



## SMVD University celebrates International Philosophy Day

The School of Philosophy and Culture of Shri Mata Vaishno Devi University Katra celebrated the International Philosophy Day on November 28, 2009. The Day is observed all over the world by UNESCO on every third Thursday of November in order to commemorate the birthday of Socrates, the great Greek philosopher. The celebration in the University consisted of a panel discussion on the theme of “Interrelationship between Philosophy, Science and Culture” in the morning session and a lecture on “Kashmir Shaivism and Culture” in the afternoon. Prof. Lalit Mangotra, Professor of Physics, Jammu University, who initiated the panel discussion, pointed out how the findings in science contributed to philosophy and the various ways in which philosophy, science and culture interact with one another. Prof. Bijoy H. Boruah, Professor of Philosophy, IIT Delhi, spoke of the dispassionate interest underlying the scientific pursuit and argued that cultural factors guiding scientific activity are not to be understood as stemming from the principles of science. Other panelists included Prof. Veda Kumari Ghai, Professor of Sanskrit (retd.), Jammu University, Dr. Varun K. Tripathi and Mr. Anil K. Tewari, Assistant Professor and Lecturer in Philosophy respectively in SMVD University. The discussion was chaired by Prof. R.S. Misra, Dean, College of Humanities and Social Sciences, SMVD University.

In the afternoon session, a special lecture on “Kashmir Shaivism and Culture” was delivered by Prof. Veda Kumari Ghai, in which she emphasized that unlike the Advaita Vedanta tradition, Kashmir Shaivism accords equally real status to both the Divine and the world. Prof. Shiv Nirmohi and Prof. B. Labh of Jammu University commented on the lecture. Students and faculty members from Govt. College for Women Gandhi Nagar and Parade and MAM College, Jammu participated in the celebration. The event was sponsored by Indian Council of Philosophical Research, New Delhi.