



**SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY,
BARRACKPORE**

**SCHOOL OF
LIFE SCIENCES**

**DEPARTMENT
OF
BIOTECHNOLOGY**

**JANUARY- FEBRUARY
NEWSLETTER
2024**



SWAMI VIVEKANANDA UNIVERSITY,
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ABOUT THE DEPARTMENT

The Department of Biotechnology, part of the School of Life Sciences at Swami Vivekananda University, is dedicated to supporting a group of ambitious individuals on their journey to excellence, providing them with an ideal platform for self-redefinition. The department accommodates a diverse range of students, including postgraduates, undergraduates, and PhD scholars, in addition to academic staff that includes emerging researchers.

With a focus on achieving great heights, the department offers a highly specialized laboratory infrastructure that encompasses four labs specializing in Microbiology, Molecular Biology & Biochemistry, Plant Biotechnology, and Bioengineering. The library is stocked with a collection of well-informed books in relevant fields, creating a continuous space for students to explore the latest developments. The perfect blend of theoretical knowledge and practical application is facilitated through classes held in spacious classrooms and well-equipped labs. This setup provides students with an essential environment for experiential learning, personal development, and successful placement in reputable industries. The department places a strong emphasis on exposure through internships, hands-on training, and industry visits, ensuring a comprehensive educational experience for its students.



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MISSION

Our mission lies in the translation of academic knowledge into practical application is a key focus, emphasizing outcome-based teaching approaches. Central to our educational philosophy is the establishment of a cooperative relationship between the industry and academia, fostering a dynamic exchange of ideas and experiences. Our commitment extends to conducting research that addresses local, national, and global challenges, ensuring that our academic endeavors have a meaningful impact on the broader community.

Furthermore, we are dedicated to developing graduate students who are not only well-versed in their academic disciplines but also equipped with robust analytical and leadership skills. Through this holistic approach, we aim to prepare our students to navigate and contribute effectively to the complex demands of their chosen fields, fostering a new generation of professionals capable of making significant and positive contributions to society.



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VISION

In the Biotechnology department, our focus lies in seamlessly translating academic knowledge into practical applications. We employ outcome-based teaching methodologies to enhance the learning experience, ensuring that students acquire not only theoretical understanding but also practical skills. A key aspect of our approach involves establishing a cooperative relationship between the industry and academia, creating opportunities for students to engage with real-world challenges and industry practices. Our commitment extends to conducting impactful research that addresses issues at local, national, and global levels, contributing to the advancement of biotechnological knowledge. Moreover, we aim to develop graduate students who not only possess a strong academic foundation but are also equipped with analytical and leadership skills, empowering them to thrive in the dynamic field of biotechnology.



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OBJECTIVE

1. **Academic Excellence:** Our commitment is to deliver high-quality education and training across diverse academic levels within the expansive field of biotechnology.
2. **Cutting-Edge Research:** We foster a culture that encourages innovative and impactful research, pushing the boundaries of biotechnological sciences.
3. **State-of-the-Art Facilities:** Our dedication extends to maintaining and upgrading specialized laboratories that provide students with practical learning experiences at the forefront of biotechnology.
4. **Interdisciplinary Collaboration:** We actively seek collaborations with other departments, research institutions, and industries, fostering interdisciplinary approaches to biotechnological research.
5. **Holistic Learning:** Through the integration of theoretical knowledge and hands-on practical experiences, we emphasize the diverse applications of biotechnology to provide a comprehensive educational experience.
6. **Library Resources:** Our comprehensive library boasts a rich collection of resources tailored to the field of biotechnology, supporting the academic endeavors of our students.
7. **Industry Exposure:** Students benefit from internships, hands-on training, and industry visits, gaining valuable insights into the real-world applications of biotechnological principles.
8. **Ethical Practices:** We instill a strong sense of ethical conduct and responsibility in both research and professional practices within the field of biotechnology.



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OBJECTIVE

9. Global Perspective: Our programs are designed to prepare students for success in a diverse and interconnected professional landscape, providing a global perspective on biotechnological challenges and opportunities.

10. Community Engagement: We actively engage with the community through outreach programs and collaborative initiatives, emphasizing the application of biotechnological solutions for societal benefit.

11. Continuous Improvement: In response to evolving trends and challenges in biotechnology, we maintain a dynamic curriculum, ensuring the highest standards of education and research.



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PROGRESS REPORT

January- February, 2024

Staying Ahead: Bioinformatics and Communicative English Workshop for Student Grooming Continues

Swami Vivekananda University's Department of Biotechnology recently hosted a dynamic workshop throughout the months of January- February, aimed at final-year postgraduate students. Combining bioinformatics and English communication, the workshop sought to equip participants with vital industry skills.

Key Elements:

The workshop featured a balanced curriculum, covering bioinformatics tools and communicative English strategies. Interactive sessions and group activities facilitated hands-on learning, while expert guidance provided invaluable insights into career prospects.

Empowering Participants:

Through this workshop, participants gained not only technical expertise but also enhanced communication abilities. Armed with newfound skills and confidence, they are primed to excel in the competitive biotechnology landscape.



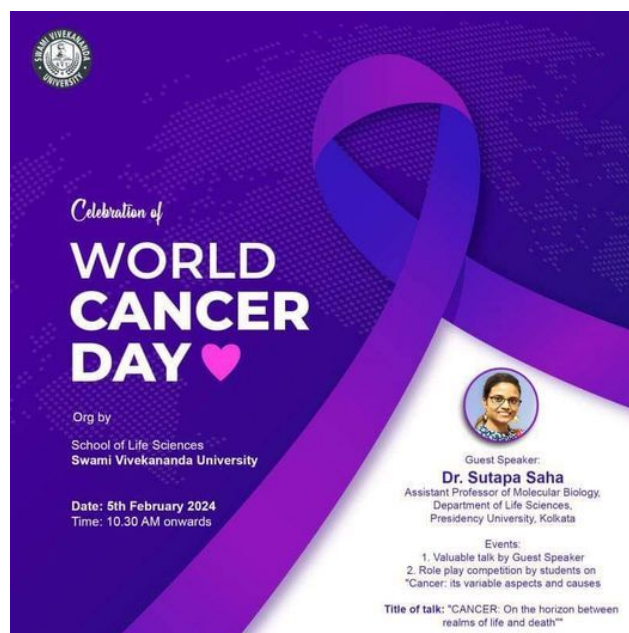
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PROGRESS REPORT

February - 2024

Spotlight on World Cancer Day: Department of Biotechnology Inspires Scientific Inquiry

In a bid to raise awareness and foster scientific curiosity, the Department of Biotechnology recently celebrated World Cancer Day. This event served as a platform to ignite students' interest in exploring the intricacies of cancer through a scientific lens.



Event Highlights:

The World Cancer Day celebration featured engaging activities designed to deepen students' understanding of this complex disease. From informative seminars and panel discussions to hands-on workshops, participants were encouraged to delve into the scientific aspects of cancer research.



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Promoting Scientific Temperament:

Through interactive sessions led by esteemed faculty members and guest speakers, students gained insights into the latest advancements in cancer biology, diagnostics, and treatment modalities. The event aimed to cultivate a spirit of scientific inquiry and critical thinking among attendees, inspiring them to contribute meaningfully to the fight against cancer.





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Empowering Tomorrow's Researchers:

The UG Biotechnology Semester 4 role-play contest serves as a compelling testament to the efficacy of storytelling and creative expression in fostering education and raising awareness. Through their active participation, students have demonstrated a steadfast commitment to comprehending and addressing the multifaceted complexities of cancer, thereby laying the groundwork for future innovation and advocacy within the biotechnology sphere. Noteworthy is the interdisciplinary engagement, with students from Psychology and BMLT departments contributing by presenting innovative posters on various aspects of cancer. The event was graced by the esteemed presence of Dr. Sutapa Saha, Assistant Professor at Presidency University's Department of Life Science, who presided as the chief guest and adjudicated the role-play competition, offering invaluable expertise and guidance to the participants.



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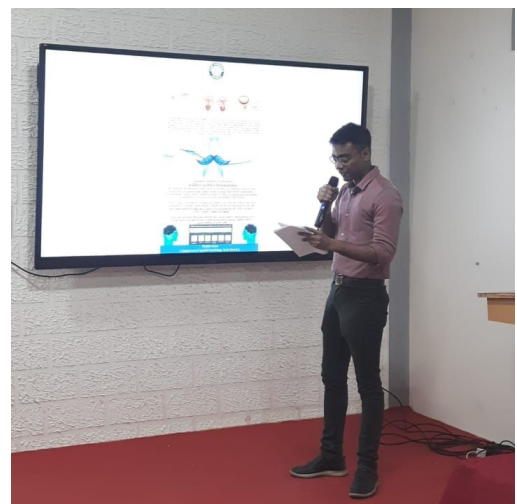


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Driving Innovation: Swami Vivekananda University Hosts IDE Bootcamp

The poster for the Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp (Phase-II) features logos at the top for the Ministry of Education, Government of India; AICTE; MoE's INNOVATION CELL (GOVERNMENT OF INDIA); and WADHWANI FOUNDATION. The main title is "Innovation, Design and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp (Phase-II) (Design Week Celebration)". Below this, a yellow box states the "Bootcamp Date" as "29th January to 2nd February 2024". At the bottom, a section titled "10 Venues Across India" lists the following:

10 Venues Across India	
1	Karnavati University, Gandhinagar
2	The National Institute of Engineering, Mysore
3	Sri Ramakrishna Engineering College, Coimbatore
4	Vardhaman College of Engineering, Hyderabad
5	Symbiosis University of Applied Sciences, Indore
6	Swami Keshvanand Institute of Technology, Management and Gramothan, Jaipur
7	Yeshwantrao Chavan College of Engineering, Nagpur
8	Jaypee Institute of Information Technology, Noida
9	Swami Vivekananda University, Kolkata
10	Indian Institute Of Management-Sambalpur (IIM-Sambalpur), Sambalpur

Swami Vivekananda University played host to the highly prestigious Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp (Phase-II) from January 29th to February 2nd, 2024. This notable event was organized by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with AICTE, Government of India, underscoring its significance in the academic and entrepreneurial spheres.

Students from the Department of Biotechnology, School of Life Sciences, demonstrated remarkable enthusiasm and participation throughout the duration of the bootcamp. They actively showcased their practical-oriented skillset and profound knowledge in their field, contributing to the vibrant atmosphere of innovation and collaboration. Competing alongside peers from across the state, these students exhibited their capabilities on a platform brimming with talent and creativity. Their engagement in the IDE Bootcamp not only highlighted their individual talents but also reflected the university's commitment to nurturing a culture of innovation and excellence among its student body.



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Shaking Off the Jitters: Students Gets Placement-Ready with Mock Interviews



Swami Vivekananda University, School of Life Sciences, Department of Biotechnology, recently organized a comprehensive mock interview session tailored specifically for final-year postgraduate students. Recognizing the pivotal role that interviews play in shaping students' professional trajectories, the department took proactive measures to ensure that graduates are adequately prepared for the challenges of the job market. With the objective of instilling confidence and refining interview skills, the session was meticulously designed to simulate real-world interview scenarios, thereby providing students with a hands-on learning experience. By offering constructive feedback and guidance, the department aimed to address any lingering uncertainties or nervousness among students, fostering a sense of preparedness and assurance as they embark on their journey towards successful career placements. This initiative underscores the university's commitment to holistic student development and its dedication to empowering graduates with the tools and resources necessary to thrive in today's competitive employment landscape.



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Bringing Learning to Life: Students Dive into Industry Insights at Diamond Beverages Pvt. Ltd.

The recent industry visit to Diamond Beverages Pvt. Ltd. proved to be a transformative experience for undergraduate and postgraduate students enrolled in Biotechnology programs at Swami Vivekananda University, School of Life Sciences in Barrackpore. Accompanied by esteemed faculty members from the Department of Biotechnology, Dr. Semanti Ghosh, and the Department of Microbiology, Dr. Aritri Laha, students had the invaluable opportunity to learn firsthand from industry experts. Tailored to complement classroom learning, the excursion aimed to deepen students' understanding of real-world applications in their field. The beverage plant provided an ideal setting to witness the seamless integration of concepts such as food microbiology, microbial control, packaging, and biotechnological innovations in the production of food products. Through this immersive experience, students gained practical insights that will undoubtedly enrich their academic journey and prepare them for future endeavors in microbiology and biotechnology-related industries.



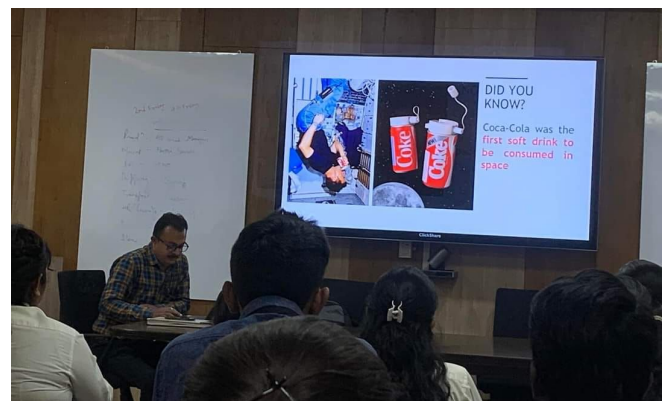


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Tech Fest 2024: Igniting Creativity, Inspiring Innovation at Swami Vivekananda University Campus

Under the esteemed guidance and visionary leadership of the Chief Operating Officer of Swami Vivekananda University, Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, the Tech Fest 2024 was meticulously organized on the university campus from February 19th to 21st. The event witnessed active participation from students across both undergraduate and postgraduate Biotechnology departments. Showcasing their ingenuity and expertise, students prepared D-3 models for exhibition, demonstrating their profound understanding of concepts and fostering a sense of ownership over their projects. Additionally, the preparation process offered invaluable training in presentation skills as students presented their work before a distinguished panel of judges.





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Biotech Rhythms: Unleashing Creativity at the SVU Cultural Fusion

Following the culmination of a semester filled with diligent preparation, including the creation of 3D models and countless hours of rehearsals, the students eagerly indulged in the festivities of the SVU cultural fest. Both undergraduate and postgraduate biotechnology students showcased their talents across various categories, encompassing electrifying dance performances and captivating band presentations.





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York Environmental Sustainability Institute Knowledge Exchange Fellows Scheme



The announcement of Dr. Srijan Haldar securing the York Environmental Sustainability Institute Knowledge Exchange Fellows scheme for the 2023-24 term marks an extraordinary achievement for the entire department. Serving as the Co-Principal Investigator (CoPI), Dr. Halder's endeavor to comprehend the status of indoor air pollution in the Indian Subcontinent for a duration of one year is a testament to his dedication to environmental sustainability.

This proud moment not only signifies Dr. Halder's research excellence and scientific brilliance but also serves as a source of inspiration for students, scholars, and faculty members alike within the department. His leadership and commitment to advancing knowledge and addressing critical environmental challenges elevate the standards of research and academic excellence within the department, fostering a culture of innovation and scholarly achievement. Dr. Halder's achievement resonates as a beacon of success and serves as a catalyst for further exploration and impact in the field of environmental sustainability.



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Planning (February-March-2024)

ICALF-2024



The Department of Biotechnology and Microbiology, within the School of Life Sciences, is joining hands with the Departments of Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Food & Nutrition for the second edition of the International Conference on Agriculture, Life Sciences, and Food & Nutrition (ICALF). Scheduled to take place on the university campus from February 22nd to 24th, 2024, this event promises to be a platform for student and scholar presentations, accompanied by rigorous scientific discussions and talks.

ICALF aims to foster a culture of scientific rigor and research vision, bringing together experts and enthusiasts from diverse fields to exchange knowledge, ideas, and insights. By facilitating meaningful interactions and collaborations, ICALF seeks to advance research and innovation in agriculture, life sciences, and food-related disciplines. This event embodies the spirit of academic excellence and interdisciplinary collaboration, driving forward the frontiers of scientific discovery and exploration.



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Planning (February-March-2024)

National Science Day

Under the esteemed guidance of the Chief Operating Officer of Swami Vivekananda University, Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, the Departments of Microbiology and Biotechnology, under the School of Life Sciences, are collaborating with the Departments of BMLT, Food & Nutrition, and Psychology to jointly organize the National Science Day Celebrations.

This event will feature distinguished speakers from each of the four domains, sharing their valuable insights and expertise. Following the talks, an inter-departmental science model competition will take place, providing students with a platform to showcase their innovative ideas and scientific prowess.

The collaboration between these departments underscores the university's commitment to fostering interdisciplinary learning and collaboration. Through initiatives like the National Science Day Celebrations, the School of Life Sciences continues to pave the way for nurturing scientific curiosity and skill development among its students, ensuring they are well-equipped to tackle the challenges of tomorrow's world.



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Planning (February-March-2024)

National Vaccination Day

Departments of Microbiology and Biotechnology within the School of Life Sciences are thrilled to announce the upcoming Vaccination Day celebration, under the visionary leadership of Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, Chief Operating Officer of Swami Vivekananda University, the

This event will commence with an expert lecture highlighting the critical importance of vaccination, followed by an engaging student reel competition centered around various facets of vaccines. Our primary objective is not only to foster teamwork among students but also to deepen their comprehension of the pivotal role vaccines play in public health. We extend our heartfelt gratitude to Mr. Saurabh Adhikari for his unwavering support and guidance, which continually motivates us to organize impactful and educational initiatives for our students. Through endeavors such as the Vaccination Day celebration, we endeavor to instill within our student body a profound sense of duty towards public health and equip them to become informed advocates for vaccination.

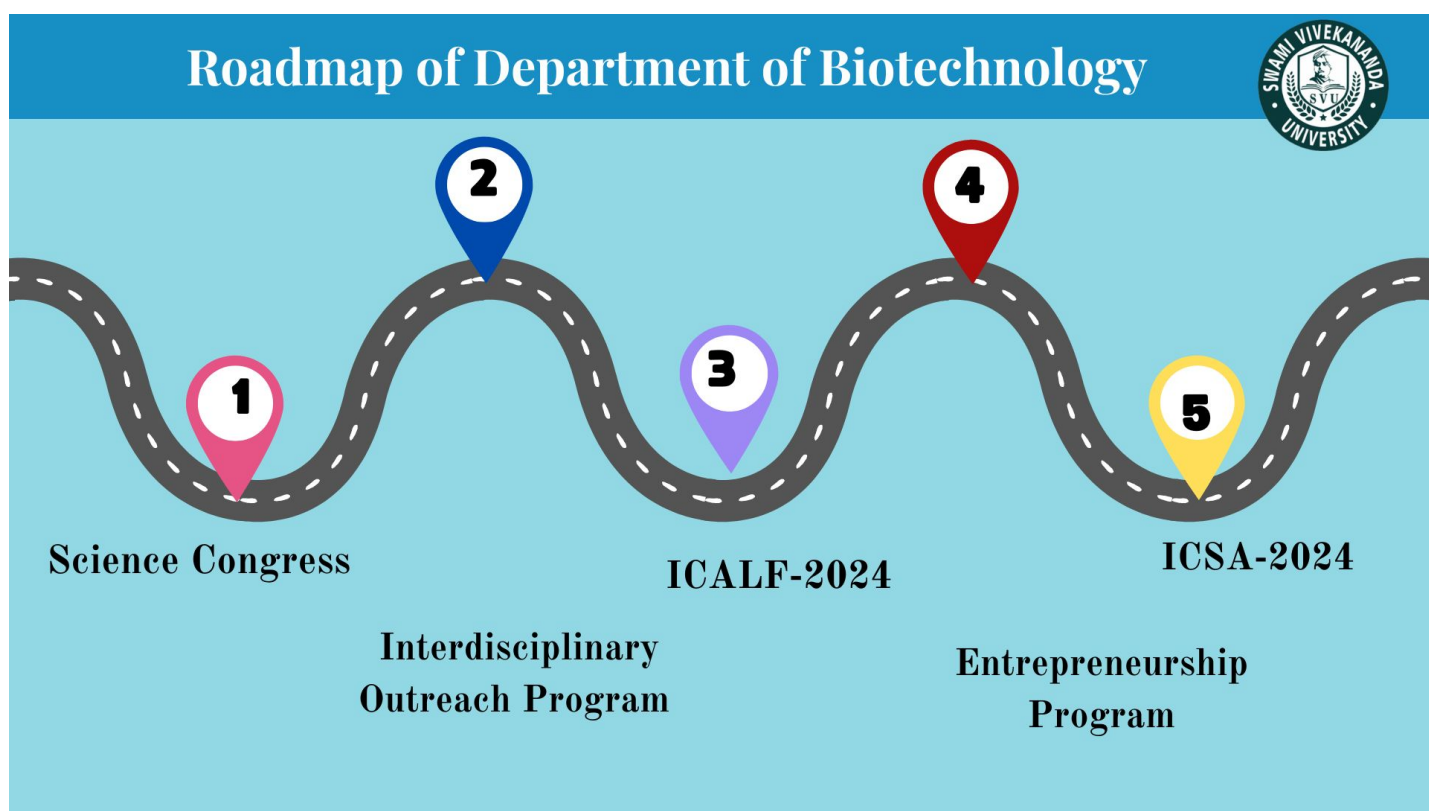
World Down Syndrome Day

Under the inspiring mentorship of Mr. Saurabh Adhikari, Chief Operating Officer of Swami Vivekananda University, the Departments of Microbiology and Biotechnology within the School of Life Sciences are thrilled to unveil the forthcoming Down Syndrome Day celebration. The occasion will commence with an insightful lecture delivered by a distinguished guest speaker, followed by active student participation in a range of engaging events.



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Departmental Roadmap



The Biotechnology department's strategic plan places a premium on academic excellence through pivotal initiatives. Active participation in science congress events enhances the visibility of our research, and outreach programs with interdisciplinary approaches promote collaborative efforts. The forthcoming International Conferences, ICALF-2024 and ICSA-2024, serve as noteworthy global platforms for knowledge exchange. Furthermore, our integrated entrepreneurship program empowers students to practically apply microbiological innovations. This roadmap epitomizes our dedication to excellence, collaboration, global engagement, and the cultivation of an entrepreneurial mindset among our students..



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Editorial - From HoD's Desk



Dr. Pritha Pal

Head, Department of Biotechnology
School of Life Sciences
Swami Vivekananda University

The Department of Biotechnology at Swami Vivekananda University maintains a steadfast commitment to student development and academic excellence. Through a comprehensive range of initiatives, the department fosters an environment conducive to growth and achievement. From technical skill enhancement workshops in areas like Bioinformatics to communicative English sessions aimed at refining students' verbal and communication aptitude for successful placement endeavors, SVU remains dedicated to ensuring students are well-equipped for their future endeavors.

A notable highlight in the university's calendar was the recent hosting of the esteemed Innovation, Design, and Entrepreneurship (IDE) Bootcamp (Phase-II) from January 29th to February 2nd, 2024. Organized in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and AICTE, Government of India, this event underscored SVU's significance in both academic and entrepreneurial spheres. The university actively encouraged student participation, fostering an environment that promotes real-world connectivity and problem-solving acumen. In addition to academic pursuits, SVU organizes mock interview sessions and industry visits, including insightful trips to companies such as Coca-Cola, providing students with invaluable practical exposure.



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Dr. Pritha Pal

Head, Department of Biotechnology
School of Life Sciences
Swami Vivekananda University

The dedicated faculties within the department exemplify unwavering commitment to excellence in both research and education. They continually secure project grants and cultivate scientific curiosity among students. Despite demanding academic schedules, students eagerly engage in extracurricular activities, demonstrating their talents in events such as tech fests and cultural festivals. Recently, a faculty member secured the York Environmental Sustainability Institute Knowledge Exchange Fellows scheme 2023-24, focusing on understanding the status of indoor air pollution in the Indian Subcontinent as CoPI for a duration of one year.

The Department of Biotechnology is unwavering in its dedication to prioritizing the welfare of its students. It is committed to continuously evolving and innovating, seeking out novel techniques and methodologies to enhance the quality of education provided. Remaining vigilant to advancements in the field, the department endeavors to cultivate a dynamic learning environment. Through the integration of emerging technologies and the adoption of progressive approaches, students are equipped with the requisite skills and knowledge vital for navigating the complexities of biotechnology, both during their academic journey and in their future endeavors.