

Times@SMVDU

Monthly E-newsletter



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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.

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

Mission

Objective

- 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.

SMVDU Research Team Awarded Prestigious Grant under ANRF-PAIR in Collaboration with IIT Ropar

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has achieved a significant research milestone by securing a prestigious grant under the Advanced National Research Foundation – Partnerships for Advancing Interdisciplinary Research (ANRF PAIR) program. The PAIR initiative is designed to promote interdisciplinary collaboration among premier research institutions in India. The funded project, focused on the cutting-edge area of Advanced Materials, is in collaboration with IIT Ropar as the hub institute. Under this PAIR grant, SMVDU will receive a funding of around ₹10 Crore. Prof. Pragti Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, expressed his satisfaction on achieving the milestone and said that "This achievement reflects SMVDU's commitment to contributing meaningfully to the national R&D ecosystem. We are proud to be a part of this prestigious initiative, and we look forward to impactful outcomes through this collaboration with IIT Ropar and other SPOKE institutes." Dr. Ankush Raina, Principal Investigator from SMVDU, expressed enthusiasm about the collaboration with IIT Ropar and other leading institutions under the ANRF framework that allows SMVDU to push through interdisciplinary collaboration. The Co-PIs from SMVDU includes Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Dr. V. V. Tyagi, Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Dr. Ram Prakash, Dr. Pankaj Biswas and Dr. Indu Bhushan. Under this scheme, SMVDU will serve as a vital partner, contributing through its expertise in

materials synthesis, characterization, 3D Printing of Functional Materials, Sliding Wear Applications of various materials, and Energy Systems and Conversion Technologies. Prof. A K Das, Dean, Research and Development, SMVDU congratulated the team for the research grant by ANRF and expressed that this grant will strengthen the research ecosystem in the region. This national-level recognition was granted following a rigorous



selection process involving India's premier academic institutions. Pertinent to mention, out of the 30 HUB applicants, only seven were selected to receive the research funding. This achievement once again places SMVDU and its HUB institute among the notable research institutions of the country. This partnership under the PAIR program aligns with India's vision to strengthen its global research profile in science and technology through strategic academic alliances.

SMVDU Launches Admission Portal 2025–26

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) marked a significant milestone today with the official launch of its Admission Portal for the academic session 2025–26. The inauguration ceremony was held in the Matrika Auditorium at SMVDU and was graced by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, who formally launched the portal in the presence of an august gathering comprising all Deans, Heads of Departments, faculty members, staff, and media representatives. The newly launched portal aims to streamline the admission process for undergraduate, postgraduate, and doctoral programs offered by the university. Designed with user-centric features and intuitive navigation, the portal will facilitate a smooth application experience for prospective students

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SMVDU-TBIC in Collaboration with EDC, SMVDU Hosts Interactive Session with Mr. Pranav Gupta, Senior Principal Consultant at Infosys

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University – Technology Business Incubation Center (SMVDU-TBIC), in collaboration with the Entrepreneur Development Cell (EDC) of SMVDU, proudly hosted an interactive session with Mr. Pranav Gupta, Senior Principal Consultant at Infosys and a global authority in the digital transformation of industrial systems. A distinguished native of Jammu, Mr. Gupta brings over two decades of international experience in leading multi-million-dollar digital transformation initiatives. His

illustrious career spans scaling business portfolios from inception to \$20 million, developing high-performing teams, and implementing cutting-edge technologies such as Digital Twins, Artificial Intelligence/Machine Learning (AI/ML), Internet of Things (IoT), and Virtual/Augmented Reality (VR/AR). His visit marks a significant milestone for the TBIC community and underlines the center's commitment to industry-driven innovation. The session commenced with a warm welcome from the SMVDU-TBIC team, including Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO, SMVDU-TBIC and Chief Coordinator EDC, Mr. B.K. Bhatia, Training & Placement Officer, and Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Manager, SMVDU-TBIC. The team apprised Mr. Gupta of the various initiatives and developments at TBIC and EDC, driven under the visionary leadership of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU. The session was attended by scholars and students from various academic streams who share a keen

interest in pursuing careers in digital transformation. Their enthusiastic participation reflected the growing awareness and aspiration to



embrace emerging technologies in shaping the industries of the future. During the highly engaging session, Mr. Gupta underscored the critical role of digital transformation in today's dynamic business environment. He highlighted how transformative technologies are not only vital for maintaining competitive advantage but also for enriching stakeholder experiences—spanning customers, employees, and communities. His talk offered valuable insights into the strategic digitization of core business processes and the cultivation of agile, data-driven, and innovative organizational cultures. A recognized thought leader and social media influencer in the tech ecosystem, Mr. Gupta's association with SMVDU-TBIC and EDC is poised to significantly enhance the center's visibility and strategic outreach. His mentorship is expected to provide valuable guidance to startups incubated at TBIC and catalyze a new phase of technological innovation and industrial advancement in the region.

SMVDU Hosts Two-Day Workshop on Innovations in Tribology and Robotics

The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), in collaboration with the Institution's Innovation Council (IIC), successfully organized a two-day workshop on Innovations in Tribology and Robotics on 21st -22nd April, 2025. In the era of smart manufacturing and intelligent systems, these domains play a transformative role across industries such as automotive, aerospace, biomedical engineering, and industrial automation. The event featured two distinguished experts Prof. Shakti K Gupta and Dr. Manjesh Kumar, from the Department of Mechanical Engineering, Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Kanpur. Prof. S.K Gupta delivered a session on Robotics and Industrial Applications while Dr. Manjesh spoke about the material and tribological aspects of Robotics. The talks were followed by interactive Q&A segments, which sparked lively discussions among participants, including faculty members, research scholars, and students. Further, a panel discussion was moderated by Dr. Ankush Raina on the future of Robotics and Artificial Intelligence, which saw active participation from Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering, Dr. Shashi B. Kotwal and Mr. Swastik Gupta from the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Dr. Prabhu Omar (School of Electrical Engineering), Dr. Vipal Sharma (School



of Computer Science Engineering) The panel emphasized emerging AI trends, the integration

of intelligent systems in robotics, and the importance of cross-disciplinary collaboration. The workshop was jointly coordinated by Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Professor, SME) and Dr. Ankush Raina (Assistant Professor, SME). The event was attended by UG, PG and PhD students of various schools. Dr. Pradeep Singh (Assistant Professor, SME) also participated in the various discussions. The organizers thanked SMVDU administration and Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar for providing the opportunity and providing all support to organize the event. Pertinently, SMVDU announced that starting from the upcoming academic year, the university will offer a B. Tech in Robotics and Artificial Intelligence. This new undergraduate program is set to equip students with cutting-edge knowledge and skills in the rapidly growing fields of robotics and AI, opening up numerous career opportunities in advanced technology sectors.

SMVDU-TBIC Holds Managing Committee Meeting to Finalize Policies and Funding Guidelines

The Managing Committee of the Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Technology Business Incubator (SMVDU-TBIC) recently held a meeting to discuss the finalization of its policy document and funding guidelines. Apart from the internal committee members, Dr. Ashutosh Pastor, Head Incubation, FITT IIT Delhi, and Mr. Amit Singh Rathore, CEO of IIF DTU, participated as external members. The meeting commenced with a welcome address by Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU-TBIC, who welcomed the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor and other team members. During the meeting, several key recommendations were

made to enhance the support provided to startups. The committee suggested offering support at the ideation stage and providing the center with more flexibility in managing the incubation process. Various aspects of the incubation phases and corresponding funding procedures were also deliberated upon. The committee discussed several funding opportunities for TBIC, including avenues for streamlining startup registration. It was recommended to allow temporary workspace agreements with founders, alumni, and private investors to facilitate early-stage development.

Another significant point of discussion was the potential for SMVDU-TBIC to hold equity in



startups. The committee explored the legalities and governance framework for such a model. The committee also proposed creating a dedicated

policy to protect students from potential exploitation in startup collaborations and establishing a structured process for MVP (Minimum Viable Product) grant disbursement. Additionally, a formal selection and review process before funding allocation was suggested to ensure alignment with the incubator's strategic goals. These recommendations are expected to strengthen SMVDU-TBIC's role in fostering innovation and supporting the growth of startups in the region. The meeting concluded with a vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Divye Duheta Mahajan, Manager of SMVDU-TBIC.

One-Day Workshop on Virtual Lab Held at School of ECE, SMVDU



The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), organized a one-day workshop on Virtual Labs. The event was coordinated by Dr. Vikram Singh, with Dr. Purnima serving as the Organizing Secretary, under the guidance of Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Head, SoECE. The School extends heartfelt thanks to the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor for providing this valuable opportunity. Virtual Labs (VLab) is an initiative by the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aimed at providing remote access to laboratory experiments in various disciplines of science and engineering. It enhances learning by offering an interactive platform where students can perform experiments virtually, thereby bridging the gap between theoretical education and practical implementation. Particularly valuable for institutions with limited laboratory facilities, VLab ensures equitable access to high-quality resources across the country. The workshop

featured expert training sessions conducted by Mr. Nipun Jain and Mr. Aakar Saini (Project Associates) and Mr. Pankaj Saini (Project Assistant) from IIT Roorkee. Around 100 students from the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE), School of Electrical Engineering (SoEE), and School of Computer Science and Engineering (SoCSE) participated actively. The event provided hands-on exposure to Virtual Labs, enabling students to simulate real-time experiments and improve their understanding of core engineering concepts. In addition to the training sessions, the workshop also created opportunities for interaction between students and trainers, and information was shared regarding internship opportunities with the Virtual Labs project, encouraging students to engage in further research and development activities.

SMVDU Conducted Orientation Session for Honors and Minor Specialization



An orientation session for B.Tech. 2023, Batch students was organized by the Academic Affair Section, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) at the Matrika Auditorium, SMVDU. The session aimed to familiarize students with the wide range of Honors and Minor Specializations offered by various engineering departments, enabling them to tailor their academic paths according to their interests and industry trends. The event commenced with opening remarks by Prof. (Dr.) Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs. Dr. Balbir Singh extended his heartfelt gratitude to the Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, for his unwavering support and for making the event possible through his continued encouragement and guidance. He acknowledged the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor's farsighted vision towards holistic student development and the overall growth of the institution, which continues to inspire and shape the university's academic initiatives. He encouraged students to pursue academic excellence and take full advantage of the diverse specialization options. The orientation highlighted a rich bouquet of Honors and Minor

specializations designed to equip students with domain-specific expertise and interdisciplinary knowledge. The students will be able to choose Honors or minor specialisation in various cutting-edge technologies like Artificial Intelligence and Information System Security, VLSI Design, Multimedia Technology Millimetre Wave Technology, Structural Engineering, Environmental Engineering, Power Electronics & Drivers, System & Control, Robotics & Automation, and 3D Printing & Technology. The orientation session proved to be a significant step in empowering students to make informed decisions about their academic trajectories and enhance their readiness for future industry and research opportunities. Dr. V. K. Dogra, Head, School of Civil Engineering, Dr. Sunanda Gupta Head, School of Computer Science & Engineering, Prof. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Head School of Electrical Engineering and Dean of the Faculty of Engineering, Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj Head SoECE and Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head, School of Mechanical Engineering presented the students with Honors.

Online Training Program on “NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program” Organised at SMVDU

The UGC-Malaviya Mission Teacher Training Centre (MMTTC), at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra; has organised the 8-day Online training Program entitled “NEP Orientation & Sensitization Program” which was conducted for University and College teachers from all over India during. The Event was organized under the objectives of UGC-MMTTC, which aim at “Improving the quality of Education at all levels by infusing quality and excellence in our teachers and teaching”. By participating in the program, the Faculty Members get trained to impart holistic education, imbibing the ideals of India-centric ethics and human values. The Inaugural address was delivered by the Chief Guest of the event,

Prof. Supran Kumar Sharma, Director MMTTC-SMVDU, who dwelt upon the need for sensitizing faculty members in realizing their role in futuristic institution-building in the Indian Education Policy ecosystem. He also spoke about aspects of redesigning the higher education ecosystem as envisaged by NEP 2020, which requires strengthening the role of the Faculty. Further, Prof. Sharada Potukuchi, Deputy Director MMTTC-SMVDU, described the role of a teacher in the implementation of the NEP-2020 as vital. Therefore, this type of workshop would strengthen teachers' knowledge for the successful implementation of NEP-2020 in various higher education institutions across



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Celebrations and Days Observed

NCC SMVDU Organizes Poster Making Competition to Mark World Health Day

On the occasion of World Health Day, the National Cadet Corps (NCC) Unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a Poster Making Competition to raise awareness about the importance of good health, hygiene, and well-being among students and the wider community. The event saw active and enthusiastic

participation from NCC cadets, who creatively showcased themes such as mental health, physical fitness, balanced diet, cleanliness, and the role of youth in promoting a healthier society. The posters reflected not only artistic talent but also a deep understanding of contemporary health issues faced by individuals and

communities. The competition was coordinated by Cadet Charvi and Cadet Saher, who played a key role in planning, organizing, and executing the event seamlessly. Such initiatives by the NCC Unit at SMVDU continue to play a vital role in shaping socially responsible and health-conscious individuals, in line with the spirit of World Health Day.



NSS, SMVDU Celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti at University Campus

NSS, SMVDU Celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti 2025: April 14 marks the birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. NSS share the messages among the students to honour his life's works. Ambedkar Jayanti 2025: April 14 marks the birth anniversary of Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar. Every year, this day is observed as a public holiday across the country. Universities, Schools, banks, and several government offices remain shut in honour of the social reformer and architect of the [Indian Constitution](#). On this day, NSS Volunteers pay their respects to Ambedkar by offering flowers, lighting candles and organising cultural events. Fondly known as Babasaheb, Ambedkar was the chief architect of the Indian

Constitution and is thus also called the 'Father of the Indian Constitution'. Ambedkar was also the



first Law and Justice minister of Independent India. Babasaheb was born into an impoverished Dalit Mahar Family in Madhya Pradesh. He fought tirelessly for the equal rights of marginalised sections of society. He was a part of active movements since 1927 against untouchability. Later, he was revered as a 'Dalit Icon' for his contributions towards their rights.

External Expert

Renowned Architect, Mr. Amit Saxena Delivers an Expert Lecture at SMVDU

An informative lecture is delivered by Mr. Amit Saxena, Principal Architect at SAP America Inc., USA at the School of Computer Science and Engineering, SMVDU Katra to the B.Tech (CSE) students on the titled "Industry 4.0 & Application of AI/ML in Maintenance Processes". Mr. Saxena,

is a seasoned professional with extensive experience in enterprise architecture, digital innovation, and smart technologies. Addressing faculty members, scholars, and students, Mr. Saxena shared invaluable insights into the transformative impact of Industry 4.0, with a

special emphasis on the use of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and Machine Learning (ML) in predictive and preventive maintenance



strategies. He elaborated on real-world applications, cutting-edge tools, and the future trajectory of intelligent manufacturing systems. The lecture provided a comprehensive overview of how AI/ML technologies are reshaping operational efficiency, reducing down time, and fostering innovation in industrial maintenance. The event witnessed active participation and

enthusiastic engagement from attendees, who also had the opportunity to interact with the expert during the Q&A session. Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean Academics also attended and emphasizes that such interaction with industry expert will be quite helpful in bridging the gap between industry and academia. The session concluded with a vote of thanks by Prof. Manoj Kumar Gupta, faculty Coordinator, and Dr. Deo Prakash, co-coordinator, who expressed gratitude to Mr. Saxena for his valuable time and insights. The School of Computer Science & Engineering continues to uphold its commitment to academic excellence and industry-academia collaboration through such initiatives, aimed at enhancing students' knowledge and exposure to global industry practices.

Commander, NCC Group Headquarter Jammu Visited SMVDU



Brigadier D. N. Pandey, Commander, NCC Group Headquarter, Jammu, visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) to review and interact with the NCC cadets of the university. He was accompanied by the Col. Sumit Bana, Commanding Officer of 6 J&K Battalion NCC, who also took part in the campus visit and interaction sessions. During the visit, Brig. Pandey was presented with a detailed overview of the various NCC activities undertaken by the cadets at SMVDU. The cadets showcased their participation in numerous events including awareness campaigns, adventure activities, and community service initiatives. The Group Commander appreciated the discipline, enthusiasm, and commitment displayed by the cadets. Brig. Pandey and the Commanding Officer also held a meeting with Prof. Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of SMVDU. The discussion focused on enhancing NCC engagement and expanding

opportunities for cadet development within the university framework. The Vice Chancellor expressed his appreciation for the role of NCC in character-building and assured continued institutional support. The visit was coordinated by Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, SMVDU. Dr. Dutta provided an in-depth briefing on the structured implementation of NCC activities. The presence of senior NCC officials served as a great source of motivation for the cadets.



SMVDU's School of Architecture & Landscape Design Welcomes New Batch with Inspiring Ceremony

The School of Architecture & Landscape Design at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently hosted a vibrant Faculty-Student Interaction Ceremony to welcome the the batch of first-year students. The ceremony, coordinated by Ar. Vinod Kumar, provided a dynamic platform for new students to introduce themselves and showcase their talents through various activities and performances in the realm of performing arts. Second-year students, led by Partha, Mamita, Murchana, and Ayushman, played a crucial role in organizing the event, ensuring every detail was meticulously planned. Faculty members and senior students of the B.Arch. program participated in the event to warmly welcome and support the newcomers. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Honorable Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, and Ar. Abhiney Gupta, Head of the School of Architecture, praised the innovative approach and engaging interaction program. This



memorable occasion marks the beginning of an exciting journey for the 2024 batch, fostering a sense of belonging and enthusiasm within the architectural community at SMVDU.

SMVDU Civil Engineering Students Successfully Complete Surveying Camp at Khajjiar

Fourth-semester students from the School of Civil Engineering (SoCE), Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), participated in a week-long surveying camp at Khajjiar, Himachal Pradesh. The camp aimed to provide hands-on training in essential surveying techniques, allowing students to bridge the gap between classroom learning and practical applications. Throughout the camp, students worked with modern instruments such as Total Stations and Auto Levels while also engaging in traditional methods like Plane Table and Compass Surveying. These activities enhanced their understanding of topographic mapping, contouring, and levelling. The serene and challenging terrain of Khajjiar served as an ideal location for students to apply their skills in real-world scenarios. The camp not only strengthened their technical proficiency but also developed problem-solving abilities and teamwork. By conducting field exercises in diverse surveying techniques, students gained confidence in handling advanced equipment and executing precise measurements. The experience reinforced their ability to analyze data, interpret survey results, and create accurate maps—crucial skills for their future careers in civil engineering. The camp was

organized under the guidance of Dr. Nageeb Ul Islam (Assistant Professor, SoCE, and Course Coordinator), Dr. Shankar Singh Khushwaha, and Dr. Yati Aggarwal (Assistant Professors, SoCE), along with Mr. Love Sharma (Lab Assistant). Their mentorship and expertise provided students with valuable insights into real-world surveying challenges. Beyond academics, the trip also



fostered a sense of adventure, as students explored the breathtaking landscapes of Khajjiar, making the learning experience both enriching and memorable.

Empowering Future Professionals: TARANG Club Organizes Group Discussion to Sharpen Communication Skills and Career Readiness



In a commendable effort to enhance student's communication skills and prepare them for future career opportunities, the TARANG Club of the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (SoECE) organized a Group Discussion (GD) session for 3rd-year ECE students, under the guidance of Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Head of the Department. A total of nine students actively participated in the session, engaging in a thoughtful discussion on the topic: "70-hour Work Week vs Work-Life Balance." The participants shared diverse perspectives, debating the benefits and challenges of an intense work culture compared to maintaining a healthy work-life balance. The discussion was insightful, respectful, and interactive, allowing students to express themselves confidently and respond thoughtfully to differing opinions. The session was aimed at helping students overcome stage fear, develop public speaking skills, and strengthen interpersonal communication—key

competencies for placement interviews, especially in group discussions and personal interaction rounds. Dr. Vikram Singh, Faculty Coordinator of TARANG, expressed satisfaction with the conduct and outcome of the session. He emphasized the importance of such platforms in nurturing confidence, clarity of thought, and effective communication among students. Students appreciated the initiative, stating that it helped them gain confidence and offered a real-world setting to practice collaborative communication. Dr. Bhardwaj also reiterated the need for soft skills development alongside technical knowledge and encouraged students to continue engaging in such meaningful activities. The session was a successful step toward holistic student development and is expected to pave the way for more such initiatives, reaffirming the department's and TARANG Club's commitment to preparing students for academic and professional excellence.

Two Day Workshop - "Sankalp to Sansad" Held at SMVDU

SMVDU successfully organized a two-day interactive workshop, "Sankalp to Sansad: From Preamble to Parliament", aimed at deepening students' understanding of India's democratic processes. Day one featured a collective Preamble Reading to honor the Constitution's spirit, followed by a highly engaging quiz competition focused on the Ancient History of India, encouraging participation and testing knowledge of our rich heritage. Day two witnessed the much-awaited Youth Parliament session, where students

actively took on the roles of parliamentarians. The proceedings began with an Oath-Taking Ceremony, followed by dynamic debates between



the Ruling Party and the Opposition. Two significant bills were presented—one on the Delimitation of Assemblies and another

proposing a cap on Election Campaign Expenses. The simulated parliamentary session provided a hands-on experience in legislative proceedings, fostering critical thinking, public speaking, and a deeper appreciation for participatory

governance. Mr. Rishav Bali served as the speaker of the youth parliament while Prof. Kakali Majumdar and Dr. Anurag Kumar served as the jury members. The workshop concluded on an enthusiastic and empowering note.

SMVDU Design Students Visit Indian Institute of Packaging Delhi

Bachelor of Design students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) Katra, Today visited the Indian Institute of Packaging (IIP) Delhi as part of an Educational Visit aimed at imparting industry exposure to Students of Bachelor of Design. The visit was organized under the guidance of Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, and was coordinated by Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator, B.Design Program at SMVDU. During the visit, the students explored cutting-edge Packaging Technologies and Sustainable practices, gaining valuable insights into the real-world applications of their classroom learning. It is worth to mention here that SMVDU started B.Design Program, Last Year. The Team B.Design also had interactive sessions with Research and Development Experts of IIP Delhi and some industry experts, which broadened their understanding of current trends and innovations in Design and Development of

Packaging products and Processes. Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator B.Design Program, SMVDU



emphasized the importance of such industry-academia linkages in preparing students for professional challenges. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU lauded the initiative, encouraging students to actively engage with industry practices to enrich their academic experience through Design and called upon students to take up some projects based on real life Design problems and their solutions. The visit served as a major step toward bridging the gap between theoretical knowledge and practical application for budding designers at SMVDU.

SMVDU Bachelor of Design Students Visit IIT Delhi

As part of its ongoing efforts to promote academic enrichment and interdisciplinary engagement, students of the Bachelor of Design program at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) undertook an educational visit to the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi. The visit was coordinated by Prof. Ankush Anand, highlighting SMVDU's strong emphasis on providing students with experiential learning and exposure to real-world innovation ecosystems. During the visit, the students participated in an interactive session with the Design faculty and students at IIT Delhi,



led by Prof. Sumer Singh, Department of Design, IIT Delhi. The session focused on key themes such as user-centered design, innovation methodologies, and the translation of academic learning into impactful design practices. Students also had the opportunity to tour various design and innovation labs at IIT Delhi, gaining firsthand insight into ongoing research projects and startup ventures currently being incubated at the institute. Team also visited the newly established Central Facility - Makers Space, where Designers work on Design and Development of various Design Problems. This visit not only enriched the students' understanding of design in a multidisciplinary context but also helped foster collaborative ties between SMVDU and one of India's premier technical institutions, paving the way for future partnerships in design education and research. The students expressed their gratitude to the university administration and Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, for facilitating this invaluable opportunity.





NSS SMVDU Volunteers Participated in National Integration Camp at Hisar, Haryana

NSS volunteers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) recently participated in the 'National Integration Camp' held at Choudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, from 21st - 27th Mar, 25. Representing the Jammu and Kashmir contingent, Ujasvi Sharma and Praveen Giri showcased their talents at this prestigious national event. The week-long camp brought together 200 NSS volunteers from across the country, providing them with a platform to interact, exchange ideas, and celebrate India's cultural diversity. Participants engaged in various activities, including morning fitness sessions, cultural and literary competitions, and academic lectures by esteemed speakers. SMVDU's Ujasvi Sharma brought pride to the university by securing second place in the dance competition. Volunteers also explored the Agricultural Garden and Museum, gaining insights into agricultural advancements, and visited Prasar Bharati All India Radio, Hisar, on the last to share their experience about the camp. Evening cultural

programs allowed participants to represent their states' traditions through dance, music, and



drama. Ujasvi and Praveen proudly showcased Jammu and Kashmir's vibrant culture, leaving a lasting impression. NSS Programme Coordinator congratulated the volunteers for their achievements, while Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar, praised their dedication in bringing laurels to SMVDU and upholding the spirit of national integration.

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.

NSS SMVDU Volunteers Organised a Cloth Distribution Drive for the Construction Workers Residing at University Campus



NSS unit of SMVDU, organised old clothes collection and distribution drives in university campus. Every year university volunteers collect old clothes, toys and books from staff members and distribute it to underprivileged community including class four employees and construction workers in the campus. The drives were organized to inculcate the values like sharing things with underprivileged community. The clothes were first segregated according to their

size and then people were allowed to choose the clothes as per their requirement. Many male and female workers along with their small children benefited from the donation drive. The event was successfully conducted by the NSS volunteers. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep appreciated the efforts of volunteers. Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated team NSS for organizing the drive.

NSS SMVDU Volunteers Organised a Career Counselling Session for Students of Govt. High School, Sirah

NSS SMVDU volunteers organised a career counselling session for 10th class students of Govt. High School, Sirah village. NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and volunteers Sadhvi Sharma, Harish Patel and Suhani Sharma briefed students about various career options after 10th class. School authorities thanked the university NSS team for their guidance to the students.



NSS SMVDU Organized Bhajan Singing Competition the Navratri Festival



NSS SMVDU organized Bhajan singing competition during the Navratri festival among students. Prof. Ratna Chandra graced the occasion as a Judge for the said event. The event was coordinated by NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma.

NSS SMVDU Volunteers Donated Creative Charts to Govt. Middle School, Dheerti

NSS SMVDU volunteers donated creative charts to Govt. Middle School, Dheerti. The charts are prepared to be displayed in classrooms. As new academic session started in school NSS volunteers also distributed fruits to the students and also discussed harms of having eating fast foods. NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the event. NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar were also present during the event.



SMVDU Hosted Educational Visit of Student from Women ITI Dharmari, Mahore



SMVDU hosted educational visit of Women students from ITI Dharmari, Mahore. The students visited various labs and other facilities of the University. Around 20 girl students from the ITI visited the University. NSS volunteers coordinated the said visit.

NSS SMVDU Donated Charts to a Nearby Government School

NSS SMVDU donated charts to Government High School Sirah, as part of its community outreach initiative. These academic charts, thoughtfully created by the students of SMVDU, aimed to support classroom learning and make educational concepts more accessible and engaging for school children.



NSS SMVDU Celebrated it's 3rd Foundation Day with Cultural Performances



NSS SMVDU celebrated it's 3rd foundation day with mesmerizing cultural performances. NSS coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator Dr. Kamaldeep were also present during the event. NSS volunteer Sadhvi Sharma coordinated the whole event.

Hindi Poetry Competition Organized by NSS SMVDU

NSS SMVDU organized a Hindi poetry recitation competition, offering students a vibrant platform to showcase their creative expression, and confidence in oration. The event also celebrated the richness and elegance of the Hindi language, emphasizing its cultural significance and timeless beauty.



Storytelling Competition Organized by NSS SMVDU



NSS SMVDU organized a storytelling competition, giving students a chance to share their ideas and creativity through interesting and inspiring stories, while building confidence and communication skills.

NSS SMVDU Volunteers Organised Essay Competition

NSS SMVDU volunteers organized an essay writing competition on the birth anniversary of Dr. Bhimrao Ambedkar. More than 100 students participated in the said event.



Earth Day celebration by NSS SMVDU



NSS SMDVU organized a vibrant poster-making competition on Earth Day with the theme "Our Power, Our Planet", inspiring students to creatively advocate for environmental awareness and sustainable living.

आतंकवाद के खिलाफ रैली

पाहलगाम में हुए हालिया आतंकी हमले में निर्दोष लोगों की दुखद मृत्यु ने हम सभी को झकझोर कर रख दिया है। इस अमानवीय कृत्य के विरोध में एकजुट होकर आतंकवाद के खिलाफ एक शांतिपूर्ण रैली का आयोजन सफलता पूर्वक हुआ।



Gate Qualifiers

SMVDU Student Sadhvi Sharma Qualifies GATE 2025 in Physics

Ms. Sadhvi Sharma D/O Inder Parkash and Anita Sharma R/O Dhangri, Rajouri student of Integrated Bsc. Hons Msc Physics Batch 2020 from the School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University qualified the Graduate Aptitude Test of Engineering (GATE) – 2025 in Physics conducted by IIT Roorkee, the result of which was declared recently by the National Coordination Board (NCB)-GATE. She has secured an All India Rank of 1210



in the examination with 33.33 marks in general category. The cut-off marks for general category were 26.8. Dr. Ram Prakash, Head, School of Physics along with other faculty members congratulated her for this remarkable achievement and wished her all the best for her future endeavors.

SMVDU Students Excel in GATE 2025, Secure Top Ranks in Architecture and Planning

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) has once again showcased its academic prowess with three students qualifying in the prestigious Graduate Aptitude Test in Engineering (GATE) 2025. The students from the School of Architecture and Landscape Design have secured impressive ranks in the Architecture and Planning (AR) paper. Mr. Anirudh Gupta and Mr. Prajjwal Kumar Chaudhary, both 4th-year students, have achieved remarkable All India Ranks of 305 and 322, respectively. Ms. Samiksha Kushwaha, a 5th-year student, has also qualified with an All India Rank of 1729. What's noteworthy is Mr. Prajjwal Kumar Chaudhary's consistency, having qualified in GATE last year with an All India Rank of 930 while in his 3rd year. This achievement is a testament to the dedication and hard work of the students of



the School of Architecture & Landscape Design at SMVDU. The students' GATE scores, valid for three years, will make them eligible for assistantships from the Department of Higher Education, Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India, when they pursue postgraduate programs at top institutions like IITs, NITs, SPAs, and other central or state/private institutions. Their mentor and Faculty GATE coordinator of Architecture, Ar. Vinod Kumar, expressed pride in their achievement, expecting them to inspire their juniors. The students are highly motivated to improve their ranks and aim to secure the Prime Minister's Research Fellowship (PMRF) through good ranks and research work with academic excellence. The Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, Head of the School of

Architecture, Ar. Abhiney Gupta, and other faculty members congratulated the students on their success, wishing them continued excellence in their academic pursuits. This achievement

reflects SMVDU's commitment to academic excellence and its students' potential to excel in their chosen fields.

SMVDU Student Mr. Gourav Kapoor Qualifies GATE 2025 in Production & Industrial Engineering (PI)

Mr. Gourav Kapoor S/o Sh Rajinder Paul Kapoor and Anjana Kapoor R/o Jammu student of M.Tech Mechanical Engineering (Smart Manufacturing) Batch 2024 from School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University qualified Graduate Aptitude Test of Engineering (GATE) in Production & Industrial Engineering conducted by IIT Roorkee, the result of which is



declared by the National Coordination board (NCB)-GATE. He has secured All India rank 413 with 39.67 marks in general category with the cut off marks being 35.6. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head School of Mechanical Engineering along with other faculty members congratulated on his remarkable achievement and wished him all the best for future endeavors.

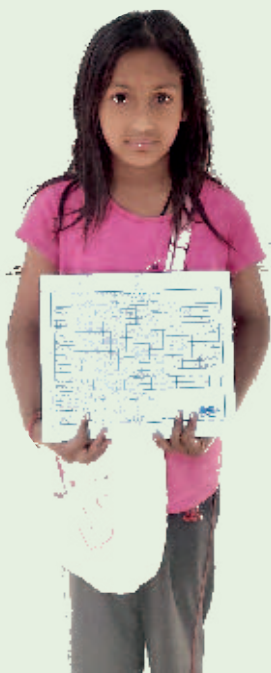
Paper Presented/Published/Prize Won/Course Attended

- Pooja Khajuria, V. D. Sharma, Arti Khajuria, Ram Prakash, R J. Choudhary; Published a paper titled "Optoelectronic properties of $\text{Na}_2\text{ZrO}_3:\text{Eu}^{3+}$ phosphor: Judd-Ofelt insights and applications in solid-state lighting and latent fingerprinting" in Journal of Alloys and Compounds, 1025 (2025) 180268. (SCIE and Scopus indexed with Impact Factor = 5.8) DOI: <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.jallcom.2025.180268>
- Pankaj Biswas, and Vinay Kumar published a paper on "Spectroscopic study and Judd-Ofelt analysis of $\text{NaSrVO}_4:\text{Ho}^{3+}$ – A thermally stable green emitting phosphor for WLED applications" in Journal of Molecular Structure 1335 (2025) 141874 (IF: 4.0)

Social Responsibility Vikalp

Arushi Sharma Excels Showcasing the Impact of Vikalp at SMVDU

The students at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University initiated the Vikalp program in January 2009, with a small team of thoughtful and motivated students, whose main aim was to bring about an overall social change in the society. Today, the program has reached a point where more and more people have chosen to become a part of this program. The program has become successful beyond everyone expectations and is best illustrated by the students as 'an alternative, a step taken by the SMVDU family to provide education to the underprivileged children which has played the role of a candle in their dark lives'. Arushi Sharma, an active participant in Vikalp, at SMVDU has achieved an exceptional grade in her recent examinations, exemplifying her



dedication and academic perseverance. Her remarkable success highlights the impact of Vikalp, a student-driven initiative committed to fostering academic excellence and personal growth. Through her consistent efforts and the support of Vikalp's educational programs, Arushi has demonstrated outstanding commitment to learning. Congratulating her on this achievement, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, also praised Team Vikalp for their commendable efforts in educating and uplifting underprivileged students.

Runners of SMVDU Participated in SMVD Katra Half Marathon 2025



Runners of SMVDU participated in 4th Edition of SMVD KATRA HALF MARATHON "a divine run" 2025 held at Katra Stadium towards Reasi, on 13th April 2025. The Run was organized by 1 Level Up Sports. The event attracted over 1100 registered runners and witnessed an impressive footfall of more than 3500, including spectators, volunteers and locals. The marathon was flagged off in the presence of Chief Guest Sh. Baldev Raj Sharma, Hon'ble MLA, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Constituency and Prof.(Dr.) Pragati Kumar Hon'ble Vice Chancellor SMVDU and Sh. Alok Kumar Maurya, Additional CEO, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi Shrine Board (SMVDSB), Katra were the Guest of Honour. Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University was the Education partner of the event and more than 50 participants from SMVDU participated in the Marathon including Prof (Dr). Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, S M V D U , S h r i . N e e r a j Gupta,(JKAS) Director Finance, SMVDU, Mr. Joginder Paul, PRO, SMVDU and other faculty, staff and students. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Coordinator NSS, Dr. Varun Dutta, Coordinator NCC, SMVDU also participated in the event alongwith their Volunteers and Cadets. Prof.(Dr). Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU appreciated the efforts of

participant from SMVDU and desired that more Faculty, Staff and Students should participate in such events in near future which has been organized to spread the message of physical endurance coupled with spiritual blending.



Alumni Corner

Job Orientation Training Session by Alumni Held at School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU

The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organized a Job Orientation Training Session under its ongoing Alumni Talk Series, aimed at fostering meaningful connections between current students and the university's accomplished alumni. The session featured

Mr. Bhasker Taneja, a distinguished alumnus from the 2012 batch, who currently serves as General Manager – Strategy at NoBroker. Drawing from his extensive professional experience, Mr. Taneja shared insightful perspectives on industry expectations, strategic career planning, and the evolving trends within the field of mechanical engineering. During his interaction, Mr. Taneja emphasized the importance of strong core knowledge, adaptability to changing industry landscapes, and the need for continuous learning and upskilling. Reflecting on his time at SMVDU, he credited the university for laying the foundation of his personal and professional growth. The session was attended by students, faculty members, and staff of the department. Dr.

Yathesth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering, welcomed the guest and underscored the importance of alumni



engagement in enriching academic and professional exposure for students. *"Our alumni are our pride. Their achievements continue to inspire and guide our students,"* he said. Also present at the session were Prof. Yugal Khajuria, Dean International and Alumni Affairs, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Associate Dean, IAA, who expressed their gratitude to the alumnus for his contribution. Dr. Amit Kumar Sinha, Assistant Professor, SME, was also in attendance and supported the coordination of the event. The talk concluded with an engaging Q&A session, where students actively interacted with Mr. Taneja, seeking guidance on job preparation strategies, opportunities for higher studies, and emerging technologies in the mechanical domain. The program continues to be a vital initiative by the

School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU, to promote mentorship, industry awareness, and real-world preparedness among students.



Retirement/Superannuation

Warm Farewell Accorded to Mr. V P Singh on His Superannuation

School of Biotechnology, SMVDU proudly celebrated the superannuation of Senior Technical Assistant, Mr. V P Singh, a dedicated and valued Non Teaching Staff in a heartfelt ceremony at the School of Biotechnology followed by an outdoor dinner party. After twenty years of exemplary service, Mr. V P Singh officially retired, marking the end of an era in the university's technical support team at School of Biotechnology. During the ceremony, Mr. Singh was recognized for his contributions to the School of Biotechnology. Over the years he played a pivotal role in supporting the research, faculty, and student community with his technical expertise in chemistry that greatly contributed to the smooth functioning of laboratory activities at SoBT. Colleagues and staff members who had worked alongside Mr. Singh for many years shared fond memories and expressed



gratitude for his indispensable role in ensuring that the university's facilities and resources were always in top-notch condition. The ceremony featured speeches from department Head, faculty, and staff who have had the privilege of working with him, along with a special presentation of a commemorative plaque as a token of appreciation for his years of service. In addition to the formal ceremony, the SoBT hosted a small reception where staff and faculty had the opportunity to personally congratulate Mr. Singh and extend their well wishes for a fulfilling retirement. As Mr. V P Singh embarks on this next chapter, the entire University community and especially School of Biotechnology extends its warmest congratulations and wishes for a healthy, happy, and well-deserved retirement.

Upcoming Events

- National Workshop on "POSH Act and UGC Regulations, 2015" held on 1st May, 25.
- SMVDU Holds Kit and Certificate Distribution Ceremony for Soft Skills Training Program on 9th May, 25.
- Online Faculty Induction Program(FIP) from 2th -30th June, 25.
- Online Training Programme on "NEP Orientation & Sensitization" from 9th -18th June, 25.

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