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Vision

Establishment of a scientific and technical University of Excellence to nurture young and talented human resource for the service of Indian Society and world at large preserving the integrity and sanctity of human values.

Mission

The mission of the University is the pursuit of education, Scholarship and Research at the highest levels of Excellence.

Objectives

- **Provide education and training of excellent quality both at undergraduate and postgraduate levels.**
- **Ensure that the university achieves and maintain an international standing in both teaching and research.**
- **Promote study and research in new and emerging areas and encouraging academic interaction of the faculty and students at national and international levels.**
- **Encourage close collaboration with industry and facilitate the application of research for commercial use and for the benefit of society.**

Three-Day Workshop on Gender Studies Held at SMVDU



The School of Languages and Literature, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized a three-day workshop on Gender Studies. The workshop aims to provide an academic platform for scholars and students to engage in critical discussions on gender issues, fostering interdisciplinary perspectives. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he emphasized the significance of gender studies in contemporary academia and policy-making, urging participants to contribute meaningfully to the discourse. Prof. Kavita Suri, the Guest of Honour, highlighted the need for a gender-sensitive approach in education and research, encouraging scholars to explore innovative methodologies in gender studies. Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi, Dean, Faculty of Humanities and Social Sciences, delivered the inaugural address, stressing the evolving nature of gender studies and its relevance in fostering inclusivity and equity. The workshop commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Anurag Kumar, Head, School of Languages and Literature, who underscored the department's commitment to hosting intellectually enriching events. Dr. Isha Malhotra served as the Workshop Coordinator. Dr. Poonam delivered the vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to the esteemed guests, organizers, and participants for their contributions to the event's success. The workshop has drawn participation from scholars and students across various institutions, fostering a vibrant exchange of ideas. The sessions in the coming days promise to offer deep insights into gender issues from diverse academic and social perspectives.

National Workshop-cum-Conference on "Algebra, Analysis, Topology and Applications-2025" Organized at SMVDU



The two-day National Workshop cum Conference on Algebra, Analysis, Topology and Applications-2025 was held at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The event was organized under the PM Usha scheme. The welcome address was delivered by Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Associate Professor, School of Mathematics, SMVDU and the Coordinator of the program. He provided the audience with the insights into the conference program. Dr. Kumar highlighted that the conference will feature 15 invited talks by the eminent experts from IITs, Central Universities and State Universities across the country. Additionally, there will be more than 50 paper presentations by participants. He also mentioned that a workshop on Cryptography will be conducted during

Cryptography will be conducted during the two-day program. Dr. Kuldip Raj, Associate Professor, Head, School of Mathematics, SMVDU and convener addressed the gathering, reflecting on the department's progress that how it has flourished over the years. Prof. R. K. Sharma, IIT Delhi, the Guest of Honor, applauded the growth of the School of Mathematics, SMVDU over the years. Prof. Sharma also gave an insightful lecture on cryptography. Prof. Sunil Kumar Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, SMVDU, congratulated the School of Mathematics for frequently organizing such academic events over the years. He encouraged the students to publish their research in high quality journals. Prof. Pragati Kumar (Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU) Chief Guest of the ceremony appreciated the School of Mathematics for conducting such events regularly. Prof. Kumar emphasised that Mathematics is the back bone of all the disciplines and motivated faculty members and Research Scholars to engage in interdisciplinary research. Prof. Kumar also encouraged the organizers to scale up such events to an international level. Finally, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Assistant Professor and coordinator of the event, proposed the vote of thanks.

Workshop on Best Practices in Administrative Procedures Organised at SMVDU

Directorate of Quality Assurance, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra organised a one day workshop on the topic "Best Practices in Administrative Procedures" under PM-USHA Scheme. The workshop was aimed to foster the administrative skills of the employees and to adopt best practices and procedures for effective administration of the University affairs. Prof. Pragati Kumar Vice Chancellor of the University graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his

address, he emphasised the importance of adopting best practices in the administrative procedures which will facilitate the University to excel in its academic and research pursuits. The Vice Chancellor appreciated the efforts of the Coordinators, Professor Sumeet Gupta, Faculty I/C Examinations & Sh. Surinder Kumar, Assistant Registrar (Examination) of the workshop for organising such events which will help in augmenting the performance of the administrative staff. The resource persons Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma, JKAS, Special Secretary in the Agriculture Production Department, J&K UT and Mr. Shreenibas Chandra Prusty, Registrar, Indian Law Institute, Delhi held detailed



deliberations on effective administrative procedures and had vibrant exchange of ideas with the audience. Both the experts shared their rich administrative experiences on various aspects of the University administration. Dr. Ravi Shankar Sharma emphasized on fully utilizing the autonomous nature of the university in designing optimized procedures and mechanisms for efficient and smooth administration. He further suggested enhancing the opportunities of research for not only the faculty and research scholars but also the students of UG and PG programs, for the benefit of the University and the society at large. Mr. Prusty emphasized on the importance of providing conducive atmosphere to the employees to boost their work capabilities. He discussed a large number of best practices being followed at different institutions and the important issue of the employees having a sense of ownership of the organization. He was also instrumental in replying to the queries of the audience on the administrative aspects in a very effective manner. Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, observed the importance of such workshops which generated innovation among the staff. Finance Officer Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS also addressed the audience and emphasized upon maintain financial propriety while adopting efficient practices and lauded the efforts of the organizers of the workshop. The workshop was attended by various Deans, Heads of Schools, Section Heads, Administrative Officers and other faculty & staff members. The workshop concluded with vote of thanks by Prof. Sumeet Gupta, Faculty In-charge Examinations and Coordinator of the workshop.

SMVDU Hosts Three Day Annual University Festival (Ekatva 2025)



The Board of Professional Activities (BPA) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a three day long Annual University Festival (Ekatva 2025) which included various department level events apart from hosting an international conference and an exhibition. The fest kicked off with a grand inaugural session, held at the Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU. The session was graced by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, esteemed Dignitaries from India and abroad, faculty members and Students setting the tone for the three-day extravaganza by releasing the detailed brochure of EKATVA. Dr. Ankush Raina, President Board of Professional Activities, SMVDU delivered the welcome address, emphasizing the importance of innovation and Sustainability in addressing global challenges. He highlighted the university's commitment to fostering a culture of creativity and collaboration through events like EKATVA Fest. The event was also sponsored by SMVD Narayana Hospital. The event was coordinated by a team of faculty members which included Dr. Sakshi Arora, Dr. Rakesh Kumar, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Dr. Rashi Taggar and Dr. Rahul Sharma. The student coordinators were Ramnik, Ashatabhuja, Rishav, Chakshu, Muskan, Avi, Dhiraj, Samragyee, Shatakshi, Anketa and Abhishek from various schools of the university. The different school level coordinators as well as the student coordinators organized various technical and fun activities for the various participants of various colleges. The event saw the participation of various colleges and universities of the country. The valedictory function was presided over by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor and other dignitaries which

included Dr. Anil Bhardwaj (Head, SOECE), Dr. Yathesth Anand (Head, SME) and Prof. Ankush Anand (SME). In the award function various awards were given such as best paper awards, best school awards in which School of Electronics and Communication secured the 1st position, School of Architecture and Landscape Design and School of Economics secured the 2nd and 3rd position respectively. Dr. Ankush Raina, President Board of Professional Activities, SMVDU appreciated the efforts by the student volunteers which made the event a grand success. Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Professor, SME) delivered the vote of thanks. The coordination team thanked the administrative and financial support by Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS) Registrar SMVDU and Mr. Neeraj Gupta (JKAS) Finance Officer. The three day event also included a cultural show by students of IIM Jammu and a team of sufi singers from JK Academy of Art, Culture, and Languages.

The 37th Academic Council Meeting Held at SMVDU



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) held its 37th Academic Council meeting. The meeting was presided over by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU. The meeting was attended by eminent academicians, including Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice President of Research Relations & Academic Affairs at Elsevier (India), and Prof. Anju Bhasin, Dean of Academic Affairs, University of Jammu. Other external members Prof. Majid Jamil from Jamia Milia Islamia, New Delhi, Prof. S.K. Verma from BITS Pilani, Prof. Rina Surana from MNIT (Jaipur), Prof. Pranavant and Prof. Madhusudan Singh (DTU, Delhi) joined the meeting in virtual mode. Registrar, Finance officer, Deans and Heads of various schools of SMVDU, Faculty Incharge Examination, CEO TBIC, Program Coordinators of DYD and B. Design were also present to deliberate on the academic reforms and initiatives. The meeting was focused on key academic decisions and new initiatives aimed to strengthen the university's educational framework. The meeting started with a welcome note followed by introductory remarks by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU highlighting the university's achievements over the past year. Prof. Kumar emphasized the institution's commitment to academic excellence, research development, and student-centric policies. The agenda items for discussion were presented by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs and Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Assoc. Dean, Academic Affairs, leading to several significant decisions. The council approved the inclusion of B.Sc. Computer Science as a major under the 'Design Your Degree' program, allowing students greater flexibility in tailoring their academic pathways. Another key development was the approval of ordinances governing the SMVD Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME) and its associate hospital, marking an important step in strengthening medical education and healthcare services at the university. Further, it was decided that a new postgraduate program, M.Sc. Chemistry will be introduced from the 2025-26 academic session, expanding the university's offerings in the sciences. The council also deliberated on introducing B. Tech programs in Robotics &

Automation, Machine learning and Artificial Intelligence and M. Arch programs aimed at equipping students with skills to meet the demands of the 21st Century. The 37th Academic Council meeting marked another milestone in SMVDU's pursuit of academic excellence and institutional growth. With these developments, SMVDU continues to strengthen its position as a leading institution committed to quality education, academic innovation and research-driven education.

School of Business Organised Annual Fest-TATVA



The School of Business successfully organized TATVA-Management Fest under EKTAVA 25 – The University Annual Fest. Alumni of School of Business along with inhouse and external faculty members were invited as external experts to evaluate the events. The aim of the fest was to provide a platform for students to showcase their extra-ordinary talents which will help them to become adaptable to the workplace challenges more quickly and easily. The TATVA featured 9 different activities organised to test the creativity, smartness, innovativeness, decision making abilities, managerial and entrepreneurial skills of the students. The students from within campus and outside the University participated in different activities at individual and group level. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, highlighted the importance of organising of such kind of management fest for the overall development of the students in more than one ways. He also emphasised that such kind of activities aim to bring the hidden talents of the students out. Dr. Deepak Jain, the event coordinator of 'Tatva' praised the efforts of the students and the expressed the gratitude towards Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar for providing encouragement for such kind of initiatives of School of Business. He also expressed appreciation towards Prof. Jyoti Sharma, Head of School and Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha, the Dean, Faculty of Management for their wholehearted support. The guests appreciated the initiative taken by the University to develop interpersonal skills and to think out of their regular academics which will help in the all round personality development.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Hosted Smart Solutions Exhibition 2025

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully hosted Smart Solutions Exhibition 2025, a spectacular event that brought together young innovators, creative thinkers, and problem-solvers from across the region. The exhibition was organized as part of Annual Festival by the Board of Professional Activities (BPA), SMVDU. The exhibition provided a vibrant platform for students to showcase ground breaking ideas, working models, and research-driven projects aimed at addressing real-world challenges through technology and creativity. The event was inaugurated by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU wherein Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering, was also present on the occasion. Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU encouraged the participants and took a keen interest in every project on display. He interacted with students from various colleges and universities, asked insightful questions, and appreciated



their innovative approaches, making the experience even more enriching for the participants. Dr. Ankush Raina, President, BPA expressed his satisfaction on the participation and exchange of ideas and stressed that events like this not only provide insight into the latest technological developments but also open doors for future collaborations and partnerships. With over 20 teams from MIET Jammu, Government College for Women Parade, Khalsa College Amritsar, GCET Jammu, SMVDU, among others, participated in the exhibition. The exhibition showcased an impressive range of working models, visionary research, and thought-provoking presentations. The enthusiasm and dedication of the participants were truly remarkable, making it a tough challenge for the judges to select the winners. Young Minds from GCET, Jammu, bagged the first prize in the Model Display category for their outstanding innovation, followed by Vadar KCET from Khalsa College in second place and Team Civil Engineering from SMVDU in third place. In the idea/ Presentation category, The Clean Code from GCW Parade impressed the judges and secured the first position, while Srijana from SMVDU and Hydroponic Curtain from GCW Parade claimed the second and third spots, respectively. A panel of esteemed judges evaluated the projects based on originality, feasibility, impact, technical depth, and presentation skills. Each project was a demonstration to the immense talent and ingenuity of the students, making it an event full of inspiration and learning. While speaking on the occasion Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator of the event stated that objective was to explore the possibilities of collaboration, exchange of ideas, and real-world problem-solving techniques. Dr. Mir Irfan ul Haq, Associate Dean, Alumni and International affairs and co-coordinator of the event expressed, "It was incredible to witness such fresh, inspiring, and impactful ideas come to life. The energy, enthusiasm, and creativity displayed here today reaffirm our belief that the future is in great hands." With unwavering participation, groundbreaking projects and a spirit of innovation, the Smart Solutions Exhibition 2025 set a new benchmark for future editions, inspiring young minds to think big, create boldly, and innovate fearlessly. The untiring efforts of dedicated and enthusiastic student coordinators Muskan Gupta, Dhiraj Kumar, Ramnik Sharma, Astabhujanath Pandey and others led to the successful completion of the event.

SMVDU Hosts One-Day Workshop on Institutional Developmental Plan (IDP) Under PM-USHA



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, successfully organized a one-day workshop titled "Awareness Program on Institutional Developmental Plan (IDP) for Higher Education Institutes (HEI)" under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA). The workshop brought together distinguished Academicians, Deans, Administrators, and Faculty members, from SMVDU and Higher Education institutions of Jammu to deliberate on the significance of IDP in enhancing governance, research, and academic policies in higher education institutions. The resource persons for the workshop were Prof. I.K. Bhat, former Vice Chancellor, Manav Rachna University, Faridabad and Prof. K.S. Chandrasekar, Vice-Chancellor, Cluster University Jammu, who delivered comprehensive sessions on various aspects of institutional growth and governance. The event commenced with opening remarks about the workshop by Prof. Balbir Singh and an inaugural address delivered by the Chief Guest, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, who highlighted the vital role of IDP in ensuring the long-term sustainability of educational institutions. He stressed that a well-defined developmental plan is key to achieve excellence in governance, research, and student-centric policies. He further elaborated on the evolving landscape of higher education, where institutions must integrate critical thinking, clear institutional goals, transparent evaluation channels, and modern pedagogical techniques to remain competitive. The workshop was Coordinated by Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean of Academic Affairs, Dr. Shafaq Rasool and Dr. B.B. Jindal Associate Deans Academic Affairs. During the first technical session, Prof. I.K. Bhat led the discussion on "Why IDP – Essentials of IDP, Governance, Academic and Research Enablers." Academic frameworks, research enablers, governance, and the fundamentals of IDP were the main topics of the seminar. The second technical session, "Human Resource Management and Digital Enablers" was delivered by Prof. Chandrasekar. He emphasized the role of human resource management and digital enablers in higher education. He spoke at length about the importance of investing in faculty training, performance evaluation, and leadership development to build a robust academic ecosystem. The workshop provided an excellent platform for knowledge exchange and highlighted the significance of clear institutional goals, digital transformation, student-centric learning, and transparent governance models in shaping the future of higher education. Participants lauded the initiative, acknowledging that such programs are essential in helping institutions adapt to emerging challenges and implement effective strategies for academic and research excellence. The workshop concluded with closing remarks and a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Shafaq Rasool, Associate Dean Academic Affairs (SMVDU). With the success of this workshop, SMVDU reaffirmed its commitment to promote quality education, innovation, and sustainable institutional development under the visionary framework of PM-USHA.

SMVDU Showcases Digital Presentation of the Architectural Documentation of Amar Mahal at 3rd Tawi Festival

The School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) made a lasting mark at the 3rd Tawi Festival with its pioneering digital presentation of the documentation of Amar Mahal's architectural splendor. This remarkable digital presentation, "Unraveling the Architectural



Grandeur of Amar Mahal," was delivered by Ar. Aditi Sharma, Assistant Professor, SoALD, SMVDU, whose extensive research on Jammu's heritage structures infused the study with unparalleled depth and authenticity. The festival, inaugurated by Lieutenant Governor Manoj Sinha at the iconic Amar Mahal Palace, also heralded the Golden Jubilee celebrations of the Amar Mahal Museum and Library, commemorating 50 years of its cultural and historical significance. Hosted by the Hari Tara Charitable Trust (HTCT), the event brought together an elite gathering of intellectuals—renowned artists, historians, academicians, literary figures, and policymakers—engaging in profound dialogues on the region's rich heritage. The occasion was graced by Dr. Karan Singh, former Union Minister and Chairman of HTCT, alongside distinguished trustees, senior officials from the police and civil administration, and other eminent dignitaries. With four months of meticulous effort, students of SoALD, guided by Ar. Aditi Sharma, undertook an exhaustive documentation of Amar Mahal's architectural intricacies. Their comprehensive study encompassed detailed plans, elevations, sections, and cutting-edge 3D visualizations, shedding light on the palace's evolution and adaptation through time. The digital presentation was further elevated by an immersive video, offering a dynamic glimpse into the craftsmanship and artistry that define this architectural masterpiece. Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture, played a crucial role in mentoring students through this rigorous endeavor, ensuring a seamless blend of academic excellence and hands-on heritage conservation experience. His leadership fostered a transformative learning environment, empowering students to engage deeply with real-world architectural preservation. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, lauded the team's extraordinary achievement, underscoring the project's significance in bridging academia and heritage conservation.

"This initiative not only enriches our students' practical knowledge but also serves as a crucial step in preserving our architectural legacy for generations to come," he remarked. A testament to the enduring grandeur of Dogra heritage, this documentation stands as an invaluable repository of Amar Mahal's architectural essence—its cultural traditions, historical narratives, and intangible legacy. The project owes its success to the steadfast support of Dr. Jyotsna Singh, The Hari Tara Charitable Trust, and the Amar Mahal Museum & Library, whose collaboration provided students with an unparalleled opportunity to explore, document, and celebrate architectural excellence. SMVDU's digital presentation at the 3rd Tawi Festival reaffirms its unwavering commitment to heritage conservation and academic distinction, solidifying its role as a torchbearer of architectural education and cultural preservation. Ar. Aditi Sharma, Asst. Prof. School of architecture and landscape design, SMVDU, Katra delivering presentation during 3rd tawi festival on *Unraveling the Architectural Grandeur of Amar Mahal*.



One Day Workshop on Capacity Building on Quality Initiatives Held at SMVDU



One day workshop on Capacity Building on Quality Initiatives held Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University under the Directorate of Quality Assurance, with support from Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan, where the Director DQA, Prof. Supran Sharma introduced the role of DQA in organising such events for universities employees supporting the institution in capacity building. In his inaugural address the Honourable Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar emphasized the role of continuous learning in building capacity of the employees at the educational institution. He emphasised that, for capacity building to be effective, it must be inclusive, continuous, and aligned with long-term goals. Collaboration between institutions, industry experts, and policymakers further strengthens quality initiatives. The keynote address was delivered by Prof. Sandeep Sancheti, Vice President-Research Relations Academic Ambassador Elsevier India. He interacted with the participants of the workshop in an Open-House interaction and embarked on the parameters of quality and how it can contribute to academic excellence. He stressed that for quality to be effective, our initiatives must be integrated into organizational culture, supported by leadership, and regularly assessed for improvement. By embracing a holistic approach that balances efficiency, environmental care, and social responsibility, we can build a future where quality and sustainability go hand in hand. Prof. Rajinder Peshin, Director Education Sher-e-kashmir Agricultural University, dwelled on the quality initiatives currently being taken up by the institutions of higher learning and how they can contribute to up lifting the academic quality of the institution. He said research drives innovations. However, for this research to be truly impactful, it must be conducted with honesty, transparency, and ethical responsibility. Integrity in research ensures that findings are reliable, reproducible, and beneficial to consumers, and society at large. Dr Sakshi Arora, Associate Professor and Workshop Coordinator delivered the vote of Thanks, while Mr Samir Vohra, Deputy Registrar and Workshop Co-Coordinator oversaw the conduct of the Workshop.

SMVDU Inaugurates e-Yantra Robotics Lab in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI)

SMVDU Inaugurates e-Yantra Robotics Lab in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI). The School of Electronics & Communication Engineering (SoECE) at SMVDU, in collaboration with IIT Bombay's e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI), inaugurated its e-Yantra Robotics Lab. Established within the 5G-IoT Lab, the facility aims to enhance AI, ML, and robotics education, equipping students with hands-on experience and industry-relevant skills to improve employability and entrepreneurship. Prof. Shubha Pandit (Advisor, e-



Yantra) emphasized the importance of robotics in engineering education. Dr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal (Assistant Professor, SoECE) showcased IoT and robotics-related projects, demonstrating real-world applications. Students from various engineering branches are engaged in interdisciplinary robotics projects, reflecting the lab's broad impact. The event was attended by faculty members, including Dr. Yatheshth Anand (HoD, SoME), Mr. Swastik Gupta (SoECE), Dr. Varun Dutta (SoME), and Mr. Manoj Kumar Verma (SoCSE), alongside students and Laboratory staff members Mr. Gaurav Kumar, Mr. Deepankur Gupta and e-Yantra Lab Setup Initiative (eLSI) representatives from IIT Bombay. The Robotics Club at SMVDU displayed innovative projects. Dr. Yatheshth Anand also informed the audience about robotics-related courses such as Industrial Robotics and Kinematics and Dynamics of Robotics. This initiative strengthens SMVDU's commitment to preparing students for a technology-driven future.

Two-Week Yoga Workshop Concluded for NCC Cadets of SMVDU



The two-week Yoga Workshop for NCC cadets at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) concluded successfully, leaving a lasting impact on all participants. Organized under the guidance of Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, the workshop aimed at instilling the importance of yoga in daily life. The sessions were conducted by Mr. Gurmel, who skillfully guided the cadets through various yoga asanas while emphasizing that yoga is not just a form of exercise but a holistic way of life. Throughout the workshop, NCC cadets displayed great enthusiasm, actively participating in every session and embracing the benefits of yoga. During the concluding session, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, commended the NCC cadets for their dedication and encouraged them to continue practicing yoga for physical and mental well-being. He highlighted that yoga is a valuable discipline that promotes fitness, focus, and inner peace. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, SMVDU, was also present on the occasion and appreciated the efforts of the cadets and organizers in making the workshop a success. He emphasized the importance of integrating yoga into everyday life to maintain overall well-being. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to Mr. Gurmel for his insightful sessions and to the cadets for their active participation. The event successfully reinforced the significance of yoga in the lives of future leaders and instilled in them a lifelong appreciation for this ancient

FDP on “Universal Human Values” Conducted by AICTE Held at SMVDU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organised a three-day Introductory Faculty Development Program (FDP) on “*Universal Human Values*” under the PM-USHA initiative. The event was organized in collaboration with the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) and conducted by the NCCIP AICTE Team. The event featured insightful sessions conducted by NCCIP members of the AICTE Team Dr. Priya Darshni and Dr. Manisha Gupta. NCCIP member Er. Manu Rajput was present as an Observer during the FDP for the smooth execution of all the sessions. NCCIP members Sh. Jitender Narula and Dr. Charanjeet Madan were the Regional Coordinators of the FDP. The FDP aimed to instill human values in educators,

fostering ethical and moral development in teaching. Participants from SMVDU, Cluster University, Jammu, Central University of Jammu, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Institute of Medical Excellence (SMVDIME), and various other Government degree Colleges attended the program, gaining valuable insights into the integration of human values in education. The initiative aligns with AICTE's vision to promote value-based education across academic institutions in India. The Programme was organised by Universal Human Value cell and Academic Affairs Section of SMVDU with Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh (Dean Academic Affairs, SMVDU) and Dr. Kamaldeep (Assistant Professor, School of Electrical Engineering, SMVDU) as Coordinators. Dr. Shafaq Rasool (Associate Dean Academic Affairs), Dr. Bharat Bhushan Jindal (Associate Dean Academic Affairs), Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi as Local Co-Coordinator, Dr. Pooja Sharma, Dr. Amit Sinha and Dr. Anil Bhardwaj ensured the smooth execution of the FDP.



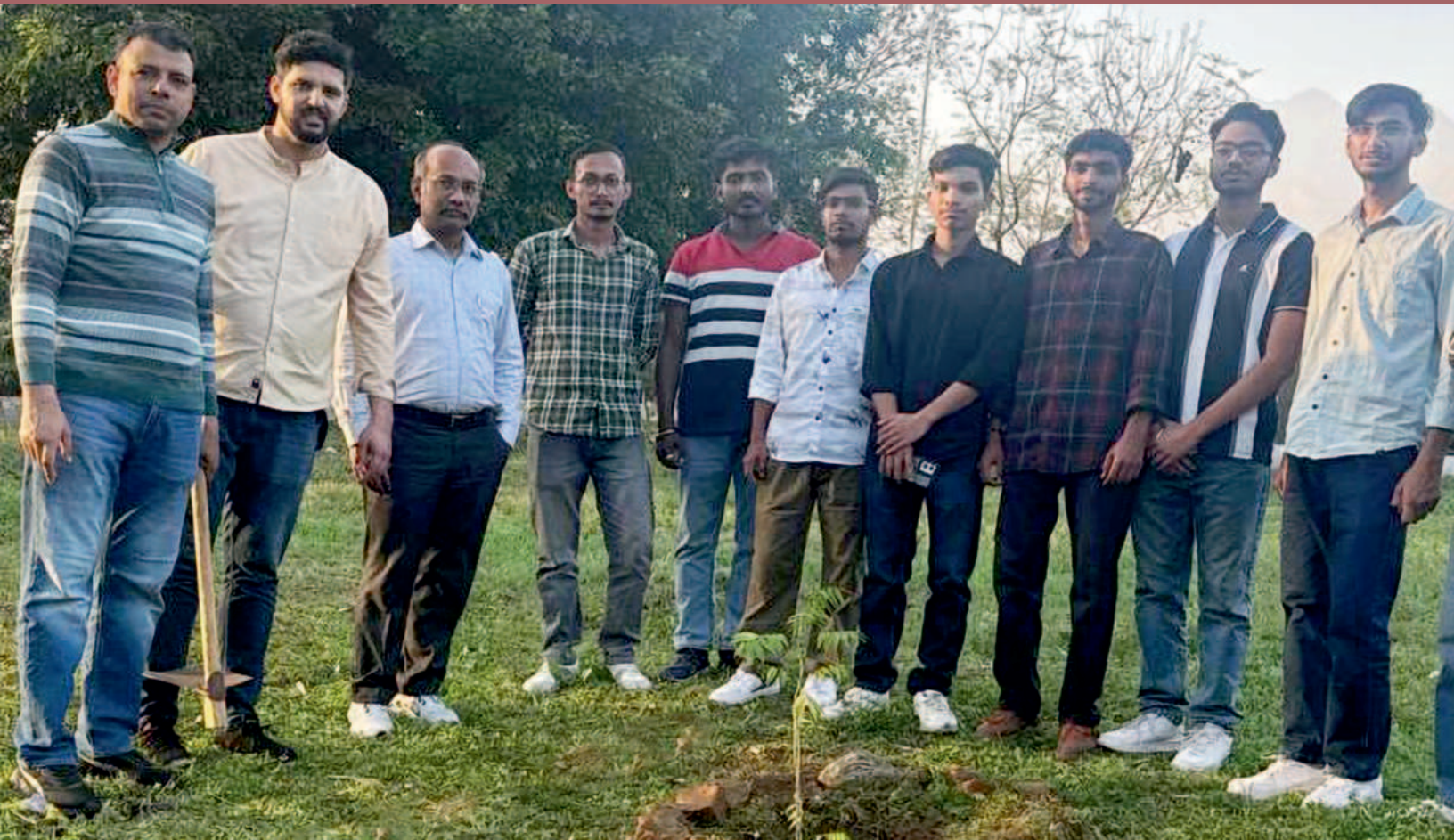
International Conference "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Prospects and Challenges for India", Held at SMVDU



A two-day International conference on "Achieving Sustainable Development Goals: Prospects and Challenges for India [SUSTIND]", was inaugurated at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Jammu on 21st March 2025. This event is a collaborative effort of IIT Jammu, YSI South Asia Working Group and School of Economics, Sri Mata Vaishno Devi University. YSI is an initiative of the Institute for New Economic Thinking, New York. In the inaugural programme, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, in his cordial welcome address focused on the importance of the conference. He emphasized on the top down approach to achieve sustainable development goal. Prof. Manoj S. Gaur, Director, IIT Jammu, in his presidential address, mentioned how technology can bridge the gap to achieve SDGs. Ms. Sunanda Nair Bidkar, Director, South Asia, INET New York, in her introductory remarks enriched the audience by focusing on the objectives and functioning of YSI in general and the conference in particular. Prof. Meenakshi Rajeev, Department of HSS IIT Jammu, coordinator of the event, briefed about the two day activities. Padma Bhushan Prof. B. N. Suresh, Chancellor, Indian Institute of Space Technology, Thiruvananthapuram was the Chief Guest and Keynote speaker of the event. After highlighting the importance of SDGs, he noted that space data can be used to track some of the achievement of SDGs. Shri Shantmanu, IAS, Additional Chief Secretary, Higher Education Department, Government of Jammu & Kashmir was the Guest of Honour. He highlighted the importance of sustainability of individual. Prof. Ashutosh Vashistha, Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. Rooplal Sharma, Head School of Economics, SMVDU and faculty members of different institutions graced the occasion. The formal vote of thanks of the inaugural session was delivered by the organizing secretary, Dr. Pabitra Kumar Jena, Associate Professor, SMVDU. The other core members of the organizing team, Program convener Dr. Kakali Majumdar Prof. SMVDU, Mr. Bikram Barman and Ms Christina Kujur from YSI, Dr. Shafkat Shafi Dar, Dr Amitash Ojha, Dr Hardeep Singh from IIT Jammu as well as scholars and students put wholehearted effort to make this

event a grand success. The event was supported by NABARD, Department of Industries and Commerce, Govt. of Jammu and Kashmir, and CVPP. Young scholars from across the country attended the conference to present their work in parallel technical sessions. Besides, two panel sessions, one, on "Challenges of Achieving SDGs for India" and the other, 'Prospects and Challenges of J&K region in achieving SDGs", were part of the event. Prof. R. Kavita Rao, Director, National Institute of Public Finance and Policy, New Delhi, Prof. Manju Singh Department of HSS MNIT Jaipur, Shri Vikramjit Singh (IPS) Commissioner Secretary, Industries & Commerce Department, J&K, Shri Rahul Sahai, Chairman, Indian Chambers of Commerce, Jammu, Prof. Jasbir Singh, Prof. Dipankar Sengupta, Prof. Falendar Kumar Sudan, University of Jammu, Dr. Shubhra Sharma, Mission Director, Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission, Shri Vikas Mittal, General Manager (NABARD), Jammu are the distinguished personnels, invited for chairing and deliberating in the sessions. The objective of the conference was to build the knowledge base from various disciplines of Science, Humanities and Social-Sciences, on the relationship between Growth and Sustainable-Development and improving welfare of the common masses, in the Indian context. The enlightening discussions and exchange of ideas focusing on the application aspect of research outcomes are valuable addition to the achievement of the sustainable development goals for the country.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan SMVD University Organizes Tree Plantation Drive on Martyrs' Day



Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan Cell of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a Tree Plantation Drive on Martyrs' Day to honor the brave souls who sacrificed their lives for the nation. The event aimed to promote environmental sustainability while paying tribute to the martyrs Saheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru, and Sukhdev for their extreme sacrifices for the motherland. The event included various activities, including a speech on Martyr's Day, a video clip on the life of Saheed-e-azam Bhagat Singh, a Quiz Competition, and a photography contest. The drive witnessed enthusiastic participation from faculty members, students, and staff, who planted various indigenous tree species within the university campus. The initiative aligns with the objectives of Unnat Bharat Abhiyaan, which focuses on rural development and community engagement through sustainable practices. The plantation drive also served as a reminder of the sacrifices made by the martyrs and the responsibility of citizens to uphold their legacy through constructive actions. Faculty members, Dr. Bharat

Bhushan Jindal, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, and Dr. Sunny Kumar Sharma participated actively in the event, along with student volunteers Anurag, Ravish, Utkarsh, Kamaljeet, Anshika, Mrinal, Krishav, Rathik, and Sourav. SMVDU remains committed to fostering environmental consciousness among students and the local community. The university will continue to organize similar initiatives to encourage sustainable development and active participation in nation- building efforts.

SMVDU Co-Hosts International Conference on Advanced Materials for a Sustainable Future



The School of Mechanical Engineering (SME) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly co-hosted the two-day International Conference on Advanced Materials for Sustainable Future (ICAMSF-2025), themed "Energy, Efficiency, Economy for Sustainability". The event, held in collaboration with Chitkara University, Chandigarh, brought together a distinguished consortium of global academic institutions, including Bournemouth University (UK), Yonsei University (Seoul, South Korea), Asian Institute of Technology (Thailand), Luleå University of Technology (Sweden), University of Naples (Italy), and University of Ljubljana (Slovenia), alongside prominent Indian universities such as PEC Chandigarh, VNIT Nagpur, and NIT Nagaland. Coordinated by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Professor, SME), Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SME) and Dr. Sanjay Mohan (Associate Professor, SME), the conference served as a dynamic platform for innovation and knowledge exchange. It explored critical topics such as Material Synthesis for Environmental Remediation, Energy Storage and Conversion, Advanced Manufacturing in Industry 4.0/5.0, Materials for Extreme Functionalities, and Engineering Tribology. The event featured 39 sessions, with 343 participants and 33 renowned speakers presenting groundbreaking research and insights. ICAMSF-2025 was generously supported by leading research organizations, including the Anusandhan National Research Foundation (ANRF), Council of Scientific and Industrial Research (CSIR), and Defence Research and Development Organisation (DRDO). The conference underscored SMVDU's growing stature in advanced materials research and its commitment to fostering sustainable solutions for global challenges. During the inaugural session, Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar graced the event as a special guest. In his address, he praised the organizers' efforts and highlighted SMVDU's potential as a key collaborator in cutting-edge research in materials science and tribology. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, also emphasized the significance of such initiatives in positioning SMVDU at the forefront of technological innovation. The conference not only showcased the latest advancements in the field but also reinforced international and national partnerships aimed at driving sustainable development through academic and scientific collaboration.







Faculty/Staff Updates

Talk Delivered

SMVDU Faculty Delivers Keynote at IIT Jammu's Workshop on Entrepreneurship

Dr. Sanjay Mohan, a distinguished faculty member of the School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), delivered an engaging keynote address at IIT Jammu's week-long Advanced E-SDP Programme, titled "Empowering Make in India: Nurturing Entrepreneurship in Indian Manufacturing." Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSME), the event aimed to bolster India's manufacturing sector by promoting entrepreneurial talent and technological innovation. In his dual role as acting CEO of the SMVDU Technology Business Incubation Center, Dr. Mohan brought extensive expertise to the workshop. He spoke passionately about the pivotal role of technology in empowering startups, stressing how access to technical know-how and mentorship can transform innovative ideas into sustainable enterprises. "The future of manufacturing lies in nurturing tech-savvy entrepreneurs," he remarked, inspiring attendees to embrace cutting-edge solutions. Dr. Mohan also highlighted the vital contributions of incubation centers, such as the one he leads at SMVDU. Under his guidance, the center fosters a supportive ecosystem, providing budding entrepreneurs with resources, training, and collaboration opportunities to succeed in a competitive market. His insights struck a chord with participants eager to tap into the potential of the "Make in India" initiative. The workshop drew a diverse audience, including entrepreneurs, industry professionals, and students, all keen to



SMVDU Faculty Delivers an Invited Talk on Nanotechnology at Panjab University, Chandigarh

Dr. Ankush Raina, faculty member of the School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), delivered an invited talk on the "Role of Nanotechnology in Industrial Lubrication" at National Symposium on Advanced Materials for Device Applications., organized by the Centre for Nanoscience & Nanotechnology at Panjab University, Chandigarh. In his talk, Dr. Raina highlighted the transformative potential of nanotechnology in revolutionizing industrial lubrication. He discussed the incorporation of nanomaterials into lubricants, explaining how they enhance the performance, reduce wear, improve efficiency, and promote sustainability in industrial processes. Dr. Raina emphasized the application of nano-lubricants in reducing friction, improving the life cycle of machinery, and minimizing environmental impact. The session was well-received by attendees, including experts, researchers, and students in the fields of nanotechnology. The National Symposium on Advanced Materials for Device Applications provided a collaborative platform for exchanging ideas and discussing the latest developments in the area of nanoscience and materials engineering. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, congratulated Dr. Raina for representing the university at the National Level.



SMVDU Faculty Delivers Lecture at MIET, Kot Bhalwal

Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, a distinguished expert in VLSI design, delivered an insightful lecture at the Faculty Development Program (FDP) on "Emerging Trends in VLSI System Design and Applications", organized by the Department of Electronics & Communication Engineering and the Research and Development Cell at Model Institute of Engineering & Technology (MIET), Kot Bhalwal, Jammu. The session focused on "Methodology for Teaching VLSI and How to Start Working in VLSI Fields?" Dr. Bhardwaj provided valuable guidance on innovative teaching methodologies and career opportunities in the VLSI industry. Faculty members and research scholars actively participated in the interactive session, gaining practical insights into the evolving landscape of VLSI technology. Dr. Surbhi Sharma, Head of the ECE Department, MIET, expressed gratitude to Dr. Bhardwaj for his invaluable contribution and emphasized the significance of such expert-led sessions in enhancing faculty expertise and industry readiness. The five-day FDP aims to equip educators and researchers with the latest trends and practical knowledge in VLSI system design, fostering academic excellence and industry collaboration.



Paper Presented

SMVDU Professor Presents Insightful Research on Role of Metro Rail in Creating Smart Cities at Prestigious International Conference

Ar. Vinod Kumar, Assistant Professor at the School of Architecture & Landscape Design, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently presented his research on smart cities at the prestigious conference "Smart Sustainable Cities 2025: Pioneering Novel Frontiers for Green Urban Living." The conference, organized virtually by MDPI, one of the largest publishers of scientific journals, brought together esteemed thought leaders, researchers, and professionals from around the world, including Erasmus University, Rotterdam; State University of New York; University of Strathclyde, UK; Florida International University; and University of Salerno, Italy, among others. Ar. Vinod Kumar's research paper, "Place-Making and City Boosterism with Metro Rail in Indian Metro Cities from a Smart City Perspective," explores the transformative impact of metro rail systems on urban environments in India. The study highlights the role of metro infrastructure in fostering place-making, promoting city boosterism, and aligning with the broader goals of the Smart City initiative. The presentation sparked engaging discussions on integrating transport innovation with green living principles, offering valuable insights for policymakers and urban planners striving to shape future-ready cities. By contributing to the global dialogue on smart and sustainable cities, Ar. Vinod Kumar reinforces SMVDU's reputation as a hub for pioneering research and academic excellence. The conference provided a platform for experts to share their research and insights, fostering a collaborative environment to address the challenges of urbanization and promote sustainable urban development.



Student Updates

SMVDU Hosts 50 CITS Trainees from NSTI(W), Jammu for Educational Excursion



The School of Computer Science & Engineering (SCSE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly hosted 50 CITS trainees from the National Skill Training Institute (W), Jammu, under the jurisdiction of the Regional Directorate of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (RDSDE), Government of India, Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship, Directorate General Training. This visit was designed to provide the trainees with valuable exposure to cutting-edge practices in the field of computer science. The visit offered a comprehensive tour of SMVDU's state-of-the-art facilities. The Computer Science Department showcased its advanced laboratories, research spaces, and ongoing projects. Trainees had the exclusive opportunity to engage with faculty members and students, exploring various aspects of computer science, including software development, machine learning, data analytics, networking, optical fibre technologies, and other emerging fields. Department experts discussed about the current IT industry trends and the practical application of computer science concepts in both academic and professional settings. The trainees also witnessed live demonstrations of student projects, which showcased real-world applications of cutting-edge technology. Among the highlights was a visit to the network centre, where trainees observed the functioning of the university's IT infrastructure, as well as the AI and Deep Learning Lab and the 5G Lab, where innovative research and development work is carried out. The visit was organized under the guidance of Dr. Sunanda, Head & Associate Professor, SCSE, SMVDU, along with Mr. Himmat Raj Sharma and Mr. Sahil Sharma from SCSE. It was also supported by Mr. Ravi Chilukoti, Regional Director, RDSDE, J&K and Ladakh, Shri V. Babu, Joint Director, RDSDE, J&K and Ladakh, and Ms. Prianka Kaul, Assistant Director/Principal, NSTI(W), Jammu. This initiative provided the trainees with a deeper understanding of the evolving field of computer science, offering them insights into both academic advancements and industry practices. The experience is expected to enhance their learning journey and better prepare them for successful careers in the IT industry.

SMVDU Students Visited NIT Srinagar and University of Kashmir

In a significant step towards fostering student growth and intellectual exchange, the Students from School of Mathematics (SoM), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) visited NIT Srinagar and University of Kashmir during their Educational Tour/Industrial visit w.e.f. 10-12 March 2025. The 84 students of the School of Mathematics of various programmes FYUG, M.Sc. Mathematics, B.Tech in Mathematics & Computing and Ph.d Scholars got benefit and exposure of this fruitful visit.. During the visit they interacted with faculty members and students of NIT Srinagar and University of Kashmir about various facets of their teaching and learning. Professor M. A. Khanday, Head, Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir discussed innovative learning and various presentation skills. Professor Mohd Abdulla Mir, Department of Mathematics, University of Kashmir discussed some Mathematical problems and motivated the students. During interaction



among the students of SMVDU and Kashmir University, Dr. M. Saleem Lone were also present. Prof. Zamrooda Jabeen, Head Department of Mathematics NIT Srinagar and other Faculty members, Prof. Neyaz Ahmad, Dr. Mehraj Ahmad Lone, Dr. Rameez Raja etc. also interacted with the students and discussed various latest developments going on in mathematics. The tour was aimed to provide an opportunity to understand the educational, cultural, and environmental landscapes of the region. From a broader perspective, this tour allowed the students to learn more about new situations in an informal environment. Students got the opportunity to observe many things that are not available during the classroom teaching, including the learning environment at other national level institutions, varying sociometric levels, impact of infrastructural developments on environment, etc. The experience of the tour enhanced their learning, compassion for the people, and inspired them to work towards sustainable development of society. Besides visiting educational institutions, students also get a chance to see various worldwide renowned historical and tourist places of the Kashmir province of UT, J&K like Gurudwara Chatti patshahi kathidarwaza Rainwadi, Shankaracharya Temple, Pahalagam, Mughal Garden, Dal Lake etc. Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Head, School of Mathematics (SoM), and various faculty members, Dr. Abhishek Singh, Dr. Sandeep Sharma, Dr. Vivek Kumar, Dr. Sunil Kumar Sharma accompanied the students during the educational tour. Mr. Rohit Uppal (Lab Assistant), Devia Narrania, Samrati Gorka (Senior Scholars) and Saksham Kudyar (M.Sc Student) were the student coordinators of the tour. Further HoD, School of Mathematics, SMVDU thanked both the head of the Department of Mathematics of NIT Srinagar and University of Kashmir for their cooperation and valuable suggestions to our students during their visit. Finally, Dr. Kuldeep Raj, Head (SoM), thanked Professor (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU for providing the permission and support to arrange this educational tour/Industrial visit under PM USHA Scheme.

SMVDU Students Visit AIIMS, Jammu

The fourth-year students of the School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), conducted a case study visit to the All India Institute of Medical Sciences (AIIMS) Jammu as part of their academic curriculum. The visit was coordinated by faculty members Ar. Navin Gupta and Ar. Abhimanyu Sharma. The initiative was facilitated by the esteemed Director of AIIMS and Dr. Sanjolly Gupta, whose support played a crucial role in ensuring a productive learning experience for the students. Ar. Narinder, a key resource person at the site, accompanied the students and provided an in-depth explanation of the site planning and architectural framework of the entire AIIMS Jammu campus. The students gained valuable insights into the complexities of hospital design, including zoning strategies, circulation planning, patient flow management, emergency response considerations, and sustainable design aspects. This case study visit was particularly significant as the fourth-year students are currently engaged in designing a hospital as part of their



Architectural Design studio exercise. The firsthand exposure to a large-scale healthcare facility will enable them to incorporate practical and functional solutions into their design projects, aligning with contemporary architectural standards and healthcare requirements. The students and faculty members expressed their gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU and the Head of SoALD for their continuous encouragement and support in facilitating such enriching academic experiences. These industry interactions and site explorations remain vital in bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and real-world architectural practice.

SMVDU Students Gain Practical Experience through Site Visit and Case Study



In a bid to provide students with hands-on experience and practical learning, B.Arch. 6th semester students of the School of Architecture & Landscape Design at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently embarked on a site visit for their group housing project at Sainik Colony, Jammu. The site visit was an integral part of the students' Architectural Design Studio, which aims to provide them with a comprehensive understanding of architectural design principles and practices. As part of the studio, the students were tasked with designing a group housing project that is not only aesthetically pleasing but also affordable and sustainable. To gain a deeper understanding of the project's requirements, the students visited the site, where they were able to assess the topography, climate, and surrounding environment. The site visit provided the students with valuable insight into the practical aspects of designing a group housing project. In addition to the site visit, the students also visited an under-construction group housing project, "Royal Nest Hill View, Sainik Colony, Jammu" as a case study. This visit allowed the students to learn from the experiences of others and apply this knowledge to their own project. The site visit was coordinated and guided by faculty member Ar. Vinod Kumar, course coordinator of the Architectural Design Studio, and facilitated and supported by Ar. Navin Gupta and Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture & Landscape Design. The students' team leaders, Mr. Aditya Kumar Singh and Ms. Dia Gupta, helped ensure the smooth conduct of the trip. The students expressed their gratitude to the university administration for their support and for providing them with opportunities to engage in practical learning experiences. They also thanked the site engineers and staff of "Royal Nest Hill View" for providing all kinds of support at their site and clearing all doubts. By providing students with opportunities to engage in practical learning experiences, SMVDU is committed to fostering a new generation of architects who are equipped to address the challenges of the built environment. The university's focus on experiential learning is a key aspect of its approach to education, and the site visit and case study are essential components of the Architectural Design Studio. Through this studio, students are encouraged to think creatively, develop problem-solving skills, and apply theoretical knowledge to real-world problems.

SMVDU Students and Faculty Visited Small Scale Industries at Bhaderwah



A group of B.Sc., B.Tech, and Ph.D. students with faculty members from the School of Biotechnology (SoBT), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), recently embarked on an educational visit to Bhaderwah. The tour was aimed at providing students with practical exposure to small-scale industrial setups involved in essential oil production and cleaning product manufacturing. During their visit, the students and faculty had the opportunity to explore the Himalayan Essential Oils Producer Company Ltd., a renowned enterprise in the region known for its high-quality essential oils, particularly lavender oil. The visit was facilitated by Mr. Bharat Bhushan, the owner of the Himalayan Essential Oils Producer Company Ltd., who briefed the students about the extraction process, quality control measures, and the growing importance of the essential oil industry in Bhaderwah. Mr. Bhushan has been instrumental in promoting aromatic plant cultivation and essential oil production, significantly contributing to the economic development of the region. In addition, the students also visited Centwin, a unit of JKRLM Umeed Bhaderwah, which specializes in the manufacturing of various cleaning products, including laundry soap and handmade soap. They were given insights into the production

process and the entrepreneurial initiatives supported under the Jammu and Kashmir Rural Livelihoods Mission (JKRLM) scheme. The visit was coordinated by Mr. Pancham Singh and Mr. Praveen, both serving as Cluster Coordinators under JKRLM Umeed Bhaderwah. A highlight of the visit was the exploration of the expansive lavender fields, where students learned about the cultivation, harvesting, and processing of lavender, a key component in essential oil production. The faculty members provided valuable academic perspectives on the biotechnological aspects of essential oil extraction and its applications in various industries. This educational tour provided an enriching experience, bridging the gap between theoretical learning and practical industry exposure. The students expressed their gratitude for the opportunity to witness real-world applications of biotechnology, and the faculty members acknowledged the support extended by the industrial partners in making the visit successful. The trip was a well-coordinated effort, showcasing the synergy between academia and industry, and paving the way for future collaborations in research and development. The visit was organized under the guidance of the Head and faculty of the School of Biotechnology, Dr. Ratna Chandra, Dr. Indu Bhushan, and Dr. Vinod Singh..The trip was sponsored by the funds received under the PM USHA grant. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar applauded the efforts of the School of Biotechnology in providing students with firsthand experience of the operations, challenges, and opportunities within small-scale industries. He encouraged more such field visits to expose students to the workings of small-scale industries, to organize guest lectures from industry experts, and incorporate case studies and projects that simulate real-world scenarios, fostering practical learning and understanding.

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Hosted TEDx SMVDU 2025



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully hosted TEDx SMVDU 2025. The event was organized by Savishkar Club, and Board of Professional Activities, SMVDU. The event, themed "Turning Ideas into Reality with the Spark of Innovation", brought together distinguished speakers who shared their inspiring journeys, innovative ideas, and thought-provoking insights with enthusiastic audience. Adding prestige to the occasion, Prof, (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, graced the occasion as a Chief Guest. The event started with the welcome address by Dr. Ankush Raina, President, Board of Professional Activities, followed by an address by Prof. R.K. Mishra, Dean of Student Welfare. The event featured six eminent speakers: Ambassador Deepak Vohra an accomplished diplomat and humanitarian; P Arvind, Co-founder of Enlighten Capital and startup mentor; Dhananjay Singh, Co-founder of Go Productions and expert in branding and immersive experiences; Dr. Surendar Jatoth, Founder of Vivaea Cure Foundation and renowned medical researcher; Brigadier (Retd.) Hitendra Singh Pilkhwal, a military strategist and scholar; and Jagdeep Singh (JKAS), a civil servant and change maker. Each speaker captivated the audience with their insights on leadership, entrepreneurship, healthcare, defense, and public service. Dr Rajesh Kumar, Faculty Advisor, TEDx SMVDU delivered the vote of thanks. TEDx SMVDU 2025 proved to be a beacon of inspiration, innovation, and transformation, igniting meaningful discussions and motivating young minds to turn their ideas into reality. With such a stellar lineup of speakers, distinguished guests, and a dedicated organizing team, the event set a benchmark for future intellectual and creative endeavours at SMVDU. Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha, Dean, Faculty of Management & IIC Chairman and Dr. Rashi Taggar, Faculty Advisor, Savishkar Club, SMVDU were also present on the occasion. Their presence and contribution in the event underscored the significance of knowledge exchange and intellectual growth at SMVDU. Prof, (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, congratulated the students and organizers for the successful completion of the event and stressed up

the need of such events in shaping the young minds. The event was sponsored by IIC and was seamlessly managed by an exceptional team, led by Divyanshu Pranjali, President of Savishkar Club, with V. Yash Raj as Event Manager, Abhishek Vishal and Priyanshi Bhat as Project Managers, Abhishek Kumar Sharma as Logistics Head, Akankha Siwach as Hospitality Head, and a dedicated Tech Team including Himanshu Kumar, Raiyan Raza, Anurag Aryan, Nitish Sharma, and other coordinators. The Design Team, headed by Gaurav Kumar, played a crucial role in enhancing the event's identity, while Abhishek Kumar Pandey (Licensee) and other TEDx SMVDU Coordinators ensured its success.

Paper Presented/Prize Won/Course Attended

SMVDU Scholar Completes Prestigious GIAN Course on Postcolonial Ecocriticism at MNIT Jaipur

Ms. Chakshu Gupta, a research scholar at the School of Languages & Literature, pursuing her Ph.D. under the mentorship of Dr. Isha Malhotra, has completed an esteemed GIAN (Global Initiative of Academic Networks) course on Postcolonial Ecocriticism: Global Writings and Critical Natures at Malaviya National Institute of Technology (MNIT) Jaipur. The week-long course, held from March 3 to March 8, 2025, was organized by the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences under the leadership of Prof. N. P. Padhy, Director, MNIT Jaipur. The course featured international expert Prof. Alan G. Johnson from the Department of English and Philosophy, Idaho State University, USA. The coordination was managed by Dr. Preeti Bhatt, Head and Associate Professor, and Dr. Nidhi Bansal, Assistant Professor, from the Department of Humanities and Social Sciences, MNIT Jaipur. Bringing together scholars from leading institutions of India, the course delved into the intersection of postcolonial literary studies and ecocriticism, focusing on literature's engagement with environmental concerns. The program consisted of 18 insightful sessions spanning six days, offering a comprehensive exploration of the relationship between literature, environmental consciousness, and ecocritical tropes. By successfully completing this prestigious course, the SMVDU scholar has further strengthened the university's academic standing in interdisciplinary research, reinforcing its commitment to fostering intellectual growth and global scholarly engagement.



SMVDU's Anand Raj Brings Laurels to the University

Anand Raj, a third-year BBA Finance student at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has brought laurels for the University. He secured 1st position in the prestigious Negotiation Competition organized by the Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Jammu. Competing in The Mafia Boardroom – Negotiation Challenge, Anand displayed exceptional strategic thinking, persuasive communication, and problem-solving abilities, outperforming participants from top B-schools. His ability to analyze complex situations and negotiate effectively led him to a well-earned victory. Anand Raj, also has made the University proud by securing the 1st Runner-Up position in the Shark Tank MBA Edition – Pitch Your Idea competition organized by IIM Jammu. Competing against some of the brightest minds from top business schools, Anand impressed the judges with his entrepreneurial acumen, innovative business idea, and confident pitch. His ability to present and defend his concept with clarity and conviction earned him well-deserved recognition in the prestigious competition. This achievement reflects Anand's creativity, dedication, and passion for business, further strengthening SMVDU's reputation in the field of management education. The Head, School of Business along with faculty members congratulated Anand on this remarkable accomplishment and wishes him continued success in his entrepreneurial journey. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU congratulate the student for adding one more feathers in the cap of School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University



SMVDU Students Present Paper at Indian Geotechnical Conference 2024

B-Tech final year students of the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented a technical paper at Indian Geotechnical Conference 2024 (IGC 2024), which was organised by Indian Geotechnical Society, Aurangabad Chapter, and the Civil Engineering Department of MIT Aurangabad. Rishikesh Kanitker, Abhisek Singh, Bhagyadeep Sahu worked under the guidance of Mr. Srijan (Assistant Professor, SoCE) and Mr. Gautam Narula (Assistant Professor, SoCE) to prepare the paper titled "Application of

Demolished Waste from Construction project as a column Infill to increase the strength of soft soil: 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.



NSS

Blood Donation Camp for the Thalassemia Patients Organised at SMVDU



NCC and NSS units of SMVDU, Katra, in collaboration with the J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, successfully organized a blood donation camp at the SMVDU campus. This event united community members in support of a life-saving cause. The camp was organised by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Coordinator, and supported by Dr. Pallav Sharma from the Medical Aid Centre, SMVDU. The initiative witnessed an impressive turnout. Dr. Rasmi from GMC, Jammu, oversaw and provided essential support at a blood donation camp. Sixty students and staff members from the University generously donated blood during the camp, showcasing acts of kindness and solidarity. This altruistic gesture holds the potential to significantly impact the lives of numerous individuals combating Thalassemia, a genetic blood disorder. Furthermore, LG Electronics, as part of its Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiative, supported this Mega Blood Donation Drive in collaboration with Saksham Bharti Foundation and J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society. The event was spearheaded by Mr. Mukteesh Sharma and Mr. Tejas Thussu from LG Electronics, along with Sudhir Sethi from J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society. Er. Sudhir Sethi, President of J&K Thalassemia Welfare Society, Jammu, emphasized the vital role of regular blood donation camps for Thalassemia patients, highlighting the growing need for blood due to frequent transfusions required by many patients. He urged the community to actively participate in mitigating the sufferings of Thalassemia children and preventing the birth of such children through genetic counseling and proper antenatal advice. Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, commended the organizing team's efforts, emphasizing that blood donation is not merely an act of kindness but a lifeline for those in need. He underscored the profound impact of collective action, illustrating how each donation represents a ray of hope for individuals bravely facing Thalassemia.

SMVDU Hosts Students from PM Shri Government Girls Middle School, Jindrah



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) had the privilege of hosting students from PM Shri Government Girls Middle School, Jindrah, for an enriching campus visit. The visit was meticulously organized by the NSS and NCC units of SMVDU, ensuring a well-rounded and informative experience for the young visitors. The coordination of the event was led by NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, and NCC Coordinator, Dr. Varun Dutta, along with NSS & NCC Student Volunteers. Throughout the day, the students, accompanied by their teachers, explored various state-of-the-art facilities within the university. They were given an in-depth tour of various labs, the central workshop, the central library, and the networking centre. The tour also included a visit to the university's impressive auditorium, where the students could envision themselves participating in future academic and extracurricular activities. The visit served as a significant motivational boost for the students, encouraging them to aspire to join higher educational institutes upon completing their class 12th. Er. Deepak Byotra, Workshop Superintendent, along with the staff members, emphasized the importance of technical skills in shaping the future workforce. He welcomed the students and encouraged them to develop practical expertise alongside theoretical knowledge. The volunteers briefed the students about different aspects of university life, workshop operations, library resources, and the network centre. They also highlighted the role of technical and professional skills in career development. Expressing enthusiasm about the initiative, School Incharge Shamash Din emphasized the importance of such visits in broadening students' perspectives. He stated : "Experiencing a university campus at an early stage plays a significant role in shaping students' aspirations. This visit has given them a glimpse of academic excellence and career opportunities that lie ahead. We hope that such initiatives will continue to motivate our students to strive for higher education and professional success." The school administration extended heartfelt gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, for providing the students with this invaluable learning experience. They also acknowledged the efforts of faculty members, coordinators, supporting staff, and NSS volunteers who contributed to making the visit a memorable and insightful experience.

NSS SMVDU Organized a Creative Session to Express Gratitude towards Parents

The National Service Scheme (NSS) successfully organized the heartfelt event 'Grateful Hearts, Loving Hands', where 80 enthusiastic participants came together to express their love and appreciation for their parents. The event aimed to recognize and honor the relentless efforts of parents by encouraging students to create personalized gratitude cards. Participants poured their emotions into beautifully crafted cards, using colors, heartfelt messages, and creative designs to express their deep appreciation. The event fostered a sense of gratitude and strengthened the bond between children and their parents. Speaking about the initiative, Abikash Gupta and Kriti Mahajan came up with this idea to help students recognize the efforts done by parents. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, mentioned that , "In today's fast-paced world, we often forget to



acknowledge the sacrifices our parents make for us. This event was a small but meaningful effort to remind students of the importance of expressing gratitude." The event concluded with participants sharing their experiences and emotions, making it a truly touching and memorable occasion. NSS continues to promote such initiatives that inspire kindness, appreciation, and social awareness among students. Our other volunteers Mudit Sharma and Rishiv Bhargav also helped in coordinating the event.

SMVDU Hosted Educational Trip of Govt. High School Nagrota



SMVDU hosted educational trip of Govt. High School Nagrota. It enables the students to visit different department of the SMVD University. They learn many things when they go to various places. The educational tour enriches their knowledge and broadens their outlook. Twenty students of the school decided to join the tour. Some student of the School were very curious to visit some places of interest, so. they decide to join the tour and visited various labs and other facilities of the University. NSS volunteers and NCC cadets coordinated the whole visit. Visit were started from the Central Library of the university. After visiting the Library, they went to the Network Centre of the University and Mr. Rajnesh Technical Assistant gave the brief introduction of the various equipment of the Network Centre. Student were very curious to know about the latest equipments of the Network Centre. At the end, the School officials thanked University for the said visit.

Ph.D

Saima Khan Declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Saima Khan has been declared qualified for the award of the Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in Biotechnology by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). She worked on the topic, entitled "Exploration of in vitro raised cultures of *Atropa accuminata* for the production of acid phosphohydrolase", under the Supervision of Dr. Ashok Ahuja, Principal Scientist (Retd.), CSIR-Indian Institute of Integrative Medicine (IIIM), Jammu and Co-supervision of Prof. Sharada M. Potukuchi, School of Biotechnology, SMVD University. During the final oral defence, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of the University, Dr. Sunil Wanchoo, Dean Faculty of Science and the External Examiner Dr Ram Kumar Sharma, Chief Scientist, CSIR-IHBT, Palampur and Head, Biotechnology; appreciated the work done and congratulated the student for her successful Ph.D. Viva-Voce. Ms. Saima has published her research findings in the International Journals of repute and presented her results at International and National conferences. Ms. Saima expressed her gratitude to CSIR-IIIM and the School of Biotechnology, SMVD University for providing all the facilities for carrying out the research work and the financial assistance in terms of scholarship and contingency during her tenure at the CSIR-IIIM. Her study implements the existence of plant cell culture system as a viable and alternative approach for the production of acid phosphatase at commercial levels using cell and tissue cultures of *Atropa*. The findings have significant implications for addressing global food security and environmental sustainability. By leveraging the power of plant cell cultures, researchers can develop innovative strategies to enhance crop productivity and minimize the environmental impact of agriculture. This research offers rational strategies to develop phosphate efficient plants in order to reduce our over reliance on non renewable Pi fertilizers which can further encourage continual agriculture and help to convene future needs.



Alumni Corner

From Campus to Code—The Journey of a Modern Software Engineer: Prabhakar Kumar, SMVDU Alumni

Behind every skilled engineer is a story of curiosity, hard work, and milestones that define their growth. For Prabhakar Kumar (2016-2020), a Software Engineer blazing his trail in modern software development, that journey began in the vibrant halls of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). SMVDU didn't just provide a degree—it became the launchpad for a future filled with possibilities. Surrounded by a culture that encouraged innovation, leadership, and hands-on learning, Prabhakar explored far beyond the classroom. During his time at SMVDU, Prabhakar was more than just a student of Computer Science—he was a builder, a leader, and a team player. As the Technical Event Head at Titiksha, the university's premier tech fest, he coordinated large-scale events, bringing together innovation, coding challenges, and student-led workshops. He also served as the Student Secretary of the Hindi Cell, showing his commitment to cultural and linguistic diversity alongside his technical pursuits. These experiences laid the foundation for his strong organizational skills, team leadership, and creative problem-solving—qualities that continue to shape his career. "It was at SMVDU that I first learned how to turn an idea into action—how to think critically, code creatively, and lead with purpose," says Prabhakar. This blend of academic rigor and extracurricular responsibility helped him grow into a well-rounded developer ready for the challenges of the industry.



Retirement/Superannuation

Warm Farewell Accorded to Mr. Behari Lal on His Superannuation

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, organized a heartfelt farewell ceremony for Mr. Behari Lal, Helper Plumber, on the occasion of his superannuation after 20 years of dedicated service to the University. Speaking at the event, University Engineer, Er. Kamal Sharma, commended Mr. Behari Lal for his exemplary contributions and unwavering commitment over the years. The ceremony was attended by his family, friends, and colleagues, who extended their best wishes for his future endeavors. On this special occasion, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, along with faculty and staff members, conveyed their gratitude and wished Mr. Behari Lal a happy, healthy, and fulfilling post-retirement life.



Upcoming Events

- **SMVDU Conducted Orientation Session for Honors and Minor Specialization on 8th April, 25.**
- **SMVDU Launches Admission Portal 2025–26 on 9th April, 25.**
- **Online Training Programme on “NEP Orientation & Sensitization” from 21st -30th April, 25.**
- **NSS SMVDU Katra volunteers celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti on 14th April, 25.**

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