



Special Activities and New Initiatives

Monthly Report of March 2023

Doon University, Dehradun

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Programme on Transgender Sensitization

On **14th March 2023**, School of Languages, Doon University, organised a gender sensitization program where the first certified trans-woman of Uttarakhand, Ms. Aditi was invited as the guest speaker to interact with the students. She was accompanied by another trans-woman Ms. Karishma. The event was part of the series of Gender Sensitization Programmes organized by Doon University. In the opening address, the Honorable Vice Chancellor of Doon University, Prof. Surekha Dangwal, highlighted the need for creating a space in the society where there is a respectful environment and community feeling and the transgender community is provided the same rights as the other genders. She insisted that the youth today must be inclusive and overcome the psychological barriers that cause friction and misunderstanding in the society.



Miss Aditi shared the experiences of her journey with the students from different educational institutions. She related how she had to overcome multiple challenges and insults, and had to fight for being able to live the identity she feels is her own. She implored that the society as a whole has a lot of scope for betterment and it is the youth who shall bring about change by continuing to promote inclusivity and respect for the transgender community. The address was followed by a Q&A session, where the students participated and asked significant questions regarding the role of education and the family support in Aditi's journey. The event was conducted under the guidance of Dr. Chetana Pokhriyal, Dean, School of Languages, Doon University and Ms. Shubra Kukreti, Incharge Department of French, Doon University. The event was also attended by the faculty members of the School of Languages and School of Media and Communication Studies.

Women-centric, Skill and Value Based Workshops

On **15th March, 2023 to 27th March, 2023** Center for Women Empowerment (COWE), Doon University organized 100-hour workshop in offline mode in the Department of Computer Science for the female students. In this workshop girls learned about basic as well as advanced level of

POWER BI. A total of 59 girl students from various departments of the university were registered for the workshop.

As an initiative to empower women and unleash their true potential, Center for Women Empowerment (COWE) has been set up as a centre of excellence at Doon University in collaboration with ICT Academy, through which workshops and seminars are organized on regular basis on advanced computer technologies for women empowerment. The centre aims to empower girl students of Doon University with digital and statistical skills such as data analytics using Power BI. This women's center will educate girls in cutting edge technology, provide global recognition to students in the field of science and technology and promote employability.



Vice Chancellor of Doon University, Prof. Surekha Dangwal, while addressing the students in the inaugural session on the first day of the training, said that the world is changing with the growth of the internet. New technological tools are emerging day by day. The use of such technologies is influencing the work culture at a fast rate. Honeywell Center for Women Empowerment (COWE) is conducting this 100 hours long workshop on Data Analytics with Power BI for skill development of women under ICT Academy. This workshop will make the girl students more research-oriented. At the same time, this workshop will also help the students in their personality and professional development. The students will become employable. Training and placement opportunities in various top companies will also be provided to the certified girl students after completion of this training program.

ICT Academy Expert Rohit Ranjan trained the students on latest data analytics with Microsoft Power BI. Dr. Narendra Rawal, Head, Department of Computer Science, emphasized on the importance of data and said, "Data is knowledge, knowledge is power, and therefore data is power." The workshop is being conducted efficiently by Dr. Preeti Mishra (Convenor) and Mr. Aditya Singh (Relationship Manager Academic Convenor, ICT Academy).

Gen Bipin Rawat Memorial Lecture Series

16th March, 2023 on the occasion of birth anniversary of India's First C.D.S. Late Shri Bipin Rawat, Doon University, Dehradun organized Gen Bipin Rawat Memorial Lecture Series. Shri Trivendra Singh Rawat, Ex-Chief Minister was the Chief Guest of the programme with Maj. Gen. Mohanlal Aswal and Maj. Gen. Anand Singh Rawat as Guests of Honor. The programme was focused on Gen Bipin Rawat's journey in the uniform and his civil corrector within it. All the faculty members and students from various department were present in the programme wherein NCC girl Cadets were enthusiastic knowing more about the life of Army officers. Prof. Surekha Dangwal presented the mementos to the Guests and gave her vote of thanks to the audience.

International Conference on

Industrial Road Map of Uttarakhand: Vision 2025

16th – 18th March, 2023 Centre for Public Policy, Doon University, Dehradun organized international Conference on Industrial Road Map of Uttarakhand: Vision 2025. Inaugural session begins with the lighting of lamp by Chief Guest Dr. Onkar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, VMSB Uttarakhand Technical University, Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Doon University, Mr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS (Retd.) and other dignitaries. Chief Guest and other dignitaries released the Souvenir of the conference.



On 16th March researchers and scholars presented their papers on various topics i.e. Public Policy and Governance, The Power Scenario in the State: Present and Future, Lifestyle for Environment, Tourism and Hospitality Services etc. Dr. Shailesh Upreti, President, C4V, New York, USA

(online), Shri Ranjan Kumar Mohapatra, Director (HR), Indian Oil Corporation and Ms. Anita Chauhan, President ISTD, New Delhi were the Key Note Speakers for the Conference.

In this three day long conference prominent speakers were invited on the various themes related to the Vision 2025. On the session of Public Policy and Governance Dr. Sanjeev Chopra, IAS (Retd.), Dr. Manoj K. Pant, Additional Chief Executive officer CPP&GG, Shri Anil Bahuguna, IAS (Retd.) Secretary Himalayan Trust, Prof. Kashmir Singh, DPIIT-IPR Chair, Panjab University, Chandigarh & Dr. Rajendra P. Mangain, Professor & HOD Department of Economics, Doon University, Dehradun were the speakers. For the Valedictory session Prof. Durgesh Pant, Director General, UCOST was invited as Chief Guest. Dr. Rajendra Prasad Mangain, School of Social Sciences, Doon University gave Vote of Thanks.

Doon University receives a collection of Japanese Books

On 23rd March, 2023 Mr. Koji Yoshida Councillor (P. R and Culture), Embassy of Japan, New Delhi arrived at Doon University, Dehradun to hand over 77 books on Japanese culture, literature, history and other academic interests to Department of Japanese studies, School of Languages. The books are donated by the Tokyo Foundation for Policy Research under the 'READ JAPAN PROJECT'. On this occasion, a Books Handover Ceremony was organized by the Department of Japanese Studies (SoL), in the Central Library, Doon University, in the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Registrar Dr. M. S. Mandarwal, University Librarian Dr. Ashish Kumar along with the faculties of the Department of Japanese Studies, Dr. Ravi Kumar, Mr. Abhishek Thapliyal, Ms. Prachi Jain, Ms. Kanchan Kukreti. The Head of the Department, Ms. Deepika Bhatia welcomed all the guests and facilitated the Books Handover Ceremony.



Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Dangwal thanked the Embassy of Japan, New Delhi for this kind gesture and their continuous support in her speech. Dr. Ashish Kumar, University Librarian, accentuated the need of quality teaching material in foreign languages in the library and the difficulties in procuring books for foreign languages, especially, Japanese language. The donated books will not only benefit the students of the university, but also enhance the research quality and the collection of books available in the library. Mr. Koji Yoshida in his speech, emphasized on the cooperation between both countries in the light of bilateral relations between India and Japan. He also mentioned about the meeting held on last Monday between PM Kishida and PM Modi on long-lasting association between India and Japan on various dimensions. He also expressed his hope for more cooperation between India and Japan in the field of higher education and technological exchange in times to come.



After the ceremony, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Dangwal and Mr. Yoshida discussed about current and future prospects of exchanges between India and Japan over tea. Mr. Yoshida also shared a copy of Memorandum of Cooperation in the field of Japanese language education in India between the foreign ministries of India and Japan. After that Mr. Yoshida interacted with the students of the Department of Japanese studies and answered their queries on visiting Japan and various scholarships, which further motivated the students to study Japanese language.

Admission

On **24th March, 2023** Admission Committee meeting was held in Vice-Chancellor office. Meeting was chaired by Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Vice-Chancellor. In this meeting it was decided that the process of filling online application forms for admission to various course in session 2023-24 would commence from 20th April, 2023. It was decided that entrance examination would be held for two days in a row across the centres in the country due to increase in number of courses.

Entrance Examination is proposed to be held on 17th and 18th June, 2023. This was also discussed that new and innovative courses should be added to the basket of Ability Enhancement Courses and Value Added Courses. As proposed by Head of the Department of Computer Science, university is going to start B.Tech. programme in self-financing mode from this academic session, as state government has indicated that it is need of the hour for the fulfillment of market demand and better employability. Same as last year University has opted Samarth Portal for filling online application forms for admission.

Round Table Discussion on Women and Gender

On **24th March, 2023** to celebrate the month of March as the month for Women, in its 6th session, Elysian, The Literary Society of English Department collaborated with Economics Department at Doon University for a round table discussion on Women Empowerment. This joint event by the Economic Discussion Forum of the Department of Economics and Elysian Literary Society, was to talk about social construct and sensitisation of women empowerment while bringing in the economic aspect of their lives as well.

The Ph.D. Scholars of the English Department, namely, Miss Aporwa Siwali, Mr. Mehul Rawat and Mr. Ayush Kurian were the coordinators of the event, with Khushi Yadav as the host. There were various topics picked from the huge bundle of matters and the following were then served at the platter of discourse:

Encouraging Political and Executive Representation of Women with the speakers, Arunima Badoni, Aman Kumar and Manisha Dhyani; *Tackling Wage Gap* with Nandini Kalra and Manisha Dhyani; *Inclusion of Queer Women in The Society* by Aahana Shrivastav; *Depiction of Women in The Entertainment Industry* with Aman Kumar, Akansha Kohli, Nikita Negi, Sanyam Bisht and lastly *Changing The Conventional Ideas Of Feminine Identity* with Khushi Yadav, Shreya Bhatt and Nidhi Joshi as the panelist.

The themes varied in their viewpoints and perception over the depiction of women in entertainment industry, the participation of women as political and executive heads, and changing the conventional idea of feminine identity and so on.

A total of 11 students from various departments, participated as the speakers and the session remained thoroughly interactive with the audience readily putting forth their questions and interrogating the panelist with varied altered circumstances faced by women in numerous fronts.

The active participation of the members as well the audience along with the well researched presentations of the speakers left everyone with an enriching experience as well as a belief that discourse with the right minds brings out the right solutions.

Workshop on “Applied Environmental Statistics with “R”

On **25th March 2023** Atmosphere and Environment Modelling Lab (AEML) of School of Environment and Natural Resources (SENR) organized a one-day hands-on workshop on “Applied Environmental Statistics with “R” at Doon University. “R” is a very popular and robust programming language for statistical analysis. In addition to this, it is open source and free to use. With the modern abundance of datasets, it is important to derive meaningful information buried in these vast datasets. “R” is not only efficient in being able to perform statistical analysis but also very user friendly. It has become the need of the hour to be able to proficiently use this computer language for analysis of data in various fields.

Understanding this need, AEML under the guidance of Hon’ble Vice Chancellor Prof. Surekha Dangwal and Prof. Kusum Arunachalam conducted a one-day hands-on workshop data analysis using “R”. Dr. Ujjwal Kumar was the instructor and conducted the workshop. The workshop was attended by 71 participants from four institutes (Forest Research Institute of India, Indian Institute of Remote Sensing, Wildlife Institute of India and Doon University) along with seven members of the faculty.



The workshop was divided into four sessions. First sessions demonstrated the capabilities such as data visualization (boxplots, histograms, interactive maps etc.), statistical tests, linear and multiple regression, ANOVA (Analysis of variance), RSM (Response Surface Model), PCA (Principal Component Analysis), ANN (Artificial Neural Network). Second session dealt with the basics of “R” such as variables, constants, data types, functions, arguments, attributes, libraries and their usages. Third session dealt with performing hands-on analysis such as tests for hypothesis testing, correlation, regression, PCA, factor analysis, cluster analysis, time series modelling and forecasting on various datasets to derive meaningful information.

Fourth session introduced the participants to advanced topics of machine learning which included basics and advances of neural networks. The participants from various backgrounds found the workshop to be very informative and useful for their field of work. Requests were also made for

making it a regular exercise to explore the remaining topics and to get a better command over analysis using “R”. Even though with the minor hiccup of short power cut and lack of a sound amplification system, the workshop with a relatively large number of participants was well conducted and participants found it to be very useful and a fruitful investment of their time.

Seminar on North West & Central Himalayan Natural Disasters

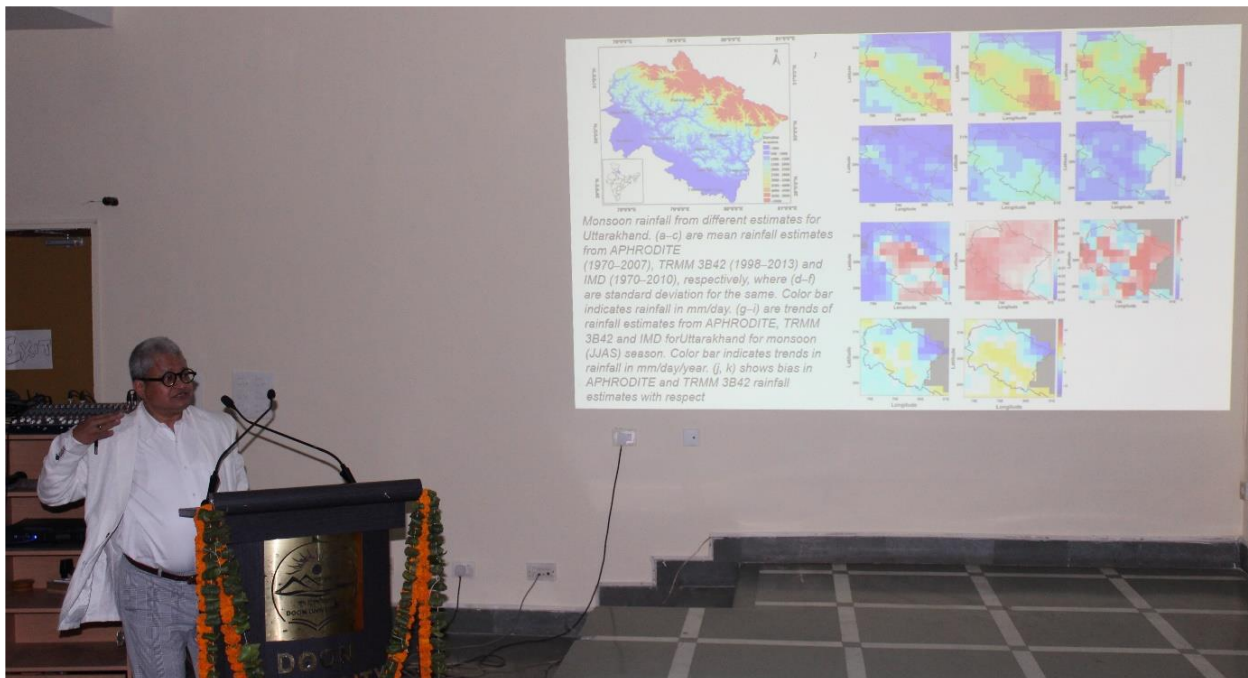
On 26th March, 2023 Department of Geology & Geography, Doon University, Dehradun with collaboration with Devbhoomi Vigyan Samiti, Uttarakhand organized one day Seminar on North West & Central Himalayan Natural Disasters to decide the further path of ongoing research in the field of potential disastrous processes, landslides and flood and their prominent causing factors; changing climate and seismicity. This Seminar was sponsored by UCOST, Dehradun.

More than 100 participants in offline mode and 50 participants in online mode registered for the event. Participants were from different Institutes/Universities of Uttarakhand, which are as follows; Doon University (Host institution), UPES, Hemwati Nandan Bahuguna (HNB) Garhwal University, Wadia Institute of Himalayan Geology, Indian Institute of Management (IIM) Kashipur, DAV PG College (Dehradun), DBS PG College (Dehradun) and Uttarakhand Disaster Mitigation and Management Centre.



The inaugural session involved following dignitaries; Hon. Education Minister, Uttarakhand: Dr. Dhan Singh Rawat, Hon'ble Higher Education Minister, Govt. of Uttarakhand, Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Doon University, Prof. K.D. Purohit, National Secretary, Vibha: Shri Praveen Ramdas, Member, UKPSC: Prof. J.M.S. Rana, Director, Indian Institute of Geomagnetism: Prof. A.P. Dimri, Senior Professor, HNB Garhwal University: Prof. Y.P. Sundriyal.

Key Note Speaker Prof. A.P. Dimri discussed about regional climate dynamics, climate modeling & statistical downscaling of numerical model outputs. He also explained the pattern of extreme events and their physical understanding in context of Uttarakhand. This offline & online session



was organized to decide the further path of ongoing research in the field of potential disastrous processes, landslides and flood and their prominent causing factors; changing climate and seismicity. By assimilating the views of speakers on these perspectives, we understand that future simulations of flood and associated hillslope erosion should take into account the spatial regimes of such paleo-flood events. Further, developmental projects like Highways and hydroelectric projects, aimed to enhance the economy, should consider such past events to infer spatial-temporal recurrence. Along with such past reconstructions, there is a dire need to understand the potential behaviours of river discharge and natural/artificial lake discharge in case of extreme rainfall and breach, respectively, that might change the fluvial landforms and affect/jeopardize ongoing socio-economic planning.

Apart from a climatic perspective, seismic force/earthquake was also discussed owing to the convergent setting of the Himalaya, which results in frequent earthquakes of various magnitudes. In comparison to climatic studies, studies evaluating the influence of earthquakes in fluvial/glacial terrains have been very few in Himalaya despite having a relatively more potential risk. Such studies have been common in other mountain systems like the Alps, Tian Shan, and the Carpathians. Hence, we should also stress on this aspect to better understand the potential socio-economic risks associated with seismic force in the Himalaya, particularly in Uttarakhand Himalaya that witnessed the Uttarkashi 1991 earthquake (killing >2000 people).

Such technical perspectives were accompanied by economical & psychological facts that have been rarely addressed in disaster prone area. A consensus was developed that economic evaluation

is one of the main tools that should be used by decision makers in the area of risks and disasters. Similarly, necessity of psychological research was realized to understand why during a disaster people can behave in ways that reduce, rather than increase, their survival chances. For example, in flood emergencies people can suffer cognitive failures and so make poor decisions, such as running in chaotic manner.

Padma Shri Prof. Harish Chandra Verma (popularly known as HCV), an experimental physicist, author and emeritus professor of the Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur delivered the valedictory speech. He stressed the need to upgrade the basic science research.

Memorandum of Understanding

[1] with Instituto de Quimica in National Autonomous University of Mexico (the biggest and the oldest University of Latin America) in the presence of Ambassador of India to Mexico



On 27th March 2023 (Monday), Doon University inked an MoU with the Instituto de Quimica in National Autonomous University of Mexico (UNAM). It is a significant development in context of the possibilities of expansion of the frontiers of knowledge through collaboration with the big and very reputed universities of foreign countries. The MoU would pave the way for exchange programs, joint conferences/seminars, international visits of students, faculty members and research scholars, collaborative research programs in the fields of material science, nanoscience, nanotechnology, organometallics, catalysis, nanocatalysis, clean energy, hydrogen generation, inorganic chemistry, organic synthetic chemistry and medicinal chemistry. In addition, it will also deepen the relations between the two universities in the realms of education and research, and encourage the international visits of the students and faculty members. UNAM has been consistently ranked as one of the best universities in Latin America. It was founded, in its modern form, on 22 September 1910. More than 80 thousand students are enrolled in this university from different parts of the world. It is more than twenty-five thousand professors. A

portion of UNAM's main campus in Mexico City, known as Ciudad Universitaria (University City), is a UNESCO World Heritage site that was designed by some of Mexico's best-known architects of the 20th century. All Mexican Nobel laureates are alumni or faculty of UNAM.

The MoU signing ceremony was held simultaneously at two places i.e., in Doon University and Technical Council Auditorium of the Scientific Research Coordination CIUDAD Universitaria, UNAM. Both the venues were connected through video conferencing.



Ambassador of India to Mexico Dr. Pankaj Sharma was present in the ceremony at Technical Council Auditorium of the Scientific Research Coordination CIUDAD Universitaria, UNAM along with other officers of Indian Foreign Services posted in Mexico Embassy. Dr. William Henry Lee Alardín (*Scientific Research Coordinator, UNAM*), Dr. Luis Demetrio Miranda Gutiérrez (*Director, Institute of Chemistry, UNAM*), and Dr. Pankaj Sharma (*Professor, Institute of Chemistry*) were also the part of the ceremony. Dr. Pankaj Sharma who is Ambassador of India to Mexico and also an alumnus of Indian Institute of Technology Delhi highlighted the benefits of the MoU in detail during the ceremony. According to him, the exchange programs of researcher with reputed universities are very important because such visits and collaborative associations minimize the redundancy in the research, and enable the researchers to avoid reinventing the wheels. The execution of this MoU in terms of the exchange of education and research may be instrumental in understanding and knowing social and cultural values of both the countries. Dr. William Henry Lee Alardín, who is the Scientific Research Coordinator in UNAM, mentioned that UNAM will also consider and explore the possibilities of collaborative research and academic activities in the fields of Humanities and Social Sciences.

[2] Memorandum of Understanding of Doon University with Indian Institute of Technology (I.I.T.) Roorkee

Doon University signed Memorandum of Understanding with I.I.T. Roorkee on **28th March 2023**. The ceremony took place in the Director's Office of I.I.T. Roorkee. This MoU will be beneficial for the collaborative research and development in the areas of chemical sciences, material science, syntheses of hydrocarbons, catalysis, organic syntheses, physics, management, economics, design, mathematics, biological science, computer science, and artificial intelligence, machine learning,



geology, environmental science, etc. It will also enable the researchers of both the institutions to put collaborative and joint efforts for preparing a road map and action plan for improvement in the rural economy of Uttarakhand, decrease in migration, and enhancement of reverse migration. It also has the provisions for collaborating on value-based education to achieve some of the objectives of National Education Policy-2020. Efforts will also be made jointly to work out the possibility of providing mentorship and strategic support to the schools of Uttarakhand. In addition, research projects of mutual interest, especially in technologies for rural development and organizing joint conferences and seminars focused on technology development for rural areas,



joint research work on Indian Knowledge System and women empowerment will also be carried out jointly by both the institutions. As I.I.T. Roorkee is only 60-70 kilometers far from Doon University, it will be easy for both the institutions to sponsor or support research/student projects and practical training of the students, joint guidance of students' dissertations, and utilization of scientific and technological infrastructure.

IIT Roorkee will also extend the support to Doon University through its incubation centre. Faculty members and the students of Doon University will explore the possibility of visits in their respective R&D facilities/Lab facilities in IIT Roorkee.

Drama Festival on World Theatre Day

The drama festival organized by the Department of Theater and folk Performing Arts, Doon University and Kalamanch was organized from **March 27 to 31, 2023**. In which various theater groups from Dehradun region presented their respective presentations. Despite extremely limited resources, the festival went on for five days in which a total of 7 different plays were shown. Inauguration of the first day of the ceremony Vice-Chancellor Madam Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Registrar Dr. Mangal Singh Mandrawal, Prof. H.C. Purohit, Dr. Chetna Pokhriyal, Dr. Jagruti Doval, Mr. Abhinanda ji and Mr. TK Agarwal ji inaugurated the theatrical ceremony by lighting the lamp.

On the first day, the drama 'Jaaneman' was performed by the alumni of the university. The second



performance was Nazir Kirtan presented by Khel Tamasha Delhi under the direction of Rajneesh Bisht. On the second day, Khidki was staged by Eklavya Natya Dal. Which was directed by Akhilesh Narayan. On the third day, a park drama was staged by the Aarambh Drama Team. Maav

Kaul's play was directed by Jyotish Ghildiyal. On the fourth day, Dhad Natya Mandal performed a proposal play written by Chekhov which was directed by Kailash Kandwal. On the last day of the function, the media and Khadu lapata play was staged by the theater department. Dr. Ajeet Pawar directed the drama Media, written by Europedes, while Lalit Mohan Thapliyal's comedy



drama Khadu Lapata was directed by Dr. Rakesh Bhatt. circumstances of the past are reflected in the story and it is a challenging task to bring them to the stage through drama. The purpose of staging the Natya Samaroh is that most of these plays are M.A. Theater is in the syllabus and during the discussion session in the class, the students mutually decided to produce and stage these play. For centuries, folk tales have shaped our culture. The situations and Midwife-Bhavna Negi, Teacher-Ripul Verma, Chorus-Shalini Rana, Akanksha Kohli, Vinita Ritunjay, Media-Gayatri Tamta, Gitanjali Poddar, Creon-Arun Thakur, Sainik-Ripul, Chandrabhan, Devyanshu, Siddhant in the role of the characters of the media drama, Lakshya Jain, Jason-Siddharth Dangwal, Ekgius-Chandrabhan Kumar, Messenger Siddhant Sharma Chudail - Shalini Rana, Akanksha Kohli, Vinita Rutunjay. While 'missing in Khadu' Hari Singh - Dr. Rakesh Bhatt, Vaidhraj – Shailendra Tiwari, Paramanand - Dr. Manvendra Bartwal, Tulsiram- Mohit Ghildiyal remained in their respective roles.

Painters from all over the city gathered on the last day of the festival. In which SP Mamgain, Jagruti Doval, Vijaya Jain, Kaushalya Agarwal, Shrish Doval, Poonam Naithani, Anita Nautiyal, Manjula Tiwari, etc. were prominent guests.

Donation for the Cause

On 31st March, 2023 Prof. Surekha Dangwal, Vice Chancellor, Doon University handed over a cheque of Rs. 1.91 lakhs to Chief Minister for the help of the disaster affected families of Joshimath. Dr. M.S. Mandrawal, Registrar was also present on the occasion.

