

## SOMNATH SWABHIMAN PARV – 1000 YEARS OF UNBROKEN FAITH AND COURAGE

Keshav Mahavidyalaya, University of Delhi, successfully organized the Somnath Swabhimaan Parv on 19<sup>th</sup> March 2026. The keynote address was delivered by Dr. Charu Kalra Ma'am, an accomplished academician, environmentalist, researcher, and a dedicated social worker. She holds a Ph.D. in Plant Biotechnology from the University of Delhi and is a recipient of the prestigious CSIR Junior and Senior Research Fellowships.



The event commenced with a Poster Making Competition held on the college premises at 10:00 AM, centered on the theme *Somnath Swabhiman Parv*. The speaker session began at 11:00 with a formal felicitation ceremony during which the Principal, Prof. Madhu Pruthi, presented angvastram and a sampling to Dr. Charu Kalra as a token of respect. This

was followed by the ceremonial lighting of the lamp by Prof. Madhu Pruthi (Principal), Prof. Arpana Sharma (Vice-Principal), Ms. Richa Gupta (Convenor) and Dr. Charu Kalra.

Subsequently, the Principal and Vice-Principal addressed the audience, sharing their insights and words of encouragement. A short documentary highlighting the historical, cultural, and heritage significance of the Somnath Temple was screened, setting the context for the keynote session.

In her address, Dr. Charu Kalra elaborated on the significance and underlying philosophy of *Somnath Swabhimaan Parv*. She explained



why the occasion is celebrated as a symbol of "Swabhimaan" (self-respect) and reflected on the rich yet turbulent history of the Somnath temple. She highlighted that despite repeated invasions and destruction, the temple stands as a powerful symbol of resilience, cultural continuity, and the enduring spirit of Indian civilization. Emphasizing that the true essence lies not merely in cycles of destruction and reconstruction but in the preservation of cultural values, she supported her narrative with historical insights and evidence, making the session both enlightening and thought-provoking. She concluded her address by extending her warm wishes for the Indian New Year and encouraging students towards growth and prosperity.



The session concluded with the prize distribution ceremony for the poster making competition. The winners were Riya Ghogale, B.Com(H) 2<sup>nd</sup> year (First Position), Tannu, B.A.(H) Psychology 2<sup>nd</sup> Year (Second Position) and Samar Yadav, BMS 1<sup>st</sup> year (Third Position). Additionally, an online quiz was conducted to enhance students' awareness of the Somnath temple. The programme ended with a formal vote of thanks delivered by Ms. Richa Gupta, expressing gratitude to the distinguished speaker, dignitaries, participants, and the audience.

The event was a resounding success, made possible through the collective efforts of the organising team and the unwavering support and guidance of the faculty members.