

## Voting Awareness

On 13<sup>th</sup> September 2024, Baba Mastnath University (BMU) hosted a Voting Awareness Program, organized by the National Service Scheme (N.S.S.) Unit under the Faculty of Humanities. The event aimed to increase awareness about the significance of voting in a democracy and to encourage eligible voters to actively participate in the electoral process. The program was graced by Dr. Pardeep Sharma, Assistant Professor at BMU, who shared his insights on the importance of voting, the rights and responsibilities of citizens, and the role of young people in shaping the future of the nation.

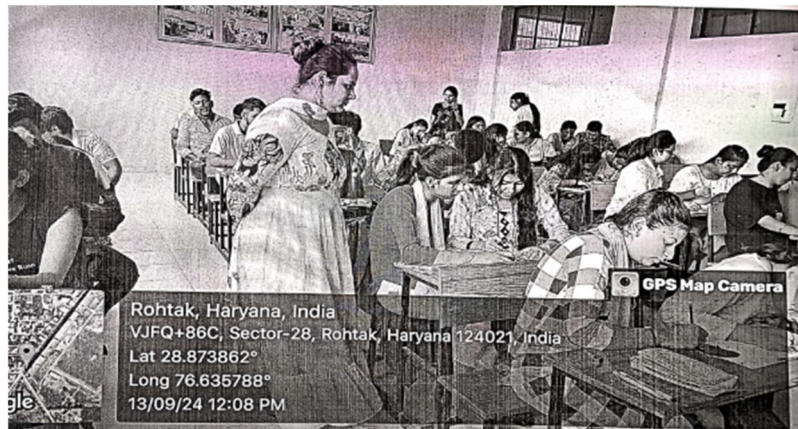


The event commenced with an opening address by Dr. Manjeet Kumar, the convener of the event, who emphasized the importance of voting as a fundamental right and civic duty. Dr. Suman Rathi, the co-convener, also spoke about the crucial role that informed voting plays in ensuring a fair and representative government.

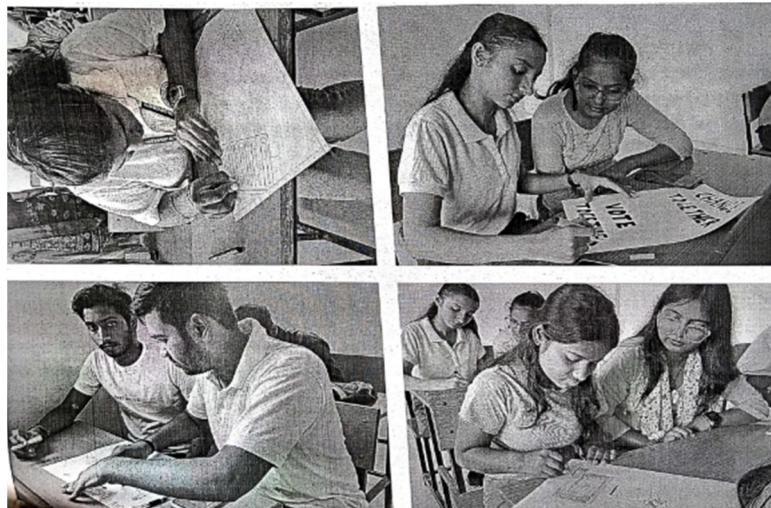
The guest speaker, Dr. Pardeep Sharma, delivered a detailed session on the history of voting rights, the process of casting a vote, and the impact that elections have on national and local governance. He encouraged students to understand the political landscape, stay informed about candidates and policies, and actively participate in elections to create a positive impact on society. The session included an interactive Q&A segment, allowing participants to voice their concerns and seek guidance on electoral issues.

In the context of society, this Voting Awareness Program is of paramount importance, as it aims to instill a sense of civic responsibility in the younger generation. With an increasing number of eligible young voters, programs like these empower students to make informed decisions that influence the political landscape. By engaging in the electoral process,

individuals contribute to the democratic values of fairness, equality, and representation, ensuring that their voices are heard in shaping the future of the country.



This event also aligns with the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), specifically SDG 16: Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions. Promoting active participation in democratic processes supports the creation of strong and inclusive institutions that uphold justice and promote peace. Additionally, it resonates with SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities, as voting is a powerful tool for marginalized communities to have their voices heard, thus contributing to more equitable and representative governance.



The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of 64 students, who were actively engaged in the discussions and shared their views on the importance of voting. The program provided an opportunity for participants to understand the significance of their role in the democratic process and how their vote can influence decisions at various levels of governance.

The session not only increased awareness but also inspired students to register as voters and take an active role in the upcoming elections. By providing valuable insights into the voting

process, the event helped dispel myths about the electoral system and emphasized the need for an informed and responsible electorate.

The Voting Awareness Program at Baba Mastnath University was an essential initiative to promote democratic participation among the student community. By educating students about their voting rights and responsibilities, the event contributed to the development of an informed and engaged citizenry.

Through such initiatives, BMU continues to foster a sense of social responsibility, encouraging students to participate actively in the democratic process. The event underscored the university's commitment to promoting civic education and contributing to the achievement of global goals, particularly SDG 16 (Peace, Justice, and Strong Institutions) and SDG 10 (Reduced Inequalities), by empowering students to be part of a more just and inclusive society.