



## UPCOMING EVENTS

- Two day national conference on Cultural Studies and Interdisciplinary Humanities: Convergences, Interventions and Possibilities from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 23<sup>rd</sup> November, 2021.
- One-week Faculty Development Program On Development in Engineering Sciences from 22<sup>nd</sup> – 26<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.
- Webinar: Numerical Heat Transfer and Fluid Flow for Industrial Applications on 29<sup>th</sup> November, 2021.

## PATRON

**Prof. R. K. Sinha**  
*Hon'ble Vice Chancellor*

## EDITOR

**Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi**

## DESIGN &amp; DRAFT

**Mr. Girdhari Lal Sharma**

## PHOTOGRAPHY

**Mr. Om Parkash**

## Campus Jottings

### Sh. Ashwini Kr. Choubey, MoS, Interacts with SMVDU Faculty



Sh. Ashwini Kumar Choubey, Minister of States for Environment, Forest & Climate Change and Consumer Affairs, Food & Public Distribution, GoI, visited Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), and interacted with the SMVDU Faculty. Vice-Chancellor, Prof. RK Sinha, welcomed the hon'ble minister, and briefed him about the achievements of the university. A brief video showcasing SMVD university's infrastructure, labs, students' achievements, and its top placements was also displayed. Prof. Sinha highlighted that SMVDU finds place in top 100 Engineering and Management institutions, in top 50 Architectural institutes as per NIRF Ranking 2021, and the university has secured the 80th position in Times Higher Education Impact Ranking 2021. Prof. Sinha emphasized how university is leaving no stone unturned in addressing the issues of climate change and generating 900 kw green solar electricity. Also, he informed the hon'ble minister that SMVDU has a potential to become a Centre of environmental research projects in J&KUT in which researchers can address issues related to environment and climate change. Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, highlighted that SMVDU provides an appropriate place for such environmental projects, being situated around 3-4 wild-life sanctuaries in the vicinity. Dr. Supran Sharma, Dean, School of Management, informed how the university has been assisting IFS Officers by organizing training programs twice in a year. Other Heads and Deans also submit their suggestions in this regard. Hon'ble Minister was pleased with the progress of the university and directed that SMVDU may submit research proposals addressing environment issues and climate change. The meeting ended with a vote of thanks.

## SMVDU Signs MoU with TV Super Filter Industries

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with TV Super Filter Industries Jallochak (Jammu) for students' industrial exposure through internships, training programmes and industrial visits. Mr. B. K. Bhatia, Placement Officer, SMVDU and Mr. Taranvir Singh Gujral, Managing Director, TV Super Filter Industries, signed the MoU document in the presence of Dr. Balbir Singh, Senior Faculty, SMVDU. This association between SMVDU and TV Super Filter Industries is expected to help students in their internship, project work and industrial visits. SMVDU in its mission to provide the best talent pool for the nation and society is working hard to provide the best academic environment blended with practical exposure. TV Super Filter Industries is one of the best MSMEs endowed with various national and state awards including Gold Rated ZED certification, Rajiv Gandhi National Quality award etc., and is engaged in the production and supply of oil, air and fuel filters to automobile industry both in India and abroad. Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, thanked Mr. Taranvir Singh Gujral, MD Super Filter Industries for supporting SMVDU in its endeavor. Prof. Sinha further said that practical exposure together with classroom teaching is very important for students, and wished for such collaborations in future.



## SMVDU Organises Dogri Workshop



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a one day conference on "Contribution of Dogri Writers to Dogri Literature", under the aegis Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsva. Sh. Narsingh Dev Jamwal noted Dogri Poet, writer and Padma shree awardee was the chief guest of the occasion. He hailed the contribution of Dogri writers like Dinu Bhai Pant and Ramnath Shastri in the Dogri literature. He emphasized the need of promoting Dogri language and literature among young generation through institutions of higher education. He eulogized the role of unknown speakers and writers who kept the Dogri language alive from the times of Prakrit and Sanskrit. He also donated his Dogri poems translated into English by a Canadian translator to the SMVDU library. Sh. Mohan Singh, a Sahitya Academy winner in Dogri and President Duggar Manch, passionately recalled the contribution of the Dogri Poets from medieval times to the contemporary period. "Poets like Gambhir Rai Dattu, Ram Dhan, Ganga Ram's contributions cannot be forgotten in the development of Dogri" he said, while highlighting the wealth of writings on class struggle and social issues like exploitation and untouchability. He extolled the selfless contributions of Late Padma Sachdev and Ved Rahi in nurturing, promoting and introducing Dogri beyond the boundaries of Jammu and Kashmir. Prof Lalit Magotra mapped the growth of the Dogri literature from 1940 onwards and contribution of Dogri Sanstha towards Dogri literature. "Dinubhai pant, Vedpal Deep, K.S Madhukar, Narinder Khajuria, Nilamber Dev Sharma played an important role in the Dogri literature", he



Noted. Prof. Lalit Gupta, a noted Art Historian and heritage expert, traced the decline of Dogri to the introduction of Persian and Urdu in the official work of the government in the pre-Dogra rule. "Regional languages like Dogri have been on the back foot." He emphasized the need for opening the Dogri Dept. in SMVDU followed by study of ethnography, folklore, culture and performing arts. Sh. Surinder Sagar, noted journalist of Dogri, recalled the history of dogri journalism from the times of Maharaja Ranbir Singh to the present times. He informed the audience about the first Dogri magazine "Martand" during the Dogra rule. He remembered his journey from editor of Jammu Prabhat, a Dogri daily to social media platforms like YouTube. Prof. R K Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, stressed the need for communicating in our mother tongue. "Unless and until we don't respect our languages we won't be able to respect our culture and civilisation and nation" he said. He stressed the need to promote Dogri at primary and secondary level followed by creation of Dept. of Dogri in universities. He emphasized that Dogri needs to be made employment oriented in fields like teaching, journalism, archives, archaeology, linguistics and translations. He suggested the need for establishing Academy of Dogri. The workshop was organized by the School of Languages and Literature and attended by Registrar, Deans, HoDs, faculty members, scholars and students of SMVDU.

### **Orientation Program Successfully Concluded at School of Business, SMVDU**

A three-day Orientation Program was organised for the first semester of MBA and BBA students of School of Business of SMVD University. The Head SOB, Dr. Saurabh, welcomed the students by highlighting that SoB has been known for training the students to excel professionally and the provision of the best of knowledge and opportunities for its students. Dr. Suparn K. Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Management, emphasized on identifying the hidden potential of the students through curricular activities. Padma Shree Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVD University, encouraged the students for hard work with honesty, perseverance, commitment, consistency and focus to be successful for the development of the nation. The students interacted with the eminent persons from the corporate: Mr. Sandeep Patkar, HR Head and Mr. Manish Agarwal, Procurement Head of Solvay Speciality India Pvt Ltd which is ranked 3<sup>rd</sup> globally among chemical companies. They shared their management experience and advised the students to be bold, brave and transparent. Dr. Sumeet Gupta, Dean Academic Affairs, explained the academic rules and regulations. Dr. Naveen Gondhi conducted a hands-on-training session for the students to learn the usage of SMVDU LMS. Dr. H.G. Mishra, Dean of Students, briefed the students about Hostel rules and regulations. On the third day of the Orientation Program, the students were formally introduced to their subject teachers.



### **International Webinar on Shakti Cults of Jammu Organized by SMVDU**

Ek Bharat Shrestha Bharat (EBSB) and School of Philosophy & Culture at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, organized an international webinar on the Shakti Cults of the Jammu Region on October 26, 2021, the accession day of the State of Jammu & Kashmir to the Indian union. This webinar attempted to deliberate on the sacred geography of places associated with Shakti worship. Shri Sumanta S. Sharma, Head, SoPC and Faculty Coordinator, EBSB, Coordinator, welcomed speakers and participants. Shri Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, introduced the webinar's theme and stressed on organizing more such events in regular offline mode. The Chief Guest of the webinar, Dr. Lalit Gupta, a culture historian,

delivered the plenary address, entitled, "Shakti Cult in Jammu: a Socio-cultural Study." Shri Sumer Khajuria, a writer and an advocate from Udhampur, delivered his talk on "Shri Mata Vaishno Devi ka Pradurbhav evam Itihas." Ms. Manu Khajuria, a community worker and a freelance writer, from London UK presented on "Mountain Goddesses: Exploring Feminism through the Dharmic Lens". Shri Kewal Krishan Sharma, a retired Principal, author, and poet from Kishtwar spoke on the abodes of Mother Goddess in the Kishtwar region. Shri Swaran Singh Kohistani, a teacher, poet and writer, talked about "Duggar Lok Gathao mein Shakti Upasana ka Ullekh." Dr. Neelam Sareen, a scholar of Dogri literature, elaborated on "Jammu ke Pracheen Shakti Sthal evam un se jude Parv aur Tyohaar." Dr. Virendra Bangroo, Regional Director, IGNC, Convener of the webinar gave an extensive summary of the proceedings of this academic and cultural discourse. Shri Sumanta S. Sharma, Head, SoPC and Faculty Coordinator, EBSB officially proposed the vote of thanks to all participants and guests who attended the webinar across India and abroad. He also thanked Prof. (Dr.) R. K. Sinha, the Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, for the support and cooperation for the smooth conduction of the event.



## LG Inaugurates Regional Literary Festival at Patnitop

Addressing the august gathering during the Literary Festival at Patnitop, the Lt Governor observed that the regional literary festival has been organized with the aim to promote the charm and love of Dogri, Pahari, Gojri and Punjabi languages, strengthening the spirit of shared rich culture and traditions. The Lt Governor felicitated the Padma Shri Awardees Sh. Narsingh Dev Jamwal, Dr. Jitendra Udhampuri and Prof. Shiv Nirmohi for their invaluable contribution to the literary field. "J&K, which has always been a prominent seat and a beacon of art and culture, is showing the way through its age-old traditions. The literary festivals will serve as a platform for the budding poets, writers, creative thinkers to carry forward the literary legacy of Jammu and Kashmir", the Lt Governor added. Welcoming the prominent writers, poets, and literary enthusiasts from different parts of the country in the regional literary fest, the Lt Governor remarked that the poetry is creation, writing is creation, and everything else is construction. The Lt Governor said UT Government has taken full responsibility for the promotion of regional languages and it is our aim to bring their unique features to fore. The second objective is to provide a platform to the budding poets, writers to carry forward the great tradition of Jammu and Kashmir, he added. Speaking on linguistic harmony, the Lt Governor said that in our country, regional languages have always been the medium of exchanging feelings of the





whole nation. I firmly believe that linguistic harmony can strengthen unity, the Lt Governor added. The Lt Governor also mentioned the works of great Poetess Amrita Pritam, American writer Walt Whitman and Dr Sampurn Anand. Literary works are best enjoyed in their original script; translation is necessary but only for understating the original text, he remarked. The Lt Governor conveyed his best wishes to all the poets, writers and literary enthusiasts, on the occasion. Earlier, he took a round of Book Exhibition and inspected the stalls displayed for disseminating information about various welfare schemes of the Government, besides stalls of Duggar Manch and Dogri Sanstha. The poets and writers who participated in the regional literary festival included Dr. Lalit Magotra, Sh. Darshan Darshi, Sh. Sita Ram Sapolia, Sh. Mohan Singh, Sh. Inderjeet Kesar, Sh. Om Prakash Vidyarthi, Dr. Promila.

## FDC SMVDU Conducts Workshop on NEP 2020

A one-day online workshop on "NEP 2020: The Educational Outcomes of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Schools" was organized by Faculty Development Centre at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), on 30<sup>th</sup> October 2021 for school teachers and academic coordinators in which more than

hundred and fifty participants from various schools of Jammu and Kashmir and other states of the country participated and got benefited. The workshop was inaugurated by the Chief Guest and VC, SMVDU, Padma Shree Prof R.K Sinha. In his address, he underlined the fundamental value of school education. Dr. Ratna Chandra, Member FDC and Coordinator of the workshop welcomed the dignitaries, special invitee guests and the participants. She highlighted the importance of organizing such workshops. Dr. Suparn K. Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Management and Chairperson, FDC, focussed on the changing dynamics of the education system in modern times and stressed upon the skilful training of the students. The special invitee guests of the event were: Dr. Deep Khare, Principal, Jodhamal Public School Jammu; Madam Rohini Aima, Principal, Jammu Sanskriti School; Madam RenuKhurdi, Principal, J&K Police Public School, Jammu and Madam Manikarnika Sharma, Headmistress, Delhi Public School, Katra. While explaining NEP 2020, the speakers focussed on the fact that it is not the policy that brings change, rather it is the classroom education that does so. They highlighted the vision of NEP 2020 which attempts to provide equitable knowledge regarding culture, inclusion and developing skills. Prof. Renu Nanda, Head, Department of Education, University of Jammu talked on the topic 'Explaining NEP 2020 to School Teachers'. She discussed that the schools need to be multidisciplinary institutes, teaching and practising core moral values. Ms. Sapna Makan, Delhi State Teacher Awardee from Bal Bharti Public School, Rohini Delhi, talked about 'the Golden Triangle in NEP 2020: Curriculum, Pedagogy and Assessment' in which she highlighted the sustainable development goals of NEP 2020, seeking to ensure inclusive and equitable vibrant knowledge society. Prof. Nandita Shukla Singh, Department of Education, Panjab University spoke on the topic 'NEP 2020: Empowering the School Teachers'. The workshop was concluded with a vote of thanks by Ms. Sonika Gupta, Co-coordinator of the workshop. The workshop proceedings were moderated by Ms. Sakshi Singh, Faculty from the School of Languages and Literature, SMVDU and managed by Mr. Himmat Raj Sharma and Dr. Vishnu Gupta members of the organising committee.



For School Teachers and Academic Coordinators

**"Education must not simply teach work - it must teach life"**

Organised by Faculty Development Centre, SMVDU, J&K approved under Pandit Madan Mohan Malaviya National Mission on Teachers and Teaching (PMNM/NETT) Scheme.

Prof. Dr. R.K. Sinha Honorable Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU Patron	Dr. Suparn Sharma Dean, Faculty of Management Coordinator, FDC, SMVDU
Dr. Ratna Chandra Co-Chairperson, FDC, SMVDU Workshop Coordinator	Ms. Sonika Gupta Assistant Professor Workshop Co-Coordinator

No Registration Fee  
Participation & certificate awarded

Workshop: The workshop is aimed to

# Celebration and Day Observed

## SMVDU Celebrated Swachhata Diwas

On the occasion of the birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi Ji & Lal Bahadur Shastri Ji, NSS, SMVDU, celebrated Swachhata Diwas under the aegis of "Azadika Amrit Mahotsav". Faculty Coordinator, NSS, Dr. Rajiv Kumar, briefed

about the various events during the day. Dr. Balbir Singh, Dean of Students Welfare, SMVDU, also emphasized the importance of cleanliness. The Vice Chancellor, Padma shri, Prof. Ravinder Kumar Sinha motivated students, and asked them to make cleanliness their habit. The Swachhata Pledge ceremony was also conducted by the Stu-



dent Coordinator, Mr. Shivam Kumar. A 'Swachhata Rally' of 100 students led by the NSS student coordinators and volunteers was flagged off by the Vice Chancellor, SMVDU. The students were then divided into 5 groups of 20 students each, and each group was allotted an area to clean. The students performed various tasks with utmost sincerity while making the event successful. The other dignitaries present during the ceremony, including Prof. V.K. Bhatt (Dean, FoS), Dr. Suparn Sharma (Dean, FoM), Dr. Saurabh Srivastava (Head, SoB), Dr. Anil Tewari, Dr. Amit Sinha, Security Officer, and Mr. Surinder Kumar. A cultural programme was also organized in the evening on the theme of Gandhi Jayanti and patriotism.

## Faculty/Staff Updates

### Talk Delivered

#### Dr. Dwivedi Delivers Talk on NEP-2020 at Jai Narain Vyas University, Jodhpur

Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi, Faculty, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an invited talk on "NEP-2020 in India: Issues Concerning Multilingualism & Teaching Methods" in a weeklong (27<sup>th</sup> Sept.-02 Oct. 2021) UGC workshop on NEP-2020: Excellence in Higher Education", organized by UGC-HRDC, Jai Narayan Vyas University, Jodhpur, Rajasthan. Dr. Dwivedi talked about how Indian multilingualism is to be seen as multi-competencies, and how it can be utilized by teachers in their classrooms. He also discussed how the teaching approach can supplement teaching methods and the role of gamification in teaching. Dr. Dwivedi's talk was followed up by a Q&P session, in which the participants clarified their doubts. Prof. Rajesh K. Dubey, Director, UGC-HRDC, Jodhpur thanked Dr. Dwivedi for sharing his knowledge and hoped for more academic and professional associations. Dr. Vibha Bhoot, Coordinator of the event expressed his gratitude to Dr. Dwivedi.





## Dr. Bairwa of SMVDU Awarded Membership of Genetic Society of America

Dr. Narendra K. Bairwa, Faculty, School of Biotechnology, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, has been awarded a two-year membership of Genetic Society of America (GSA) from 2021-2022 as an outreach activity of the society. The laboratory of Dr. Narendra Kumar Bairwa is supported by DBT, SERB-DST, & SMVDU, for work on gene-gene interactions, genome stability regulation, stress response, and screening of small molecules for drug discovery. The Vice-Chancellor, Prof. R.K Sinha, SMVDU, congratulated the faculty.



## SMVDU Faculty Delivers a Talk at Qingdao, China

Dr. Vivek Kumar Singh, Faculty, School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an invited talk on "LIBS analysis of rice grains infected by false smut disease (RFS)" in 4<sup>th</sup> Asian Symposium on Laser-Induced Breakdown Spectroscopy (ASLIBS), held at Qingdao, China during 16-20 October, 2021. Dr. Singh talked about the RFS disease in rice crops of different regions of Jammu and Kashmir and Uttar Pradesh. He talked about the impact of this series disease on the growth and quality of the rice crops. Further, Dr. Singh highlighted the use and application of laser based technique, laser-induced breakdown spectroscopy (LIBS) to investigate the elemental and molecular changes occurred in the rice grains and their association with the RFS disease. Dr. Singh's talk was followed up by a Q&P session, in which the attendees clarified their doubts. Prof. Ronger Zheng, Chair of the Symposium, thanked Dr. Singh for his talk. Prof. Jin Yu, Session Chair and Editor of the Journal Applied Physics B: Laser and Optics, expressed that the session would motivate researchers working in the field of laser technology (LIBS).



## SMVDU Faculty Delivers Invited Talk at University in Ecuador, South America

Dr. Sanjay Mohan, Faculty, School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an invited talk at University (UTM) in Ecuador, South America on 26 October 2021. The topic of the talk was "Friction and Wear Studies of Iron-based Self Lubricating Composites". Dr. Mohan also addressed the Faculty and Students of UTM and shared his research experience. During his talk, Dr. Mohan apprised the audience about the role of iron in the field of automotive and biodegradable materials. Dr. Mohan highlighted the development and characterization of a novel iron-based self-lubricating composite where fluorides have been used as a solid lubricant. The enhancement in the tribological properties of the newly developed composite was elaborated. The wear and friction behaviour of the developed composites at room and high temperatures was also discussed during the talk. The session was interactive and the queries raised by the audience were also addressed by Dr. Mohan. The talk ended with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Erik Fernandez, Faculty UTM. Dr. Fernandez expressed his willingness to collaborate with SMVDU Faculty, and undertake research projects in future.



## Dr. Chopra of SMVDU Delivers an Invited Talk in an STP, Faridabad

Dr. Kapil Chopra, Faculty, School of Mechanical Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, delivered an expert lecture on "Energy and Exergy Analysis of Solar Water Heater for Domestic/Industrial Applications" during a one-week short term course on "Exergy Analysis in Industrial Applications" organized by J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad from 25-29 Oct-2021. The lecture on the energy and exergy analysis of solar water heating for domestic/industrial applications in the field of thermal engineering was well received by the participants. Dr. Chopra is an expert in the area of energy and exergy analysis of thermal systems who has published several research papers with various international peer-reviewed journals of repute. The session was concluded with fruitful interactions with the participants while



responding to their questions. Organizer, Dr. Nikhil Dev (Assistant Professor) and Dr. Raj Kumar (Professor and Head), Department of Mechanical Engineering, J.C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad appreciated the session conducted by Dr. Chopra.

## Publications

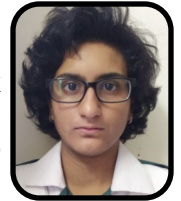
Dr. Balbir Singh, Associate Professor from School of Mechanical Engineering completed NPTEL-AICTE sponsored 8 Week Online Certification Program, Jul-Sep 2021 on "Accreditation and Outcome Based Learning" organized by IIT Kharagpur with Elite+Silver grade.

Dr. Rashi Taggar conducted a session on 'Inter-personal skills to improve Police-Public relationship' at Sher-e-Kashmir Police Academy on 7 October 2021. The session included games and experience sharing.

## Student Updates

### J&K Student from SMVDU Tops JEE Mains Paper 2 Exam 2021

Miss Noha Samuel of Jammu and Kashmir scored 100 percentile with All India Rank three (AIR 3) in the JEE Mains paper 2A exam held in February & September 2021. The result was declared by the NTA on 5<sup>th</sup> October 2021. Miss Samuel is a student of DPS, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). This is the first time that a student from the JKUT has secured a rank among top three in the JEE Mains. Dr. Ratna Chandra, her mother, is a university Faculty in the School of Biotechnology, SMVDU. The Vice Chancellor, Prof. RK Sinha, congratulated the student for bringing laurels to the state and the university. The Registrar, SMVDU, Sh. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, also congratulated the student for her achievement.



### SMVDU Wins Awards at Flower Show Held at SKUAST

Students from SMVDU participated in Flower Show Competition which was held at SKUAST- Jammu under various categories like Flower Arrangement, Floral Rangoli, Bonsai, Cacti and Succulents, etc. The students were mentored under the Board of Cultural activities, a part of Dean Students Office. The able guidance was provided to students by Dr. Sakshi Arora and Dr. Rakesh Kumar of BCA. The SMVDU students participated in four groups: two in Flower Arrangement and two in Floral Rangoli. The participants were led by Ms. Ishwarya Arora along with Ms. Charu Lata, Ms. Sneh Sharma, Mr. Parth Fotedar, Ms. Samiksha Sharma, Ms. Poorvi Bhau, Ms. Shikha, Mr. Jasmeet Singh, Mr. Hridya, Ms. Sahaurti, Ms.



Tania, Ms. Era, Ms. Vanshika, Mr. Ashish, Mr. Krishna, Ms. Puja and Ms. Sakshi. The university received 1<sup>st</sup> prize in Flower Arrangement and 2<sup>nd</sup> in Floral Rangoli. The participants were coordinated by Mr. Himmat Raj Sharma and Mr. Gaurav. Mr. Akash Vashist and Ms. Anamika Sadhotra from atelier group of BCA contributed in overall arrangements of this event. The Vice-Chancellor of SMVDU, RK Sinha, Congratulated the students and advised them to nurture their hobbies and assured of all the support for such future endeavours. The Board of Cultural Activities thanked Dean, Students, Dr. HG Mishra and Registrar Mr. Nagendra Singh Jamwal (JKAS) for their support and encouragement for such events.



## NSS SMVDU Organized Poster Making Competition on World Student's Day

World Student's Day was celebrated under the aegis of Azadi ka Amrit Mahotsav by NSS at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, in which a poster-making competition was organized on the theme, Dr APJ Abdul Kalam at Sanskriti Kaksh, SMVDU. Keeping in view the COVID-19 protocols only the shortlisted 40 participants were selected for the competition. The event was successfully conducted by the NSS coordinators and volunteers. All the stationery including drawing sheets, pencils, colours etc. were provided by the management. About two hours were given to complete the poster and participants did a wonderful job within the time frame.



## Vikalp Student Bags Silver in Fencing

Roshni Devi (D/O Mrs. Radha Devi & Mr. Jeetu Kumar), a student of Vikalp, SMVDU, has bagged the silver medal in the district level Fencing Competition aka Sabre event, held at Reasi, from October 15-17, 2021. The prodigious performance came against all the odds as she won 7 out of 8 matches. This student of Vikalp has been an active participant in extra-curricular activities. She has participated in fencing competitions since her school years and has won many competitions. She is also pursuing a bachelor's degree course in Economics from Govt. College, Katra. She has always been a hard-working and diligent student who has inspired her fellow. Significantly, the students of 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 people have chosen to become a part of this program. The program has become successful beyond everyone's 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 who have played the role of a candle in their dark lives'. The main objective of the Vikalp program is to extend primary and elementary education to the underprivileged children of the nearby villages and the children of the construction workers on the campus. The objective is to take care of their overall growth, including their medical care. Vikalp is committed to social justice, sustainable development, and human rights and undertakes development activities and programs for the literacy of children and adults who belong to poor and rural areas; provides occupational training and guidance for rehabilitation. Also, Vikalp organizes sports and leisure activities for children.



## Yoga Session Begins at SMVDU

Believing in that sound mind resides in sound body, the NSS at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), Katra, is organising yoga sessions, for students, faculty and staff members in the month of October and November, 2021. Yoga sessions are scheduled from Monday to Saturday every week in the morning. The program aims at sensitising people towards comprehensive nature of yoga towards life and well-being. The yoga instructor of these sessions is Shri Gurmel who himself is well-qualified & trained in yoga, and practices it every day. He informed students about the benefits of yoga for the body and mind before starting with the asanas. He initiated them into yoga through simple and easy Sukshma Kriyas, Asanas and Pranayams. The session concluded with laughter exercise, which students enjoyed the most. The sessions are coordinated by NSS coordinators and volunteers.



## Run for Unity held at SMVDU to Celebrate National Unity Day

Run for Unity was held at SMVD University for celebrating National Unity Day, commemorating the birth anniversary of Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel. Nearly 300 students, faculty and staff members participated in the event. The run was flagged off by Vice chancellor of the university, Padma Shri Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, who also addressed the gathering apprising them about the importance of this day. He informed the participants about the



role of Sardar Patel in unifying the Indian union. The run was conducted encompassing the university campus in the morning hours. The participants also took the unity oath at the run. The event was organized by the Sports department of university under the leadership of Mr. Parvez Singh Slathia, Incharge Sports wing and Dr. Rajeev Kumar, Coordinator, National Service Scheme (NSS). The sports coaches Mr. Balbir Singh and Mr. Sumit Sharma were also part of the organizing team.

## Vikalp 2.0 Starts at SMVD University



Vikalp – a students' initiative at SMVD University (SMVDU), restarted on campus after a gap of one and a half years due to the Pandemic. Students from classes from pre-KGs to higher secondary, and even college have been a part of Vikalp for many years. Stories from the past are proof of many successful students produced by Vikalp. The volunteers of Vikalp organizes a bunch of major events every year and celebrates many festivals together, and they have made so many propitious memories. Until recently, the student volunteers have decided to shift online and started a YouTube channel for the students. They formed student support, social groups, lent online counselling for kids of Vikalp, other than the pre-existing website. Dr. Madhu Mangal Chaturvedi, Faculty Coordinator, University Social Responsibility & Former Faculty Coordinator, Vikalp, congratulated the team for its stupendous efforts. Shri Nagendra Singh Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU, extended a whole-hearted support to the initiative. Dr. Baijnath Kaushik, Head, School of CSE, permitted using classrooms for smooth conduction of evening classes. Prof. (Dr.) Ravindra Kumar Sinha (Padma Shri), Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, appreciated the endeavours of students in Vikalp. He also praised the community of members associated with the team Vikalp, who continuously ran it for more than ten years before the Pandemic hit.