One Day Industry-Academia Meet Report

Date: March 28, 2024

Theme: One Day Industry-Academia Meet

Organisers: Institute of Vocational Studies (IVS), Himachal Pradesh University (HPU), Shimla.

The Institute of Vocational Studies (IVS) hosted a one-day Industry-Academia Meet on March 28, 2024, which commenced at 10:00 am and lasted around 04:00 pm. The event was marked by the felicitation of esteemed guests by the faculty and the director of IVS. Notably, Prof Mamta Mokta (Dean Student Welfare) and Prof. S.S. Narta (Dean of College -cum- Director College Development Council) received honours from the director, while Mr. Mohit Sood, a prominent figure in Himachal's mountain biking scene, was felicitated by senior professor Dr.

C.M. Parsheera.

Following the felicitations, the ceremonial lighting of the lamp and recitation of prayers set to the Kulgeet of

Himachal Pradesh University (HPU) took place, signifying the formal commencement of the event.

Inaugural Speeches:

• Prof. Dr Sushma Rewal Chugh (Director, IVS): Extended a warm welcome to all chief guests, visiting

students from RKMV and Sanjauli College, and IVS students. She highlighted the session on "Tourism & Employability," emphasizing the value of alumni guest speakers in bridging the gap between industry

and academia.

• Dr. Vineet Kamal (Event Convener and Assistant Professor, IVS): Welcomed attendees and provided

an overview of the event's structure and the agenda for the technical sessions.

Session One: "Tourism & Employability"

• Mr. Mohit Sood (Owner, Himalayan Expeditions Company): An IVS alumnus, Mr. Sood shared his

journey of starting a mountain biking business in Himachal Pradesh. He highlighted that 5% of global

tourism revenue is generated from cycling tours. With the successful organization of the MTB

Himalayas event, and he hosted guests from 28 countries, he aims to establish Himachal as a premier

mountain biking destination. He stressed the importance of infrastructure development to achieve this

vision.

Prof. Mamta Mukta (Student Welfare, HPU): Prof. Mukta emphasized the significance of tourism for

sustainability and praised the natural beauty and potential of Himachal as a tourist destination. She

commended the synergy within IVS and expressed positivity about the alumni's involvement.

Prof. Dr Chander Mohan Parsheera (Senior Professor, IVS): Prof. Parsheera first shared his passion for

cycling and his experiences at SITA Adventure. Secondly, discussing student placements, he reflected

on the evolution of job opportunities, noting the abundance of prospects available today compared to the past.

• **Prof. Dr. Sonia Khan (Senior Professor, IVS):** Prof. Khan delivered a vote of thanks and later discussed the skills emphasized in IVS's tourism courses. She invited delegates to offer suggestions on skills in their subsequent speeches.

Session Two: "Technology and Skills"

- **Vijay Naudiyal:** Spoke about the "Role of Technology in Tourism," highlighting the increasing importance of data science, SEO, and advertising skills within the industry.
- **Navneet Kaushal:** Addressed "Understanding the Basics of Online Travel," discussing various emerging trends in the tourism industry, particularly in online travel.
- **Katyani Sharma:** Focused on "Skills in Tourism," providing insights into the competencies required in the current tourism landscape.

Session Three: "Career Opportunities in Tourism"

- **Harish Sharma:** Discussed the job prospects within the tourism sector, highlighting the hospitality industry's scope and the importance of discipline in work.
- **Deepak Kanwar:** Spoke on job prospects in tourism, providing insights into the industry's employment landscape.
- Dr. Nikhil Sarta: Addressed research and academic opportunities, emphasizing the prerequisite of
 employability before entrepreneurship with the adage, "Before becoming an employer you should be
 employable first."
- Ankush Mandyal: Focused on international placement opportunities, shedding light on the global job market for tourism professionals.
- **Vedant Dwivedi:** Explored freelancing opportunities in tourism, discussing the growing trend of independent work in the industry.
- Mohit Thakur: Talked about the business side of tourism, sharing knowledge on starting and managing tourism enterprises.

Questions and Answers Session:

The session featured an interactive Q&A, where students inquired about various industry-related topics, such as SEO skills and job opportunities, reflecting their eagerness to understand the practical aspects of their field.

Certificate Distribution:

The event concluded with a certificate distribution ceremony, where all participants were acknowledged for their involvement in the Industry-Academia Meet.

This report encapsulates the comprehensive discussions and activities that took place during the One Day Industry-Academia Meet organized by the Institute of Vocational Studies. It reflects the collaborative efforts of academia and industry experts in guiding the future professionals of the tourism sector.























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