

Himachal Pradesh University
NAAC Accredited 'A' Grade University
Department of Political Science

Induction Programme Report 2025

1. Day 1 of the Induction Programme dated 28.07.2025:-

It was the first day of the Induction Program for newly admitted first-year Master's students in the Department of Political Science. The day was divided into two sessions: 11 a.m. to 1 p.m. and 2 p.m. to 4 p.m. The first session featured a talk with Prof. Mamta Mokta, Dean of Social Welfare and Chairperson of HPU's Department of Public Administration, as the keynote speaker. She began her presentation on a pleasant note, praising and welcoming the students at the University and the department. Because they were all new to the university, she gave them a brief overview of its history and culture, as well as how various departments operate within it.





She also advised students on the problems they would face and encouraged them to conquer them. Instead of using jargon, she attempted to help students comprehend the truth and practicality of university life in plain terms by sharing her personal experience. She emphasizes the significance of time management and stress management, and believes that in order to achieve anything in life, one must be healthy physically as well as mentally. Though she inspired students to work hard, she also encouraged them to enjoy their university experience and participate in extracurricular activities.

She also acknowledged that this new generation will confront more obstacles than the previous one, therefore they must exercise greater caution. She emphasized some of these problems, as well as how to overcome them. She closed her talk by stating that her ultimate goal is for each of them to leave this university with some social capital and as good human beings capable of contributing to society. She did not want them to go with just a piece of paper (a degree), but with much more, in order to bring honor to the university's name.

In session two, a visit to various academic blocks was organized and coordinated by Ph.D. research scholars. In this session, these new students explored several academic blocks of the university with the coordinating Research Scholars and engaged in casual discussions along the way. New students were excited to explore the campus and had a lot of questions. The program concluded with a visit to all of the university's academic blocks and a quick photo session.



News Papers' Cuttings

छात्रों ने किया एचपीयू भवनों का भ्रमण

शिमला। हिमाचल प्रदेश विश्वविद्यालय (एचपीयू) शिमला के राजनीतिक विज्ञान विभाग के प्रथम सेमेस्टर के विद्यार्थियों ने



सोमवार को विवि के अकादमिक भवनों का भ्रमण किया। एक हफ्ते तक चलने वाले इस इंडक्शन प्रोग्राम के प्रथम दिन पीएचडी शोधार्थियों मनजीत सिंह, नेक राम और कविता शर्मा ने समन्वयक के रूप में नए छात्रों को विवि के हर विभाग की जानकारी दी। इससे पूर्व सुबह के सेशन में विवि की अधिष्ठाता छात्र कल्याण प्रो. ममता मोक्टा ने प्रथम सेमेस्टर के छात्रों को विवि में एडमिशन लेने पर बधाई दी और जीवन का लक्ष्य निर्धारित कर उस पर चलने के लिए प्रेरित किया। संवाद



2. Day 2 of the Induction Programme dated 29.07.2025:-

Co-ordinators:

- Gian Bhagat Negi
 - Rakesh Kumar
 - Rampal
- (Ph.D. Research Scholars, Department of Political Science)

Overview of Day Two Activities:

1. Morning Session – Motivational Talk by Brigadier Sanjay Kannothe (VSM)

The second day of the Induction Programme began with a remarkable and thought-provoking session held at the Himachal Pradesh university auditorium. The keynote speaker for the day was **Brigadier Sanjay Kannothe (VSM)**, a decorated officer of the Indian Army. He delivered an insightful lecture on **Operation Sindoor**, an operation that showcased India's military preparedness and strategic prowess.

Brigadier Kannothe explained the planning, execution, and objectives of Operation Sindoor, highlighting the bravery, discipline, and dedication of Indian soldiers. The students listened with great interest and admiration, gaining a deeper appreciation of the armed forces and their contribution to national security. The session not only enhanced their understanding of India's defence framework but also instilled a sense of patriotism and civic responsibility.

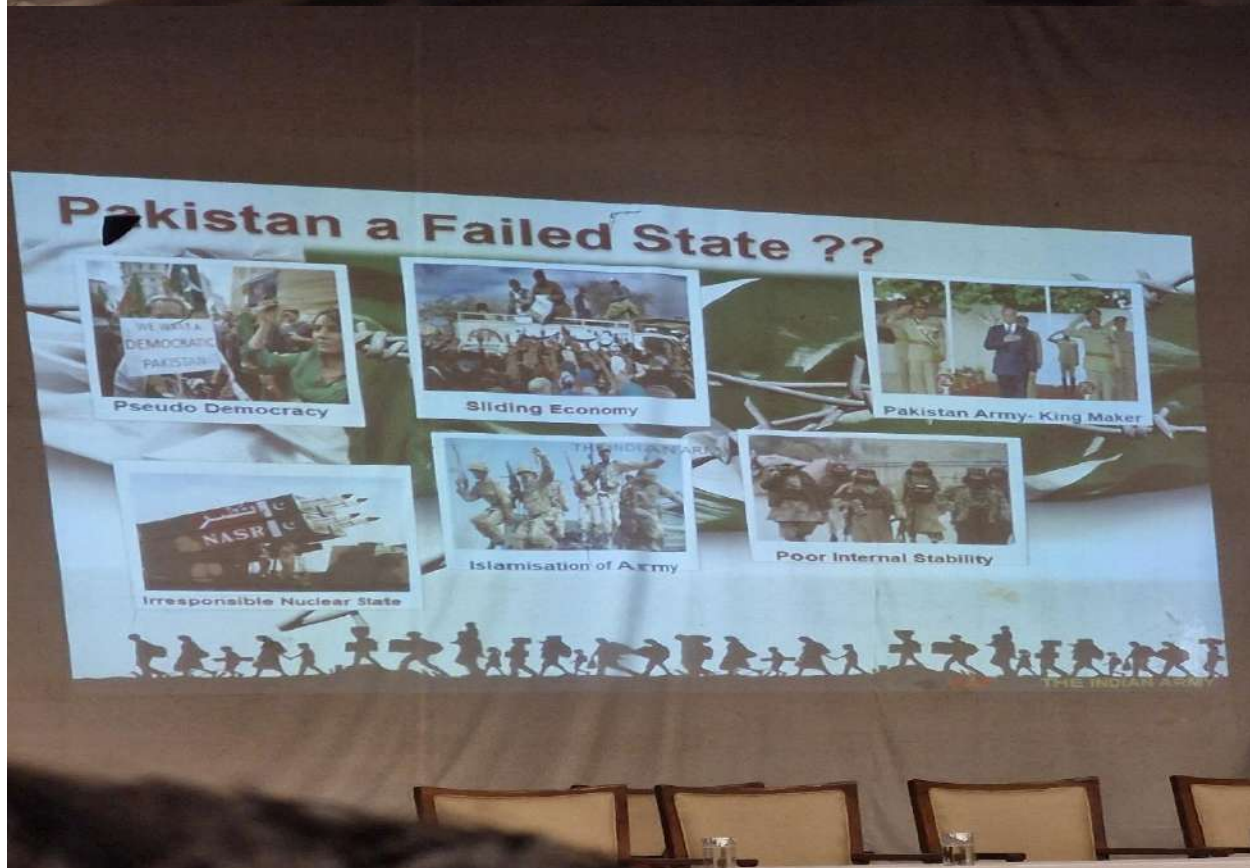






Shimla, Himachal Pradesh, India
Himachal Pradesh University, 446r+x46, Boileauganj To
Summer Hill, Summer Hill, Shimla, Himachal Pradesh
171005, India
Lat 31.112412° Long 77.14033°
29/07/2025 11:00 AM GMT +05:30





Post-Lunch Session – Visit to the Himachal Pradesh University Administrative Block

Following lunch, the students were taken on a guided educational visit to the **Administrative Block of Himachal Pradesh University**. This visit was designed to acquaint the new students with the core functioning of the university's academic and administrative systems.

During the visit, officials explained various essential processes such as:

- Result declaration mechanisms,
- Academic record maintenance,
- MA admissions and scholarship procedures,
- Issuance of certificates and mark sheets,
- Overall student-related services.

This hands-on exposure helped the students understand the back-end operations that support their academic journey. The visit clarified the procedures students may need to follow during their time at the university, and it encouraged them to take a responsible and informed approach to their academic life





3. Reflection and Conclusion of the Day

The day concluded with a reflective discussion where students shared their experiences and learnings. Many expressed how they were inspired by the military session and impressed by the professional workings of the university's administrative team. Students acknowledged that they learned much more than they had expected-from national defence strategies to the organizational backbone of the university. It was not just an orientation but a meaningful exposure to real-world functioning and discipline.

Conclusion:

The second day of the Induction Programme was a successful and enriching experience for the M.A. Political Science students. The synergy of national pride, academic exposure, and institutional awareness made the day impactful and insightful. The Department extends its gratitude to **Brigadier Sanjay Kannoth** for his valuable time and inspirational words. Special thanks also go to the university administration for facilitating the visit to the Administrative Block. The commendable efforts of the programme co-ordinators - **Gian Bhagat Negi, Rakesh Kumar, and Rampal (Ph.D. Scholars)**- ensured that the day ran smoothly and purposefully, making it a memorable and meaningful chapter in the induction journey.

3. Day 3 of Induction Programme dated 30.07.2025:-

The third day of the Induction Programme 2025 for the Department of Political Science was both informative and engaging. The day began with a **welcoming lecture by Dr. Harish K. Thakur**, Professor of Political Science at HPU. In his address, Dr. Thakur warmly welcomed the new batch of MA students and spoke about the academic journey ahead.



The main part of the day began with a special lecture by **Dr. S.N. Ghosh**, Professor at the Department of Psychology. He spoke on a very relevant topic: **“The Importance of Anger Management.”** The special lecture was conducted under the coordination of **Dr. Ashok**, Professor in the Department of Defence Studies at HPU.



Dr. Ghosh explained how managing anger is essential for personal growth and maintaining healthy relationships. He referred to recent **Harvard research**, which shows how unaddressed anger can negatively affect mental and physical health. He also brought in ideas from the Japanese concept of **Ikigai**, which focuses on finding purpose in life, helping people stay calm and balanced. Moreover, he spoke about the role of the **hormone oxytocin**, often called the “love hormone,” in reducing stress and improving social bonding.



After the lecture, the programme continued with a library visit for all the first semester students, were taken to the library by the coordinators Ashmita and Rajani. During the visit, students were introduced to different sections of the library including the cold section, journal section, text section, and the Himalayas section.





The library staffs were very friendly and supportive throughout the visit, making the students feel comfortable and welcomed.



Overall, Day 3 of the Induction Programme was a great mix of learning and exploration, helping students connect with both academic and practical resources.

4. Day 4 of Induction Programme dated 31.07.2025:-

The Department of Political Science organized an induction programme 4th day to welcome new students and introduce them to key academic and societal themes. The event commenced with a warm welcome address by Dr. Vikas Singh, who greeted everyone on behalf of the department and set a positive tone for the session.



The chief exponent of the day was Dr. B. R. Thakur, Associate Professor in the Department of Geography.



Dr. Thakur delivered a comprehensive lecture on "Sustainable Development." Focusing on sustainable development, Dr. Thakur referenced global efforts starting with conference culminating in the influential Brundtland Report, "Our Common Future," in 1987. This report defined sustainable development and set the stage for further international action. He explained that, following this, the United Nations introduced the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs), which aimed to achieve specific global development targets by 2015. India, as a committed participant, made notable progress in areas such as poverty reduction and education, though some challenges remained. Building on the MDGs, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for 2030 were launched, with India adopting these as part of its national agenda, focusing on inclusive growth, environmental sustainability, and social equity through various government initiatives.

Lecture covered several important themes that provided students with a broad perspective on human and societal progress. He began by tracing the development of human beings from the earliest hominids to modern Homo sapiens sapiens, highlighting the various stages of evolution and growth. He emphasized how the transfer of technology across generations has played a crucial role in shaping societies and driving advancement. Education, according to Dr. Thakur, has been pivotal in preparing societies to meet new challenges, fostering innovation, and supporting sustainable progress.



Interaction with University Officials

After the lecture, all the students from the Department of Political Science had the opportunity to visit and interact with key university officials:

- **Dean of Studies:** The Dean of Studies welcomed the students, provided an overview of the academic structure, and encouraged them to pursue excellence in their studies.



- **Dean of Students' Welfare (DSW):** The DSW spoke about the various welfare schemes like scholarship and support services available to students, highlighting the importance of holistic development and student well-being.
- **Chief Warden:** The Chief Warden addressed the students regarding hostel facilities, campus safety, and the rules and regulations for residential students.



These interactions provided students with valuable information about academic, welfare, and residential aspects of university life, helping them feel more comfortable and supported as they begin their academic journey.



5. Day 5 of Induction Programme dated 01.08.2025:-

Introduction

On 1st August 2025, which is the fifth day of induction lecture program, the Department of Political Science (Himachal Pradesh University) organized an extension lecture on “Language, Communication and Personality,” delivered by Professor Neelima Kanwar. The lecture was followed by an interaction session aimed at fostering a sense of community among the newly admitted first-semester students, third-semester master’s students, and Ph.D. scholars. This report provides a detailed account of the lecture and the subsequent interaction session.



Figure 1.1: Dr. Abha Khimta, Chairperson of the Department, Addressing the New

Motivational Lecture by Professor Neelima Kanwar

The day commenced with a profoundly motivational and intellectually stimulating session delivered by **Professor Neelima Kanwar**, Dean, Faculty of Languages and Professor, Department of English. Held from **11:00 AM to 1:00 PM**, her address captivated the audience, blending literary wisdom with practical insights on academic life and personal growth.

In a powerful and reflective session, **Professor Neelima Kanwar**, Dean, Faculty of Languages, addressed the newly admitted students on the theme of **“Language, Communication, and Personality.”** Her talk was not only motivational but also deeply philosophical, urging students to introspect on how language shapes their identity and social engagement.

Professor Kanwar began by defining language as “both a mode of communication and a means of self-expression”, stressing its foundational role in intellectual life. She emphasized that a university is not merely a place for acquiring degrees but a space meant for “questioning, interrogating, and thinking critically”. In this regard, students must develop the confidence to rely on their own judgment and actively interrogate both their lived experiences and the texts they engage with.

She further highlighted that language is a social construct, and no language is inherently superior or inferior. Rather, each language carries the weight of its cultural, regional, and historical context. She noted that the language a person uses often reflects not only the region they belong to but also the cultural class they represent—a class defined not by economic standing, but by sensitivity, refinement, and awareness.

Importantly, she stressed the importance of linguistic etiquette, especially in how one communicates with children, women, and the elderly. The way one speaks, she argued, reflects the values of one's family and educational institutions. This, in turn, becomes a mirror of one's upbringing and intellectual maturity.

Professor Kanwar also advocated for cultivating reading habits, encouraging students to read at least one paragraph every day—not just textbooks but also quality literature and daily newspapers, which are especially vital for students of Political Science. In her words, **“Your language has the power to make you or break you.”**

In an enriching academic touch, she referred to postmodern thinkers like Jacques Derrida and Jean-Francois Lyotard, who challenged the idea of fixed meanings in language and emphasized the fluidity and constructed nature of communication. She also spoke briefly about artificial languages, like *Calange*, as examples of how language systems can be manufactured and manipulated.

Concluding her session with an informal and empathetic tone, Professor Kanwar invited students to share their own life experiences, turning the lecture into an interactive dialogue. She urged them to maintain a formal yet assertive demeanor, underscoring that confidence and humility should go hand in hand in academic spaces. Professor Kanwar encouraged the incoming batch to embrace interdisciplinary learning, maintain academic integrity, and pursue excellence with empathy and purpose. Her lecture left a lasting impact on the students, setting a reflective tone for the rest of the day.



Figure 1.2: Dr. Abha Khimta Introducing the Speaker of the Day, Prof. Neelima Kanwar, to the students

Lunch Break

Following the session, a lunch break was observed from **1:00 PM to 2:00 PM**, giving students and faculty a chance to refresh and informally interact.

Interactive Session with Senior Students and Research Scholars: Building Bonds Across Batches

The post-lunch session from **2:00 PM to 4:00 PM** was dedicated to building connections and familiarizing the newcomers with departmental culture. An interactive session was conducted where senior students and PhD research scholars shared their experiences, discussed academic expectations, and responded to queries from the new entrants. This session was co-ordinated by **PhD Research Scholars Rajat Kumar, Rohit Kumar, and Ayush Ranta**, who ensured a warm and engaging environment.

The post-lunch session on **Day 5** was devoted to fostering connections between the new entrants and the senior academic community of the department. The session began with a warm **welcome address by PhD Research Scholar Rajat Kumar**, who briefly outlined the purpose and structure of the interaction. He emphasized the importance of peer engagement in creating an inclusive academic environment and encouraged open communication between the batches.

The interaction then moved into introductions, beginning with the **freshly admitted students**. It was heartening to observe that the new batch represented a diverse cross-section of the state, with students hailing from various districts. Their confidence, curiosity, and readiness to participate stood out—reflecting the evolving spirit of today's youth. Many of them spoke eloquently about their aspirations and expectations from the department, setting a positive tone for their academic journey ahead.

Following this, students from the **MA third semester** introduced themselves and shared insights drawn from their one-year experience in the department. They spoke about the academic culture, support

from faculty, and the importance of staying engaged in both curricular and co-curricular activities. Their reflections offered practical advice and encouragement to the newcomers.

The session concluded with the **introduction of the PhD research scholars**, who not only shared their academic backgrounds but also reassured the freshers of their support throughout their time in the department. They extended a heartfelt welcome and offered guidance, mentorship, and assistance whenever needed—highlighting the department's strong sense of community and collegiality.

This interaction created an atmosphere of comfort, encouragement, and shared purpose, reinforcing the department's commitment to holistic academic growth and mutual respect among students at all levels.



Figure 1.3: Research Scholar Rajat Kumar Initiating the Interaction Session Between First- Semester Students, Third-Semester Students, and Research Scholars

Conclusion:

Day 5 of the induction programme was a blend of motivational insights and meaningful peer interaction. The students left the day enriched, motivated, and more connected to the academic community they are now a part of.

Day 6 of Induction Programme dated 02.08.2025:-

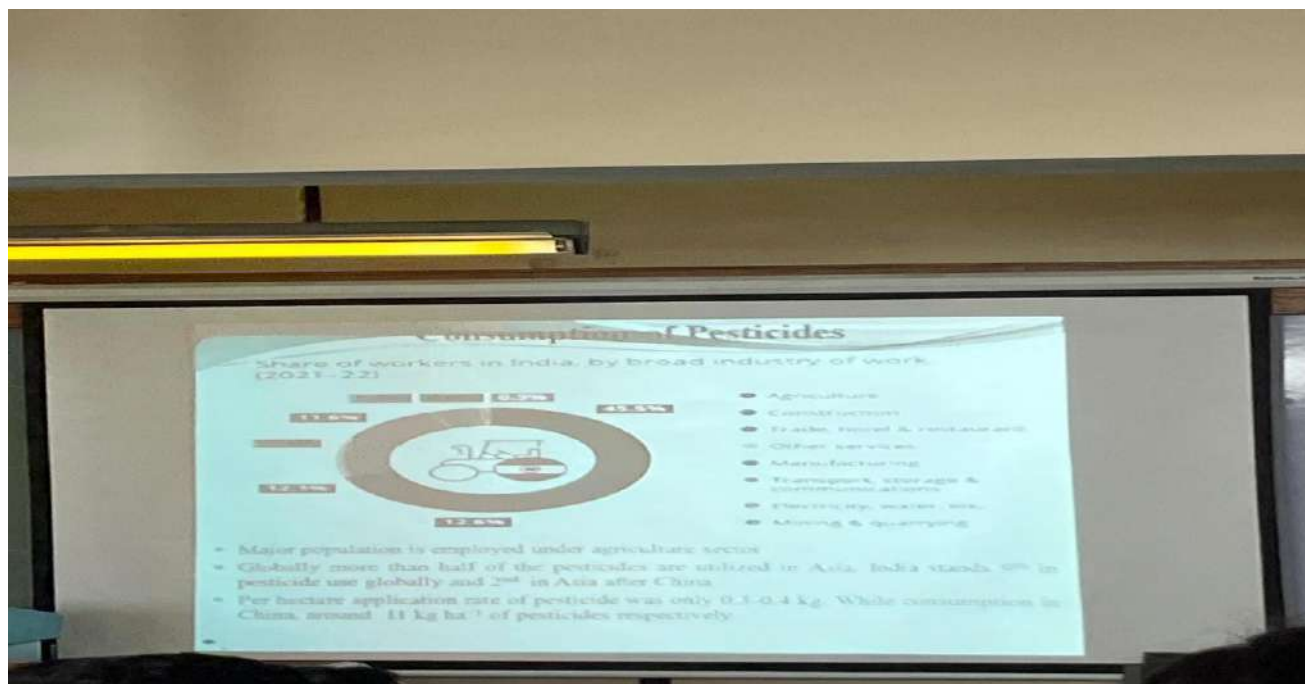
On the sixth day of the induction programme, the Department of Political Science hosted a special session to warmly welcome the newly admitted students and to acquaint them with important academic concepts and broader societal issues. The session commenced with a warm welcome extended by **Dr. Vikas Singh**, who greeted and welcomed everyone for their final session of the program. He also welcomed **Dr. Nisha Sharma**, Associate Professor, Department of Chemistry, HPU, and acknowledged her interdisciplinary contribution to the theme of the day.



In this session, Dr. Sharma delivered an insightful lecture titled **“Pesticides: Our Friend or Enemy – Political Science and Chemical Science to Decide the Goal of Chemical Science.”** Her lecture offered a unique interdisciplinary approach that connected environmental concerns with political responsibility.



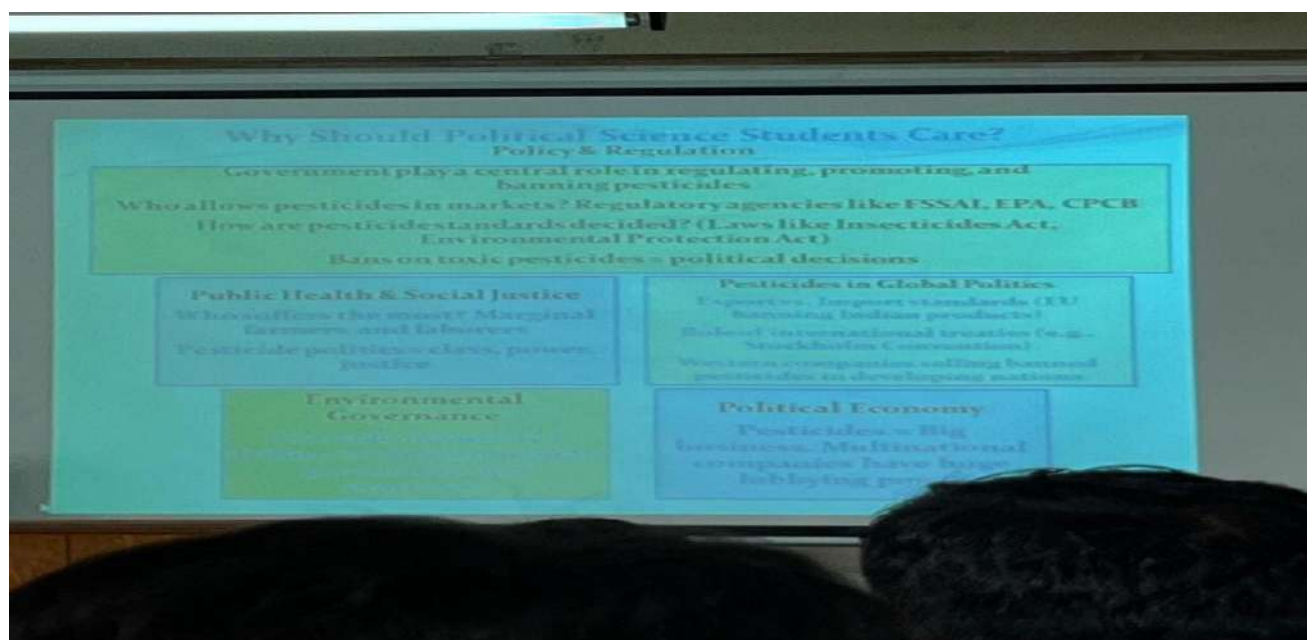
She began by explaining the concept and definition of pesticides, followed by a discussion on the **Insecticides Act of 1968** and the history of pesticide usage in India.



She elaborated on both **agricultural and non-agricultural uses**, modes of pesticide application, and presented **comparative data** on global consumption with a specific focus on India's standing and state-wise distribution patterns. Through detailed statistics, she highlighted how India's agricultural demands necessitate high pesticide usage due to its large population.

Dr. Sharma also discussed the **negative consequences**, focusing on **human health impacts**, **environmental degradation**, and **soil contamination**. She discussed innovative approaches like **Biochar**, which can absorb pesticides and prevent soil infiltration, offering a **bio-sustainable solution**.

Importantly, she brought in the **political dimension**, explaining how **policy-making**, **environmental regulation**, and **political will** are essential in ensuring responsible pesticide use.



She emphasized that political science must collaborate with chemical science to achieve a balance between agricultural productivity and environmental sustainability. She concluded with compelling **case studies** and **practical suggestions** to encourage a shift toward **organic and bio-based alternatives**, and **the right political action** to regulate and use pesticides.

Following the lecture, an engaging **question-and-answer session** allowed students to interact with Dr. Sharma, clarifying doubts and deepening their understanding of the theme.

CLOSING CEREMONY AND FEEDBACK

The **second part of the session** was dedicated to collecting **feedback and suggestions** from First-Semester students regarding their overall experience with the Induction Programme. Students appreciated the diverse and multidisciplinary approach of the sessions and expressed enthusiasm for their academic journey ahead.

The day concluded with **closing remarks** from Dr. Vikas Singh, who appreciated the active participation of the students and encouraged them to remain inquisitive and committed to their academic growth.