

Report on Two-Day Workshop on Communication Skills and Mock Interviews

Under the MERU Component of PM-USHA

Organized by the Institute of Vocational Studies (Tourism), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla

Date: November 11–12, 2025

**Chief Guest: Prof. Mahavir Singh
(Hon'ble Vice Chancellor – H.P.U.)**

Introduction

The Institute of Vocational Studies (Tourism), Himachal Pradesh University, Shimla successfully organized a Two-Day Workshop on “Communication Skills and Mock Interviews” under the MERU Component of PM-USHA on November 11–12, 2025.

The workshop was designed to enhance students’ employability, communication abilities, confidence, and professional competence, equipping them with essential skills required to excel in the competitive job market.

The event witnessed enthusiastic participation from students, research scholars, and faculty members of the Institute. The workshop comprised four sessions over two days, featuring eminent academicians, professional experts, and industry speakers.



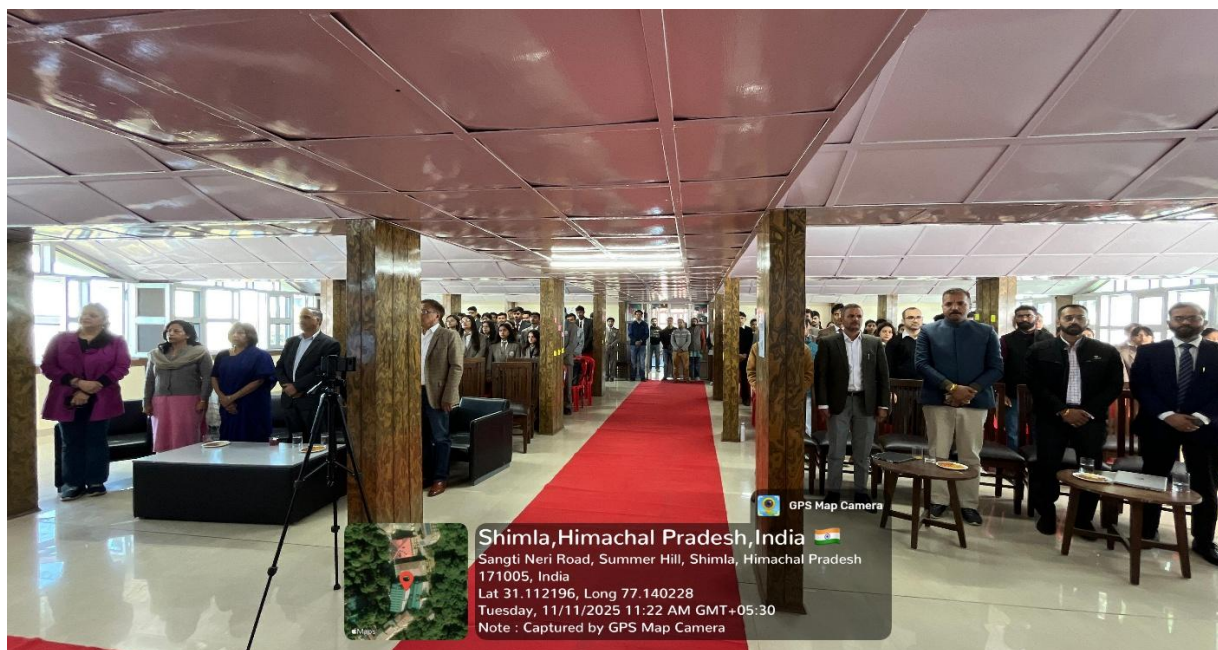
Objectives of the Workshop

- To enhance students’ communication and interpersonal skills.
- To develop professional competence and confidence during interviews.
- To provide hands-on experience through mock interview sessions.
- To create awareness about the importance of body language, articulation, and resume presentation.
- To prepare students for real-world employment opportunities.

Day 1: Inaugural Ceremony and Expert Sessions

Session 1: Inaugural Ceremony and Expert Talks

The workshop commenced with the traditional lamp-lighting ceremony, followed by the singing of the HPU Kulgeet (University Anthem), setting a positive and respectful tone for the event.



Mr. Vishal Mehra extended a warm welcome and introduced the distinguished guests.

Prof. Sonia Khan, Director of the Institute of Vocational Studies, extended a heartfelt welcome to the Chief Guest – Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Mahavir Singh, and Special Guests – Prof. Joginder Singh Dhiman (Dean, Planning & Teachers' Matters) and Prof. Shashikant Sharma (Department of Journalism and Mass Communication). She expressed sincere gratitude for their guidance and encouragement.

Prof. Nitin Vyas (Placement In-Charge – IVS) addressed the gathering, motivating students to focus on career development and continuous skill

enhancement. He emphasized the importance of self-belief and preparedness to



meet industry standards.

After this, the Chief Guest and the Special guests of the workshop addressed the gathering. They Motivated the students and made them aware about the role of good communication in the modern tourism industry.



The inaugural session featured insightful addresses by eminent resource persons, including:

- Prof. Shashikant Sharma (Department of Journalism and Mass Communication).
- Dr. Praveen Kumar – Assistant Professor, HPNLU

- Dr. Ajay Kumar – Department of Journalism and Mass Communication
- Dr. Hitesh Bhardwaj – Digital Media Consultant
- Mr. Bhushan Rohta – UPSC Faculty, Abhimanyu IAS



Prof. Shashikant Sharma guided students on building confidence during interviews, while Dr. Praveen Kumar conducted an informative session on CV and resume preparation, offering practical tips for impactful self-presentation.

Mr. Bhushan Rohta discussed the importance of communication and body language in professional success, sharing motivational insights from real-life examples.

Dr. Hitesh Bhardwaj delivered an engaging talk on communication skills, IELTS/TOEFL preparation, and introduced the concept of Neuro-Linguistic Programming (NLP). He demonstrated techniques such as “anchors” and “triggers” to help overcome public-speaking anxiety and build self-assurance.

The session concluded with a Vote of Thanks by Dr. Vineet Kamal, Convener of the Workshop, who expressed appreciation to the dignitaries, speakers, faculty, staff, and students for their active involvement and enthusiasm.

Session 2: Mock Interviews of Research Scholars

The second session of the day focused on Mock Interviews for Research Scholars of IVS, conducted by an expert panel comprising:

Prof. Sonia Khan, Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Vineet Kamal, Dr. Hitesh Bhardwaj, and Mr. Bhushan Rohta.



The experts provided constructive feedback on communication style, clarity of thoughts, and presentation skills. Scholars were encouraged to focus on professional grooming and articulation.

Day 2: Practical Insights and Skill-Based Sessions

Sessions 3 & 4: Interactive Mock Interviews and Feedback



The second day centered on practical exposure and skill-based learning through mock interviews for MTTM students.

The sessions were conducted by Dr. Praveen Kumar, Dr. Ajay Kumar, Dr. Vineet Kamal, Dr. Hitesh Bhardwaj, and Mr. Bhushan Rohta.

Each student was evaluated on parameters such as resume presentation, body language, grammar, clarity of expression, and confidence level.

The evaluators provided personalized feedback, helping students identify their strengths and areas for improvement.

Participants actively implemented the techniques learned on the first day, showcasing noticeable improvements in articulation, confidence, and overall presentation.



At the end of the sessions, Merit Certificates were awarded to outstanding performers in mock interviews for their commendable confidence and communication excellence.

Outcomes of the Workshop

The workshop successfully achieved its objectives by:

- Strengthening students' communication and interview-handling skills.
- Enhancing self-confidence and professional demeanor.
- Providing hands-on experience through real-time mock interviews.
- Encouraging teamwork, motivation, and personal development.
- Creating awareness about the significance of personality projection and career readiness.

Conclusion

The Two-Day Workshop on Communication Skills and Mock Interviews proved to be a highly beneficial and enriching learning experience for the students of IVS (Tourism), Himachal Pradesh University.

Through expert-led sessions, interactive discussions, and practical mock interviews, the workshop empowered participants with essential employability and communication skills, preparing them for future professional challenges.