



UPCOMING EVENTS

- **Two-week Workshop under Capacity Development Program on Strategy & Sustainable Development from 7th- 19th February, 2022.**
- **International Mother Language Day on 21st February, 2022**
- **ICSSR, sponsored, two-week Workshop under Capacity Development Program On Strategy & Sustainable Development from 21st March – 02nd April, 2022.**

PATRON

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

EDITOR

Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi

DESIGN & DRAFT

Mr. Girdhari Lal Sharma

PHOTOGRAPHY

Mr. Om Parkash

Campus Jottings

FDP on Research Challenges in Industry 4.0 Begins at SMVDU

One-week Faculty Development Program on "Research Avenues and Challenges in Industry 4.0" began at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, being organized by the Faculty Development Centre (FDC) in collaboration with the School of Mechanical Engineering (SoME) Prof. Ravindra Kumar Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU, during the inaugural address emphasised the importance of science and technology, academia-industry collaboration in the overall development of the country and its people. Dr. Balbir Singh, Coordinator, Workshop, welcomed all



participants across 18 states of the country, and highlighted the advancement of various technologies such as IoT, big data, cyber security, cloud computing, and others which led to the fourth industrial revolution. Prof. E. Muthusamy, Dean, Faculty of Engineering, SMVDU, conveyed appreciation for all participants for upgrading their professional skills. Dr. Supran Sharma, FDC, Coordinator, SMVDU, highlighted the vision of FDC in developing the skills of faculty members through various FDPs and workshops in the latest fields/technologies. Prof. S.K. Saha from IIT Delhi initiated a team-based online project (TOP) scheme to have active learning by all participants from this FDP. Sh. NS Jamwal, Registrar, SMVDU conveyed his best wishes to all the participants for this knowledge journey, a step towards industry 4.0 adoption by Indian industries.

Webinar on Sacred Festivals of Ladakh Organized by SMVDU & IGNC

Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in collaboration with Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, organised a webinar on sacred festivals of Ladakh. Sh. Sumantha S. Sharma, Faculty Coordinator, EBSB, SMVD University, welcomed the speakers and thanked SMVDU and IGNC, for the collaborative venture to bring forth the exquisite jewels of our country. Dr. Virendra Bangroo moderated the session. Sh. Tashi Namgyal provided a detailed presentation on cultural festivals and sacred festivals, celebrated in Ladakh, such as



archery festivals, harvest festivals, Snogla- festivals related to vegetation and pastureland, Saka- a festival to start farming after a long gap of winter, Mamani- festival in memory of deceased people. Annual sacred festivals are held in all the monasteries at Hemis, Thiksay, Spituk monastery, Phyang, Lamayuru, Sharchukul, Likir, Diskit, Leh Dosmochay, Matho, Stok, etc. Similarly, in Zanskar, sacred festivals are held in Karsha, Stongdy, Phuktal and Sani etc. on fixed date of lunar calendar. Dr. Stanzin Mingyur highlighted the sacred festivals being organized at Phyang monastery in Ladakh, which has a history of more than 600 years. Cham, the mask dance is the prime focus of the festival. Sh. Tashi Choephel talked about the sacred festivals of Hemis monastery. The monastery is one of the biggest in the whole Ladakh. There are ten sacred festivals (including ritual) celebrated annually in the monastery. Hemis tsetu festival is dedicated to Guru Padmasambhava. There are masked dances, a tantric practice, to restrain negative energies, influences and other significance. Sh. Stanzin Tsetan gave a talk on the holy festivals of Phukthar Monastery situated at Zanskar. The monastery is located about 40 km away from Padum, and it's built inside a natural cave. The annual holy festivals of Phukthar Monastery are Smonlam, Chuksum Mchodpa, Chonga Mchodpa, Gyalwai Jabstan, Galdan Namchot, Phukthar Monastery "Gustor" and religious gathering or the Chosdra. Ms. Phuntsog Lhamo also participated in the deliberations. The webinar concluded with a vote of thanks by Sh. Sumanta S. Sharma.

Webinar on Gujjars and Bakerwals of (J&K) Organized by SMVDU & IGNC

A webinar on "Gujjars and Bakerwals of Jammu & Kashmir: The guardians of nature and the saviour of environment" was organized by the Regional Centre, Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU).

Dr. Virendra Bangroo, Director, Regional Centre of IGNC, moderated the session and described the role of the Gujjar Bakerwal community in nation building and conservation of natural resources. Sh. Khursheed Ahmed Khatana, writer, in his address, said that Gujjar Bakerwal is the third biggest community of J&K. He elucidated on their active role in the protection and conservation of nature and the best use of its resources. Sh. Chaudhary Shabir Ahmed Paswal explained that the oral literature and traditions are full of praise for nature and its restricted use. Sh. Rajesh Koul, the documentary filmmaker, has been documenting this community for the last forty years. Sh. Sumanta Sarathi Sharma,



Head of the School of Philosophy and Culture, and Faculty Coordinator Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat at SMVDU, in his concluding address, applauded the role of the Gujjar Bakerwal community in overall development. He envisaged the new generation of the community will play a bigger role in nation building and thereby inculcating the feeling of pride within and outside. The webinar ended with a formal vote of thanks.

Hands-on Training Session on CMIE Database Organised by School of Business

The School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, organized a hands-on training session on the CMIE database for students of the undergraduate program. The session was conducted by Mr. Sudarshan Negi, resource person, CMIE. Speaking on the occasion, Dr. Saurabh, highlighted the necessity and credibility of reliable data in managerial decision-making and encouraged the participants to have a productive and stimulating learning experience. During the training sessions the students were able to understand the importance of the Economic Outlook and Prowess-IQ



Database. The Economic Outlook provides a solution to the requirement of reliable data, whereas the Prowess-IQ database is an indispensable source to extract financial information and performance of active business enterprises in India. The students were empowered to create queries and generate structured reports for the macro-economic indicators and financial analysis of various Industries across the nation for making informed decisions. The session was beneficial for all participants and was concluded with a brief feedback. Dr. Divya Singh Jamwal, Coordinator of the training program, moderated the session. The organising team expressed their gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, Prof. R.K. Sinha, for providing the platform for effective learning of the students, and Dean, Faculty of Management, Dr. Suparn Sharma, for his motivation.

SMVDU & IGNCA Organize a Webinar on "Eternal impressions of the Artists from J&K"

The Regional Centre of Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) and Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat at Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) organized a webinar, "Eternal impressions of the Artists from J&K" on 20th February, 2022. The webinar was organized to give tribute to visual artists from J&K who contributed significantly in the

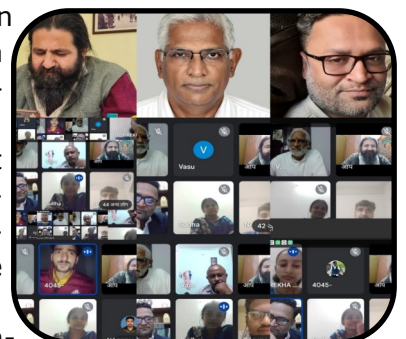
development of art in the post-independence era. Sh. Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Head, School of Philosophy and Culture, SMVDU and Faculty Coordinator, EK Bharat Shreshtha Bharat welcomed the speakers. Dr. Virendra Bangroo, Director IGNCA Regional Center moderated the session. Sh. Sajad H. Hamdani, Assistant Professor, Kala Bhavana, Visva Bharti University, talked about the contribution of late Sh. Gayur Hassan sahib. Sh. Ganesh Kumar Sharma, contemporary sculptor, paid a



glowing tribute to his Guru Late Sh. Vidya Ratan Khajuria, credited to have started the modern art movement in the field of sculpture in J&K. Sh. Narendra Safaya, President, Heritage Kashmir, in his speech described the artistic journey of Late D. N. Wali Almast Kashmiri. Dr Navin Atal, President Chand Kumar Atal foundation (CKAF), discussed the historic significance and contributions of the teacher student duo; Sh. Sansar Chand Sharma and Sh. O. P. Sharma Sarathi, in the field of art and literature. Sh. Chashool Mahaldar, Creative Director, talked about the contribution of Late Sh. Bashir Shora in sculpture and his passion for art, which kept him dabbling in other mediums too like canvas paintings & water colour. Sh. Sumanta Sarathi Sharma delivered the vote of thanks.

EBSB Week under Azaadi ka Amrut Mahotsav Flags off at SMVDU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra (J&K) in collaboration with Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA), New Delhi, flagged off the celebrations of the Azadi Ka Amrut Mahotsav program on 24 February 2022 with an online cultural discourse by Dr V. Shankar on "Journey of Adi Shankara and Cultural Connectivity". He delivered a presentation on the journey of Adi Shankara and the social-cultural activities of Shri Kanchi Kamakoti Peetham. Adi Shankaracharya started working on national integration several centuries ago. The discussants of the event were: Dr R. Naresh Kumar from Karpagam Institute of Technology Coimbatore, Tamil Nadu and Dr. L. Vasu, Nodal Officer, EBSB, Easwari Engineering College (Autonomous), Chennai, Around seventy students from the collaborating institutions and host institution participated in the discussion. The event was moderated by Dr. Virendra Bangroo, Director, Regional Centre, IGNCA New Delhi. The convener of the event was Sumanta Sarathi Sharma, Faculty Coordinator, EBSB, SMVD University, who also presented the vote of thanks to the speaker, participants and guests.



Celebration and Day Observed

Matribhasha Diwas Celebrated at SMVDU



Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized a one-day conclave on the occasion of International Mother Language Day, to celebrate Dogri along with the linguistic diversity of the region. Also known as 'Matribhasha Diwas', the grand event held at Matrika Auditorium of the University, was graced by the stalwarts of Dogri literary world including Narsingh Dev Jamwal, Jitendra Udhamपुरi, Shiv Nirmohi, Mohan Singh, OP Sharma Vidyarthi, Inderjeet Kesar, Darshan Darshi, Prakash Premi, Dhyaan Singh, Shiv Dev Sushil and Rajeshwar Singh Raju and renowned artists from across the Jammu region. Padma Shri Prof. R.K. Sinha, Vice Chancellor, SMVDU, addressed the audience and asserted the importance of Dogri language and the need for the promotion of mother tongue for the preservation of our cultural heritage and identity. It was followed by lectures titled 'Dehi Ilakajaat mei Dogri', 'Jan Bhasha Dogri', 'Padma Sachdev as Ambassador of Dogri', 'Emerging voices of Dogri', and so on, which highlighted the established tradition of Dogri poetry and prose, remembered the legends, and emphasized the need to promote, preserve and develop this heritage. Vibrant cultural performances by Sh. Subhash Brahmanu, Sh. Ajeet Khajuria and youth icons Sh. Sars Bharti, Juhi of "The Duggar siblings", and students of School of Languages and Literature, SMVDU, enthralled the audience. The conclave ended with the technical sessions, the theme for which was, 'Dogri: The Way Forward'. All dignitaries actively discussed the challenges and achievements of Dogri language and the approaches to the way forward. Officially sponsored by J&K Bank, the event also featured ethnic food of Dogra culture, 'dhaam'. Nagendra Singh Jamwal, JKAS, Registrar, SMVDU, Dr. Isha Malhotra, Head, School of Languages and Literature, other Deans, Heads of Departments, and officials of J&K Bank were present in the occasion.

International Women's Day Celebrated at SMVDU

To celebrate International Women's Day 2022, the NSS volunteers of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University organized an awareness session on "Female hygiene and sanitation". Misassumptions surrounding certain menstrual hygiene practices were discussed. Also, the distribution of sanitary napkins was done to create awareness. In many underprivileged and impoverished communities, many households cannot afford to buy sanitary pads and tampons, thus forcing young girls to make alternative protection methods, said Navya Jyoti, the NSS volunteer. The volunteers spread awareness regarding the necessity of following proper sanitary as well as hygiene habits, among several female housekeeping staff of SMVD University. While menstruation and menstrual hygiene are still taboo subjects in certain cultures, it is critical to make menstrual hygiene a fundamental component of women's healthcare and well-being in both rural and urban regions. The initiative was highly appreciated by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Faculty Coordinator, NSS, SMVDU.



Webinar on “Science is Fun” held at SMVDU

The School of Physics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University jointly with the Indian Association of Physics Teachers (IAPT-RC-02), organized a national level webinar on the topic "Science is Fun" on 28th Feb 2022 as part of the National Science Day celebrations under the overall ambit of Aazadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav. The webinar received overwhelming response from the participants across the nation, particularly the students because it introduced them to some exciting fun facts about science in an interactive and easy to follow approach. Prof. A. K. Sharma, Dean, Faculty of Sciences, SMVDU, appreciated the efforts put in by the School in organizing a wonderful event. He thanked the resource person for sparing time for the event. Dr. Sunil K. Wanchoo, Head, School of Physics, SMVDU, welcomed Shri Mineesh Gulati, who was the resource person for the webinar. Mr. Gulati demonstrated some uniquely designed experiments on science and made the students learn their underlying principles in an interactive and inspiring manner. At the outset, Dr. Kamni welcomed all and introduced the theme of the webinar to the participants and conducted the initial proceedings of the event. Dr. Pankaj Biswas, coordinated the concluding session and proposed the vote of thanks. He also thanked the student technical committee, particularly Mr. Piyush Bhardwaj, Mr. Amit Khajuria and Mr. Gurnoor Singh, all of them are the students of Int. B.Sc. (Hons.) Physics-M.Sc. Physics, for the technological support and working closely to ensure the success of the webinar. A podcast of the webinar was also screened live at Shivalik College, Udhampur which was attended by 150 participants and 220 participants had joined the session online. The School of Physics thanked Prof. R. K. Sinha, Vice-chancellor, SMVDU, for providing academic support and for constant motivation.

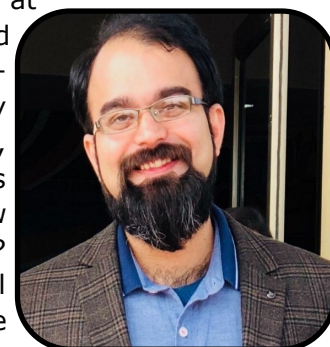


Faculty/Staff Updates

Talk Delivered

Dr. Dwivedi of SMVDU Delivers Keynote Address in Thailand

Dr. Amitabh V. Dwivedi, Faculty, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), delivered a keynote address on “Communication Studies in a Digital Age: What does it mean to read?” at the International Specialist’s Conference on Digital Campus Journalism and Communication Studies, with the theme “From Now to Future: Digitalizing Communication and Journalism in Sensitizing Global Crisis” (28th to 31st January 2022), organized by the International Association of English Language Teachers, Thailand. Dr. Dwivedi’s talk raised some important questions: what do readers reveal about their attitudes toward reading in print versus on-screen, and how much do readers comprehend and remember when they read in each medium? Dr. Dwivedi said, that readers, both students and teachers, approach a digital text with a different mindset, and that leads them to pay less attention. The mind of a reader must be trained to use digital technology effectively so that they may not face a lack of concentration. Further, he said that online technology should be used for both finding information and for contemplating and understanding serious topics. The organizers, Dr. Rommel Tabula and KOG Casimiro, thanked Dr. Dwivedi for sharing his knowledge.



SMVDU Faculty Delivers an Invited Talk at AICTE sponsored FDP

Dr Bharat Bhushan Jindal, Faculty, School of Civil Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, delivered an expert lecture on "Industrial Waste and Recycled Materials Utilization in Green Concrete and Field Applications" during a seven-day AICTE sponsored FDP on "Research & Innovations in Engineering" from 7-12 February 2022. The FDP was organized by the Department of Civil Engineering, J. C. Bose University of Science and Technology, YMCA, Faridabad. Dr Jindal delivered the lecture emphasizing the need to use alternative green building materials to replace conventional cement-based building materials. Dr Jindal discussed the concerns about the release of greenhouse gases that pose a threat to the environment during cement manufacturing. The organizer thanked Dr Jindal for sharing his knowledge.



SMVDU Faculty Chairs a Session for International Conference Organised by NIT Uttarakhand

Dr. Abhishek Gupta, Faculty, School of Computer Science & Engineering, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, chaired a session in the 1st International Conference on Robotics, Control and Computer Vision (ICRCCV-2022) during February 19-20, 2022 (virtual mode). The conference was organised by National Institute of Technology, Uttarakhand, India in association with Eötvös Loránd University, Hungary (Savaria Institute of Technology). The ICRCCV-2022 aspired to bring together a research professional fraternity for the discussions and exchange of information on advances in Robotics, Control and Computer Vision.



SMVDU Faculty Delivers a Talk on Social Innovation & Sustainable Development

Dr. Saurabh, Faculty, School of Business, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University, Katra, was invited as a panel speaker and moderator in the international conference on social innovation, social business and sustainable development with a focus on new age technologies, organised by VESIM, Mumbai, along with University of Cartagena, Spain, and the European University of Technology, and IIT BHU on 25-26 February 2022. He emphasized the revival and resurgence of the traditional knowledge in a scientific and modern context shall help in strengthening the social innovation which are required for the solutions of social problems. He gave a 3S&D framework for the social innovations. Other speakers, Ms. Lamiya Morshed, Executive Director of Yunus Centre, Dhaka, Bangladesh; Dr. Satyendra Pandey, Institute of Rural Management Anand, Gujrat; Mr. Pranshu Singhal, Founder & Director of Karo Sambhav Mumbai, Dr. Manish Arora, Faculty, BHU Varanasi also participated in the discussion. Dr. Nisha Pandey, convener of the conference, thanked the speakers for their deliberations



Publications

Vidushi Abrol, Sundeep Jaglan and Sharada Mallubhotla. *Biosafety Principles for Microbial Culture Technologies* in "Biotechnological Advances for Microbiology, Molecular Biology, and Nanotechnology: An Interdisciplinary Approach to the Life Sciences". Eds. Jyoti Ranjan Rout, Rout George Kerry and Abinash Dutta; CRC Press; 2022; Chapter 7, pp 147-175; ISBN: 978-1771889995.

Student Updates

SMVDU Scholar, Mr Abdul Haseeb Ganie, Declares Qualified for the Ph.D.

Mr Abdul Haseeb Ganie, Research Student, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU), has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Mathematics. Mr Ganie has worked on the topic, titled "Fuzzy and Non-Standard Fuzzy Information Measures and Correlation Measures with their Applications", under the supervision of Dr Surender Singh, Faculty, School of Mathematics, SMVDU. During his PhD, he has published eight SCIE indexed research papers in quality journals. Prof. (Dr.) R.K. Sinha, Vice-Chancellor, SMVDU congratulated the candidate and wished him a bright future ahead. Prof. H. C. Taneja, Delhi Technological University, Delhi, was the external examiner during the viva-voce examination. The candidate expressed his gratitude to SMVD University for providing all facilities and necessary support.



Mr Vikram Kumar, Research Student, SMVDU, Declares Qualified for the Ph.D.

Mr. Vikram Kumar has been declared qualified for the award of the degree of Doctor of Philosophy (PhD) in Electrical Engineering by Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU). He has worked on the topic, titled "Modelling and Optimization of Bidirectional DC-DC Converter for High-Frequency Isolation of Power Conversion Systems" under the supervision of Dr Vipin Kakkar, Faculty, School of Electronics and Communication Engineering, SMVDU, Katra.



SMVDU Student Cracks JRF Examination in Economics

Ms. Garima Gupta, a student of five-year Integrated M.Sc. Economics (2017-2022), School of Economics, Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University (SMVDU) qualified Junior Research Fellowship (JRF)-cum-Assistant Professorship in her first attempt. The student is in the final year of her studies, and the first student from the School of Economics (SOE) to crack UGC-JRF. The student aspires to do research in Economics. Ms. Garima is also a recipient of a university-level scholarship, and she has completed a summer internship at the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), Jammu, during the period of April 2021-July 2021. The Faculty of the School of Economics congratulated her on this success and wished her good luck for her future endeavours.



Glimpses of Heritage Walk at Manwal

