

Student Exchange Program by Ek Bharat Shreshth Bharat concludes at SMVDU

Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University(SMVDU) concluded the student exchange programme under Ek Bharat Shreshtha Bharat (EBSB) and Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav(AKAM) on 20th October 2022. The university hosted students from Chennai Institute of Technology, Chennai, Tamil Nadu and Sainik School Amaravathinagar, Tamil Nadu from 14th October onwards. The visitors were in awe of the most beautiful university of Jammu and Kashmir, located on the foothills of the Trikuta mountains.



In the five-day programme (extended to seven days as requested by the sending institutions) to explore the heritage and cultural richness of Jammu, the students visited various historic places, explored cuisines and learnt about the union territory of Jammu & Kashmir. Everyday started with yoga and meditation sessions along with some physical activities, which were coordinated by the NSS wing of SMVDU. The first day of student exchange began with a visit to the Ancient Bhagwati Temples and Kala Dera Temple in Manwal which was justified as Jammu is known as the city of temples. The day ended with a peaceful walk alongside the Mansar Lake with the sight of fishes and turtles. The next day, the students learnt about the history of the state as they visited the place of heritage of royal Dogra families of the erstwhile Jammu and Kashmir state, the Amar Singh Palace. The following day, they visited the SMVD Shrine Board sports complex that encompasses courts for sports like archery, athletics, shooting, volleyball, etc. They also went to the Spiritual Growth Centre which is a mountainside gospel that serves as a meditation centre and holds concerts, spiritual sessions, workshops, a display of the history of holy coins and tokens and an Exhibition Hall. On the fourth day, the students walked the breath-taking 3.5 Km trek to the caves of Shri Shiv Khori, the holy shrine devoted to Lord Shiva. To conclude their stay, the students visited the complex of the seven ancient temples of Krimachi in Udhampur. The Pandava temples located along the banks of the Chenab River were a delight to the eyes. On the penultimate day the team went to the SMVD shrine to pay a visit and seek blessings, which was coordinated by EdCIL representative and CRPF personnel. The Board of cultural activities organised a cultural evening for EBSB which was filled with literary, poetic, songs, and dances to provide a holistic bouquet of the traditions of the union territory of Jammu and Kashmir. In this, Vikalp, a student's initiative to educate the destitute of the nearby areas, also performed. Shri Sumanta S Sharma, Nodal officer, EBSB SMVDU, proposed the vote of thanks to all participants, guests

and the coordinating organizations. The visitors were then safely dropped to the Jammu railway station for their onward journey to Chennai. The honourable Vice Chancellor, Prof.(Dr.) Ravindra K. Sinha (Padma Shri), and the Registrar, Shri Nagendra Singh Jamwal(JKAS) applauded the efforts of EBSB team for the smooth conduction of the Student Exchange Program and pledged more events like this in near future.