



DEPARTMENT OF POLITICAL SCIENCE
Centre of Excellence, Government Degree College, Sanjauli, Shimla

REPORT ON EDUCATIONAL VISIT TO THE HIMACHAL PRADESH VIDHAN SABHA

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Date of Visit: 31 August 2026



① Introduction

The Department of Political Science, Centre of Excellence, Government Degree College, Sanjauli, Shimla, organised an educational visit to the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on 31 August 2026. A total of 44 students were accompanied by Mrs. Namita C. Khagta and Dr. Poonam Chandel to observe the functioning of the State Legislature at first hand.



Students with the accompanying faculty outside the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shimla.

② Interaction with the Hon'ble Speaker

A highlight of the visit was the students' interaction with the Hon'ble Speaker of the Himachal Pradesh Legislative Assembly, Shri Kuldeep Singh Pathania, who received the group personally outside the Assembly building. He spoke about the importance of the Vidhan Sabha as an institution and encouraged the students to take a genuine interest in the working of the legislature, describing such visits as a valuable bridge between academic study and public life. The interaction gave students a rare opportunity to engage directly with the Presiding Officer of the House, understand his role in conducting proceedings, and appreciate the responsibilities that come with maintaining order and decorum during sittings of the Assembly. For many students, this personal exchange was among the most memorable parts of the visit, adding a human dimension to concepts of legislative leadership that are usually encountered only in textbooks.



Students interacting with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Kuldeep Singh Pathania.

③ Observation of Legislative Proceedings

The students witnessed a sitting of the Assembly, observing the mechanisms of Question Hour, Zero Hour and Call Attention Motions, through which Members raise questions, bring matters of public importance before the government and seek clarification or action. The proceedings also illustrated the complementary roles of government and opposition, and the procedure and decorum that guide a functioning legislature.

④ Question Hour

Question Hour is the first hour of a legislative sitting, during which Members of the Legislative Assembly pose questions to ministers on matters of public administration, seeking specific information and accountability from the government of the day. During the session observed by the students, discussion centred on the death of Late Smt. Manju Sharma following childbirth, an issue raised by the Leader of the Opposition, who sought clarity on the circumstances surrounding the incident and the responsibility of the concerned authorities. In response, the government informed the House that the matter was already under scrutiny and that appropriate action would follow once the findings of the inquiry were available. For the students, this exchange offered a practical illustration of how Question Hour functions as a tool of legislative oversight, compelling the executive to respond to matters of direct public concern.



मुलाकात संजौली कॉलेज और विधि अध्ययन संस्थान हरिदेवी के विद्यार्थी विधानसभा अध्यक्ष कुलदीप सिंह पठानिया से मिलते हुए। इस दौरान विद्यार्थियों ने विस कार्यवाही के बारे में जाना। स्रोत : विभाग

Newspaper coverage of the students' visit to the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha.

⑤ Zero Hour

Zero Hour, which follows Question Hour, allows members to raise matters of urgent public importance without prior notice, offering a flexible platform for issues that may not otherwise fit within the formal agenda of the day. During the sitting, several members used this opportunity to bring local and administrative concerns to the government's attention, among them the condition and utilisation of buses operated by the Himachal Road Transport Corporation (HRTC). Members pointed out that a number of these buses were lying non-operational, raising questions about maintenance, resource allocation and the resulting impact on commuters who depend on public transport across the hill state. The discussion gave students a clear sense of how legislators use Zero Hour to voice everyday grievances of citizens and press the administration for timely redress.

⑥ Call Attention Motions

A Call Attention Motion allows a member to draw a minister's attention to a matter of urgent public importance and seek an authoritative statement from the government on the issue. During the visit, students observed one such motion moved by Hon'ble Member Shri Bhawani Singh Pathania concerning Nano Urea Plus, a fertiliser that farmers alleged was being sold compulsorily alongside conventional urea rather than being made available as a matter of choice. The discussion focused on ensuring that farmers were free to purchase fertilisers according to their own requirements, and that dealers and agencies adhered to the guidelines prescribed for the sale of such inputs. Watching this exchange helped students appreciate how Call Attention Motions enable legislators to seek immediate clarification and corrective action from the government on issues affecting the everyday livelihood of citizens.

⑦ Academic Significance

The visit held academic value beyond the classroom, making concepts such as Question Hour, Zero Hour, Call Attention Motion, legislative accountability and executive responsibility more concrete for students. The issues raised — spanning healthcare, public transport and agriculture — also showed how closely legislative work connects with everyday public life.

⑧ Key Learnings

The educational visit enabled students to:

- ◆ Observe the functioning of the State Legislature firsthand.
- ◆ Understand the practical working of Question Hour, Zero Hour and Call Attention Motions.
- ◆ Recognise the role of elected representatives in raising public concerns.
- ◆ Understand the mechanisms of legislative scrutiny and executive accountability.
- ◆ Relate theoretical concepts of Political Science to their practical application.

9 Conclusion

The educational visit to the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha on 31 August 2026 was a meaningful and academically enriching experience for the students of the Department of Political Science, Centre of Excellence, Government Degree College, Sanjauli, Shimla. Observing a live sitting of the House, witnessing legislative procedures and interacting with the Hon'ble Speaker, Shri Kuldeep Singh Pathania, gave students valuable first-hand exposure to democracy at the State level.

The visit successfully complemented classroom learning with practical experience, strengthening students' understanding of legislative processes and democratic governance, and encouraging closer engagement with the institutions and processes that shape public life in Himachal Pradesh.



Group photograph at the Himachal Pradesh Vidhan Sabha, Shimla — 31 August 2026.