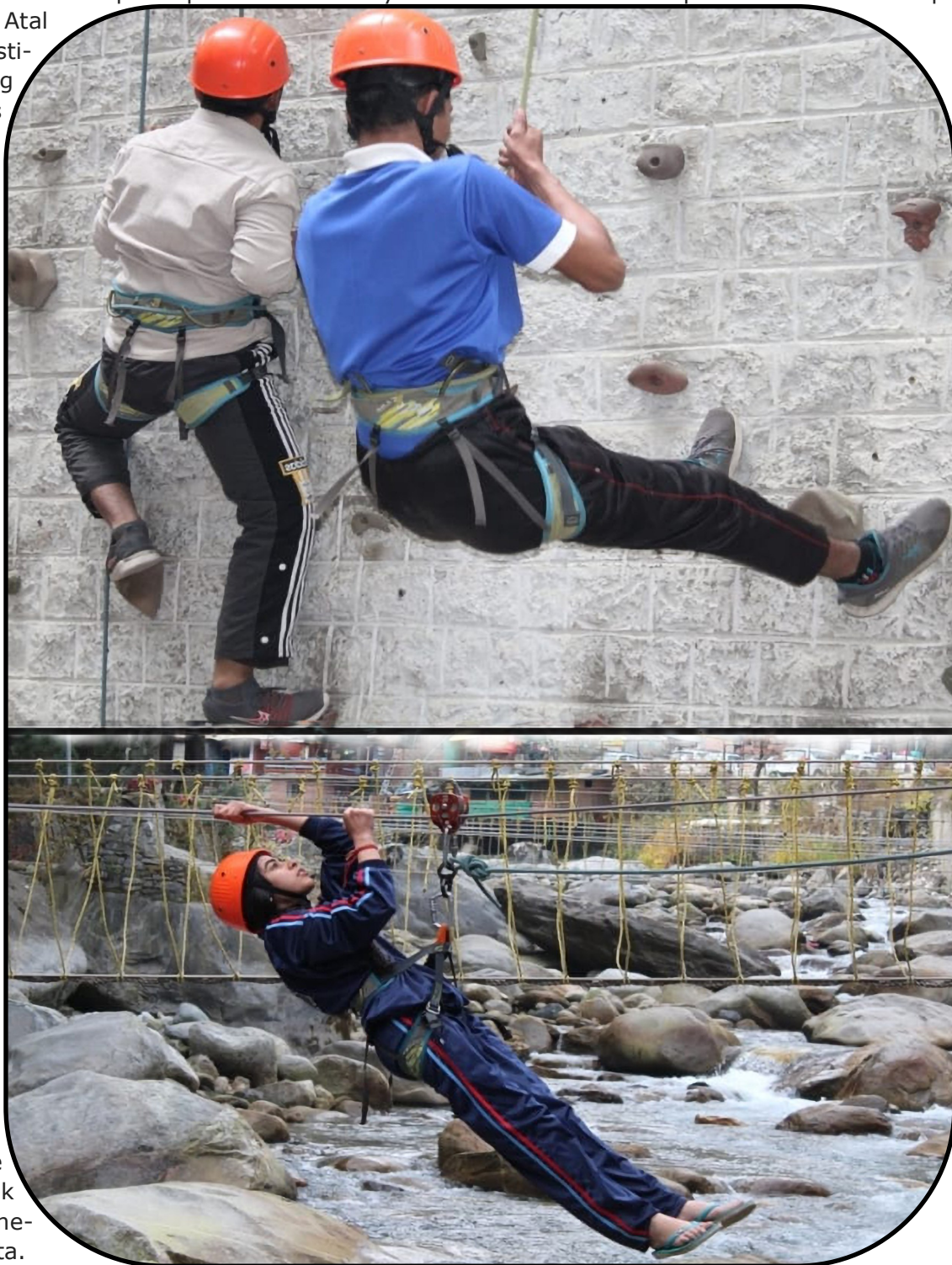
University, expressed satisfaction towards the efforts of the faculty of the School of Biotechnology towards overall grooming and development of their students as able professionals. He laid stress on organizing more of such visits to add to the practical and firsthand experience of the students at SMVDU.

### **NSS SMVDU Volunteers participated in National Adventure Camp at Manali**

NSS SMVDU, Katra volunteers participated in a 10-day National Adventure camp at Manali. The camp was organized by the Atal

Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Manali, and funded by the Regional Directorate, NSS New Delhi. A total of 67 participants, including 04 from SMVDU, embarked on a challenging 95km trek, reaching an altitude of 10,100 feet. The camp focused on enhancing mountaineering skills, covering aspects like mountain manners, hazard management, and engaging in activities such as rock climbing, rappelling, and river crossing. Beyond physical challenges, the camp aimed at developing social awareness and leadership skills. The success of the event was credited to ABVIMAS' expertise and the volunteers' enthusiasm, showcasing teamwork and camaraderie. The NSS volunteers who participated in the camp were Abhishek Sharma, Dhiraj, Sumecha, and Shreya Gupta.

NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep congratulated the volunteers for completing the National camp. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the University.



## SMVDU hosted Educational Visit of Govt. Sr. Sec. School, Sanasar



SMVDU Katra hosted visit of students from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Sanasar under an outreach activity program. The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions under the PM Shri Scheme. NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, PRO Mr. Joginder Sharma and workshop Supdt. Er. Deepak Byotra welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction of the University. Students were motivated to join higher educational institutes after completing their class 12th. During the event the school team visited the central workshop, academic area including labs, auditorium etc. The students were also briefed about the admission process for various courses and also informed about various facilities and achievements of the University by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean, International & Alumni Affairs. School students also showcased their talent by cultural performances. More than 100 girl students along with their teachers and Principal participated in the visit. Registrar, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS) also briefed students about the opportunities and emphasized on the need of more such collaborative events. Finance Officer Sh. Neeraj Gupta (JKAS) were also present during the event. The Principal of the school, Mr. Rajesh Sharma thanked University authorities for hosting the visit. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for organizing the visit and providing the opportunity for developing scientific focus and adaptability to latest technology.

## NSS organized Poster-making Event on 'Viksit Bharat @2047: Voice of Youth'

The main mission is to actively involve the youth of the country in the formulation of national plans, priorities, and goals of the country. It will provide a platform for the youth of the country to contribute ideas to the vision of Viksit Bharat @2047. The theme of the poster-making event was 'Glimpses of Bharat@2047'. Students actively participated in the event and showcased their creativity in the form of their ideas at Bharat@2047. Mr. B. K. Bhatia, T&P officer, and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator organized the event and appreciated the efforts of NSS



volunteers. Dean of Academic Affairs, Prof. Balbir Singh, and Prof. Ankush Anand were also present during the event and encouraged students. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated the organizing team for successfully organizing the event.

## SMVDU Scholar receives Best Paper Award

Advitya Indu Mahajan, Research Scholar, School of Business, SMVDU, has presented a paper at the Global Conference on "Emerging Technologies leading towards Sustainable Entrepreneurship, Economics, Tourism, Healthcare, Media, Education supporting Green Environmental Practices and Business Growth". The conference was scheduled for 8th and 9th December 2023. Advitya received the best paper award in the Technology & Marketing track with the theme "Digital Marketing for Sustainable Business Growth". The research scholar and his Ph.D. supervisor, Dr. Rashi Taggar, authored a paper titled "Augmented Reality Adoption: Investigating Perceived Risk through UTAUT-Based Predictive Modeling". In the paper, they discussed the inclusion of Artificial Intelligence advancements and augmented reality in various e-commerce platforms. Furthermore, they tried to determine the factors influencing Indian consumers' use of augmented reality features during online shopping. Researchers from India and other countries also presented their research work through online and offline modes. The conference was organized by Confab 360 Degree in collaboration with Guru Nanak Institute of Management, Delhi; NSHM Knowledge Campus, Durgapur, West Bengal; Indira Institute of Management, Pune; AFT University of Media and Arts, Raipur, India, along with foreign partners European Global Varsity, Europe; London Churchill College, United Kingdom; PT.LEO Jejaring IImu, Indonesia; European School of Data Science and Technology, Switzerland; Rushford Business School, Switzerland.



## SMVDU, student presented Paper at the Indian Geotechnical Conference

Abhivek Singh, a final year student of the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented a technical paper at Indian Geotechnical Conference, 2023. IGC 2023, which was organised by Indian Geotechnical Society, Roorkee Chapter, is the annual national flagship event of Indian Geotechnical Society. Abhivek Singh worked under the guidance of Mr. Srijan (Assistant Professor, SoCE) and Mr. Gautam Narula (Assistant Professor, SoCE) to prepare the paper titled 'Behavioural Study of Reinforced Soft Soil Bed Supporting Embankment: Numerical Analysis'. The presented paper stands a chance of getting published in *Lecture Notes of Civil Engineering* which is a Springer based publication and also Scopus Indexed. This achievement reflects their dedication and the quality of their research, and it serves as a testament to the rigorous academic standards and opportunities provided by the School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU. The School of Civil Engineering at SMVDU continues to nurture and encourage its students to excel in their chosen fields, fostering an atmosphere of innovation and academic growth. The successful participation of Abhivek Singh at the IGC 2023 is a remarkable milestone in their academic journey, setting an example for future students and highlighting the university's commitment to fostering research and scholarly endeavours.



## NSS SMVDU collected Donations for Indian Association for Blind



NSS unit of SMVDU, Katra organized a donation collection drive for the Indian Association for the Blind (IAB), Madurai, Tamilnadu. IAB affirms its commitment to empower visually challenged people to become self-reliant by providing comprehensive rehabilitation, education and employment opportunities. IAB has a special focus on the socio economically disadvantaged visually challenged children and adults, particularly those from rural areas. NSS SMVDU volunteers collected donations by selling badges/flags sent by the organization. University students, staff and faculty members actively participated in the drive and donated for the noble cause. The collection drive was organized for three days and volunteers collected Rs. 15000/- from the drive and donated the same to IAB. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator, Dr. Kamaldeep appreciated the efforts of volunteers in organizing the drive. Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar also appreciated the noble initiative by the NSS team.

## Alumna of SMVDU receives ICSCC Young Investigator Award at AIIMS, New Delhi

Dr. Ruchi Shah w/o Dr. Rakesh Thusoo and daughter of Suman and Mohan Shah has bagged most coveted award of ICSCC young investigator award 2023 at the 8<sup>th</sup> International conference on stem cells and cancer (ICSCC-2023) proliferation, differentiation and Apoptosis AND 8<sup>th</sup> Research and innovation paediatric surgical society conference at AIIMS, New Delhi. The conference was held at Jawahar Lal Nehru Auditorium of AIIMS, New Delhi from 20<sup>th</sup> Dec to 22<sup>nd</sup> Dec. There were more than fifty invited lectures and poster presentations. Every year one young investigator award is given to promising budding scientist in the field of cancer and stem cell Biology. It is worth mentioning that Dr. Ruchi has done her PhD from the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU. She has also been awarded the prestigious Women's Scientist Research Grant by DST-Government of India in the field of Life Sciences. The "Women Scientists Scheme-A (WOS-A)" is for research in basic and applied sciences by the Department of Science and Technology (DST) for providing opportunities to women scientists. Dr. Shoe Mohan, Director, ICSSB and Dr. Shilpa from AIIMS, New Delhi congratulated Dr. Ruchi for the award. In her closing remarks, Dr. Ruchi thanked the funding agency, DST-Govt. of India, her alma matter 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 a torch bearer of research and will lead the country in realising the dream of Viksit Bharat by 2047.



## Rajan Badyal declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D

Mr. Rajan Badyal has been declared qualified for the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D) degree in the School of Business, Faculty of Management by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). The candidate has worked on the topic, entitled "A Study of Economic and Managerial Implications of RTI Act 2005, in Jammu and Kashmir" under the supervision of Dr. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Associate Professor, School of Business, SMVDU and Prof. Sudhir K. Jain, Adjunct Prof. & Former Head, Department of Management Studies, IIT Delhi. Mr. Rajan Badyal has published research papers in high-impact factor international journals ranked in the SSCI, SCOPUS, and ABDC. Mr. Badyal also had the privilege of presenting his research findings at numerous national and international conferences. At present, the candidate is working at Central University of Jammu. The scholar expresses his gratitude to the School of Business, SMVD University, for providing all necessary facilities and support during his research. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Mr. Rajan Badyal wished him a bright future.



## Himani Sharma declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D

Ms. Himani Sharma has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Electronics & Communication Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra. The researcher worked on the title, "HYBRID WIRELESS NETWORK (5G + VLC)" under the supervision of Dr. Rakesh Kumar Jha (On Leave), Associate Professor, School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU, and co-supervision of Dr. Sumeet Gupta, Associate Professor, School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU. The candidate has published research papers indexed in IEEE Journals, and SCI Index journals and has presented papers at International conferences at ICMEET Andhra Pradesh, ICRATE. The candidate has expressed her gratitude to the 5G and IoT Lab of SMVD University for providing all the facilities and necessary support for carrying out her research. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated the scholar and wished her a bright future ahead.



## Mr. Arun Bali declared Qualified for the Award of Ph. D. Degree

Mr. Arun Bali, S/o. Sh. Rakesh Kumar and Smt. Chanchal Sharma has been declared qualified for the award of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Mathematics by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The candidate has worked on the topic, "Study and Design of Adaptive Controllers for Non-strict-Feedback Nonlinear Systems Using Neural Networks" under the supervision of Dr. Uday Pratap Singh (On EOL), Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. Mr. Arun Bali has published research papers indexed in SCIE-ranked journals and also presented his research work in various international and national conferences. He expresses sincere gratitude to his parents and supervisor for their guidance, and acknowledges the School of Mathematics, SMVDU, for providing the necessary support and facilities for carrying out the research work. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, along with other committee members, congratulated Mr. Arun Bali on his achievement and wished him a bright future.



## SMVDU Student presented Paper at the International Congress on Renewable Energy

Milind Shukla, a final year student of the School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) presented a research paper at the International Congress on Renewable Energy held at KREEPA, Cochin, Kerala under aegis of Solar Energy Society of India (SESI) during 07-09 December 2023. The paper discusses the transformation of power grids to smart grids. The presented paper will be published in SESI National Journal. This achievement reflects his dedication and the quality of his research, and serves as a testament to the rigorous academic standards and opportunities provided by the School of Mechanical Engineering at SMVDU. The School continues to inspire and motivate its students to achieve excellence in their chosen fields while fostering an environment of innovation and academic growth. Milind Shukla's successful participation in ICoRE 2023 is a notable milestone in his academic journey, setting an example for future students and highlighting the University's commitment to promoting research and scholarly endeavours.



## SMVDU hosted educational visit of Govt. Polytechnic Reasi

SMVDU Katra hosted a visit of students of Government Polytechnic College, Reasi. The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions. NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and Er. Deepak Byotra welcomed the faculty and students from the Polytechnic Institute. During the event, the students visited the central workshop, network centre, academic area including labs, auditorium etc. The students were also briefed about the admission process for various courses and also informed about various facilities and achievements of the University by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of



Academic Affairs. Polytechnic students also showcased their talent through cultural performances. Around 50 students along with their teachers participated in the visit. Mr. B. K. Bhatia, T&P Officer, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean International and Alumni Affairs were also present during the event. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers for organizing the visit.

## SMVDU Cricket Team wins Winter Cricket Tournament

SMVD University staff cricket team won the Winter Cricket Tournament organized by SMVD Narayana Hospital which was held at SMVD University Sports ground. The final match was played between SMVD

University staff team and Unbeatable Warriors team of SMVD Narayana Hospital. The Unbeatable Warriors team set a target of 103 runs while batting first and was bowled out in 19.4 overs. The batting team suffered quick losses in the initial overs and never recovered from them. Mr. Aman Thakur was the pick of bowlers who claimed four wickets while Mr. Vishal and



Mr. Sarthak took two wickets each, Mr. Rajeshwar Sharma, took 1 wicket. In response the SMVD University Staff team convincingly won the match by nine wickets and achieved the target in 17 overs. The chase was led by the captain of the team, Mr. Sumit Sharma and Mr. Surya Pratap Singh who scored 38 and 46 runs respectively. The tournament was played in super six format and these teams were divided into two pools. In the prize distribution ceremony, Dr. Parvez Singh Slathia, In-charge Sports Activities, SMVD University and Mr. M. Muthu Mathavan, Facility Director, SMVD Narayana Hospital congratulated the winners and handed over the prizes to winner and runner up teams. Mr. Mathavan expressed his gratitude towards the university for providing the sports ground and allied facilities for organizing the tournament. Dr. Slathia congratulated the SMVD Narayana Hospital for organizing the tournament. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Registrar, Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, (JKAS) appreciated the efforts of University staff Cricket team and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the University.



# Glimpses of 9<sup>th</sup> Convocation







