







## **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.**

## Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha chairs the SMVDU 35<sup>th</sup> Executive Council Meeting



Lt. Governor Manoj Sinha chaired the 35<sup>th</sup> meeting of the Executive Council of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The meeting was attended by Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU; Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor Jammu University; Prof. Nilofer Khan, VC Kashmir University; Prof. Pankaj Chandra, Vice Chancellor & Chairman, Board of Management, Ahmedabad University; Prof. A.S.K. Sinha, Director, Rajiv Gandhi Institute of Petroleum Technology; Prof. Manoj Singh Gaur, Director, IIT, Jammu; Dr. Mandeep Bhandari, Principal Secretary to Lieutenant Governor; Shri Anshul Garg, CEO, SMVDSB; Sh Ajay Kumar Sharma, Registrar, SMVDU and other members of the SMVDU Executive Council. The meeting discussed several important academic and administrative issues pertaining to Career Advancement Promotion of Faculty members, non-functional promotion of Non-teaching staff members, increasing enrolment, campus placements, University's Outreach Programmes, promotion of innovation & start-ups, research, training and skill development programs. The Lt. Governor emphasised on introducing new courses and rewriting the existing curriculum with the focus on capacity building to bridge the gap between availability and requirement of different sectors of the economy. "University must formulate a comprehensive strategy to promote innovative programs and courses like Design Your Degree, Automation, Artificial Intelligence, Data Science, Management and Architecture with specialization in Urban & Town planning", he said. The meeting also deliberated on designing of curriculum and academic guidelines in align with NEP-2020, creation of Faculty of Medical Sciences under SMVDIME and other reforms to bring further qualitative improvement in the overall functioning of the University. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University presented various Agenda items before the Executive Council for approval and ratification.

## Int'l Workshop on Renewable Energy for Carbon Neutrality Held at SMVDU

The School of Energy Management at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University in collaboration with UMPEDAC, University of Malaya, Malaysia, hosted a One-Day International Workshop on Renewable Energy for Carbon Neutrality. The workshop was convened by Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi, Head, School of Energy Management, with co-convenor, Dr. Sanjeev Anand, Associate Professors at SMVDU. Dr. Yatheshtha Anand served as the Organizing Secretary. In his opening remarks, Dr. Tyagi underscored the significance of transitioning to renewable energy to achieve global climate goals, emphasizing solar energy's pivotal role. The workshop featured a keynote session by Prof. Jeyraj Selvaraj, Executive Director of UMPEDAC, University of Malaya, on "Carbon Neutrality through Solar Energy-Based Systems." Prof. Selvaraj presented groundbreaking research on leveraging solar energy technologies, such as photovoltaic systems and solar thermal solutions, to reduce carbon emissions and drive sustainable energy transitions. Prominent speakers from leading institutions such as Dr. Sounthisack Phommachanh from the National University of Laos, Prof. Tran Sy Nam from Can Tho University, Vietnam, Prof. Deepak Pathania from the Central University of Jammu (J&K), Prof. Ashutosh Vashishtha from SMVDU enriched the workshop with their insights. Dr. Sanjeev Anand, co-convenor, emphasized the vital role of academia-industry partnerships. Organizing Secretary, Dr. Yatheshtha Anand expressed gratitude to the participants.





## SMVDU and JKEDI Join Hands to Promote Entrepreneurship and Innovation



In a significant move to bolster the entrepreneurial ecosystem in Jammu and Kashmir, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra and Jammu and Kashmir Entrepreneurship Development Institute (JKEDI) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement was signed by Sh. Rajinder Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Director of JKEDI, and Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Registrar, SMVDU in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU. The MoU focuses on fostering collaboration between the two institutions in areas such as incubation, entrepreneurship, skill-based training, education, research, and the promotion of an innovation-driven culture. The partnership aims to create opportunities for students and aspiring entrepreneurs through initiatives like curriculum development, industrial training, internships, research, and skill development programs. The signing ceremony witnessed the presence of senior officials and dignitaries, including Deans and HoD's of different Schools/Sections of SMVDU, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, Finance Officer (JKAS), Dr. Sanjay Mohan, CEO of SMVDU Technology Business Incubation Center (TBIC). Other notable attendees included Dr. Vinod Kumar, Incharge CNEC, Sh. Abhilash Braroo, DNO Reasi, and Sh. Sorab Mengi, Assistant Manager, CIIBM along with the members of the SMVDU TBIC managing committee. This collaboration is expected to play a pivotal role in nurturing entrepreneurial talent and driving innovation in the region. Both institutions have expressed their commitment to working together to build a dynamic startup ecosystem and provide a platform for young innovators to excel.

## National One Day Workshop on Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy Ends at SMVDU





The School of Mechanical Engineering at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University a renowned institution committed to sustainability and environmental conservation, organized a National One-Day Workshop on "Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy" in collaboration with the J&K Science Technology and Innovation Council (JKSTIC), Udhampur. The workshop aimed to equip participants with the knowledge, tools, and motivation needed to take meaningful action on climate change. Through expert presentations, engaging discussions, and interactive sessions, participants explored strategies to combat climate change and adapt to its impacts. In his keynote address, Prof. K R Jha, Dean of the Faculty of Engineering at SMVDU, underscored the university's proactive efforts in organizing high-quality workshops, conferences, and awareness programs. He emphasized the value of such initiatives in expanding participants' knowledge and advancing sustainable development practices. Prof. Jha also highlighted the importance of raising public awareness to foster sustainable growth and empower climate action. Shruti Khanna, District Coordinator of JKSTIC, highlighted the importance of government initiatives in promoting renewable energy adoption and energy conservation at the grassroots level. She discussed the state's efforts to integrate technology and innovation into energy systems, ensuring both sustainability and inclusivity. The event included expert sessions by Dr. Sahil Kalra, Assistant Professor at IIT Jammu, who discussed the implementation of energy efficiency in automation, and Dr. Pothukuchi Harish, also an Assistant Professor at IIT Jammu, who elaborated on the role of simulations in enhancing energy efficiency, supplemented with practical insights on their applications. Dr. Yatheshth Anand, Head of the School of Mechanical Engineering and program coordinator, highlighted the pressing global challenges such as climate change, resource depletion, and ecosystem degradation. He stressed the need for knowledge-sharing initiatives to accelerate the transition toward a sustainable future. Dr. Ankush Raina, Assistant Professor and organizing secretary of the program, echoed this sentiment, emphasizing the critical role of education in driving climate action and promoting sustainability. The event's inaugural session was co-coordinated by Dr. Vineet Tyagi, Dean of R&D, and was attended by Deans and Heads of various schools. Dr. Ankush Raina concluded the event with a formal vote of thanks, expressing gratitude to all contributors and participants. This workshop underscored SMVDU's commitment to fostering education, innovation, and action in sustainability and renewable energy.

### **National Workshop on CSR Activities for Educational Enrichment of Students Organized at SMVDU**



The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organized a National Workshop on CSR Activities for Educational Enrichment of Students. The workshop aimed to explore strategies for utilizing Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives to enhance educational opportunities and outcomes for students. The keynote session was delivered by Mr. Gaurav Bali, a distinguished corporate trainer from Lovely Professional University (LPU), who shared invaluable insights into the role of CSR in transforming education. He was accompanied by Mr. Varun, also from LPU, whose inputs added depth to the discussion. Their dynamic and thought-provoking session was highly appreciated by the audience. The event witnessed participation from over 150 students, creating an interactive platform for learning and collaboration. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj and Dr. Vikram Singh, with Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma and Dr. Purnima Hazra serving as co-coordinators. The



organizing secretary, Dr. Manish Sabraj, and the team ensured the event's seamless execution. Although Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar and Registrar JKAS Sh. Ajay Kumar Sharma could not attend the event, the organizing team acknowledged their ongoing support and guidance, which was instrumental in the success of the program. The workshop provided students with a unique opportunity to interact with experts and gain practical insights into implementing CSR initiatives for educational enrichment. The session fostered meaningful discussions, leaving attendees inspired and motivated to bring about positive change. The organizers extended their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Gaurav Bali and Mr. Varun from Lovely Professional University for their valuable contributions. The event concluded with a vote of thanks, marking another milestone in SMVDU's commitment to academic excellence and societal growth.

### **DQA SMVDU Organized a Training Program on “Up Gradation of Computer Skills-I” at SMVDU**



The resource person for the sessions, Prof. Amit Kant Pandit, SoECE, SMVDU, conducted hands-on training on new ICT tools for administrative staff. Prof. Pandit shared the cloud tools and highlighted the importance of these tools and techniques for enhancing the overall efficiency of employees. Additionally, Prof. Pandit discussed do and don'ts in online words for data safety. The program ended with a Q&A session with active participation from all attendees. Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, conveyed warm wishes on the occasion. Under the guidance of Prof. (Dr.) Supran K. Sharma, the Directorate of Quality Assurance at SMVDU regularly organizes training programs on relevant topics, including stress management, administrative rules, communication skills, personality development, computer skills, leadership skills, purchase management, and capacity enhancement. Recognizing the importance of regular knowledge upgradation to improve productivity and quality in educational institutions of national and international reputation, the Directorate has prepared a comprehensive calendar for the academic year.

### **SMVDU Bachelor of Design Students Gain Insights at Jammu Tawi Golf Course**





First-year Bachelor of Design students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) visited the Jammu Tawi Golf Course (JTGC) amidst the ongoing JK Open 2024. The event, organized by the Directorate of Tourism Jammu in collaboration with the Professional Golf Tour of India (PGTI), offered students a unique learning experience on international golf course standards, turf engineering, and course maintenance. During the visit, students engaged with golf professionals and international players from countries like the Czech Republic and the U.S.A, as well as industry experts in design and tourism. They gained hands-on insights into the technical aspects of golf course management and design, further enhancing their understanding of applied design in sports environments. Accompanying the students were Prof. Ankush Anand, Coordinator of the Bachelor of Design program, and Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq, Assistant Professor at SMVDU. Er. Sohail Malik, a mechanical engineer (Turf Engineering) at JTGC, provided an in-depth briefing on the intricacies of golf course operations. The students expressed gratitude to the Mr. Manav Gupta, Secretary, Jammu Tawi Golf Course, Ms. Yasha Mudgal, Secretary, JK Tourism, Directorate of Tourism Jammu, Vivekananda Rai, Director, Jammu Tourism other JTGC professionals, SMVDU administration, and Vice Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar for facilitating this enriching experience. Faculty members of the Bachelor of Design program emphasized SMVDU's commitment to providing maximum industry exposure, aiming to shape students into well-rounded, industry-ready professionals. Pertinently SMVDU has started offering Bachelor of Design Program from the current academic year.

### SMVDU Signs MoU with TATA STEEL Ltd to Promote Academia-Industry Interface



In order to augment the Academia-Industry Interface in the region of Jammu & Kashmir, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra and TATA STEEL Limited (TSL) have signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU). The agreement was signed by Mr. Hemant Bhargava, Chief Sales Manager (North), TSL and Mr. Ajay Kumar Sharma (JKAS), Registrar, SMVDU in the presence of Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU. The MoU aims to foster the Academia-Industry collaboration especially in the professional fields of Architecture, Civil, Mechanical & Energy Management. It is pertinent to mention that the School of Architecture & Landscape Design (SoALD) of SMVDU has achieved 16<sup>th</sup> NIRF Rank and visions to expand professional footprint in the construction industry with the joining hands of the TATA Steel. The partnership's main objective is to aware & train the professionals engaged in the above said fields about the upcoming technology & trends in the Construction Industry. In addition to it, curriculum development, industrial training, internships, research & consultancy programs shall be envisaged for the aspiring professionals. The signing of the MoU has been coordinated by Ar. Aditya Kumar Singh, Associate Professor, SoALD and the ceremony witnessed the presence of Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean Academic Affairs, Dr. Vineet V. Tyagi,



Dean Research & Development, Dr. Kumud Ranjan Jha, Dean FoE, Mr. Kamal Sharma, University Engineer, Heads and faculty members of the Schools of Architecture, Civil, Mechanical & Energy Management. The notable attendees from the TATA Steel included Ms. Pratima Rao, Head Sales (North); Mr. Rajnish Sharma, HSC Fortune; Mr. Sachin Kumar, Manager and Mr. Sunil Raina, Business Consultant. This collaboration is expected to expand the awareness towards sustainable construction practices thereby achieving safe livability aspirations.

### Two-Day Workshop on "Chip Champs-I" Organised at SMVDU



The School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) successfully organized a two-day workshop on "Chip Champs-I". The workshop focused on equipping students with advanced knowledge of VLSI technologies and fostering skill development in semiconductor design. The event was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Pragati Kumar, who highlighted the significance of skill development and emphasized the vast opportunities emerging in the VLSI and semiconductor sectors. He urged students to make the most of such initiatives to stay competitive in the industry. Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof. K.R. Jha, also attended and appreciated the efforts of organizers in providing such learning platforms. The workshop was coordinated by Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj and Dr. Vikram Singh, with Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma and Dr. Purnima Hazra as co-coordinators. Dr. Manish Sabraj, as the organizing secretary, ensured the smooth execution of the event, supported by a dedicated team of student volunteers. Prof. Rohit Y. Sharma from IIT Ropar delivered an insightful session on the latest trends in advanced VLSI technologies, equipping students with knowledge of cutting-edge developments in the field. Dr. Vikram Singh presented a detailed session on Analog VLSI Design, focusing on the fundamentals and practical applications of analog circuit design. An inspiring online interactive session with Swaraj Srivastava, an SMVDU alumnus now working with Qualcomm, motivated students to focus on their goals and carve a niche in the competitive VLSI industry. The workshop's success was significantly supported by the tireless efforts of student volunteers Sonu Kumar, Yaswant, and Harsh Pratap, who played an instrumental role in managing logistics, coordinating sessions, and ensuring smooth interactions among speakers, organizers, and participants. Their contributions were highly appreciated by both the faculty and participants. With active participation and engaging sessions, the workshop provided students with an excellent platform to gain industry-relevant knowledge and interact with experts. The organizers expressed their gratitude to Prof. Pragati Kumar, Prof. K.R. Jha, and the guest speakers for their valuable contributions. The event concluded on a high note, with participants leaving inspired and better prepared to pursue careers in the VLSI and semiconductor industries.



## 8th National Geo-Research Scholars Meet Gets Underway SMVDU WIHG & SMVDU Joins Hands for the Prestigious National Event



8<sup>th</sup> National Geo-Research Scholars Meet organized jointly by Wadia Institute Himalayan Geology (WIHG), an autonomous Institute of Department of Science & Technology, GoI and Schools of Civil Engineering, Physics and Architecture from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) was inaugurated here at the campus of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra. The event will conclude on 25<sup>th</sup> of November, 2024 and has various technical sessions besides field work component which are led by eminent scholars from various specializations. This prestigious national level event has been able to attract over 70 research scholars from premier research institutions and Universities from all over India besides participants from SMVDU. The inaugural was graced by Prof. S. K. Tandon, Former pro Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi and an eminent Geologist as the chief guest. Prof. Talat Ahmad, Chairman, BoG, WIHG and Former Vice Chancellor, University of Kashmir as well as Jamia Millia Islamia. Prof. M. G. Thakkar, Director, Birbal Sahani Institute of Palaeobotany, Lucknow and acting Director of WIHG. Inaugural function was presided over by Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU. Speaking on the occasion Prof. Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor urged the participants not to work in isolation and emphasized that scientific community to join hands and forge networks as the major research problems cannot be solved by individuals in isolation. He said that faculty members of the University are open to research collaborations to work on major research problems and University is willing to provide them with conducive infrastructure and environment. Prof. Thakkar while speaking on the occasion congratulated SMVDU for working together with WIHG in organizing the event at the beautiful campus of the SMVDU. He asked the attendees to identify interdisciplinary problems and work towards finding their solutions. Prof. Talat Ahmad while recollecting his association with the University became nostalgic and termed SMVDU as unique and premier University of the country. He asked the participants to take full advantage of the technical and the field components. Prof. S. K. Tandon said that with the advent of new technology and techniques a lot had changed in the field of geosciences in last 4 to 5 decades and the subject now is able to draw strength from the fields of Physics, Chemistry, Biology, Engineering etc. Prof. J. Parumal, Conference Director gave the overview of the meet and presented the scientific program of the event to the attendees and Dr. S. K. Wanchoo, Dean, Faculty of Sciences proposed the vote of thanks. The event was also graced by Prof. A. K. Das, Dean, FoHSS, Shri. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Shri Pankaj Kumar Verma, Registrar, WIHG, Shri Neeraj Gupta, JKAS, Finance Officer, SMVDU. Heads of Schools, Faculty and students from SMVDU besides senior scientific staff from WIHG, Dehradun was also present on the occasion.

## SMVDU Alumnus Dhananjay Singh donates 1 Lakh INR for SAE Collegiate Club's BAJA 2025 Endeavour

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) proudly acknowledges the contribution of Mr. Dhananjay Singh (B.Tech., Mechanical Engineering, 2014 Batch), CEO of FrameInn (A Pvt. Ltd. Company), who has donated INR 1 Lakh in support of the SAE Collegiate Club of SMVDU for the upcoming SAE BAJA 2025 initiative. SMVDU's BAJA team, the only team representing the Union Territory of Jammu & Kashmir, is set to compete in SAE BAJA 2025, where student teams from across the nation will design, build, and race an electric off-road vehicle in a competition organized by the Society of Automotive Engineers, India. Team



members and faculty coordinators of the club expressed that Dhananjay's donation will be instrumental in empowering SMVDU's budding engineers, providing them with critical resources to foster innovation, teamwork, and practical engineering skills as they prepare for this rigorous competition. The University's officials including Prof. Yugal Khajuria (Dean, International and Alumni Affairs), Dr. Yatheshth Anand (Head, SME), Dr. Mir Irfan Ul Haq (Associate Dean, International and Alumni Affairs) and Dr. Ankush Raina (President, BPA, SMVDU), and Mr. Divyansh Kale (Team Captain), extend their heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Singh for his remarkable support and commitment to his alma mater. In a message of appreciation, Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, lauded Mr. Dhananjay's dedication and enduring connection with the university, saying, "SMVDU is proud to have alumni like Mr. Dhananjay Singh, whose contributions inspire and uplift future engineers."



## Celebrations & Days Observed

### Vikalp Organized Children's Day at SMVDU



Vikalp SMVDU organized a Children's Day event at Sanskriti Kaksh, attended by 75 enthusiastic students. The event left a lasting impression on everyone present, including the esteemed faculty, volunteers, and students. Centered around the theme "Akash Ganga," the space-themed decorations inspired the children to look beyond Earth. This event marked the culmination of a three-day celebration. The first day featured Indoor Sports Day, where students engaged in quizzes and board games, laying the groundwork for the second day's Outdoor Sports. Various races and games incorporated space facts, enhancing the students' knowledge about outer space. The main event took place with lighting the ceremonial lamp. The Vikalp students then performed a captivating singing piece, followed by two energetic dance performances that uplifted everyone's spirits. Next, winners of the indoor games were awarded medals, and students presented a drama act on "Dhruv Tara," showcasing their acting talents. A charming dance by kindergarten students followed, filled with innocence, while subsequent lively dance performances by two other groups entertained the audience. Medals were then awarded to the winners of the outdoor games. The event concluded with brief speeches from the faculty and staff guests. To recharge the students, refreshments were



served, and each student received a wrapped gift for Children's Day. The Vice Chancellor of SMVD University, Prof. Pragati Kumar congratulated Team Vikalp for their remarkable and compassionate effort. Children's Day at Vikalp was a vibrant celebration of energy, culture, and passion. The event not only expanded the students' horizons but also inspired them to dream bigger, recognizing the vast universe's limitless opportunities.

### **555<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary Celebration of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji Organized by SMVDU and NH**



The 555<sup>th</sup> birth anniversary of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji was celebrated with great reverence by the Sangat at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University and Narayana Hospital, Kakryal. The event began with the Akhand Path Sahib at the residence of Prof. Balbir Singh, Dean, Academic Affairs, SMVDU, where students, faculty, and their families gathered to seek blessings in the presence of Shri Guru Granth Sahib Ji. The Akhand Path lasted for three days, allowing the participants to immerse themselves in the divine teachings. During the event, the Sangat from the SMVDU and Narayana Hospital, and SMVDIME, were blessed with the soulful recitations of Kirtan and Gurbani Vichar, performed by eminent Kirtan Jathas from Jammu, Punjab, and Udhampur in the residential park of Narayana Hospital. Guru Ka Langar was served to all attendees, alongside the recitation of Shabad. The assistance of media channels like Hond, Ik Bani, and Virsa Digital Media was greatly appreciated, as they made the entire event accessible to devotees worldwide. The Sikh Sangat wholeheartedly honored several key individuals for their contributions to the event: Professor Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Dr. Yashpal Sharma, Executive Director of SMVDIME, Prof. Rakesh Ranyal, Medical Superintendent, SMVDIME, Sr. Ajay Kumar Sharma, JKAS, Registrar of SMVDU, Sh. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS, Finance Officer, SMVDU, Dr. M. M. Madhavan, Facility Director of Narayana Hospital, Sh Aseem Chada DGM SMVDNSH and Dr. J.P Singh, Clinical Director of Narayana Hospital, Dr. Rajpal Singh, NH, Inspector, Jarnail Singh, Incharge police chowki Kakryal and Inspector, Manveer Singh, Incharge Police chowki Tikri. The teachings of Shri Guru Nanak Dev Ji were emphasized throughout the event, particularly the core principles of Sikhism: Naam Japna (remembering God's name), Kirat Karna (earning an honest living), and Vand Chakna (sharing with others). These principles, integral to the philosophy of Sikhism, were reiterated as part of the spiritual discourse. The joint efforts of the Sangat of SMVDU and Narayana Hospital, especially Mr. Opinder Singh Sidhu, Mr. Jaswinder Singh, Dr. Rajpal Singh, and the students of SMVDU, were highly appreciated for their meticulous organization of the event, which spread a message of brotherhood, communal harmony, and unity among the attendees.

### **National Constitution Day Celebrated at SMVDU**

National Constitution Day was celebrated with enthusiasm at SMVDU today. The event was attended by attended by faculty, staff and security personnel of the University. The ceremony was led by the Registrar of the University, Shri Ajay Kumar Sharma. The occasion was marked by a solemn pledge taken by all present to uphold the spirit of the Indian Constitution. The pledge reinforced the commitment to democracy, equality, and justice, values enshrined in the Constitution of India. The celebration served as a reminder of the Constitution's importance in shaping the nation's governance and preserving the rights and duties of its citizens. The National Constitution





Day is observed every year on 26<sup>th</sup> November to commemorate the adoption of the Constitution of India in 1949, a momentous event in the nation's history. It is pertinent to mention that on the occasion of Samvidhan Diwas and as part of the year-long celebrations under the campaign "Hamara Samvidhan, Hamara Swabhmaan" a Preamble Reading Ceremony was also held.

## External Expert

**Prof. Zoltán Dudás from Hungary Delivered a Talk at SMVDU**



School of Physics, SMVD University today organized an expert talk in hybrid mode by Prof. Zoltán-Imre Dudás, a senior researcher and the Head of the Department at Budapest Neutron Center (BNC), HUN-REN Centre for Energy Research, Hungary. The title of his talk was "Research at the Budapest Neutron Center: Utility of Neutrons in Material Science". Dr. Kamni Pathania, Head, School of Physics, SMVDU and coordinator of the event, welcomed Prof. Dudás and introduced him to the faculty members, and students of M.Sc. Physics, Integrated B.Sc. (Physics) – M.Sc. Physics and research scholars. Then Prof. Dudás presented the brief overview of the Neutron Spectroscopy Laboratory at BNC and practical applications of neutron spectroscopy and diffraction instruments. He revealed the specialized investigations of his research group using this technique at BNC. The talk was well applauded by all the participants. He also provided the guidelines on how to prepare and submit a successful research proposal to their centre. The talk was coordinated by Dr. Pankaj Biswas, Assistant Professor, School of Physics, and Ms. Neha Lalotra, Research Scholar, School of Physics, SMVDU.



## Faculty/Staff Updates

### Talk Delivered

#### SMVDU Faculty Delivers an Invited Lecture at Adhiyamaan College of Engineering(Autonomous), Hosur, Tamil Nadu

Prof. (Dr.) Eswaramoorthy Muthusamy, Professor in School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, delivered his invited talk. This invited talk has hosted by the Department of Mechanical Engineering under the Institute Innovation Council (IIC) of Adhiyamaan College of Engineering (Autonomous), Hosur, Tamilnadu. He delivered an invited lecture on the topic of low and medium temperature waste heat recovery technologies opportunities and further studies, research and innovation opportunities using composite phase change materials, cavity receiver, and porous medium along with economic feasibility studies. He demonstrated waste heat recovery in LPG burner using composite porosity technologies with economic analysis along with further study motivating the students to think beyond the syllabus. Final year BE students about 60 students participated and interacted in the lecture. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Prof. (Dr.) K.R. Jha, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, Prof.(Dr.) Yatheshth Ananad , Head, School of Mechanical Engineering of SMVDU, has congratulated and wished him for his outreach activities.



#### Dr. Indu Bhushan Delivers Invited Talk at Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi

Dr. Indu Bhushan, Assistant Professor at the School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an invited talk at the prestigious International Conference on Innovations in Biotechnology for Sustainability. The conference, organized by Jawaharlal Nehru University (JNU), New Delhi, in collaboration with the Biotechnology Research Society of India, witnessed the participation of nearly 400 delegates from India and abroad. Dr. Bhushan's talk, titled "Industrial Potential of Biosynthesised Nanoparticles", highlighted cutting-edge advancements in the synthesis of nanoparticles using biological methods and their industrial applications. His presentation received enthusiastic responses from the audience, fostering discussions on the sustainability and scalability of such technologies. In addition to delivering the invited talk, Dr. Bhushan chaired a session and served as an evaluator for the poster presentations, providing valuable insights and constructive feedback to the participants. Dr. Bhushan, thanked Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice-Chancellor, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University for allowing and encouraging him to attend the said conference.



#### Dr. Pankaj Biswas delivered an Invited Talk at IIT, Bombay

FOSSEE Team at IIT Bombay invited Dr. Pankaj Biswas to deliver an online talk to the faculty attending the one-day awareness programme on "Connect, Simulate, and Innovate using Arduino on Cloud" on 28<sup>th</sup> Nov,24. He also shared insights about the earlier workshop on "Arduino for Physics Experiments", which SoP had conducted at SMVDU during January 2024 and discussed how it was beneficial for the B.Sc.-M.Sc. students, research scholars and faculty members of our university. The attendees were greatly inspired by listening to his experience of conducting workshop at SMVDU in collaboration with IIT Bombay.



#### SMVDU scored Elite Position within 5% Topper in 12 Week NPTEL Course

Prof. Balbir Singh from School of Mechanical Engineering, SMVDU scored Elite position within 5% topper in 12 week NPTEL Course on "Introduction to Industry 4.0 and Industrial Internet of Things" conducted by Indian Institute of Technology Kharagpur in Jul-Oct 2024 Session.



## Publications/Paper Presented

Ms. Neha Lalotra and Dr. Kamni Pathania published a research paper entitled "Combustion Synthesis and Influence of Dy<sup>3+</sup> ions on Structural and Photometric Attributes of Olivine-type LiMgPO<sub>4</sub> Nanophosphors for Illumination Applications" in an SCIE Journal, Journal of Fluorescence Nov. 2024 (IF: 2.60). The Springer Nature publication is available at <https://doi.org/10.1007/s10895-024-04043-7>.

Ms. Arti Khajuria and Dr. Ram Prakash published a research paper entitled "Synthesis, down-conversion luminescence and Judd-Ofelt analysis of Eu<sup>3+</sup> ions activated in K<sub>2</sub>MgP<sub>2</sub>O<sub>7</sub> nano phosphor" in an SCIE Journal, Physica B: Condensed Matter. IF= 2.8. The Elsevier publication is available at <https://doi.org/10.1016/j.physb.2024.416750>.

Dr. Jitendra Sharma, Asst. Prof., School of Physics attended an STTP on "Nurturing Future Leadership Programme" at IIM Jammu from 18<sup>th</sup> -22<sup>nd</sup> Nov, 24.

Dr. Yugal Khajuria attended 2<sup>nd</sup> International Conference on Recent Trends in Applied Physics & Material Science (RAM 2024) organized by Bikaner Technical University, Bikaner in joint auspices of Condensed Matter Research Society from 15<sup>th</sup> -16<sup>th</sup>, Nov, 24 and presented a paper entitled "Spectroscopic, Thermodynamic properties and Fukui Function analysis of pentahydroxyflavane.

## Student Update

### SMVDU Hosted Educational Visit of Govt. Higher Sec. School, Mubarakmandi Jammu



SMVDU hosted educational visit of students from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Mubarak mandi, Jammu under outreach activity program. Around 60 girl students along with their teachers participated in the visit. The visit was organized to enhance knowledge/awareness among students about higher educational institutions. NSS Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar welcomed the school officials and students and gave a brief introduction of the University. NSS volunteers of the University accompanied the school team during the visit. Students were motivated to join higher educational Institutes after completing their class 12<sup>th</sup>. During the event the school team visited various university facilities like network centre, library, central workshop, auditorium etc. School authorities thanked the University for hosting the visit.

### Students from Govt. Degree College, Reasi Visit the School of Biotechnology at SMVDU

A group of students from Government Degree College (GDC) Reasi, accompanied by two faculty members, Dr. Mehak and Dr. Wajahad, visited the School of Biotechnology at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) for a guided tour of various biotechnology labs. The educational visit aimed to provide students with hands-on exposure to laboratory facilities and to introduce them to the department's research work and academic offerings. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Associate Professor and Head, School of Biotechnology, formally welcomed the group and emphasized the importance of practical learning in the field of biotechnology. She expressed her enthusiasm for fostering





collaboration between educational institutions to inspire students toward careers in the field of Biosciences. Dr. Parvez Slathia, Asstt. Prof. SoBT was the event coordinator. He engaged the students with an overview of various undergraduate and postgraduate courses available at the department. He also discussed potential career paths and research opportunities for biotechnology students, encouraging them to consider the diverse possibilities within this dynamic field. The students and teachers explored various labs, where they observed equipment and ongoing research projects. The lab visits allowed students to understand practical applications of biotechnological concepts and reinforced the importance of technical skills in modern scientific research. The faculty at SMVDU expressed hope that the visit would inspire students from GDC Reasi to pursue advanced studies and research in biotechnology, supporting the growth of future scientific talent in the region. The Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar applauded the efforts of the School of Biotechnology in building connection between the university and the local community. He encouraged for more such visits for engaging in outreach with the local colleges.

### **SMVDU Students Shine at Flower Competition Held at SKAUST Jammu**





Students from Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University showcased their exceptional talent at the prestigious flower competition held at Sher-e Kashmir University of agricultural sciences and technology (SKAUST) Chatha, Jammu, during the Kisan Mela 2024 on 20<sup>th</sup> November. The event, graced by the Chief Minister of Jammu and Kashmir, Omar Abdullah, attracted participants from various institutions and was a celebration of creativity and horticultural expertise. SMVDU students competed in several categories: flower arrangement, cacti and succulents, pot plant, and dry flower decoration. Their innovative and artistic presentations captivated the judges and audience alike, demonstrating a perfect blend of imagination and technical skill. The Chief Minister lauded the participants for their enthusiasm and creativity, emphasizing the importance of such events in fostering environmental awareness and cultural appreciation among the youth. The students and the organizing team express their heartfelt gratitude to the Vice Chancellor of SMVDU, Prof. Pragati Kumar, for his unwavering support and encouragement. His vision and commitment to promoting extracurricular and cultural activities have been a driving force behind the university's success in such prestigious event. The students were accompanied by the Board of Cultural Activities (BCA) President, Dr. Rakesh Kumar Thusoo, and Cultural Secretaries, Astabuja Nath Pandey and Ramnik Sharma, who provided invaluable guidance and support throughout the competition. Their encouragement and mentorship were instrumental in the students delivering outstanding performances in all categories.

## Ph.D.

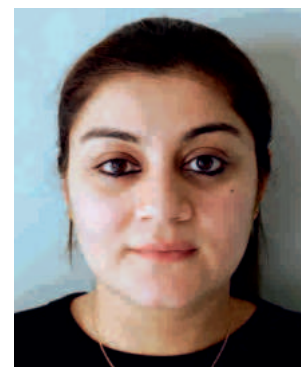
### SMVDU Faculty Member Declared Qualified for the Award of Ph.D. Degree by IIT Jammu

Mr. Shashi Bhushan Kotwal, Assistant Professor in the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) by the Indian Institute of Technology, Jammu. He conducted his research work in the field of Wireless Communication on the topic "Physical Layer Security in Emerging Wireless Networks through Node Selection under Frequency-Selective Fading Channels" under the supervision of Dr. Sudhakar Modem, Assistant Professor in the Department of Electrical Engineering, IIT Jammu.



### Ms. Akanksha Badyal Qualified for the Award of Ph.D.

Ms. Akanksha Badyal D/o Mr. Sham Kumar and Mrs. Shashi Prabha, and w/o Mr. Akshay Mahajan has been declared qualified for the award of degree of Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) in English by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, J&K. She has worked on the topic "Celebrating Femininity in Indian Post-Feminist Writings: Re- reading Contemporary Romance" under the supervision of Dr. Amitabh Vikram Dwivedi, Associate Professor, School of Languages and Literature, SMVDU, Katra. Ms. Akanksha has published many papers in SCOPUS-indexed journals and presented her papers at various international conferences. The scholar expresses her gratitude to her parents, spouse and supervisor for their invaluable guidance, as well as the School of Languages and Literature, SMVDU, for providing necessary facilities and support during her research. Professor (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice- Chancellor, SMVDU, and other committee members congratulated Ms. Akanksha and wished her a bright future.





## NSS

### NSS SMVDU Katra Volunteers Painted Govt. School Tareen



NSS SMVDU volunteers organized a wall painting event at Govt. Primary School situated in Tareen village. Creative paintings were drawn on the walls of the school. English and Hindi alphabets in creative way were also drawn. The main motive behind the initiative was to make school students feel proud and happy while coming to school. Volunteers sincerely worked for around four hours and showcased their creativity during the event. NSS volunteers Sadhvi Sharma, Abhishek Sharma, Dheeraj and Ambuj worked enthusiastically during the event. NSS Programme Coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar was also present during the whole event in the school. School In-charge, Mrs. Shameem appreciated the efforts of SMVDU volunteers for beautifying the school with their creative skills. Vice Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar also appreciated the initiative of NSS volunteers.

### NSS SMVDU Volunteers Participated in National Adventure Camp at Dharamshala, HP





NSS SMVDU volunteers participated in the recently held 10 days National Adventure camp at Dharamshala, Himachal Pradesh. The NSS volunteers who participated in the camp were Harish Patel and Sakshi. The camp was organized by Atal Bihari Vajpayee Institute of Mountaineering and Allied Sports (ABVIMAS), Dharamshala. The camp was funded by the Regional Directorate, NSS New Delhi. The camp focused on enhancing mountaineering skills, covering aspects such as mountain manners, hazard management, and engaging in activities such as rock climbing, rappelling, and river crossing. Beyond physical activities, the camp aimed to develop social awareness and leadership skills. The success of the event was credited to ABVIMAS' expertise and the volunteers' enthusiasm, showcasing teamwork and camaraderie. NSS coordinator, Dr. Rajiv Kumar and co-coordinator, Dr. Kamaldeep congratulated the volunteers for successfully completing the National camp. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Pragati Kumar appreciated the efforts of NSS volunteers and congratulated them for bringing laurels to the University.

### **NSS SMVDU Organized Old Clothes Collection and Distribution Drive**



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 and NCC, SMVDU Organised Blood Donation Camp for the Thalassemia Patients**





NSS and NCC, SMVDU 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 and Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Coordinator, SMVDU, and supported by Dr. Pallav Sharma and his team from the Medical Aid Centre, SMVDU. This initiative witnessed an impressive turnout. Dr. Deepshika from GMC, Jammu, oversaw and provided essential support at a blood donation camp. Fifty 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. 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 counselling and proper antenatal advice. Prof. (Dr.) Pragati Kumar, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU 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.

### **NSS SMVDU Celebrates Constitution Day with Enthusiasm**



The NSS unit of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University celebrated Constitution Day with great fervor and participation. The events included the reading of the Preamble, a Quiz Competition, and an Essay Writing Contest, aimed at spreading awareness about the values and principles enshrined in the Indian Constitution. The program was coordinated by NSS volunteers Dhiraj Kumar, Harish, and Tanushka under the guidance of NSS Coordinator Dr. Rajiv Kumar. The events witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, reflecting their commitment to upholding constitutional ideals. Such initiatives by NSS SMVDU play a crucial role in fostering a sense of responsibility and patriotism among the youth.

### **SMVDU Hosts Students from Govt. Higher Sec. School, Chiryai, for Educational Visit**





Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University welcomed a group of students from the Government Higher Secondary School, Chiryai (Zone Tikri), as part of its ongoing outreach program aimed at promoting higher education among young learners. Approximately 100 students, both boys and girls, along with their teachers, participated in the visit. It aimed to increase awareness and inspire students about opportunities in higher education. National Service Scheme (NSS) volunteers accompanied the school delegation, providing support and guidance throughout their visit. Dr. Rajiv Kumar, NSS Programme Coordinator and Dr. Varun Dutta, NCC Coordinator, welcomed the students and offered an insightful introduction to SMVDU, highlighting its various academic and infrastructural facilities. Workshop Superintendent Er. Deepak Byotra and central workshop staff gave students a tour of the central workshop, sharing insights on the technical facilities and resources available for practical training. The students also had the opportunity to explore the university's Network Centre, Central Library, and Matrika Auditorium. Each visit showcased the university's commitment to providing a robust and holistic environment for higher education. Throughout the day, students were encouraged to consider the benefits of pursuing further education following their Class 12 studies. The experience aimed to motivate students by showing them the value and opportunities that higher educational institutions offer. At the conclusion of the event, teachers from the visiting school expressed their gratitude to the SMVDU authorities for organizing the visit, which they described as an inspiring and enriching experience for the students.

### **School of Architecture, GCET, Students Explore Architectural Excellence at SMVDU**



In an enriching academic exchange, 22 architecture students from the School of Architecture, Government College of Engineering and Technology (GCET), Jammu, along with three faculty members, visited the School of Architecture and Landscape Design (SoALD) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University. The visit aimed to provide students with practical exposure and a deeper understanding of architectural design principles and practices. The Head of School of SoALD, Ar. Abhiney Gupta, welcomed the visiting team and emphasized the thoughtful campus planning aspects that make SMVDU a unique academic environment. He explained the design philosophies behind the campus's spatial organization, eco-sensitive planning, and architectural aesthetics. Following this, Ar. Navin Gupta, Assistant Professor at SoALD, delivered an engaging lecture on the nuances of thesis preparation. He guided the students on selecting and approaching their thesis topics effectively, highlighting the importance of research, conceptual clarity, and innovation in architectural projects. The visit also included a guided campus tour, allowing GCET students to explore the architectural and landscape design of SMVDU firsthand. The students observed how theoretical concepts are implemented in real-world scenarios, which would help them in their respective design exercises and academic projects. The collaborative effort between GCET and SMVDU aims to inspire young architects and foster a culture of shared learning and innovation in the field of architecture.

## Runners of SMVDU Participated in Jammu Midnight Marathon 2024

Runners of SMVDU participated in 2<sup>nd</sup> Edition of JAMMU MIDNIGHT MARATHON 2024 held at MA Stadium, Jammu on 30<sup>th</sup> November 2024. The Run was organized by Real Time Sports in association with J&K Sports Council to spread the message of promoting a safe and inclusive space for women and motivating the youth to embrace sports as path to growth and vitality. Prof (Dr.) Balbir Singh Dean Academic Affairs, participated in 10 KM run while Mr. Neeraj Gupta, JKAS Director Finance (Finance Officer) and Mr. Joginder Paul, I/c, PRO, SMVDU participate in 21 KM. Prof(Dr). Pragati Kumar, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, SMVDU appreciated their efforts 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 "Empowering Women & Inspiring Youth".



## Alumni Corner

### SMVDU Alumnus Swaraj Srivastava Inspires Students in Afternoon Session of "Chip Champs-I" Workshop



The afternoon session of the "Chip Champs-I" workshop, organized by the School of Electronics and Communication Engineering (ECE) at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), featured an inspiring online interactive session with Mr. Swaraj Srivastava, an alumnus currently working with Qualcomm. Mr. Srivastava shared his journey from SMVDU to IIT Hyderabad, emphasizing the role of M.Tech studies and GATE preparation in shaping his academic and professional career. He highlighted how consistent efforts, disciplined study routines, and regular attendance in classes laid the foundation for his success. His insights underscored the importance of leveraging classroom learnings and advanced studies to excel in competitive fields like VLSI and semiconductors. Over 150 students attended the session, which was made possible through the collaborative efforts of faculty members Dr. Anil Kumar Bhardwaj, Dr. Vikram Singh, Dr. Vijay Kumar Sharma, and Dr. Purnima Hazra, as well as dedicated student volunteers Sonu Kumar, Yaswant, and Harsh Pratap. During the session, Mr. Srivastava encouraged students to stay focused, set realistic goals, and develop a strong technical foundation to pursue opportunities in the VLSI industry. He also stressed the value of perseverance and maintaining clarity of purpose while preparing for exams like GATE and pursuing postgraduate studies. The interactive session ended with students expressing their gratitude and actively engaging in a Q&A session, where they received practical guidance on achieving their career aspirations. The event added immense value to the workshop by offering a personal and motivational perspective, inspiring students to work diligently towards their academic and professional goals.





## Upcoming Events

- One Day Awareness Campaign on "Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women and Students in Higher Educational Institution" on 5<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24.
- Youth Festival under the Theme "Drug Abuse Among Youth of Jammu and Kashmir" on 4<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24.
- Two-Day Workshop on Student Orientation from 6<sup>th</sup>- 9<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24.
- 10<sup>th</sup> Convocation of SMVDU on 27<sup>th</sup> Dec, 24.

### Patron

Prof. Pragati Kumar  
Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

### Editor

Dr. Anurag Kumar  
Chairperson  
Media Cell

### Draft and Design

Girdhari Lal Sharma  
Office Assistant  
Media Cell

### Photography

Om Parkash

