

**UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU**

*Handbook*  
**2023**

# **DESIGN YOUR DEGREE**

**(An Innovative 4 Year Undergraduate Programme)**





“UGC should also take up the Design Your Degree initiative of the University of Jammu and look after its feasibility and promotion. It may review the National Curriculum Framework in compliance with the recommendation of the National Education Policy and to accommodate new innovative ideas such as “Design Your Degree” - Parliamentary Standing Committee, September, 2023, Srinagar, J&K,

”

 **UGC INDIA**  @ugc\_india · Jul 29

Do you want to empower your academic journey and know more about four-year undergraduate programmes?

Visit University of Jammu at Hall 14, Stall 39, ITPO, New Delhi on 29-30 July, 2023.

#3YearsofNEP #NEP2020  
Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam - 2023



4:40 PM · Jul 29, 2023 · 400 Views





*Gateway to Knowledge, University of Jammu*

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**LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR  
RAJ BHAVAN  
JAMMU-180001  
JAMMU & KASHMIR**

Dear Students,

I am delighted to extend my warmest greetings and wholehearted encouragement to each one of you as you embark on a remarkable educational journey with the "Design Your Degree" program. As the Chancellor of University of Jammu, I firmly believe that education is the key to unlocking a brighter future, and this innovative program presents a unique opportunity for you to shape your own path towards success.

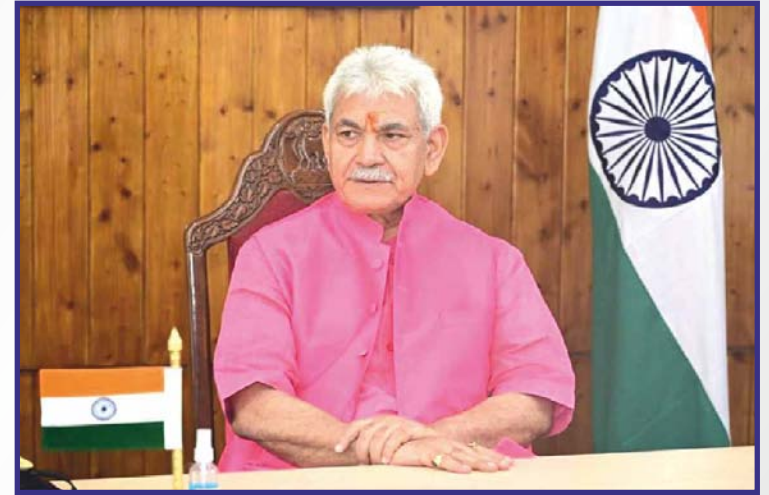
In today's rapidly evolving world, flexibility and adaptability are essential traits for success. With "Design Your Degree," you are equipped with the tools to navigate through various fields of study, gaining a holistic understanding of different disciplines and fostering a well-rounded skillset.

As the Chancellor of University of Jammu, I take immense pride in witnessing the University of Jammu embrace this progressive initiative. This program aligns perfectly with our vision to empower our youth, nurture talent, and build a future generation of leaders who can bring positive change to our society.

I offer my heartfelt best wishes to all those who choose to embark on this transformative educational voyage. Embrace the freedom to learn, grow, and innovate. Seize every opportunity for personal and academic growth, and let "Design Your Degree" be the stepping stone towards fulfilling your dreams and making a lasting impact on the world.

May you all find success and joy in your pursuit of knowledge, and may your educational journey with "Design Your Degree" be nothing short of extraordinary.

With my sincerest regards and best wishes.



*Manoj*

**Sh. Manoj Sinha**





**VICE-CHAIRMAN  
J&K HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL  
AND  
FORMER VICE-CHANCELLOR  
UNIVERSITY OF DELHI**



It gives me great pleasure to be a part of the story of the creation of one of the most well-designed of learning programmes that independent India has ever offered. I speak of the just announced University of Jammu's "Design Your Degree".

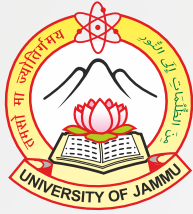
In all my years as a teacher and educator I have constantly come across parents and students who are straight out of high school and who are not sure about what they wish to pursue as a course of study after high school. The tragedy is that most of these students end up studying for degrees that are not suited to their talents. Such students-and there are thousands of them across India-stay unhappy and dissatisfied with life. In addition, I find that most students after taking their degrees, seem to be unsuited for any real career in life.

To all the above discussed students and their parents, I recommend wholeheartedly that they must take a close and serious look at Jammu University's marvellous idea that allows a student to design her/his degree as she/he progresses from semester to semester. This degree is not just a collection of credit courses; it has a very well thought out pedagogy that first enriches and gives sharpness to a student's skills in communication, IT, data and analytical and critical abilities. The pedagogy also trains the student to learn to solve real world problems through the practical application of knowledge. They are also trained to work collaboratively in groups and are encouraged to be creative entrepreneurs if they so desire. However, because of the way the degree programme is designed, it allows every student to find her/his true calling in life and then take a degree in that area.

This degree has been designed in consultation with experts across a wide spectrum of life. It has drawn enormous appreciation in India and is also being hailed abroad. It has gained recognition and acceptability all across India and abroad as well.

If I had been a student who had just finished high school, I would have most certainly enrolled to study for the 'Design Your Degree' programme of the University of Jammu.

**Prof. Dinesh Singh**



## VICE-CHANCELLOR UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU

Dear Students,

I am happy to introduce you to our innovative and path breaking "Design Your Degree" program, an exciting initiative from the University of Jammu. As the Vice-Chancellor of this institution, I am proud to present you with a unique opportunity to shape your own educational path and unlock your true potential.

"Design Your Degree" is a Four-Year Undergraduate Program that embodies the spirit of freedom and flexibility in education. We understand that each student is unique, with diverse interests, passions, and aspirations. With this program, we offer you the autonomy to curate your academic journey, aligning it with your individual talents and goals.

Embracing a paradigm shift from rigid, one-size-fits-all degree programs, our approach to learning with "Design Your Degree" is dynamic and interactive. We foster a culture of hands-on experiences, peer learning, and the pursuit of knowledge beyond traditional confines. Be it the arts, sciences, humanities, or a harmonious blend of disciplines, this program empowers you to craft a specialized course of study that ignites your intellectual curiosity and nurtures personal growth.

As you commence this interesting journey, our dedicated faculty and mentors will provide personalized guidance and support, helping you navigate the vast array of possibilities and design a degree that reflects your true passions. Our emphasis on hands-on experiences equips you with practical skills and prepares you to excel in the ever-evolving professional landscape.

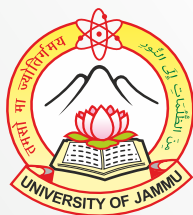
The University of Jammu has always been committed to promoting academic excellence, research, and social development. With "Design Your Degree," we take this commitment even further, enabling you to become not only skilled professionals but also job creators and compassionate global citizens.

I encourage you to seize this unparalleled opportunity of self-discovery, innovation, and empowerment.

Welcome to "Design Your Degree" – where your dreams and aspirations find their wings!



*Umesh Rai*  
Prof. Umesh Rai



## DEAN ACADEMIC AFFAIRS UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU



As we enter into a new academic year, I am excited about the new possibilities that we start this academic year ahead of us. Starting from Academic Year 2023-24, the Skill Incubation Innovation Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC), University of Jammu has started a new undergraduate curriculum structure that gives students greater choice, breadth and flexibility in charting their learning journeys.

Although challenges are sure to come our way, the Graduate School staff is available and ready to assist prospective and current students. Feel free to reach out to us if we can be of assistance.

Technology is increasingly shaping the way in which we work, think and live. This transformation is particularly prevalent in almost all fields ranging from language to medicine to natural sciences to engineering, where digitalisation is playing an increasingly important role.

This digitalisation does demand new cognitive and technical skills, such as understanding how systems interact, how to select and use data, even how to design better for various needs.

This Open Curriculum of DYD enables you to craft a rigorous but personalized degree program that fits your interests, strengths and goals, while also encouraging exploration and challenge. The special feature of this Design your Degree (DYD) is that students can explore their interests before selecting their specialisation from either **Natural Sciences, Life Sciences, Mathematical Sciences, Social Sciences, Management or Arts.**

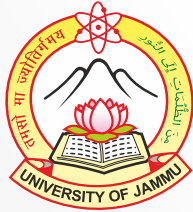
We welcome you to this DYD course to embark in a course of study where you have the freedom and flexibility to choose what you want to learn and how you wish to learn. An opportunity for you to broaden your knowledge and competencies. Experiential learning opportunities for innovation and research.

I encourage you to explore the SIIEDC website and reach out and connect with our dedicated faculty, staff, and students about how you can begin to co-create your own educational experience at University of Jammu.

Let me welcome you to the campus and compliment you on considering Design your Degree program at the University of Jammu for admission. Wishing you all the Success.

*Anju Bhasin*  
Prof. Anju Bhasin





**DIRECTOR  
SKILL, INCUBATION, INNOVATION AND  
ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE  
UNIVERSITY OF JAMMU**

Dear Students,

I am extremely happy to announce the launch of "Design Your Degree" program under the Skill, Incubation, Innovation, and Entrepreneurial Development Centre. As the Director of this initiative, it is my honor to introduce you to this innovative 4-year undergraduate degree program.

At University of Jammu, we have always been at the forefront of pioneering education, and this new program is a testament to our commitment to empowering students to shape their academic journey. The "Design Your Degree" program is a unique opportunity for each student to personalize their learning experience, aligning it precisely with their individual passions, aspirations, and career goals.

This program is a bold step towards revolutionizing traditional education, and I am confident that it will empower each student to become a trailblazer in their respective fields. We believe that by providing you with the tools and resources to design your academic journey, we are fostering a new generation of innovators and leaders who will make a significant impact on society.

I encourage all students to embrace this opportunity with an open mind and a passion for exploration. Let us embark on this exciting journey together, and I am eager to witness the incredible achievements that will undoubtedly arise from the "Design Your Degree" program.



A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads 'Alka Sharma'.

**Prof. Alka Sharma**



Recognized as one of the premier institutions of the country, the University of Jammu, accredited as 'A+' grade University by National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC), came into existence in 1969 vide Kashmir and Jammu Universities Act 1969 following bifurcation of the erstwhile University of Jammu and Kashmir on September 5, 1969. Apart from its main campus and old campus in Jammu, the University has eleven other offsite campuses, out of which seven campuses located at Baderwah, Kathua, Kishtwar, Poonch, Ramnagar, Reasi and Udhampur are functional. Teaching-learning and research are being carried out by forty departments and one hundred seventy affiliated colleges, awarding degrees in more than sixty programmes at the postgraduate and undergraduate level.

The University has been on a remarkable trajectory of growth, evident from recent developments. It not only achieved an 'A+' grade during its third cycle of accreditation by the NAAC in 2016 but also consistently demonstrated its dedication to quality by consistently ranking among the top 100 universities in India according to the National Institution Ranking Framework (NIRF) of the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) since 2016. The University of Jammu is one of only 14 universities in the country to receive grants under the "Promotion of Research and Scientific Excellence Programme (PURSE I & II)" from the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India,

based on an independent evaluation of scientific publications using the SCOPUS database over a ten-year period.

Recently, there has been a notable emphasis on fostering a culture of research and innovation, as well as promoting an entrepreneurial environment within the University. The University is vigorously promoting experiential learning by overhauling the curriculum and teaching methods for various programs, encouraging practical learning and project-based solutions to real-world issues. This marks a shift from traditional teaching methods.

The University of Jammu is amongst the first institutions in J&K to have been granted permission by the UGC to offer online programs through its Directorate of Distance & Online Education. M.Com. and M.A. (English) programmes are being offered online. The University has also launched its MBA (Executive Development Programme) in blended mode at The Business School. This program shall cater to the needs of working professionals who seek to acquire knowledge and skills to excel in today's competitive global landscape.

The University of Jammu firmly believes in the importance of collaborations and has recently established partnerships with prestigious institutions such as IISc, Bangalore, IIT Mumbai for ventures related to startups, innovation, research, capacity building, and internships. Additionally, it has partnered with the Indian Space Research Organization (ISRO) to provide internship opportunities and short-term courses in space and science education. Furthermore, it is collaborating with ihub Divyasampark, a joint venture of the Indian Institute of Technology-Roorkee (IIT Roorkee) and the Department of Science & Technology, Government of India, to offer logistical and financial support to startups.

The University, through its various initiatives and endeavours, is committed to its mantra "Dissolving Boundaries & Evolving Education" and is well poised to achieve higher levels of excellence in the academic landscape of the country.



# ABOUT THE SKILL INCUBATION INNOVATION ENTREPRENEURSHIP DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (SIIEDC)



University of Jammu established the Skill, Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC) with a core objective of synergizing the various initiatives for developing an ecosystem of start-ups and entrepreneurship in the University as well as the region. The Centre has four distinct verticals, which aim at Skill Development & Career Development, Business Incubation & Innovation Activities, Industry - Academia Partnership and Entrepreneurship Development. In an attempt to support these initiatives, the Centre has three different policies viz. Institutional Innovation Council (IIC), National Innovation Start Up Policy (NISP) and IPR policy in its mandate.

SIIEDC has started an innovative Under

Graduate Program "Design your Degree" from the current session 2023 – 24, where the 1<sup>st</sup> batch has already been enrolled. The program strategically encompasses a wide spectrum of activities aimed at fostering well rounded development of students, enhancing their abilities and aligning them with the industry. The students engage with the outside world during their academic journey so as to develop an aptitude to innovate and incubate their business ideas into startups and enterprises.

The various initiatives of SIIEDC are thoughtfully being operationalized at three distinct levels – Creating Awareness, Developing Competencies and Cultivating Attitudes to provide a comprehensive learning

experience to the stakeholders. These include various value added courses on life skills, Communication Skills, IT Skills, Awareness programs about IPRs, Entrepreneurship Development Programs, Awareness Sessions on Incubation and Start up Activities etc.

Thus, Skill, Incubation, Innovation and Entrepreneurship Development Centre (SIIEDC) aspires to build an ecosystem that not only provides trainings in essential skills and competencies but also nurtures innovativeness and entrepreneurial spirit among students. The approach is to empower the students with requisite tools and understanding to thrive in the dynamic environment of Knowledge Economy.



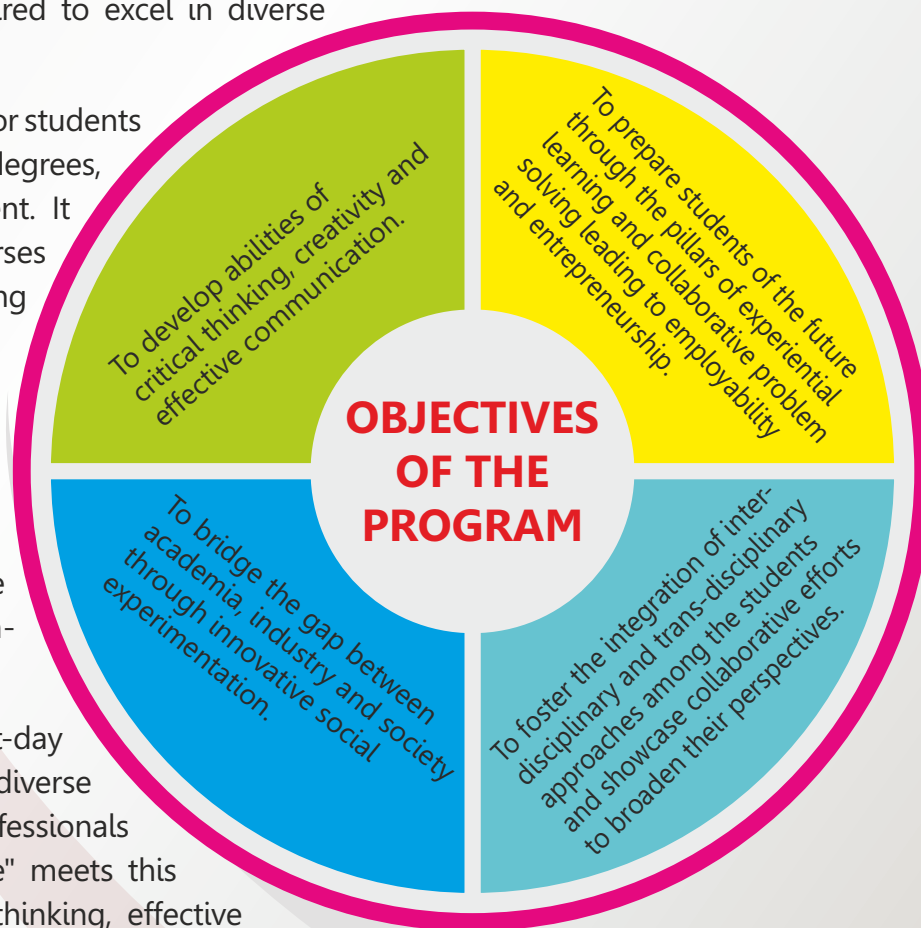
# ABOUT THE “DESIGN YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM”

Design your Degree is a flagship program of the University of Jammu under NEP-2020. It is a step towards transforming higher education and revolutionizing the way students pursue academic aspirations. With the motto, **“Teach to Transform, Educate to Empower and Learn to Lead”**, the program equips students with the agility and skills required to excel in diverse professional spheres.

“Design Your Degree” is not just a program; it’s a transformative journey for students seeking to harness the power of a tailored education. Unlike traditional degrees, this innovative four-year program prioritizes student and engagement. It empowers learners to curate a personalized curriculum by selecting courses across diverse disciplines, effectively breaking down silos and fostering interdisciplinary learning.

What sets “Design Your Degree” apart from conventional degrees is its departure from the one-size-fits-all approach. Traditional degrees often follow predetermined paths, limiting students’ exploration of their interests. In contrast, this program caters to individual strengths, passions, and aspirations. Recognizing the changing demands of the workforce, the program emphasizes skill acquisition alongside domain-specific knowledge.

The demand for this program arose from acknowledging that present-day graduates should encompass not just specialized knowledge but also a diverse skill set. The swift pace of technological progress mandates flexible professionals capable of transitioning between various fields. “Design Your Degree” meets this requirement by cultivating essential competencies including critical thinking, effective communication, mathematical ability, creativity, analytical prowess, teamwork, leadership qualities, effective problem-solving, and collaborative aptitude – all of which are indispensable for triumph in today’s interconnected global landscape.



# WHY CHOOSE "DESIGN YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM"?

1

Students get to explore their interests and passion before selecting their degree (BA, B.Com., B.Sc., B.Tech).

Teaches practical application of AI, Coding, GPT4, Data, making students more employable and job ready.

6

Complete freedom to design a customized program.

2

7

Promotes experiential learning and collaborative problem solving approach.

3

Offers a pool of interdisciplinary Foundation courses in the first two years of study leading to holistic development of students.

Mentored by a qualified and experienced team of faculty from varying fields, both from within and outside the university.

8

Helps students develop a wide array of skills- Life Skills, Soft Skills, Team Building Skills, Analytical Skills, Digital & Technical Skills, Problem Solving Skills & Critical & Creative Thinking.

4

9

Stands endorsed by UGC

 UGC INDIA @ugc\_india · Jul 29

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#3YearsofNEP #NEP2020



4:40 PM · Jul 29, 2023 · 400 Views

5

Program developed at par with any undergraduate program at the global level in consultation with leading experts from academia, industry, AI & Robotics.

Leads to enhanced job opportunities as well as entrepreneurial abilities.

10

# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

## DESIGN YOUR DEGREE

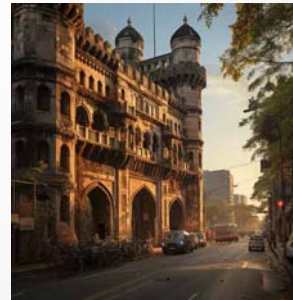
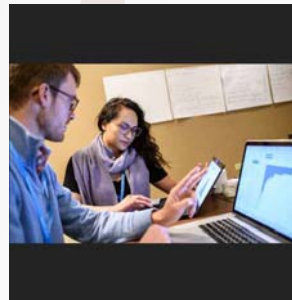
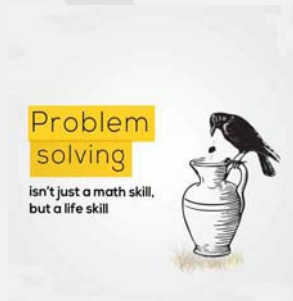
An Innovative Four Year Undergraduate Program

In spirit of NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

### DEGREES OFFERED

B.Sc./ B.B.A./ B.Com./ B.A./ B.Tech.

## SEMESTER I



LIFE SKILLS

MATHEMATICS  
WITHOUT PHOBIA

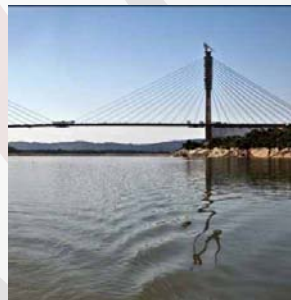
UNDERSTANDING  
THE WORLD  
THROUGH DATA  
LENS

EXPRESSING  
CREATIVITY

EXPLORING THE  
SURROUNDINGS

IT IN EVERYDAY  
LIFE

## SEMESTER II



DISCOVERING THE  
SELF

DECODING THE  
WORLD THROUGH  
AI

WORLD OF  
STARTUPS  
THROUGH REAL  
LIFE STUDIES

ART AND  
AESTHETICS OF  
DESIGNING

RESPONSIBLE  
CITIZENSHIP  
THROUGH  
EXPERIMENTATION

CODING  
THROUGH GPT4



# PROGRAM STRUCTURE

## DESIGN YOUR DEGREE

An Innovative Four Year Undergraduate Program

In spirit of NATIONAL EDUCATION POLICY 2020

### SEMESTER III



**DEVELOPING EQUIPOISE OF MIND AND BODY**



**UNDERSTANDING THE CHALLENGES OF CLIMATE CHANGE**



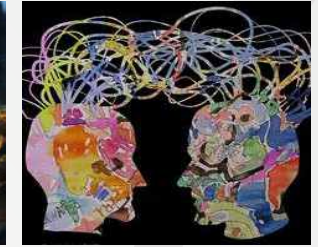
**DOES THE WORLD REVOLVE AROUND ECONOMICS**



**TECHNOLOGIES OF THE FUTURE**



**SOCIAL INNOVATIONS**



**ART AND SCIENCE OF COMMUNICATION**

### SEMESTER IV



**DEMYSTIFYING HUMAN BEHAVIOUR**



**MARVELS OF THE WORLD**



**EXPLORING TOURISM IN J&K : AN ENTREPRENEURIAL PERSPECTIVE**



**EXPLORING THE WORLD OF CINEMA WITH SMARTPHONES**



**FOOD AS MEDICINE : TRADITIONAL AND MODERN PRACTICES**



**DIGITAL HUMANITIES**

SUMMER INTERNSHIP/ RESEARCH PROJECT/ PROTOTYPE DEVELOPMENT/ BUSINESS IDEA DEVELOPMENT

### SEMESTER V - VIII

LIFE SCIENCES/ MATHEMATICAL SCIENCES/ ARTS/ SOCIAL SCIENCES/ EARTH AND ENVIRONMENTAL SCIENCE/ BUSINESS STUDIES/ PHYSICAL SCIENCES/ VISUAL AND PERFORMING ARTS

# ADMISSIONS TO DESIGN YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM

The undergraduate 'Design Your Degree' Program shall be of either a three year or four-year duration, with multiple entry and exit options within this period.

## Exit Options :

- After the completion of first year (two semesters) : Certificate
- After the completion of second year (four semesters) : Diploma
- After the completion of third year (six semesters) : Bachelor Degree

Candidate after successful completion of three year bachelor degree with minimum CGPA of 7.5 can pursue the fourth year for a bachelor degree with honours/research.

The four years bachelor program shall be the preferred option as it allows the student an opportunity to experience the full range of holistic and multidisciplinary education with a focus on major subjects as per the student's preference. The undergraduate program shall extend over four academic years (eight semesters).

## Lateral Entry:

The candidates taking exit will have option to join back through lateral entry mode to complete the program within the period permissible and as specified in the University rules.

## Intake Capacity :

40 Students including reserved category. The reservation for SC/ST/OBC/PWD/EWS shall be as per the rules of UT administration/ University of Jammu.

## Eligibility Criteria:

General Category : 60% aggregate marks in the senior secondary/10+2 or its equivalent, conducted by CBSE/ Jammu & Kashmir Board of School Education or any other School Board recognized as equivalent thereto. 55% marks in case of reserved category of SC/ST.

A candidate shall deem to be the student of the university, as soon as he/she is accepted for enrolment in the course and has paid the prescribed fee. The admission shall, however, be provisional unless regularized by the University.

### Admission Procedure:

Admission shall be made on the basis of an entrance test conducted by the University of Jammu followed by Group Discussion and Interview. The eligible candidates shall be selected for admission to the program on the basis of the following components:

S.No	Component	Weightage (%)	Explanatory Remarks
1	Academic 12 <sup>th</sup>	10	Academic score shall be allotted on pro rata basis.
2	Entrance Test	60	As per the Schedule notified by the University of Jammu, a candidate is required to take Entrance test on general awareness, aptitude (logic & reasoning)
3	Group Activity/ Discussion	15	To be conducted in groups
4	Personal Interview	15	To be conducted individually for each candidate.

Candidates shall be called for Group Discussion and Personal Interview in the ratio of 1:3 based on the combined score of S. No. 1 & 2.

The merit for admission purpose shall be calculated on the basis of the composite score obtained by the candidate in the Entrance Test, Academic component (12<sup>th</sup> Class), Group Discussion and Personal Interview which shall be displayed on the University of Jammu website / SIIEDC ratio Website.



# BOARD OF GOVERNORS

1.	<b>Prof. Umesh Rai</b>	Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu	Chairman
2.	<b>Prof. Anju Bhasin</b>	Dean Academic Affairs, University of Jammu	Member
3.	<b>Prof. Neelu Rohmetra</b>	Dean Research Studies, University of Jammu	Member
4.	<b>Prof M.M. Chaturvedi</b>	Former Director, CIC, University of Delhi	Eminent Academician
5.	<b>Prof. Raj Singh</b>	Vice Chancellor, Jain University	Industry Expert
6.	<b>Mr. Bharat Bhushan Arora</b>	Bharat Prakashan Ltd.	Industry Expert
7.	<b>Prof. Kavi Arya</b>	IIT, Mumbai	Industry Expert
8.	<b>Prof. Shobha Bagai</b>	Director, CIC, University of Delhi	Industry Expert
9.	<b>Prof. Dipankar Sengupta</b>	CEO, UOJSPV	Member
10.	<b>Prof. Rahul Gupta</b>	Registrar, University of Jammu	Member
11.	<b>Sh. Sanjeev Mahajan</b>	Joint Registrar, Finance, University of Jammu	Member
12.	<b>Prof. Alka Sharma</b>	Director, SIIEDC	Member Secretary

# MENTORS @ DESIGN YOUR DEGREE PROGRAM



**Prof. Alka Sharma**  
The Business School



**Prof. Kuldeep Singh Charak**  
Department of Mathematics



**Dr. Anil Gupta**  
School of Hospitality & Tourism Management



**Dr. Sadaf Shah**  
Department of English



**Dr. Jatinder Manhas**  
Department of Computer Application & IT



**Dr. Shallu Sehgal**  
Department of Economics



**Dr. Sandeep Arya**  
Department of Physics



**Dr. Pallavi Sachdeva**  
Department of Lifelong Learning



**Dr. Sunil Kumar**  
Department of Statistics



**Dr. Chinmoyee Maharana**  
Department of Zoology

# STUDENTS SPEAK.....



**Bhoomi Samnotra**

1<sup>st</sup> Sem, Design Your Degree

Design Your Degree is all about creating your own degree and designing your own learning journey. In this programme, we are learning to integrate various areas of knowledge, for instance, combining technology, psychology, and business to provide an all round education.

In a brief span of time, I've witnessed a noticeable improvement in my communication skills and a significant boost in my confidence when it comes to public speaking. I am highly confident that this program will equip me with a diverse skill set essential for excelling in today's dynamic world. This unique degree program permits us to explore a wide spectrum of courses and acquire skills that are directly relevant to our individual career objectives.

The University of Jammu has introduced a new programme called Design Your Degree, which stands out as one of the most advantageous educational offerings for students. This innovative course provides students with the opportunity to acquire a diverse set of skills throughout their undergraduate journey. It places a strong emphasis on practical learning, internships and hand on projects, departing from traditional theoretical approaches. In my opinion, this program should serve as a model for universities and colleges across India. On a personal level, this program is already stimulating my creativity and sharpening my problem-solving skills as I draw upon a multitude of perspectives during my participation in this programme.



**Pawandeep Singh**

1<sup>st</sup> Sem, Design Your Degree



**Tavishi Amla**

1<sup>st</sup> Sem, Design Your Degree

The Design Your Degree program has helped me develop a strong sense of discipline and time management skills, which have had a positive impact on my personal life. This course has not only bolstered my self-confidence but has also refined my problem-solving abilities. It has provided us with a better understanding of real-world issues and the capacity to apply our knowledge to effectively address these challenges. I am learning to adapt to new situations and approach complex problems with simplified solutions. This program is fostering a heightened sense of self-awareness and unlocking my untapped potential. Moreover, I've grasped the genuine value of teamwork through this experience. I am confident that Design Your Degree will offer me an array of limitless learning and growth opportunities.

This program imparts a balance of knowledge & skills. The pedagogy adopted in 'DYD' Program is creating a learning environment that's helping us to explore & think and is sharpening our analytical thinking rather than rote learning that is prevalent in other degree programmes. We are already gaining meaningful learning experiences & approaching problems and solving them with different perspectives. The incorporation of technology & digital tools into the curriculum is equipping me with the necessary skills to thrive in a tech driven world.

I am genuinely excited about the potential this programme holds for us. Its forward looking approach, flexibility and innovation is what our generation can reap immense benefit from.



**Vidhita Arora**

1<sup>st</sup> Sem, Design Your Degree



# *Glimpses of Events*



# TWO DAYS AKHIL BHARTIYA SHIKSHA SAMAGAM - 2023

A team of University of Jammu led by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice Chancellor, University of Jammu participated in the two days Akhil Bhartiya Shiksha Samagam-2023 at Internal Exhibition-cum-Convention Centre (IECC), Pragati Maidan, New Delhi.

The University of Jammu's stall witnessed an overwhelming response, with a large gathering of visitors showing keen interest in enquiring about the university's recent initiatives.

University Grants Commission (UGC) appreciated University of Jammu's innovative 4 Year Under Graduate Program called "Design Your Degree" by sharing the details of the initiative on its official twitter handle. The tweet encouraged the students, academicians and industry professionals to visit the stall of University of Jammu to further gather information about this novel initiative.





## OPEN HOUSE INTERACTION

In order to pave way for the University's pathbreaking initiative and raise awareness amongst its various stakeholders, a series of Open House Interaction events were organized at the University. These interactions fostered a lively atmosphere, encouraging discussions and addressing inquiries and suggestions regarding the DYD. Over 100 parents and students actively took part in these Open House Interactions.



# INDUCTION PROGRAM

The five days Induction Programme for the newly enrolled students of Design Your Degree was marked by the presence of distinguished academicians & inspiring speeches. The Inaugural lecture was presented by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council & Former Vice Chancellor, University of Delhi. His talk revolved around the importance of self driven learning & constant expansion of horizons. Among others who delivered lectures and held interaction with the students were Prof. Shobha Baghai, Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi, Prof. M. M. Chaturvedi, Founder Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi etc. The students of Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi also interacted with the students of 'DYD', University of Jammu and shared their experiences.





## INTERACTION SESSIONS

The first semester students of the DYD Program had an inspiring and enlightening engagement with Sh. Madan Mohan Chaturvedi, the Founder Director of the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi and Ms. Indu Kanwal Chib, the Mission Director of J&K Rural Livelihood Mission. They discussed the importance of experiential learning and cultivating a sense of curiosity to address societal issues. They highlighted, amongst other things, the importance of connecting education with the challenges of the real world and how collaborative and peer learning can be more beneficial than individual projects.





## CAPACITY BUILDING WORKSHOP FOR FACULTY @ DYD

The faculty of DYD programme attended a four days Capacity Building Workshop at the Cluster Innovation Centre, Delhi University. The workshop evolved around and emphasized the essential role of mentorship in nurturing students' holistic growth and preparing them for the evolving demands of modern world. Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chairman, J&K Higher Education Council & Former Vice-Chancellor, University of Delhi, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu, Prof. Bechan Lal, Vice Chancellor, Cluster University of Jammu, Prof. M. M. Chaturvedi, Founder Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi, Prof. Shobha Baghai, Director, Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi were the resource persons for this Workshop.



*Design Your Degree Program  
in the  
Media*



# 'Design your degree' program is pathbreaking

'Design Your Degree' program of Jammu University has message for those who want better standards of higher education

During 2012-2014 Delhi University (DU) had made many landmark experiments, in the true spirit of autonomy of universities - to experiment with innovative ideas. One of those ideas was Four Year Degree Program (FYUP) where students could decide on their own courses including skill courses while studying. This could lead to self-employment during and after completion of the degree program. The man behind this idea was Professor Dinesh Singh, the then Vice Chancellor of Delhi University and the implementer was Professor Umesh Rai the then Director South Campus, DU. Somehow this very innovative scheme was withdrawn in 2015.



CHANDRA BHUSHAN SHARMA

(The writer is Professor of Education and a Trustee of the India Policy Foundation.)

Chancellor of Jammu University (JU). Jammu University has launched a similar experiment by the name 'Design Your Degree'(DYD), in line with the recommendations of the National Education Policy 2020 (NEP 2020), which has recommended four year degree program as well and made it mandatory to do skill courses to qualify for the 'multiple entry, multiple exit' provision of the NEP 2020. Till the Eighteenth Century every individual contributed to the economy by doing some productive work. It was only after the invasions, in the last one thousand years, and the destruction of the Bhartiya education system that Bharat became a poor country. Since the Macaulay's policy of education of 1835, the education

became job seekers and not self-employed entrepreneurs.

The NEP 2020 for the first time reverses the trend and the DYD is a landmark initiative in that sense. The NEP 2020 is a vision (Darshan) of Prime Minister Narendra Modi. He is the man behind this idea, the idea which will once again help Bharat regain the position of ViswaGuru. Globally undergraduate programs are of four year duration and in fact the Radhakrishnan Commission, had mentioned that even the United States has a four year degree program but our nation is not ready for it right now.

Finally the NEP 2020 also approved a four year degree program and universities are now in the process of implementing the four year degree

program. Jammu University (JU) will be considered a frontrunner as it has gone a step further by giving the choice of selection of courses to the students. The essence of the recommendation of Design Your Degree (DYD) is to create job givers rather than job seekers. The JU, DYD is based on the philosophy that students must be allowed to choose courses of study on their own volition so that they can give their best into it, and finally make it their life-long passion and profession.

Students would be allowed to choose academic courses along with skill courses from across disciplines and departments. Teachers and students from different departments, disciplines and streams would work in collaboration to foster

the creative ideas of each individual learner. The major criticism of our institutions has been that they work in silos and the findings of research in one department is not even shared with the department across the wall. Through DYD teachers and students will form groups of individuals with common interests and come up with very novel and innovative ideas.

As the program visualises the courses would not be only classroom based but students can work at any location with members of the society or even industry, with a view to find solutions to their problems. The university teachers instead of being just classroom teachers would do hand holding and become mentors. Once the DYD gets going true inter-

disciplinary practice would emerge. Students would be admitted under the DYD from 2023 academic year. Admission would be through a process keeping Senior Secondary Board result (10%), Entrance test (60%), Group activity (20%) and Personal Interview (10%) into consideration. The admission criteria clearly shows domain knowledge is not being tested for admission but attitude and aptitude for exploration is being tested for admission. During the program the group of students along with the mentor teacher will spend a semester on ground and work and find solutions to real life problems.

Some of the courses that the university has planned for Semesters I to IV are Discover-

ing the Self, Exploring the Surroundings, Marvels of the World, Expressing Creativity, Life Skills, Art and Science of Communication, Understanding the World through Data, Decoding the World through Data, Digital Humanities etc. From the courses it would be apparent the program will give opportunity to learners to explore and innovate unlike the content based courses presently prescribed in the universities.

The motto of the program is: 'Teach to Transform'; 'Educate to Empower'; and 'Learn to Lead'. Autonomy to universities should not be seen as an undue favour. Institutions can experiment and innovate leading to new and great ideas only if they are provided autonomy.

## University of Jammu's "Design Your Degree" initiative endorsed by Parliamentary Standing Committee and UGC

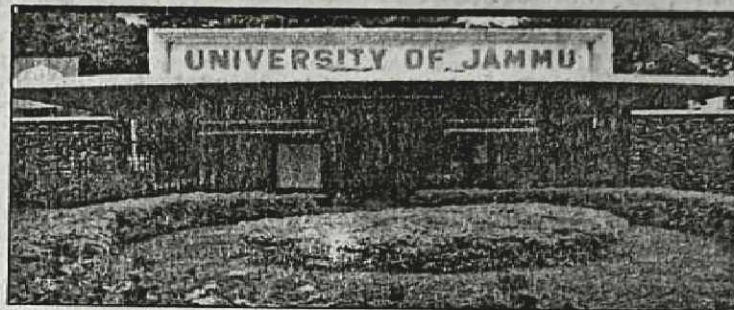
EARLY TIMES REPORT

JAMMU, Sept 26: In a significant milestone, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports, which visited Jammu and Kashmir on September 1, 2023, has expressed appreciation for and endorsed the "Design Your Degree" initiative of the University of Jammu. This initiative, presented by Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, during the delegation's visit to Srinagar, has garnered praise and recommendations for inclusion in the National Curriculum.

The Parliamentary Committee, following a comprehensive evaluation of the "Design Your Degree" initiative at the University of Jammu, has not only ap-

plauded its merits but also suggested to the University Grants Commission (UGC) that it be incorporated into the National Curriculum framework. The Committee's report, released on September 25, 2023, states, "UGC should also take up the 'Design Your Degree' initiative of the University of Jammu and look after the feasibility and promotion. It may review the National Curriculum framework in compliance with the recommendation of the National Education Policy and to accommodate new innovative ideas such as 'Design Your Degree'."

In response to this significant development, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Umesh Rai expressed heartfelt gratitude to Sh. Vivek Thakur, Chairman of the DRPSC on Educa-



A view of Jammu University.

tion, Women, Children, Youth, and Sports, for recognizing the value and potential of the "Design Your Degree" program. He emphasized that this endorsement underscores the University's commitment to delivering quality education that prepares students for future challenges. Prof. Umesh Rai

also extended his thanks to the Honorable Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of the University of Jammu, as well as Vice Chairman of the Higher Education Council of UT J&K, Prof. Dinesh Singh, for their unwavering support and guidance.

It is worth noting that Prof. Mamdala Jagadesh

Kumar, Chairman of the UGC, praised the innovative "Design Your Degree" program launched by the University of Jammu during the Akhil Bhartiya Siksha Samagam 2023 at IECC Pragati Maidan, New Delhi. He also shared his appreciation for the initiative on the official UGC Twitter handle. The "Design Your Degree" program represents a significant shift in higher education, empowering students to customize their academic journey to align with their individual interests and career aspirations. This initiative places a strong emphasis on equipping students with practical skills that are in high demand in today's evolving job market, effectively preparing them for successful careers.



## JU Team attends FDP for 'Design Your Degree Prog' at DU



**NL CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU TAWI, SEP 13** Jammu University has taken a significant step towards advancing education in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) through active participation in a four-day faculty development workshop held at the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi.

The inauguration of the workshop set the stage for an intellectually stimulating journey. The first session commenced with an address

by Prof. Dinesh Singh, Vice Chairman of the Jammu & Kashmir Higher Education Council, who introduced the workshop's objectives and its pivotal role in shaping the future of education in the region. Prof. Singh's insights were instrumental in framing the discourse around the NEP.

Following this, Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor of the University of Jammu, took centre stage to discuss the innovative "Design Your Degree Program." Prof. Bechan Lal,

Vice-Chancellor of Cluster University, Jammu, added to the narrative by highlighting the implementation of the "Design Your Degree Program" at Cluster University. The inauguration reached its zenith when Prof. M.M. Chaturvedi, Founder Director of the Cluster Innovation Centre at the University of Delhi, presented a compelling case study on the center's innovative practices.

The inaugural session culminated with profound remarks by Prof. Shobana Bopal, Director of the Cluster Innovation Centre, University of Delhi. Prof. Bopal emphasized the essential role of mentorship and advisory in nurturing students' holistic growth and preparing them for the evolving demands of the modern world.

The workshop's lively interactive sessions exemplified the university's commitment to innovation at the intersection of education and technology.

## Former VC DU attends induction session on 'Design Your Degree' Program at JU



Former VC DU, Prof. Dinesh Singh posing with faculty members and students of JU.

To ignite intellectual curiosity, Prof. Singh urged students to seek answers within themselves and avoid shortcuts in life. His inspiring message underscored the importance of self-driven learning and constant expansion of horizons. Prof. Singh also stressed the practical aspects of personal and professional development, emphasizing the significance

of the "Design Your Degree" program. As they embark on this transformative path, they carry with them the inspiration to explore, learn, and adapt, guided by the wisdom of a mentor who has paved the way.

University, talked about this new course and shared information about the facilities and infrastructure provided to the students at the university.

Prof. Alka Sharma, Director of SIBTC, extended a formal welcome address. Earlier, Prof. Shobha Bopal, Director of Cluster Innovation Center at the

delivered a vote of thanks. The inaugural session was graced by Prof. Alka Sharma, the Director SIBTC at JU. Prof. Sharma extended a warm welcome to the incoming students and faculty members from various disciplines forming the core team behind the "Design Your Degree" program.

In a spirit of unity and camaraderie, the new batch of students took the stage to introduce themselves, symbolizing the commencement of a shared academic odyssey. As an integral part of their induction, students embarked on an immersive campus tour, visiting various departments, including the Dharmavartan Library, a treasure trove of academic resources, the vast



Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Higher Education Council, chairing a meeting at University of Jammu on Sunday.

## HEC discusses 'Design Your Degree,' 'College on Wheels' initiatives

**Excelsior Correspondent**

**JAMMU, Sept 24:** In a significant meeting chaired by Professor Dinesh Singh, Vice-Chairman of the Higher Education Council (HEC) in the Jammu & Kashmir Territory, key initiatives aimed at revolutionizing higher education were discussed.

The meeting brought together Vice-Chancellors from various universities in the UT of J&K, along with Principals, to address critical issues and outline the future of higher education in the region.

One of the key initiatives under discussion was the "Design Your Degree Program," a 4-year undergraduate program focusing on project-based learning.

this program in the current academic session, highlighting the need to pool resources effectively.

Professor Singh extended gratitude to the Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor of Universities in the UT of J&K for their unwavering support.

Another ambitious project discussed was the "College on Wheels" (JK Gyanudhay Express), which involves using a fully-equipped train to transform learning into a project-based, problem-solving exercise.

The train will accommodate 800 students and faculty members from across Jammu and Kashmir, earning academic credits through their project work.

This initiative aims to provide inclusive and equitable access to

expressed appreciation and plans to recommend these programs to the University Grants Commission (UGC) for nationwide implementation. Additionally, the All India Council for Technical Education (AICTE) expressed interest in these programs.

Professor Rai proposed a faculty exchange program among universities in the Union Territory to enhance educators' capabilities and support these initiatives.

He also announced the formation of a centralized committee to oversee the JK Gyanudhay Express journey and related efforts.

Dr Yashmeen Ashraf, Director of Colleges at the Higher Education Department in the UT of J&K, confirmed that faculty for the

## Design you Degree Program: Interaction Sessions organised

**STATE TIMES NEWS**

**JAMMU:** On the first day of



Mitra Director J&K Rural Livelihood Mission, Inhu Karwal Chib speaking at a programme.

impossible to achieve. "Students had a splendid experience and gave an enthusiastic feedback on a positive note. The meeting was chaired by

## डिजाइन योर डिग्री प्रोग्राम की कक्षाएं शुरू



दिल्ली से प्रशिक्षण लेकर आए 10 शिक्षक। जौन-शिवविद्यालय

**जम्मू।** जम्मू विश्वविद्यालय के दो-दिवसीय संवाद सत्र के साथ डिजाइन योर डिग्री कार्यक्रम की कक्षाएं शुरू हो गईं। 24 छात्रों को पढ़ाने के लिए दस शिक्षक दिल्ली से कोर्स का प्रशिक्षण लेकर आए। संवाद सत्र के दूसरे दिन दिल्ली विश्वविद्यालय के पूर्व जम्मू-कश्मीर उच्च शिक्षा परिषद के उपाध्यक्ष प्रोफेसर सुख्यातिथि थे। उन्होंने छात्रों को प्रोत्साहित करते उत्तर खोजने और जीवन में शॉर्टकट से बचना और प्रोग्राम के बारे में बात की।



Dinesh Singh and Vice-Chancellor Prof Umesh Rai with students of Design Your Degree Programme in JU.

## Induction session of Design Your Degree Program held at JU

**Excelsior Correspondent**

**JAMMU, Sept 20:** Jammu University's "Design Your Degree" induction program was marked by the presence of distinguished academics and inspiring speeches.

Prof. Dinesh Singh, former Vice-Chancellor of the University of Delhi and current Vice-Chairman of the J&K Higher Education Council, set the stage and left an indelible mark on the proceedings. His talk revolved around the program's core principle of openness.

He emphasized that within this innovative academic journey, traditional reliance on textbooks is unnecessary. Instead, he added, the focus should be on engaging in mind-opening conversations and pursuing intellectual growth through experiential learning.

Prof. Singh urged students to seek answers within themselves and avoid shortcuts in life. He stressed the practical aspects of personal and professional growth, emphasizing the importance of strong communication skills in the ever-evolving landscape.

Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor of Jammu University, talked about this new course and shared information about the facilities and infrastructure provided to the students at the university.

Earlier, Prof. Shobha Bopal, Director of Cluster Innovation Centre at the University of Delhi, introduced the structure and philosophy of the program. She succinctly outlined the program's distinctive contours and its elements.

Dr. Shalini Sehgal, Director of Cluster Innovation Centre, delivered a vote of thanks.

## Parliamentary Standing Committee endorses JU's Design Your Degree

**NL CORRESPONDENT**

**JAMMU TAWI, SEP 26.** In a major development, the Parliamentary Standing Committee on Education, Women, Children, Youth and Sports that visited J&K on 1st September 2023, and interacted with various stakeholders has appreciated and endorsed the Design Your Degree initiative of the University of Jammu. It is noteworthy to mention here that the Prof. Umesh Rai, Vice-Chancellor, University of Jammu had made a detailed presentation before the visiting Parliamentary delegation at Srinagar on 1st September 2023. The Parliamentary Committee

after taking a comprehensive view of Design Your Degree initiatives of the University of Jammu has appreciated the same and also recommended to the University Grants Commission to include the same into the National Curriculum Framework. The report of the Parliamentary Standing Committee which was published on 25th September 2023 reads "UGC should also take up the 'Design Your Degree' initiative of the University of Jammu and look after the feasibility and promotion. Commenting on the development, Vice-Chancellor extended heartfelt gratitude to Chairman, DRPSC on EWCY&S, Vivek Thakur

for recognizing the value and potential of Design Your Degree. The Vice-Chancellor expressed his gratitude to the Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor and Chancellor, University of Jammu and Vice-Chairman Higher Education Council UT/J&K. Prof. Dinesh Singh for their unwavering support and guidance. It is also pertinent to mention here that UGC, Chairman Prof. Mamdulla Jagadeesh Kumar during the Akhil Bhartiya Siksha Samagam 2023 at IEGC Paragati Maidan, New Delhi has also appreciated the innovative initiative - Design Your Degree Program launched by the University of Jammu and also shared the same on the official UGC Twitter handle.

## डिजाइन योर डिग्री के तहत ओपन हाउस इंटरैक्शन



**जम्मू।** जम्मू विश्वविद्यालय ने सोमवार को चार-वर्षीय डिग्री प्रोग्राम डिजाइन योर डिग्री पर केन्द्रित एक ओपन हाउस इंटरैक्शन की मेजबानी की। यह कार्यक्रम जम्मू विश्वविद्यालय में पर्यावरण विज्ञान विभाग के सेमिनार हॉल में हुआ। इसमें अभिभावक और छात्रों दोनों को संकाय सदस्यों के साथ इंटरैक्टिव सत्र में शामिल होने और कार्यक्रम के विभिन्न पहलुओं पर चर्चा करने का अवसर मिला। इस सभा का प्राथमिक उद्देश्य व्यक्तिगत आकांक्षाओं और करियर उद्देश्यों के संबंध में डिजाइन योर डिग्री की परिवर्तनकारी क्षमता को व्यापक रूप से स्पष्ट करना था। इस दौरान अंग्रेजी विभाग में एसोसिएट प्रोफेसर डॉ. सदान शाह ने प्रेजेंटेशन प्रस्तुत की। एसआईआईडीसी की निदेशक प्रो. ललका शर्मा ने कार्यक्रम के विविध आयामों को रेखांकित करते हुए दर्शकों को डिजाइन योर डिग्री के सार के बारे में जानकारी दी। मौके पर गणित विभाग के मुख प्रोफेसर चादक, डॉ. अनिल गुप्ता और डॉ. शालू सहलग सहित अन्य प्रस्तित थे। संवाद



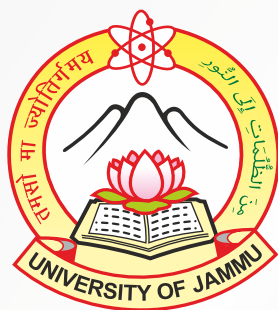




# Quality Policy

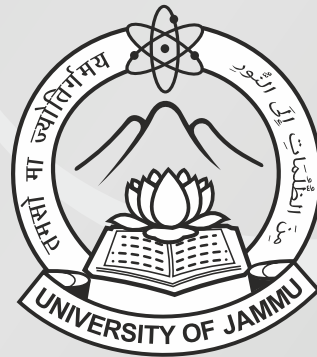
*Committed to imparting quality education and aims at being a globally recognized institution of excellence in teaching, research, outreach and administration through continual improvement of its scholastic ability and effectiveness of the quality management system.*

*Sd/-  
Vice Chancellor*



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