



IAUA NEWS

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49th Vice Chancellors' Convention

The Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar in collaboration with the Indian Agricultural Universities Association organized the 49th Vice Chancellors' Convention on 5–6 January 2026 at CCSHAU, Hisar. The Convention marked an important milestone in re-envisioning the role of India's higher agricultural education system in national development, bringing together academic leaders, policymakers, researchers, and innovators.

Aligned with the vision of Viksit Bharat 2047, the Convention was anchored around the central theme, *From*

Field to Future: Navigating New Frontiers in Agriculture. The theme highlighted the transition from traditional agricultural practices to future-ready systems driven by innovation, sustainability, and technology. It focused on the two sub-themes, *viz.* Viksit Bharat 2047: Role and Contribution of Agricultural Institutions, and Bridging Tradition and Technology for Sustainable Agricultural Futures.

The Convention featured three technical sessions, (i) From Field to Future: Navigating New Frontiers in Agriculture, (ii) Viksit Bharat 2047: Role and Contribution of Agricultural Institutions, (iii) Bridging Tradition and Technology for Sustainable Agricultural Futures, each with two distinguished keynote speakers, alongside a panel discussion led by Vice Chancellors. The deliberations offered diverse perspectives, culminating in actionable recommendations and strategic pathways to strengthen innovation, sustainability, and institutional impact in agriculture.

Chief Guest Dr Krishan Lal Midha, Deputy Speaker, Haryana Legislative Assembly inaugurated the convention by lighting the lamp. Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, extended a warm and cordial welcome to all in this prestigious Vice Chancellors' Convention. The IAUA President and Vice Chancellor of GBPUA&T, Pantnagar Dr Manmohan Singh in his address said that it is a platform to give new directions to agricultural education, research and innovation in the country, ultimately strengthening farmers, students and the national economy. He said that there are 74 agricultural universities in the country, which are playing a key role in developing latest technologies and improved varieties in agriculture, enhancing horticultural production and evolving advance practices in animal husbandry and fisheries.

The Chief Guest, Dr Krishan Lal Midha emphasized the role of CCSHAU, Hisar, in India's Green Revolution and White Revolution, the transformative movements that helped India achieve food security and dairy self-reliance, respectively. Former IAUA President, Dr Parvinder Kaushal, Secretary IAUA; Dr Dinesh Kumar, Executive Secretary, IAUA; also participated in the convention. Vice Chancellors from various universities, Registrar, Dean's, Directors', officers and scientists of CCSHAU, Hisar were also present on the occasion. A plenary session was also conducted in which recommendations were presented by rapporteurs of respective sessions and finalized. Organizing Secretary and DHRM, Dr Ramesh Kumar proposed the formal vote of thanks.



Group Photo of Participating Vice Chancellors at the 49th Vice Chancellors' Convention



Inaugural Ceremony at 49th
Vice Chancellors' Convention



Glimpse of Deliberations at 49th Vice
Chancellors' Convention

NEW TECHNOLOGIES

Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University (Dr RPCAU), Pusa

- Rajendra Baby Corn 2 (MBC 21-10) and Rajendra Pop Corn 2 (MPC-2141) were released and notified by the CVRC under the Seeds Act, 1966. The notification was published in the Gazette of India (Extraordinary), S.O. 6123(E), Gazette No. CG-DL-E-31122025-268976, dated 31.12.2025, marking a notable varietal development achievement of RPCAU.
- Five crop varieties were approved for release by the State Seed Sub-Committee, Bihar, namely — Rajendra Suflam 1 (RAURD 18-1) of Mustard; Shakti Man 6 (QPMMH 27) of maize; Rajendra Sonia (RH 10) of turmeric; Rajendra Chana 2 (DC 17-1111) of chickpea; and Rajendra Chana 3 (DMHC 18-1664) of chickpea. These varieties were duly recommended by the Preliminary Evaluation Group in its meeting held on 13.01.2026, and were subsequently approved in the meeting of the State Seed Sub-Committee held on 10.02.2026 in the Conference Hall, Krishi Bhawan, Patna under the Chairmanship of the Principal Secretary, Agriculture.
- RPCAU achieved a historic milestone by producing eastern India's first Sahiwal calves through advanced IVF and OPU technologies at Piprakothi and Motihari. Vice Chancellor noted that this initiative shifts focus from disease-prone exotic breeds to resilient, high-yielding indigenous cattle better suited for Indian climates. This breakthrough promotes climate-smart dairy systems and rapid genetic conservation, promising a transformative impact on the dairy sector in Bihar and beyond.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAT-K), Srinagar

Chilli hybrid (CH-HPH 1) developed at SKUAST-K, was released at national level based on excellent performance across different testing centres during annual group meet of AICRP Vegetable crops. The development and national release of high-yielding Chilli hybrid demonstrated the University's contribution to national food and nutritional security.

TEACHINGS**Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar**

A Refresher Course on Education Technology was held at Academy of Agriculture, Research and Management (AAREM), Directorate of Human Resource Management at CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, on 5-25 March 2026. Twenty-seven faculty members participated and successfully completed the Refresher Course.

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana**Hybrid Short Course on Bioinformatics**

College of Animal Biotechnology conducted a six-week hybrid short course on Bioinformatics from 6 January 2026 to 16 March 2026, to equip participants with essential knowledge and practical skills required in the rapidly evolving field of computational biology. The course, including five weeks of online instruction followed by one week of on-campus practical training covered key topics, viz. biological databases, sequence analysis, genomics, basic programming concepts used in biological data analysis and hands-on experience in laboratory techniques, data analysis workflows and application of bioinformatics tools used in research and biotechnology industries. Dr R.S. Sethi, Dean, College of Animal Biotechnology appreciated the initiative for effectively integrating classical biology with contemporary computational tools to promote innovation, skill development and excellence in animal biotechnology. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor emphasized that such programmes play a vital role in nurturing a future-ready scientific workforce aligned with national and global research priorities.



Course Participants with the Dean of the College and Faculty

A one-day hands-on training programme on High-Performance Liquid Chromatography (HPLC) and Gas Chromatography (GC), was organized at RPCAU on 06 February 2026 in collaboration with

Spinco-Shimadzu, India, focusing on practical exposure to advanced analytical instrumentation. The technical sessions and hands-on training were conducted by Mr Debajyoti Sen and Mr N. Srinivas from Shimadzu, who shared their expertise and practical insights with the participants. The training witnessed enthusiastic participation from 30 Ph.D. and M.Sc. students representing different colleges under RPCAU, making the programme highly interactive and enriching.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- Under RAWE & AIA Programme, 102 students were attached in the Village Suchetgarh, R.S. Pura, District Jammu from 05-02-2026 to 31-03-2026.
- Under Students' Rural Exploration Programme-I (SREP-I), 140 students visited and stayed overnight in the villages of district: Poonch, Rajouri, Kishtwar, Ramban, Kathua, Reasi, Doda and Udhampur.
- Under Students' Rural Exploration Programme-II (SREP-II), 68 students visited and stayed overnight in the villages of district: Poonch, Ramban, Kathua, Reasi, Doda and Jammu.
- Counselling for admission to Undergraduate Programmes for 2nd semester of Academic session 2025-26 was held on 15-01-2026.
- Counselling for admission to Postgraduate Programmes for 2nd semester of Academic session 2025-26 was held on 16-01-2026.
- 1st round of Counselling for M.V.Sc. Programmes for the Academic session 2025-26 was held on 26-02-2026.

- 2nd round of Counselling for MVSc. Programmes for the Academic session 2025-26 was held on 30-03-2026.
- 3rd round of Counselling for M.V.Sc. Programmes for the Academic session 2025-26 was held on 06-04-2026.

EVENTS AND ACTIVITIES

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

State-Level Krishi Gyan Mahotsav

Agriculture University, Kota organized a state-level Krishi Gyan Mahotsav on 24 February 2026 under the Scheduled Caste Sub Plan scheme with financial support from ICAR–Indian Institute of Oilseeds Research, witnessed an enthusiastic participation of a large number of farmers and farm women from across the Rajasthan. The Chief Guest of the programme was Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha, who emphasized the crucial role of women in transforming agriculture and highlighted the importance of advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, precision farming, and crop diversification to enhance farmers' income. He also stressed for promoting agri-entrepreneurship through support in processing, value addition, and marketing. More than 2,000 participants attended the programme, where 45 exhibition stalls showcased innovative agricultural technologies along with technical sessions. The programme was presided over by Dr Vimla Dunkwal, Vice Chancellor, AU, Kota. Several progressive farmers/farm women and entrepreneurs were felicitated on this occasion.



Glimpses of Krishi Gyan Mahotsav organized by AU, Kota at University Campus

Amrud Mahotsav (Guava Festival)

The University organized Exhibition during state level Amrud Mahotsav (Guava Festival) held on 18–19 January 2026 at Sawai Madhopur. On this occasion, university scientists promoted scientific cultivation of guava, value addition, processing, and marketing, and actively participated in farmer–scientist interactions. The programme was graced by Shri Om Birla, Speaker of the Lok Sabha; Shri Kirori Lal Meena, Minister of Agriculture, Rajasthan; and Dr Vimla Dunkwal, Vice Chancellor, Agriculture University, Kota.



Glimpses of Amrud Mahotsav (Guava Festival) at Sawai Madhopur

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar

Mustard Mela at CCSHAU RRS Bawal (Rewari): Sarson Mela along with exhibition was organized on 02.03.2026 at Regional Research Station of the university. Dr Rabir Garg, Director of research, CCSHAU Hisar, graced the event as Chief Guest. He highlighted the significance of South-West Haryana in mustard crop production for achieving self-sufficiency in oil production. It was attended by 800 farmers, scientists of KVKs (Rewari and Mahendergarh) and Bawal campus. An exhibition on technologies developed by the university and products of different entrepreneurs, was also organized during the mela.



Glimpses of Mustard Mela at CCSHAU RRS Bawal (Rewari)

- The university organized two Krishi Vikas Melas in February and March to acquaint farmers about improved farm technologies. One Mela was organized at Ladwa, Kurukshetra from 28 February to 1 March 2026, while the second Mela was organized at CCSHAU, Hisar from 23 to 24 March 2026. Shri Naib Singh Saini, Chief Minister, Government of Haryana graced both the Melas as Chief Guest and interacted with the participating farmers. Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of the University in his inaugural remarks appealed the participating farmers to take a lead in promoting the technologies developed by the university.



Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor Visited on Nematology stall during *kharif*

- Department of EECM, I.C. College of Community Science, Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar organized a Krishak Mahila Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Fair on 22.03.2026 at the college premises under the AICRP scheme. Farm women (250) participated in the event. Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Vice Chancellor of the university graced the occasion as the Chief Guest and motivated the participants by highlighting the vital role of women in societal and national development. He emphasized that women are excelling in various fields at both national and global levels. An exhibition was organized where different departments of the College of Community Science and Self Help Groups from nearby villages showcased stalls featuring handlooms, handicrafts, art and craft items, artificial jewellery, ready-made garments, and preserved food products. The programme was highly informative, encouraging, and empowering for all participants.



Participants at the Krishak Mahila Empowerment & Entrepreneurship Fair

Trainings: Department of Entomology, CCS Haryana Agricultural University, Hisar, in collaboration with the National Bee Board (NBB), successfully organized two 7-day specialized training programmes on Beekeeping from 6-12 March 2026, under the NBHM-sponsored project titled Diversification in Beekeeping through Commercial-Scale Production of Royal Jelly, Bee Venom, and Pollen in Haryana. Programs were conducted for progressive beekeepers, educated unemployed youth, officers, researchers, and agricultural graduates and postgraduates. A total of 50 participants attended the training in two batches. These training programmes were aimed at promoting the adoption of scientific beekeeping practices at the grassroots level, thereby enhancing

skill development, entrepreneurship, and sustainable livelihood opportunities in Haryana and adjoining states.



Participants of the Training Programs on Beekeeping



Hands-on-training for the Participants of Beekeeping

Seminar: A 2-day (19-20 March 2026) State level Seminar on Emerging Trends in Production and Processing of Spices was organized at Department of Vegetable Science, CoA, CCSHAU, Hisar. Participants (100) included scientists from horticulture, vegetable science, HDO, DHO, Technical staff, Horticulture Department, Government of Haryana, M.Sc. and Ph.D. students of the department of Vegetable Science. The event served as a dynamic platform for knowledge exchange, where participants engaged in insightful discussions on advanced technologies and innovative practices in spice production and processing. This seminar highlighted the importance of integrating scientific advancements with field level practices, aiming to strengthen the spice production and promote sustainable horticultural development.



Prof. B.R. Kamboj, Vice chancellor of the University addressed the participants during the state level seminar

- **Fisheries Entrepreneurship & Aquapreneurship Initiative:** Stakeholders Meet on 16 February 2026, Aqua Yuva Programme during 17-18 February 2026 and Aqua Udhyaami Programme on 19 February 2026, was organized by College of Fisheries Sciences of the university. The program was organized in collaboration with MANAGE–FISHub, and sponsored by MANAGE, Hyderabad.
- A two-day Advanced Training on Shrimp Farming: Insights into Water Quality and Disease Management, was organized at CoFS on the 18-19 March 2025, to enhance the knowledge and skills of shrimp farmers.

Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa

- The Regional Kisan Mela–2026, organized by RPCAU, Pusa from 13–15 March on the theme Viksit Krishi – Unnat Bharat, was inaugurated by Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Agriculture Minister, Bihar, in the presence of Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey and other dignitaries. The event witnessed participation from over 10,000 farmers, scientists, entrepreneurs, and students from across eastern India. The mela featured more than 200 stalls showcasing advanced agricultural technologies, including improved seeds, organic farming practices, farm mechanization, agri-startups, drones, hydroponics, and AI-based farming solutions. It served as a dynamic platform for farmer–scientist interaction, knowledge exchange, and the promotion of sustainable and profitable agriculture. The event concluded with a valedictory session addressed by Shri Raj Bhushan Choudhary, Minister of State in the Ministry of Jal Shakti, along with the distribution of awards and certificates to outstanding participants, marking it as a significant initiative for fostering agricultural innovation, digital advancement, and farmer empowerment.



Glimpses of Kisan Mela 2026

- The three-day *Laghu evam Simanta Krishak Karyashala Sah Matsyaki, Yantriki, Baghbani evam Pashu Mela 2026*, was organized during 14-16 February 2026 at the Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Piprakothi under RPCAU, bringing together farmers, scientists, and agricultural experts to promote advanced, climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices. The event was inaugurated in the gracious presence of Shri Samrat Choudhary, Deputy Chief Minister of Bihar; Shri Ram Kripal Yadav, Agriculture Minister, Government of Bihar; Shri Radha Mohan Singh, MP, Motihari, and Dr P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, along with several MLAs and distinguished dignitaries. Over 132 exhibition stalls showcased innovations in agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, farm mechanization, organic and natural farming, millets and drone technology. The programme also featured the inauguration of key infrastructure facilities including a solar energy system, bio-security fencing, surveillance systems, and a shopping complex, along with distribution of fishery

kits and critical agricultural inputs under various government schemes, reflecting the University's commitment to strengthening sustainable and profitable farming systems.



Dr P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor, felicitating the dignitaries and visiting stall during Pashu Mela

- A mega sensitization-cum-awareness Workshop for Livelihood Upliftment of Farm Women was inaugurated on 27.01.2026 under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor, Dr P.S. Pandey. Addressing the gathering, the Vice Chancellor assured continuous technical support for women's empowerment and informed the audience about the establishment of Knowledge Resource Centre. He also emphasized that capacity-building trainings in Mushroom Production, Food Processing, Garment Designing, and Drone Technology will be conducted regularly to enhance sustainable livelihood opportunities for farm women. The workshop saw active participation of more than 400 farm women, reflecting strong community engagement and enthusiasm for skill development and economic empowerment. The programme was organized as part of the events commemorating the International Year of Women Farmers – 2026.



- The ICAR-sponsored 21-day Winter School on Integrative Multi-Omics Strategies for Enhancing Stress Tolerance in Field Crops under Climate Change, was organized from 10 February to 02 March 2026 at the Post Graduate College of Agriculture, Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, with 17 participants (8 females and 9 males) from Bihar, Odisha, Arunachal Pradesh, Gujarat, and Uttar Pradesh representing diverse life science disciplines. The programme was inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey, and featured expert lectures from institutes including ICAR-Indian Agricultural Statistics Research Institute, BRIC-National Agri-Food Biotechnology Institute, Bhabha Atomic Research Centre, and Central Agricultural University. The programme included laboratory training (DNA/RNA isolation, PCR, proteomics, metabolite profiling), field phenotyping, and computational modules such as Linux-based data analysis, R programming, transcriptomics, and QTL mapping, and concluded on 02 March 2026 in the presence of Dr Sudhakar Pandey, ADG (Horticulture), ICAR highlighting the importance of interdisciplinary research for climate-resilient crop development.



- The Advance Makhana Research and Development Centre and a Two-Day National Seminar on Makhana Research and Development: Linking Farmers, Science and Market were inaugurated on 26.02.2026 at RPCAU, Pusa by Ram Nath Thakur, Union Minister of State for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, in the gracious presence of Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Government of India, P.S. Pandey, Vice Chancellor. Addressing farmers, scientists and students, the Minister termed the establishment of the Makhana Board in Bihar a historic step and expressed gratitude to the central government, noting that the Board along with the new Centre would strengthen research, processing and marketing to position Bihar as a global makhana hub, enhance exports and improve farmers' income. Dr Prabhat Kumar, Horticulture Commissioner, Department of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, GoI emphasized on modernization and quality standards. The Vice Chancellor announced a 16-member scientific task force led by Dr Pushpa Singh, Prof. and Head, Entomology to oversee the entire makhana value chain including quality seed production, variety development, mechanization, packaging and export-oriented training. The second day 27.02.2026 featured an on-farm stakeholder meet at Krishi Vigyan Kendra, Darbhanga focusing on quality seed availability and technological advancements in harvesting and processing, reaffirming the Centre's commitment to bridging laboratory research with field application for the benefit of makhana growers across the region.



- A Two-Day National Conference on Advances in Biochemistry and Biotechnology for Nutritional Security in the Era of Climate Change was organized on 27–28 February 2026 at RPCAU, Pusa, to bring together scientists, academicians, industry representatives, scholars, and students to deliberate on recent advances in biochemistry and biotechnology for climate-resilient and nutritionally enriched agriculture. There were 220 delegates from nearly 20 universities and research organizations across the country and featured inaugural addresses, lead lectures, invited talks, oral and poster presentations covering themes such as stress tolerance mechanisms, crop improvement, biofortification, functional foods, and molecular regulation in plants. A special highlight was the SPBB–Springer Young Scientist Award Session with around 18 young researchers presenting their work. The abstracts were compiled into a book of abstracts

and souvenir. The event was supported financially by ICAR, ANRF, CRA Programme, RPCAU, SPBB, and DeHaat.



- National Seminar on Elderly Population: Critical Issues, Challenges and Solutions, held from 17–18 March 2026, at RPCAU, Pusa, concluded with resounding success after bringing together over 300 policymakers, healthcare experts, and advocates to address the evolving needs of senior citizens. Inaugurated by Vice Chancellor Dr P.S. Pandey in collaboration with the National Institute of Social Defense (NISD), the event emphasized the urgent necessity for robust policy support systems and societal responsibility amid shifting family structures. The technical program featured keynote addresses from experts Dr Tanya Sengupta, Research Officer, NISD (Sr. Citizen and Elderline) and Dr Abhijit K. Dam, National President, NAPCAIM. The seminar featured the release of a comprehensive Technical Program and facilitated extensive academic exchange, showcasing 17 peer-reviewed poster presentations on the first day, followed by 54 oral presentations and 33 additional poster presentations across eight thematic tracks on the second day.



Glimpses of National Seminar

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

Pashu Palan Mela

The University organized Pashu Palan Mela on 20–21 March 2026, drawing an overwhelming response from farmers across Punjab and neighboring states. Centered on the theme Livestock Farming: Local Strength to Global Standards, the Mela served as a dynamic platform to integrate traditional livestock practices with modern scientific advancements. S. Gurmeet Singh Khuddian, Cabinet Minister for Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Dairy Development and Food Processing, Punjab, inaugurated the event in the presence of eminent dignitaries, academicians and industry stakeholders. S. Khuddian visited various stalls and



S. Gurmeet Singh Khuddian Inaugurating the Pashu Palan Mela with the Vice Chancellor & Other Dignitaries

encouraged farmers to establish their own livestock-based entrepreneurial ventures for enhanced income. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor said that the University resolved to adopt the approach of global thinking, needs and scientific perspective by honoring the advantages of traditional and customary structure. Dr R.S. Grewal, Director of Extension Education noted a strong interest among visitors in goat, pig and fish farming, with many enquiring about training programmes. The Mela highlighted the University's commitment of promoting scientific livestock farming through a wide array of activities. The University facilitated direct interaction between farmers and scientists through technical sessions, exhibitions and live demonstrations, enabling the adoption of best practices in livestock, fisheries and poultry farming.



Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab conferring the Chief Minister's Award to a Progressive Farmer

A key highlight of the Mela was the conferment of the Chief Minister's Awards by S. Bhagwant Singh Mann, Chief Minister of Punjab, recognizing progressive farmers across buffalo, fish, pig and goat farming categories. The Mela also featured the launch of innovative products and initiatives, including nutrient-rich fertilizer sticks, ornamental fish garden pools, goat milk-based products and value-added dairy innovations. Exhibitions of elite livestock germplasm, value-added products and modern farming equipment attracted widespread interest. Dr M.L. Jat, Director General, ICAR, S. Harchand Singh Barsat, Chairman, Punjab Mandi Board and other dignitaries graced the occasion on the concluding day. Dr Jat appreciated the theme of the livestock fair and praised the energy of the farmers of Punjab calling them hardworking who continue to stand firm in the face of challenges. S. Harchand Singh Barsat appreciated the University and assured that the Punjab Mandi Board will continue to contribute financially to the institution. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor said that the university would continue to research to give solutions to farmers' problems.

Trainings

CAFT Training in Veterinary Pathology

The University conducted 21-day (28 January to 17 February 2026) Centre for Advanced Faculty Training (CAFT) programme on Amalgamation of Conventional and Advanced Diagnostic Approaches in Veterinary Pathology: A Key to Precise Diagnosis in an Evolving Scenario. The training was sponsored by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), New Delhi, and veterinary professionals representing 11 states across India, participated. The programme provided comprehensive exposure to both conventional and modern diagnostic techniques in veterinary pathology through lectures and extensive hands-on training. Apart from faculty of the University, experts from other premier institutions also shared their knowledge and expertise with the participants. Dr Sanjeev Kumar Uppal, Dean, Post Graduate Studies and ICAR Nodal Officer for CAFT appreciated the dedication of participants and encouraged them to apply the learned techniques effectively in their institutions. Dr S.S. Randhawa, Dean, College of Veterinary Science motivated the trainees to replicate and further disseminate the advanced practices observed during the training. Dr Kuldeep Gupta, Director of the training



CAFT Certificate Distribution Ceremony

programme, expressed gratitude to the Vice Chancellor, ICAR, trainees and departmental staff for their support and co-operation.

Advanced Management Development Programme

Department of Livestock Production Management organized an Advanced Management Development Programme under the theme Managing Competencies in the Dairy Farm Business management from 11-17 February 2026 under Project Misc-168 Advanced Entrepreneurship, skill and Management Development Programmes on Dairy Farming, funded by Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises, New Delhi. Entrepreneurs (25) attended the programme, in which the lectures, practical sessions and hands-on experiential learning were delivered by experts from veterinary sciences, dairy science, banking and finance. The program covered different aspects of scientific dairy farming, processing, marketing and finance related to dairy farm business management. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor graced the valedictory and certificate distribution ceremony and encouraged the participants to follow scientific guidelines for dairy production to maintain the sustainability and profitability of Punjab's dairy sector. Dr S.S. Randhawa, Director of Research and Dean, College of Veterinary Science discussed about scientific precautionary measures to improve dairy animals' health and productivity. Dr R.S. Grewal, Director Extension Education and Course Director urged to adopt cutting edge technologies to manage dairy products on a commercial scale and making value addition through processing for economic stability by promoting innovation and entrepreneurship.



Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor distributes Certificates to the Participants

Dairy Farming Training

The University conducted two-week Dairy Farming Training, from 16 – 27 February 2026, empowering youth with scientific dairy farming practices. A total of 55 trainees participated in the programme including three foreign returns. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor appreciated the Department of Veterinary and Animal Husbandry Extension Education for organizing an impactful training programme and reaffirmed the University's commitment to empowering farmers through scientific knowledge, skill-based training and technological support. Dr R.S. Grewal, Director of Extension Education emphasized the role of dairying in strengthening rural livelihoods, ensuring nutritional security and generating employment. Dr Jaswinder Singh, Course Director, highlighted that the programme combined theory with hands-on training, covering scientific housing, balanced feeding, mastitis control, vaccination, clean milk production, reproductive management, biosecurity and dairy marketing. A dedicated session on financial assistance and institutional credit was also organized to guide participants on loan procedures and financial planning for dairy enterprises. Shri Surinder Singh, Deputy Director, Dairy Development Department, Punjab, provided valuable insights into government schemes and departmental support mechanisms for dairy farmers.



Dairy Farming Training

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

AICRP Workshop

Training and Seed Distribution Programme

A one-day training and vegetable seed distribution programme was successfully organized for the benefit of farmers under the Scheduled Tribes Sub-Plan (Kondagaon) and Scheduled Caste Sub-Plan (Janjgir Champa) of the All India Integrated Vegetable Research Project in the Vegetable Sciences College, Indira Gandhi Agricultural University (IGKV), Raipur.

Dr Girish Chandel, Chief Guest, briefed the farmers that regular consumption of green vegetables can reduce the diseases caused by nutritional deficiency. He encouraged the farmers to train other farmers in their villages after getting training. He said that till the villages are not developed, the overall development of the state is not possible.



Farmer Training Programme for Rehabilitation of Surrendered Naxals

Twelve-Day Farmers' Training Programme aimed at the livelihood development and rehabilitation of surrendered Naxals was formally inaugurated on 4 February 2026 at the auditorium of Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Sukma under the joint aegis of Agriculture Department. The programme was organized under the Rehabilitation Centre for Maoist-affected beneficiary farmers, as per the directions of the Shri Amit Kumar, District Collector, Sukma, and under the guidance of Shri Mukund Thakur, Chief Executive Officer.



Inauguration of the new form of product sales centre in the university

On the occasion of the 39th Foundation Day 20 January 2026, a new product sales center was inaugurated at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur. Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor, IGKV, Raipur, was the Chief Guest. Shri Gyanendra Mani, Chief General Manager, NABARD, and Shri Suresh Chandravanshi, Chairman, Chhattisgarh



State Farmers Welfare Council, Government of Chhattisgarh, were present as special guests.

Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor, stated that local residents will receive grocery and non-grocery items, along with university products, based on a commercial business model. Special attention will be paid to product quality and supply chain management by the Krishi Vigyan Kendras. Efforts are also being made to promote the products available for sale. Speaking as a special guest, Shri Gyanendra Mani, Chief General Manager, NABARD, stated that providing a market for farmers is an important initiative by the university. Facilitating the sale of products by farmer groups will be a significant step towards collective farming in the future.

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MPHU), Karnal

Participation in District Level Kisan Mela

The HRC, Raiya actively participated in the District Level Horticulture Kisan Mela held at Village Rankhanda, Jhajjar on 29 January 2026. Key research activities, technologies, and extension initiatives were showcased to farmers. The event strengthened outreach efforts and promoted adoption of improved horticultural practices.

Scientists–Farmers Interaction Programme

A one-day training-cum-interaction programme on Scientists–Progressive Farmers Interaction of Southern Haryana was organised on 25 March 2026. The Chief Guest, Vice Chancellor Dr Suresh Kumar Malhotra, encouraged farmers to adopt modern horticultural technologies. The programme facilitated knowledge exchange between scientists and farmers for improved productivity and sustainability.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

Kisan Mela

- The Agriculture Summit and Kisan Mela 2026 of SKUAST-J was held (11-13 February 2026) at Chatha Campus Jammu, with the theme-- AI-Enabled Advanced Agriculture. It highlighted a shift toward technology-driven farming. Inaugurated by Shri Manoj Sinha, Hon'ble Lieutenant Governor of J&K, it promoted an Agriculture First approach for self-reliance.

With participation of over 12,000 farmers and 2,000 students, the event showcased AI tools like digital farm twins for precision irrigation, improved yields, and reduced costs. Dr B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, emphasized affordable and accessible innovations for farmers.

Key initiatives included new facilities, promotion of sustainable practices, organic Basmati, and strengthening of FPOs. The summit also encouraged industry-academia collaboration and student startups. It concluded with a roadmap focusing on AI adoption, climate-resilient technologies, and stronger extension systems for future-ready agriculture.



Glimpses of Kisan Mela at SKUAST-J

- Another Kisan Mela (Farmers' Fair) was also organized on 29 March 2026, at Narsingh Sewa Kendra in Khoon village, Majalta block, Udhampur district in which 1,300 farmers participated under HADP-Project.



Participants at Kisan Mela at Khoon Village

TSP Awareness-cum-Input Distribution Programme

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), through the ICAR–All India Coordinated Research Project (AICRP) on Nematodes, successfully organized an Awareness-cum-Input Distribution Programme for Scheduled Tribe (ST) farmers under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP) at Village and Panchayat Marh, Tehsil Nagrota, District Jammu.

A team of scientists and experts from SKUAST-Jammu participated in the programme, including Dr Shahid Ahamad, Associate Director Research, Directorate of Research; Dr Ravinder Singh Sudan, Chief Scientist, AICRP on Rice and Maize Breeder; Dr Rajan Salalia, Chief Scientist and Incharge AICRP on Nematodes; and Dr Vijay Bahadur Singh, Chief Scientist, AICRP on Rice and Plant Pathologist, from the Division of Plant Breeding and Genetics.

During the programme, farmers (130) from the surrounding villages participated in the awareness and training programme, and Scheduled Tribe farmers (68) were provided agricultural input kits under the Tribal Sub-Plan (TSP). The kits, designed as farm tool kits for small and marginal tribal farmers, included knapsack sprayers and essential field equipment such as sickles, khurpa, hoes and forks, aimed at supporting plant protection, efficient crop management, and the adoption of improved farming practices.



Glimpses of Programme

Trainings

- Seven days training Programme was organized on Scientific Bee Keeping under NBHM KVK, Jammu in collaboration with Department of Agriculture, Jammu at KVK, Jammu from 13.03.2026- 21.03.2026 with 25 participants.



- KVK Samba in close association with Department of Agriculture, Samba conducted seven-day Skill Development Training Programme on Beekeeping at KVK, Samba from 18.03.2026- 24.03.2026 with 20 participants.
- Trainings programme on natural farming under NMNF at KVK, Kishtwar was held from 02.01.2026-28.02.2026 with 900 participants.
- Organized a 7-day training programme on scientific beekeeping, which was sponsored by the Department of Agriculture, Reasi at KVK Reasi from 16.03.2026-23.03.2026 with 25 participants.
- Two training programmes were organized on Data Analytics and Statistical Methods in the Era of AI for Sustainable Agriculture and Allied Sciences at Division of Statistics and Computer Science from 18-24 February 2026 and 5-11 March 2026 with 40 participants in each.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

Kisan Mela

SKUAST-K organized 3-day 11th Agri-Tech Mela, Gongul-2026, under the theme NextGen Agriculture: My Produce – My Price from 14 to 16 February 2026 at its main campus, Shalimar. It was a dynamic platform for showcasing innovations, technologies, and best practices in agriculture and allied sectors, and more than 1,000 Agribusiness companies, university faculties, Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs), farmers and members of line departments participated in the event.



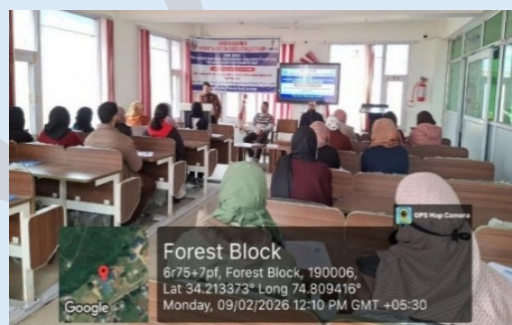
SKUAST-K organized its 11th Agri-Tech Mela, Gongul-2026

Trainings

- Division of ARGO, FVSc & AH, Shuhama, SKUAST-K organized week-long Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme entitled Empowering high-end Agri-entrepreneurs: Advanced training in sexed semen technology for profitable dairy farming on 12 February 2026 to train agri-entrepreneurs in advanced semen technology for profitable dairy farming and to promote entrepreneurship development in the dairy sector. Twenty-five agri-entrepreneurs and graduates from various fields from all the districts of the Kashmir valley participated in the event.
- SKUAST-K organized one-week MSME Training Programme on Ornamental Fish Disease Diagnostics at Faculty of Fisheries, SKUAST-K on 12 January 2026 to develop practical skills in ornamental fish disease diagnostics and health management while promoting entrepreneurship opportunities in the ornamental fisheries sector. Graduates and unemployed youth participated in the event.



Advanced Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme concludes at the Shuhama (SKUAST-K)



One-Week MSME Training Programme on Ornamental Fish Disease Diagnostics kickstarts at Facul Fisheries, SKUAST-K

- SKUAST-K organised a specialised 37-day skill training program focused on the Repair and Overhauling of Stationery Engines and Power Tillers from 8 January 2026, at the College of Agricultural Engineering and Technology. The aim was to provide technical skills in repair and maintenance of stationary engines and power tillers and to enable rural youth to generate self-employment and support agricultural mechanization. Around 20 Rural youth participated in the event.



SKUAST-K Launches Farm Machinery Skill Training for rural youth

- SKUAST-K organised a 7-day training program on Scientific Beekeeping Integrated with Oil Seed Mission on 11 March 2026 to enhance honey production while boosting the productivity of oilseed crops across the region. The aim was to promote scientific beekeeping integrated with oilseed crops

for enhancing honey production and improving crop productivity. Farmers and entrepreneurs (200) participated in the event.



7-Day Beekeeping Training Commences at Skuast-K

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

Convocation

25th Convocation of Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University was conducted on 24.01.2026 at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Hon'ble Governor Chancellor Thiru R.N. Ravi conferred degrees upon 699 students.



25th Convocation of TANUVAS held at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai

Kisan Mela

- Under the scheme Promoting sustainable goat husbandry and scientific pig farming for livelihood enhancement among tribal populations in the Kalvarayan hills, funded by Adi-Dravidar and Tribal Welfare Department, Government of Tamil Nadu, inputs were distributed to 89 goat farmers and 30 pig farmers during February 2026.
- Under the ICAR Methane outreach project, ICAR sponsored input distribution programme for Schedule tribe beneficiaries rearing milch cattle and poultry was conducted on 19.02.2026 and 20.02.2026 benefiting 100 tribal farmers.

Trainings

- ICAR' CAFT Training on Current practices in diagnostic imaging, endoscopy and clinical interventional procedures in farm and pet animals at Madras Veterinary College, TANUVAS, Chennai, for State Agricultural University and State Veterinary Universities, Central Institutes during 21 January to 10 February 2026 by Madras Veterinary College, Chennai. Important topics covered in the training programme were: Ultrasonography, applied anatomy for imaging, Endoscopy, interventional techniques, AI and machine learning tools, IoT technology in Veterinary Medical Care, Electrocardiography, echocardiography, clinical procedures in small and large animals, small animal urology and nephrology, small animal dermatology, canine reproductive disorders, small animal medical oncology, Radiography and CT in Veterinary practice.
- Two Training programmes were organized on Animal Birth Control for Department of Animal Husbandry and Veterinary Services, Government of Tamil Nadu during 03.02.2026 to 16.02.2026 by Veterinary College and Research Institute, Namakkal, and 10.02.2026 to 23.02.2026 by Veterinary College and Research Institute, Theni. Important topics covered in the training programme were:
Animal birth control program - an overview, Anatomy of male and female reproductive system in dogs, Vaginal exfoliative cytology injectable anaesthesia for reproductive surgery in dogs, Anaesthetic protocols in ABC surgeries, Patient selection and pre-surgical evaluation, Pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound – Practicals, Preparation of surgical theatre and sterilization of equipments, VEC and pregnancy diagnosis by ultrasound – Practicals, Post-operative emergencies and complications, Post-operative care and bandaging techniques and pain management in dogs, Hands-on-training on Castration and OHE in dogs, Ultrasound imaging of reproductive tract of dogs, Reproductive physiology and endocrinology of canine reproduction, Instruments and materials used for ABC Surgeries and preparation of surgical set, Non-Surgical methods of contraception in dogs, Pre-operative assessment of haematological and Biochemical parameters for ABC surgeries, Diagnosis and treatment of haemoprotozoal infection in dogs, Antibiotic usage for ABC surgeries in dogs, Human and stray dogs conflict and remedies, Sepsis in dogs and its medical management in ABC surgeries, and Nutrition management in ABC surgeries dogs.



ICAR-CAFT Training Programme on Current Practices in Diagnostic Imaging, Endoscopy and Clinical Interventional Procedures in Farm and Pet Animals

42nd Annual Convention of ISVM

42nd Annual Convention of ISVM on the theme Emerging Trends, Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities, was organized during 16.02.2026 to 18.02.2026 by Indian Society for Veterinary Medicine at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai

Major topics covered during technical session were:

Use of Artificial Intelligence in the Diagnosis and Management of Small Animals Diseases,
Use of artificial intelligence in dialysis techniques,



42nd Annual Convention of ISVM on the theme Emerging Trends, Technologies and Artificial Intelligence in Veterinary Medicine: Challenges and Opportunities

Climate Change: A Health Emergency for Animals,
 Technological Advances in Bovine Mastitis: An Overview,
 Environmental Allergens in Dogs: An overview,
 Common renal emergencies in dogs and cats and its management,
 Surveillance Insights in Wildlife Zoonoses: Special Reference to Avian Influenza,
 Development and Optimization of herbal gel/ cream formulations for improved wound healing efficacy,
 Pathogenesis and treatment of Tropical Canine Pancytopenia,
 Blood Transfusion in Dogs: Practical Considerations,
 Recent trend of important infectious diseases of elephants in the Eastern region of India and
 Re-emerging Bacterial Respiratory Diseases in Poultry: Infectious Coryza (IC) and Ornitho bacterium rhinotracheale (ORT).

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani

Women Kisan Mela: The VNMKV, Parbhani, in collaboration with UMED, MAVIM, and the Department of Agriculture, jointly organized a Women Farmers Mela on 3 January 2026 at Krishi Vigyan Kendra Badnapur, on the occasion of the birth anniversary of Social Reformer Savitribai Phule. The programme was inaugurated and presided over by the Vice Chancellor Dr Indra Mani. The programme was graced by distinguished dignitaries, including Padma Shri awardee Shrimati Rahibai Soma Popere (Seed Mother), Ms. Varsha Laddha-Untwal (IAS), Director General, MCAER; Mrs Ashima Mittal (IAS), District Collector, Jalna; and Mrs Minnu P.M. (IAS), Chief Executive Officer, Zilla Parishad, Jalna, along with senior officials from VNMKV, the State Department of Agriculture, and MAVIM. In his inaugural address, Dr Indra Mani paid tribute to Savitribai Phule and emphasized the interconnection between women's education, empowerment, and agricultural development. He encouraged farm women to adopt modern technologies, research-based agricultural practices, and entrepreneurial ventures. In her keynote address, Rahibai Soma Popere guided participants on the conservation of indigenous crop varieties and their importance under climate change scenario and chemical-free farming practices. An exhibition showcasing women-friendly technologies and products of Women Self-Help Groups (SHGs), was also organized. University scientists provided guidance to farm women on drudgery-reducing, women-friendly tools and technologies. Women farmers, members of self-help groups, and various stakeholders (1,000) from the agricultural sector participated in the programme.



Publication of University Calendar on the Occasion of Women Farmers' Mela

Trainings

ICAR Sponsored Winter School: The ICAR Sponsored Winter School on Innovations in Plant Microbiome Bio-inputs Culturing Techniques for Sustainable Agriculture, was successfully organized from 28 February to 20 March 2026 at the Department of Plant Pathology, VNMKV, Parbhani. The programme aimed to update participants with recent advances in plant microbiome research, bio-input production technologies, sustainable disease management, and emerging agricultural innovations. Trainees (25) from Chhattisgarh, Karnataka, Kerala, Maharashtra, Rajasthan, and Telangana participated. The programme commenced with an inaugural function graced by Dr Indra Mani, Vice Chancellor, VNMKV, Parbhani and Dr Seema Jaggi, Assistant Director General (HRD), ICAR. A special keynote lecture was delivered by Prof. M.S. Reddy, Auburn University, USA, highlighting the global importance of PGPR for sustainable agriculture. Eminent scientists and experts delivered lectures on themes such as plant microbiome management, biocontrol agents, integrated farming systems, nanotechnology, carbon crediting, drone applications, organic farming, molecular diagnostics, and sustainable crop production. Important lectures included Application of *Trichoderma* Diversity in Management of Crops by Dr Arup K. Mukherjee, Biocontrol of Vascular Fungal Plant Pathogens: What's New? by Dr Efath Shahnaz; IPM in Field and Horticultural Crops by Dr Thangavelu; Harnessing Endophytes for Sustainable Crop Protection in Oilseed Crops by Dr Santha Lakshmi Prasad; Molecular Techniques for Identification of Plant Pathogens by Shri Manoj Borse; Drone Technologies for Driving Innovations and Sustainable Agriculture by Dr Indra Mani; Role of Microbial Consortium in Plant Growth and Pest Management by Dr Pratibha Sharma; Harnessing Plant Microbiome: Innovative Mass Culturing and Liquid Formulation Technologies by Dr R.M. Gade; Green Synthesis of Nanoparticles: An Ecofriendly Approach by Dr S.J. Magar; Role of Biopesticides in Sustainable Agriculture by Dr H.B. Singh; Scope of Nanotechnology and Tripartite Interaction between Host-Pathogen-Bioagent by Dr Shamrao Jahagirdar; Breeding for Enhancing Plant Microbiome Associations for Climate Resilience by Dr K.K. Pal; and Sustainable Plant Health through Biointensive Disease Management Strategies by Dr V.M. Gholve. In the valedictory sessions Dr S.N. Puri, Former Vice Chancellor, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, guided the participants. The Winter School served as an excellent platform for academic interaction, exchange of ideas, and strengthening professional competencies in the field of plant microbiome and sustainable agriculture.



ICAR Sponsored Winter School Successfully Organized at VNMKV, Parbhani

Research Convention Aavishkar-2026

The 18th Maharashtra State Inter-University Research Convention Aavishkar-2026 was organized at Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth, Parbhani from 28 to 31 January 2026, as per the directives of Hon'ble Governor of Maharashtra Shri Acharya Devvrat. The convention witnessed enthusiastic participation from research students presenting their innovative work. Under Aavishkar-2026, research presentation competitions were



The Mumbai University won the Overall Championship of Aavishkar

organized across six thematic groups: Humanities, Languages and Fine Arts; Commerce, Management and Law; Pure Sciences; Agriculture and Animal Husbandry; Engineering and Technology; and Medical and Pharmaceutical Sciences. The competitions were conducted at three levels—Undergraduate (UG), Postgraduate (PG), and Post Postgraduate (PPG). Research students (867) from 26 universities across Maharashtra presented their work through posters, models, and experimental demonstrations. The presentations were evaluated by expert judges at the national level. Based on their assessment, around 37 students from each thematic group were shortlisted for podium presentations (15 UG, 12 PG, & 10 PPG), resulting in a total of 231 students advancing to the final round.

The podium presentations were evaluated by a panel of six national-level experts in each subject area. From the six thematic groups, 48 students (eight from each group) were awarded First, Second, and Third prizes. In addition, 36 students (two from each group at each level) received consolation awards, making a total of 84 awards conferred across all categories. The convention served as an important platform for young researchers to showcase innovative ideas, exchange knowledge, and strengthen the research ecosystem across universities in Maharashtra.

During the valedictory and prize distribution ceremony, distinguished dignitaries present included Prof. Indra Mani; Padma Shri Prof. A.K. Singh, Former Director, Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Progressive farmer Padma Shri awardee Dr Shrirang Lad; Vice Chancellor of Dr Babasaheb Ambedkar Technological University, Lonere, Dr Karbhari Kale; Chairman of the Monitoring Committee appointed by the Hon'ble Governor, Dr Sunil Patil; members Dr Priya Gedam, Dr Dayaram Pawar, Dr Vilas Awari, and Dr Vinayak Dhulap; and Dr Sanjay Khobragade, Dr Charushila Gayke, and Dr Jayant Chaudhary, along with senior university officers.

Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry (VCSGUUHF), Bharsar

3rd Convocation

The 3rd Convocation of Veer Chandra Singh Garhwali Uttarakhand University of Horticulture and Forestry (VCSGUUHF), Bharsar, Uttarakhand, was held on 28 March 2026, at the university headquarters in Bharsar, Pauri Garhwal. This important academic event marked a proud moment for the institution as it celebrated the achievements of its students from the disciplines of Horticulture, Forestry and Agriculture. The convocation brought together students, faculty members, distinguished guests and families in a spirit of accomplishment and inspiration. It served not only as a formal ceremony for awarding degrees but also as a platform to highlight the role of education in sustainable development, especially in a geographically and ecologically sensitive region like Uttarakhand.

The ceremony was presided over by the Chief Guest, Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.), Hon'ble Governor of Uttarakhand and Chancellor of the University, who conferred degrees upon the graduating students. The Special Guest on the occasion was Shri Ganesh Joshi, Minister of Agriculture, Horticulture and Silk Development, Government of Uttarakhand. Adding further significance to the event, Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami, Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, joined virtually and extended his



heartfelt congratulations to the graduating students. In his address, Lt. Gen. Gurmit Singh (Retd.) emphasized the critical importance of horticulture, forestry and agriculture in supporting the economy of the Himalayan region. He encouraged the graduates to use their knowledge and skills to promote sustainable and climate resilient practices, which are essential in the face of changing environmental conditions. He also congratulated the students and their parents for their dedication and hard work, acknowledging the collective effort behind success of each student. Shri Ganesh Joshi, in his speech, underlined the commitment of government to strengthening the agricultural sector through innovation and entrepreneurship. He spoke about various initiatives aimed at encouraging start-ups and technological advancements in agriculture, horticulture, and allied sectors. In his virtual address, Chief Minister Shri Pushkar Singh Dhami praised the University for its role in producing skilled and knowledgeable professionals. He appreciated the efforts of the institution in preparing students to face future challenges related to agriculture, environment, and sustainability. He expressed confidence that the graduates would make meaningful contributions to society and help address pressing issues such as climate change, food security and rural development. Prof. Parvinder Kaushal, Vice Chancellor of VCSGUUHF, highlighted the achievements and future plans of the University, and expressed his gratitude for the continuous support and cooperation extended by the Hon'ble Chancellor and the Government of Uttarakhand in strengthening the institution across various domains. During the convocation, several important university publications including the Convocation Souvenir, Coffee Table Book, Vision 2047 document of the university, Proceedings of the 14th Brainstorming Session of IAUA and the University Documentary were formally inaugurated by Hon'ble Governor along with other distinguished dignitaries.

A significant highlight of the convocation was the recognition of academic excellence among students. Meritorious students (12) were awarded medals for their outstanding performance. Among these, 6 students received Gold Medals, 4 Silver Medals and 2 students received Bronze Medals. This recognition served as an inspiration for all students, encouraging them to strive for excellence in their academic and professional pursuits. The convocation also marked the formal conferment of degrees to 283 students across different academic levels. Out of these, 183 students were awarded Undergraduate (UG), 94 Postgraduate (PG), and 6 were conferred Doctor of Philosophy (Ph.D.) degrees. The convocation ceremony was attended by several prominent members of the Board of Management and Academic Council, along with other dignitaries. These included Prof. Parvinder Kaushal, Vice Chancellor of VCSG UUHF; Padma Shri Prof. P.L. Gautam and Shri P.C. Sharma; Prof. S.P. Sati, Registrar; Prof. Arvind Bijalwan, Director Academics; Prof. T.S. Mehra, Dean, College of Forestry; Prof. A.K. Joshi, Dean, College of Horticulture; Prof. Amol Vasisht, ADR; Prof. B.P. Nautiyal, Director Placement; Prof. V.P. Khanduti, CPO; Prof. K.S. Pant, Director Research; Prof. J.C. Kuniyal, Head, FRM; Dr Deepak Mudgil, DSW, and Dr Gargi Goshwami. Their presence added academic depth and prestige to the event, reflecting the strong leadership and commitment of the university towards excellence in education and research.

Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV), Akola

40th Convocation

40th Convocation program of PDKV Akola was organized on 5 February 2026. On this occasion Dr K.B. Kathiria, Vice Chancellor, Anand Agriculture University, Anand, Gujarat; Dr Vilas K. Kharche, Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri; Dr Nitin Patil, Vice Chancellor, MAFASU, Nagpur; Dr Subhash Puri, Former Vice Chancellor, MPKV, Rahuri; and Dr Vilas Bhale, Former Vice Chancellor, PDKV, Akola; with Member of Executive Council were present. On this occasion 2,963 students were awarded Degrees.



Glimpses of 40th Convocation of Dr PDKV, Akola

Women Empowerment Mela

The Women Empowerment Mela – Swayamseedha was jointly organized by Dr PDKV, Akola, the State Department of Agriculture, and Mahila Arthik Vikas Mahamandal (MAVIM) on 28 March 2026 at the Central Campus, Dr Panjabrao Deshmukh Krishi Vidyapeeth (PDKV), Akola. More than 700 enthusiastic women from across Vidarbha participated in the mela.

On this occasion, 15 outstanding women from 11 districts of Vidarbha were felicitated for their significant contributions in agriculture and allied sectors.

The programme was chaired by Dr Sharad Gadakh, Vice Chancellor, Dr PDKV, Akola, and graced by the kind presence of Smt Varsha Ladda, Director General, MCAER; Smt Varsha Meena, District Collector, Akola; Smt Ishani Anand, Additional SP, Akola; Smt Varsha Khobragade, Project Director, MAVIM, and Dr Murali Ingle, Project Director, ATMA.

All Deans, Directors, faculty members, and students of the university were also present on the occasion.

The programme highlighted the important role of rural women in strengthening agricultural development, entrepreneurship, and self-reliance in Vidarbha.



MoUs

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

An MoU was signed between AU, Kota and Heartfulness Education Trust, Rangpur, Kota. Director Students Welfare of the university and representative of Heartfulness Education Trust, Rangpur, Kota signed the MoU and exchanged the documents. Dr Vimla Dunkwal, Vice Chancellor, AU, Kota was present during the MoU meeting who shared her views about staying happy through meditation. Shri Mukesh Kumar Kalal, Deputy Secretary, Lok Bhavan, Jaipur was also present in the said meeting and he provided detailed information about Heartfulness Education Trust and meditation and also organized a micro-session of meditation. Vice Chancellor of Kota University, Kota, Dr B.P. Saraswat viewed about heartfulness and advised for meditation. On this occasion, Vice Chancellor of Vardhaman Mahaveer Open University, Kota, Dr B.L. Verma and Vice Chancellor of Rajasthan Technical University, Kota, Dr Nimit Ranjan Chaudhary were also present.



MoU Signed with Heartfulness Education Trust, Rangpur, Kota

MoU with ICAR-IIWBR's

A strategic partnership agreement signed between AU, Kota and ICAR-Indian Institute of Wheat and Barley (ICAR-IIWBR), Karnal for cooperation in Seed Production and development of variety and technologies for a period of 5 years.

MoU with ICAR-IARI, PUSA, New Delhi

A strategic partnership agreement signed between AU, Kota and ICAR-Indian Agricultural Research Institute (ICAR-IARI), Pusa, New Delhi for cooperation in education, research, and extension for a period of 5 years.

Chaudhary Charan Singh Haryana Agricultural University (CCSHAU), Hisar

- An MoU was signed with Swarna Jayanti Haryana Institute of Fiscal Management (SJHIFM), Government of Haryana, Panchkula on 08.01.2026, for three years to establish a collaborative partnership to promote joint research, policy formulation, economic and social impact studies, fiscal management research, SDG integration studies, capacity building and internship opportunities for students.
- An MoU was signed with National Fertilizer Limited, Panipat on 20.1.2026 for one year for conducting programmes on the theme PM-PRANAM Balanced use of Fertilizers, Nutrient Management through community radio stations of the university.
- An MoU was signed with Shri Vishwakarma Skill University, Palwal on 25.03.2026 for one year to establish a non-exclusive collaborative framework aimed at advancing skill development and

promoting innovation, startups, and incubation ecosystems and implement training under the Guru–Shishya mentorship model, emphasizing employability and traditional skill transmission.

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

VLIIF and Ludhiana Angels Network Formalize Partnership through MoU

The Veterinary and Livestock Innovation and Incubation Foundation (VLIIF) of the University signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Ludhiana Angels Network (LAN) to strengthen the startup ecosystem in veterinary and livestock sector. The collaboration aims to provide VLIIF-supported startups with mentorship, investment guidance, early-stage funding and strategic advisory support.

Mr. Shibananda Dash, CEO of LAN, and Dr R.S. Sethi, Director of VLIIF signed the agreement. Dr Sethi highlighted that the partnership will enhance market linkages and investor exposure for incubated startups, thereby fostering innovation-led growth in the livestock and veterinary entrepreneurship landscape. Dr R.S. Grewal, Director Extension Education, emphasized that such collaborations help translate research-driven innovations into scalable enterprises, bridging the gap between innovation and investment.



Signing of MoU

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- SKUAST-J signed MoA with:
 - Umeed Vikshal Mahila FPO on 15.01.2026.
 - M/s Agro Tech Plant founded by Mr Ishfaq Ahmad Wani on 12.01.2026.
 - Umeed SM Fresh Field Producer Company Ltd (FPO) on 6.02.2026.
- Parties signing the MoU with SKUAST-J, UT of J&K and NCDC, MoH & FW, GoI Duration: will remain in force w.e.f 6-11-2025 to till the programme continues.
Purpose: Establishment of Sentinel Surveillance Site on Zoonoses (SSSZ) under NOHP-PCZ in the Division of Veterinary Public Health & Epidemiology, FVSc & AH, R.S. Pura, SKUAST-J.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

SKUAST-K hosted high-level interaction with OCP Foundation Morocco and RBIC (SKUAST-K), ISAP India Foundation to sign MoU for startup ecosystem to explore collaboration between SKUAST-K, OCP Foundation and ISAP India Foundation for sustainable agriculture and soil health and to strengthen research, innovation, and farmer linkages through startup incubation and institutional partnership. 50 participants participated in the event.



SKUAST-K's RBIC idea resonator series commences at GDC Kulgam, ITI Baramulla, GDC Shopian, Anantnag, Handwara

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

- Memorandum of Understanding was signed by TANUVAS with Auburn University, Alabama, USA on 10.01.2026 to have academic and research collaboration.



Exchange of MoU between TANUVAS and Auburn University, Alabama, USA

- A Memorandum of Agreement was signed between TANUVAS and M/s Millet Factory, Hyderabad towards transferring the patented technology on A least calorific and low fat pearl millet ice-cream fortified with antioxidants derived from musk melon and jackfruit (Millet Ice-Cream) developed at College of Food and Dairy Technology, Koduvalli on 20.02.2025.



Exchange of MoA between TANUVAS, Chennai and M/s. Millet Factory, Hyderabad

IPR

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

Patent

Title: Height adjustable goat feeding device; **Design No.:** 487115-001; **Date of Grant:** 11-03-2026

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

Patents

Title: A Benzothiazole Derived Schiff's Bases for Targeting C4-2 Castration Resistant Prostate Cancer Cells; **Date of Grant:** 29/01/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** 579246

Title: A Method for Production of High Carbon Content Activated Carbon from Walnut Shell; **Date of Grant:** 03/03/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** 585863

Title: Smart Irrigation Device; **Date of Grant:** 12/03/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** 412427-001

Title: Solar Powered Smart Trellis System for Grapevines; **Date of Grant:** 12/03/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** 422362-001

Title: Students Rural Exploration Programme; **Date of Grant:** 10/03/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** LD-51493/2025-CO

Title: Cyber Extension Platform; **Date of Grant:** 10/03/2026; **Patent/Certificate No.:** LD-50486/2025-CO

Awards & Recognitions

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

- Dr Hanuman Prasad Verma, Technical Assistant, College of Agriculture, Hindoli, Bundi, received the Appreciation Award on 26 January 2026 (Republic Day) at Agriculture University, Kota and the District Collector Office, Bundi.
- Dr Suresh Kumar Jat, Assistant Professor (Entomology) received Appreciation Award for outstanding contributions in bee keeping by District Collector, Jhalawar on 26 January 2026.
- Dr Arvind Nagar, Assistant Professor (Horticulture), received Best Oral Presentation award and Dr R.K. Yadav, Assistant Professor (Horticulture) received Best Poster Presentation award in 4th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference 2026 at Rani Laxmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, UP during 28-30 January 2026.



- Dr R.K. Meena, Associate Professor (Agro.), CoA, Kota received SRMR Fellow Award from the Society of Rapeseed and Mustard Research in National Oilseed Conference Edible Oil Security for Atmanirbhar Bharat at ICAR-IARI, New Delhi during 06-08 February 2026.



Dr R.K. Meena, received SRMR Fellow Award

- The Agriculture University, Kota exhibition secured the first position during the Regional Agricultural Fair (Western Zone) and Fruit, Flower and Vegetable Exhibition held from 7 to 9 February 2026 at MPUAT, Udaipur, and third position during Kisan Mela and Exhibition organized by RLBCAU, Jhansi dated 14-16 February 2026.

1ST POSITION IN EXHIBITION AT MPUAT, UDAIPUR3RD POSITION IN EXHIBITION AT RLBCAU, JHANSI

Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

International Recognition for High-Impact One Health Research

Researchers of the University have earned international recognition for their high-impact work in One Health research. The article entitled Surveillance and response strategies for zoonotic diseases: a comprehensive review, authored by Dr Manjeet Sharan, Deepthi Vijay, Jay Prakash Yadav, Jasbir Singh Bedi and Pankaj Dhaka, published in the Elsevier journal Science in One Health, has been ranked among the Top 10 Most Cited Articles and awarded a Certificate of High Citation Impact on 30 December 2025. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor described it as a proud moment for the University and an inspiration for young researchers to pursue high-quality and policy-relevant science.



Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

Best AICRP Centre Award

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) received the Best AICRP Centre on Farm Implements and Machinery (FIM) Award for the outstanding performance in the Prototype Feasibility Testing (PFT) through consistent efforts and significant contributions during 2024-25, at the 40th workshop of AICRP on FIM at Junagarh Agricultural



University, Gujarat on 19 January 2025 from Dr C.R. Mehta, Director, ICAR-CIAE, Bhopal. This award was received by Dr Rajesh Kumar Naik, Head, Department of Farm Machinery and Process Engineering, SV College of Agric. Engg. and Technology (SVCOAET), Raipur in the presence of Dr S.N. Jha, DDG (Agric. Engg.), Dr K.P. Singh, ADG (Farm Engg.) and Dr V.P. Chovatia, Vice Chancellor, JAU, Junagarh.

Appreciation Certificate

Dr Dhiraj Khalkho, Chief Scientist AICRP on IWM, Department of Soil and Water Conservation Engg., SV College of Agric. Engg. and Technology and Research Station IGKV, Raipur, received the Certificate of Appreciation for his contribution in the field of Natural Resource Management in the program organized by IBC 24 Channel. The award was presented by Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh Shri Arun Sao ji and Ravikant Mittal, Chief Editor, IBC-24 in auspicious presence of Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor on 6 February 2026.



Appreciation Certificate

Dr S.S. Tuteja, Director Extension, IGKV received the Certificate of Appreciation for his guidance to farmers, SHGs staff of agriculture and allied department. Under his leadership 27 KVK's got Self-empowered administrative and technical guidance by which KVK's are doing extension, training programmes for improved farming in cereals, oils and pulses horticulture, fish farming, animal husbandry, beekeeping and poultry farming. Farmers got new avenues of income. He was awarded by Shri Arun Sao, Deputy Chief Minister of Chhattisgarh and Shri Ravikant Mittal, Chief Editor, IBC-24 in auspicious presence of Dr Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor IGKV on 6 February 2026.



Best Student Achievers Award

Three meritorious students of Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur were awarded the Achievers Award by Bank of Baroda at a function held at the Seminar hall of Agriculture College, Raipur on 12 March 2026. The students who secured the highest position in the class were felicitated on the occasion. They were Dileshwari Sahu, a first-year student of Agriculture College and Research Centre, Saja (Bemetara), Shaheed Gundadthur Agricultural College and Research Centre; Second Year Student of Jagdalpur, Devidatt Jena; and Anushka Chaurasia, third-year student of Agriculture College, Raipur. Each student was given a cash prize of ₹31,000. On this occasion, Dr Aarti Guhey expressed her gratitude to Bank of Baroda for encouraging academic excellence among the students. He said that such an initiative motivates the students to work harder and make meaningful contributions to the society and agriculture sector. Dr A.K. Dave, Director, Instruction, IGKV, Raipur, also lauded the initiative and urged Bank of Baroda to continue organizing the Achievers Awards every year, which would inspire the students towards higher academic achievements. Addressing the event, Shri



Pradeep Yadav, Deputy Regional Manager, Bank of Baroda said that the Bank is always committed to the welfare of farmers and students. He encouraged the awardee students to use their knowledge and education for the upliftment of the society and the agricultural community.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- Prof. (Dr) Sanjay Khajuria, Head, KVK Samba SKUAST-J was awarded with ICAR Performance Excellence Award in admiration and recognition of his significant professional contributions and services to the farming community on 11-01-2026 at PAU Campus Ludhiana ICAR-ATARI Zone-1.
- Mr Touqeer Bagwan from KVK Doda was awarded with Innovative farmer Award at ICAR Foundation Day 2026 on 11 January 2026.
- Shri Sunil Singh from District Kishtwar got IARI-Innovative Farmer award from IARI, New Delhi during Pusa Krishi Vigyan Mela 25-27 February 2026.
- Dr R.B. Kushwaha, Professor, Awarded Gold Medal Award in large Animal Poster presentation at 48th ISVS conference held at Jabalpur (MP), from 26-28 February 2026.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

- Recognition of faculty for outstanding scientific contribution at national level.
- SKUAST-K Scientist Dr Effat Shehnaz received D.P. Mishra and R.N. Panday IPS Best Women Scientist award conferred by Indian Phyto-pathological Society, New Delhi during National conference and 78th Annual Meeting during 18 to 20 February 2026 at BCKV, Kalyani, West Bengal.
- Enhancing the prestige and visibility of the university through national awards.
- Dr Zahoor Ahmad Dar, Professor ADR DARS, Budgam as one of the five breeders across India nominated by Director IIMR to showcase maize program of the respective zone in the forth- coming Annual Maize Workshop at BAU, Ranchi. The event to present and showcase the maize research Programme of our zone at the Annual Maize Workshop, was organized by ICAR-IIMR.

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

Animal Feed Analytical and Quality Assurance Laboratory, Namakkal of TANUVAS has renewed its NABL certification of accreditation - ISO/IEC 17025:2017 from 17.03.2026 to 16.03.2030.



- Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri and Pullikulam Cattle Research Station, Manamadurai of TANUVAS received Breed conservation awards on 14 January 2026 instituted by ICAR-National Bureau for Animal Genetic Resources.



Mecheri Sheep Research Station, Pottaneri and Pullikulam Cattle Research Station, Manamadurai of TANUVAS receiving Breed Conservation Awards issued by NBAGR, Karnal

Vasantrao Naik Marathwada Krishi Vidyapeeth (VNMKV), Parbhani

Best Centre Award conferred to AICRP on Mechanization of Animal Husbandry Centre

The AICRP on Mechanization of Animal Husbandry Centre was conferred the Best Centre Award for the year 2024–25 in recognition of its outstanding research contributions. The award was presented during the inaugural ceremony of the Annual Workshop of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Mechanization of Animal Husbandry, held on 7–8 March 2026 at G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology. The award was presented by Dr M.S. Chauhan, Vice Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar.



Best Performing Centre Conferred To Aicrp On Dryland Agriculture, Vnmkv, Parbhani

Best Performing Centre conferred to AICRP on Dryland Agriculture

The AICRP on Dryland Agriculture Centre was conferred the Best Performing Centre award in recognition of its notable contributions. The award was presented during the inaugural ceremony of the 29th Biennial Workshop held on 19 January 2026 at Guwahati, Assam. The honour was bestowed by Dr M.L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, New Delhi.



Best Centre Award conferred to AICRP on Mechanization of Animal Husbandry Centre, VNMKV, Parbhani

Limelight

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

- A State-Level Seminar on Sustainable Production Technologies and Value Addition in Spices was organized during 27-28 February 2026 at AU, Kota. The seminar was sponsored by the Directorate of Arecanut and Spices Development, Calicut (Kerala) under the MIDH scheme. The seminar featured detailed discussions on the potential of spice crops production in Rajasthan, strategies for enhancing productivity, addressing existing challenges, and promoting value addition. The inaugural session was chaired by the Vice Chancellor, Dr Vimla Dunkawal. Shri Anil Singhal, ADM, Kota was the Chief Guest, while Shri Ashok Kumar Sharma, Additional Director Agriculture, graced the occasion as the Guest of Honor. During the valedictory session, Dr Pratap Singh, Vice Chancellor, MPUAT, Udaipur; Smt Mamta Tiwari, Additional Divisional Commissioner, Kota graced the occasion. Directors and Deans of AU, Kota were also present. Around 80 participants from across the state attended the seminar.



State-Level Seminar on Sustainable Production Technologies

Trainings

- The University organized three training programmes for officers of the Department of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation, Government of Rajasthan. Training sessions were conducted on Agro-Climatic Based Cropping Systems and Adapted Crop Varieties and POP, Sustainable Agriculture through Water Conservation, Micro Irrigation and Soil Health Management, Biomass Utilization, and Organic Farming, and Advanced Production Techniques for Cereals, Pulses, Oilseeds, Spices, Medicinal and Exotic Crops during 7–9 January, 27–29 January, and 11–13 February 2026, and 90 officers from various districts of the state participated in the programme. In addition, 21 training programmes were organized during January and February 2026 for farmers, farm women, rural youth, and extension functionaries at KVKs located at Kota, Anta (Baran), Bundi, Jhalawar, Sawai Madhopur, and Hindaun (Karauli). More than 1,050 participants attended these trainings. All the programmes were funded by the Department of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation, Government of Rajasthan.



Training organised by DEE, AU, Kota or Department of Watershed Development and Soil Conservation (GOR)

- University organized two Skill Development Training Programmes of 15-day duration on Agripreneurship Development in Value Addition and Processing of Coriander, Garlic, Onion, and Soybean during 05-20 January and 03-20 February 2026. A total of 50 rural youth participated in these training programmes, gaining practical knowledge and hands-on experience to promote entrepreneurship and self-employment opportunities in the food processing sector.



Glimpses of Skill Development Training Programmes for rural youth

- University organized seven-day training programme on Goat Farming from 16-22 January 2026 in which 21 rural youth participated and learned about hands-on practices on goat rearing. Farmers were informed that goat farming can be a profitable venture for unemployed youth. Products from goat farming are milk, meat and manure, and their marketing can generate a substantial income.



Goat Farming Training Programme

- University organized 15-day training for Fertilizer Dealers from 15-31 January 2026 in which 42 trainees participated. Farmers were acquainted about soil test-based fertilizer use, balanced application of NPK, and the use of bio-fertilizers and integrated nutrient management, with emphasis on timely application to enhance crop yield and maintain soil fertility.

Dr Rajendra Prasad Central Agricultural University, Pusa

- The Chrysanthemum Field Day at RPCAU, Pusa was celebrated on 10.01.2026. The event showcased over 150 chrysanthemum varieties and focused on income generation through quality planting material, value addition, and market-oriented flower production. The university is working for development of several new chrysanthemum varieties which will enable flower production throughout the autumn season, ensuring steady market supply and higher income for farmers.
 
- RPCAU celebrated Swami Vivekananda Jayanti and National Youth Day on 12 January under the chairmanship of the Vice Chancellor, Dr P.S. Pandey. In his address, he emphasized self-confidence, character building, and the role of youth in nation-building. Various activities were organized and prizes were awarded to the winning students. The program was attended by the Director of Student Welfare, Deans, Directors, Heads of Departments, faculty members, and students.
 
- The College of Community Science, RPCAU, Pusa on 16.02.2026, organized a workshop on Women in Agri-food System in collaboration with Krishi Vigyan Kendra Madhopur. The programme was attended by university dignitaries including the Dean, College of Community Science, Dean, PGCA, Director Education, Officer In-Charge, RRS, and the District Programme Manager (DPM), Bettiah. More than 280 women farmers participated in the event and visited various demonstration units at KVK, where they were sensitized about nutri-gardens, integrated farming systems (IFS), mushroom cultivation, value addition, and transforming agricultural waste into wealth.
- A Field Day on Enhancing System Productivity and Economic Security through High Intensity Intercropping with Autumn Sugarcane under Various Planting Geometry was organized on 02.03.2026 at Kalyanpur Farm of the Sugarcane Research Institute, RPCAU. The programme aimed to demonstrate improved planting geometry and autumn sugarcane-based intercropping systems to enhance productivity and farm income. The event was presided over by the Vice Chancellor of the university and graced by Dr Sudhakar Pandey, ADG (Horticulture), ICAR, Dr Mayank Rai, Dean, PGCA and Dr Devendra Singh, Director SRI along with scientists from the Sugarcane Research Institute and the Department of Horticulture Science, PGCA, who participated in the field demonstration and interaction with participants.
 

- To mark International Women's Day on 08 March 2026, RPCAU's College of Community Science organized a Give to Gain programme at KVK Sheohar, empowering over 150 women farmers through agricultural entrepreneurship. Dr Usha Singh, Dean, CCSc and other experts highlighted the impact of food processing, skill development, and SHGs in achieving economic and nutritional security.



Guru Angad Dev Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (GADVASU), Ludhiana

InDeVet Summit 2026

The University hosted the InDeVet Summit 2026: Bridging Science, Policy and Education, bringing together distinguished scientists, policymakers and academic leaders from India, Germany and Canada to strengthen global collaboration in veterinary science and One Health on 23-25 February 2026. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor, in his welcome address highlighted the University's commitment to promoting international partnerships and collaborative research. He emphasized that the world is facing challenges such as climate change, antimicrobial resistance, food safety and security and the risk of pandemics from emerging and novel pathogens, wherein the role of One Health teams is extremely important to mitigate these challenges. The inaugural programme featured an Executive Round Table on The Future of Indo-German Veterinary Synergy, to outline a collaborative roadmap for 2026–2030, followed by discussions on identifying joint research projects and strengthening partnerships between Indian and German universities. A dedicated session From Lab to Legislation connecting InDeVet scientists with local policy makers, government officials and industry leaders to discuss implementing One Health solutions in public policy was conducted. Eminent speakers including Dr Baljit Singh, University of Saskatchewan; Dr Ramanuj Banerjee, Science Counsellor at the Embassy of India in Germany; Prof. Dr Uwe Truyen, Leipzig University; Prof. Dr Uwe Rösler, Freie Universität Berlin; and Prof. Klaus Osterrieder, TiHo Hannover highlighted the importance of sustained Indo-German cooperation in veterinary research and policy development. Experts also deliberated on international research funding opportunities and collaborative projects. A session on the Immune System in the Fight Against Infectious Diseases-plan for DFG-DST Project explored the new therapeutic approaches for humans and animals. Prof. Baljit Singh, University of Saskatchewan, Canada and Dr R.S. Sethi, Dean College of Animal Biotechnology of the University organized a special workshop and hands-on session to develop the core pedagogy for the InDeVet consortium, fostering the next generation of One Health leaders to tackle issues at the interface of animal, human and environmental health.



Indevet Summit 2026

Indo-Korean Training on Intermittent Hemodialysis

The University organized a five-day Indo-Korean Advanced Hands-on Training-cum-Workshop on Intermittent Hemodialysis Techniques in Dogs. Seven veterinary practitioners from South Korea participated in the programme, receiving advanced training through practical case demonstrations, live clinical case discussions, hands-on dialysis procedures, interactive scientific sessions and structured knowledge sharing on renal replacement therapies and translational nephrology. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor stated that clinical expertise, technological capability and academic leadership of the University's Dialysis Unit team have made it a national and international reference centre for advanced veterinary renal replacement therapies. The training was conducted under an Experiential Learning Project supported by the Indian Council of Agricultural Research, aimed at developing the University's Dialysis Unit into a national and international training hub. The training also featured expert sessions by Dr Vikas Makkar, Professor and Head, Department of Nephrology at Dayanand Medical College & Hospital, Ludhiana, and Prof. H.M. Park from Konkuk University, South Korea.



Indo-Korean Training on Intermittent Hemodialysis

Launch of SHE Cohort 4.0 - Women Entrepreneurship Takes Centre Stage at the University

The University in collaboration with the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology (PSCST) and Veterinary and Livestock Innovation and Incubation Foundation (VLIIF) launched SHE 4.0 (Startup Hand-holding and Empowerment for Women Entrepreneurs), a flagship programme of PSCST supporting women-led startups through structured hand-holding, mentorship and access to funding and incubation support. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor launched SHE 4.0 and emphasized the pivotal role of academic institutions in fostering an entrepreneurial mindset. He stressed that universities must act as hubs for innovation by identifying real-world problems, especially in the livestock sector and enabling startups to develop practical, scalable solutions through research, mentorship and industry linkages. The event featured insights from Er. Pritpal Singh (PSCST), Dr Dapinder Bakshi (PSCST), and Mr Shibananda Dash (Ludhiana Angels Network), along with inspiring success stories from VLIIF-incubated women entrepreneurs.



Launch of SHE Cohort 4.0

Saanjh-2026 - Alumni Meet of College of Veterinary Science

College of Veterinary Science, Ludhiana organized Alumni Meet under the theme Saanjh-2026, witnessing an enthusiastic participation of nearly 300 alumni from India and abroad. Former graduates serving in diverse professional roles gathered on campus to reconnect, cherish their shared legacy and reflect on their professional achievements. Dr Swaran Singh Randhawa, Dean of the College and President of the Alumni Association, welcomed the delegates and highlighted the institution's rich heritage in veterinary education, research and extension. He underscored the vital role of alumni in strengthening the University's global reputation and fostering collaborations. Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor graced the occasion and appreciated the contributions of alumni in advancing animal health, livestock development and public health services. He envisaged stronger engagement between the University and its graduates to address emerging challenges in veterinary science. The distinguished alumni and dignitaries including Dr Baljeet Singh Gill, Vice President (Research), University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Dr A.J. Singh, Director General, Remount Veterinary Services, and Dr Parmjit Singh Walia, Director, Animal Husbandry Department also graced the occasion. Dr Veer Sukhwant, an alumnus of the college and renowned singer captivated the audience with his melodious songs.



Saanjh-2026 - Alumni Meet of College of Veterinary Science

Dr J.P.S. Gill, Vice Chancellor graced the occasion and appreciated the contributions of alumni in advancing animal health, livestock development and public health services. He envisaged stronger engagement between the University and its graduates to address emerging challenges in veterinary science. The distinguished alumni and dignitaries including Dr Baljeet Singh Gill, Vice President (Research), University of Saskatchewan, Canada; Dr A.J. Singh, Director General, Remount Veterinary Services, and Dr Parmjit Singh Walia, Director, Animal Husbandry Department also graced the occasion. Dr Veer Sukhwant, an alumnus of the college and renowned singer captivated the audience with his melodious songs.

Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV), Raipur

Army Day Celebration and enrolment of IGKV Cadets in Air-wing

Special program on Army Day was organized on 15 January 2026. On this occasion, 13 students selected for the Air Wing NCC were formally enrolled by pinning badges on them. Brigadier D.K. Patra, Group Commander, NCC, was the chief guest. The program was presided over by Dr (Colonel) Girish Chandel, Vice Chancellor of IGKV. Among the distinguished guests Wing Commander Vivek Kumar Sahu, Commanding Officer, 3 CG Air Squadron NCC, Raipur was also present.



Brigadier D.K. Patra, Chief Guest, while appreciating the university's military background, encouraged students to consider various avenues of service, especially options like the NDA. He emphasized the importance of always being prepared for sacrifice, struggle, and challenges, developing good habits, taking risks, and learning a language other than Hindi and English.

During this programme Dr Lt Colonel Dharamveer Singh Chauhan, Deputy Director, AIIMS Raipur; Dr N.V. Raman Rao, Director, NIT Raipur; Dr Krishna Dutt Chawali, Dean Student Welfare, AIIMS Raipur; University Dean Student Welfare Dr Sanjay Sharma, Dr S.S. Tuteja, Director Extension, Heads of Departments, Professors, officers and a large number of students were present.

Agri Tech Milan 2026

3-day Agri Tech Milan 2026, Agri Techno Fest and Oath Taking Ceremony, the two-day alumni meet, Agri Tech Milan 2026, were held at Indira Gandhi Krishi Vishwavidyalaya (IGKV) on 14-15 March. Alumni from Chhattisgarh and other states across the country also participated in these alumni meet. A two-day technology exhibition was also held on this occasion, showcasing various innovative technologies developed by the College of Agricultural Engineering Agri Tech Milan 2026. On this occasion, the office bearers of the College's Student Union 2026 were administered the oath of office and secrecy.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- SKUAST- Jammu organized the Startup Outreach Programme under JKCIP at Baba Jitto Auditorium on 05.03.2026. The event witnessed the enthusiastic participation of more than 1,000 students from Polytechnic and ITI institutions, degree colleges and SKUAST-Jammu, along with distinguished dignitaries, faculty members, entrepreneurs and FPO representatives. The programme was inaugurated by Mr Omar Abdullah, Chief Minister of J&K, in the presence of Mr Javid Ahmad Dar, Minister for Agriculture Production; Mr Nasir Aslam Wani, Advisor to the Chief Minister; Prof. B.N. Tripathi, Vice Chancellor, SKUAST-Jammu; and Mr Sandeep Kumar (IFS), Mission Director, HADP/JKCIP, APD, Government of J&K.



Glimpses of the startup Outreach programme

- Directorate of Extension, SKUAST-Jammu organized Sensitization and Capacity Building Workshop on Kisan Sarathi for all the KVKs under SKUAST- Jammu at KVK Jammu on 26 February 2026 with 51 participants.



- Under the collaboration scheme Erasmus + International Credit Mobility Programme between SKUAST-J, India and the University of Calabria, Italy, Mr Prajwal Kotwal (Reg. No. J-24-MBS-03), currently pursuing M.Sc. Ag. in Agricultural Statistics, was selected for a five-month internship

under this programme. The selection was facilitated through the initiative of Dr Manish Kr. Sharma, Professor and Head of the Division, who served as the university's contact person for the programme. The student is expected to proceed to Italy by 21 March 2026.

- The University participated in the 3rd Chancellor's Trophy 2026 held at University of Jammu from 15–19 January 2026. University athletes delivered commendable performances. Shivyankar won a Bronze Medal in the 100 m. Vansh Tripathi secured a Silver Medal in the 400 m (Athletics).
- The University celebrated the 77th Republic Day on 26.01.2026, with great enthusiasm and patriotic fervour.. The event highlighted the university's role in advancing agricultural development in the Union Territory of Jammu and Kashmir, and reaffirmed its commitment to strengthening academic infrastructure and supporting the farming community. The celebration also featured cultural performances and patriotic songs by students.
- SKUAST-J, NSS students celebrated World Water Day and World Meteorological Day with great enthusiasm on 23.03.2026. To mark the occasion, a series of cultural and creative activities, including painting, debate, singing, and poetry competitions were organized.



Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences & Technology of Kashmir (SKUAST-K), Srinagar

- World Food Prize Laureate Dr Rattan Lal Shared his Visionary insights on Climate-Resilient Agriculture during 21-day ICAR Winter School organized by SKUAST-K, Shalimar to enhance the knowledge and skill of scientists and academicians on climate-resilient, organic, and regenerative agricultural practices for sustainable farming. Scientists (30) representing 10 different states and Union Territories of the Country, participated in the event.
- SKUAST-K hosted a landmark Academia–Industry Trade Dialogue during its 11th Annual Technology-cum-Trade Fair, Gon'gul 2026, to promote collaboration between academia and industry for strengthening economic resilience, innovation, and sustainable development in Jammu & Kashmir. Academicians, industry representatives,



World Food Prize Laureate Dr Rattan Lal Interactions with Participants From 10 states, UTs



SKUAST-K organizes Academia–Industry Trade Dialogue to discuss inclusive growth, resilience

policymakers, entrepreneurs, and stakeholders from trade, banking, and civil society participated in the event.

- SKUAST-K hosted a high-level Farmer Organizations Conclave at Shalimar campus under JKCIP supported by the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) to strengthen Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) through institutional convergence, financial inclusion, value chain development and improved market access for enhancing farmers' income and rural entrepreneurship. FPOs, CEOs, farmers associated with FPOs, Agri-entrepreneurs, and stakeholders (100) involved in agricultural value chains in Jammu & Kashmir, participated in the event.
- National Honour: SKUAST-K joins ICAR-NCVTC Network as *Mycoplasma* Repository to designate SKUAST-K's Faculty of Veterinary Sciences & Animal Husbandry, Shuhama, as a repository unit for *Mycoplasma* cultures under the ICAR-National Centre for Veterinary Type Culture network, and to strengthen research capacity in veterinary pathogen identification and support national efforts in livestock disease management and biosecurity. Members from ICAR and SKUAST-K participated in the event.
- SKUAST-K celebrated Holi with gaiety and fervour to reflect the student diversity in the university and its focus on fostering a harmonious environment.

To encourage values of mutual respect, national integration, and peaceful coexistence within the university community. Students and Faculty members (200) participated in the event.



Empowering Farmer Collectives: SKUAST-K hosts high-level conclave to solve challenges faced by FPOs



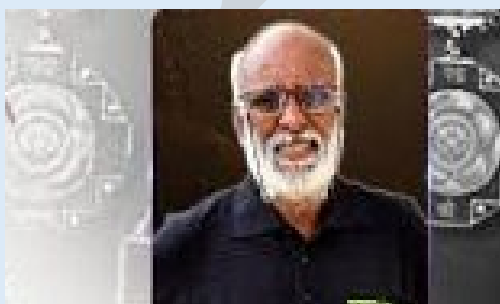
National Honour: SKUAST-K joins ICAR-NCVTC Network as *Mycoplasma*



SKUAST-K celebrates Holi with gaiety and fervour

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

- TANUVAS is proud of Dr N. Punniyamoorthy, Professor (Retd) of Pharmacology, who was conferred with the prestigious Padma Shri Award by the Government of India. He was a pioneer and is a renowned expert in the field of Ethno-Veterinary Medicine (EVM).



Dr N. Punniyamoorthy, Professor (Retd) of Pharmacology, has been Conferred with the Prestigious Padma Shri Award by the Government of India

- The Government of Tamil Nadu scheme on Students – Entrepreneurs – Industrialists Conclave: Showcasing, refinement and support for commercialization of the innovations of students in the field of Veterinary and Animal Sciences was implemented at TANUVAS with a budget outlay of ₹50 lakhs. A total of 165 innovative proposals submitted by students to the tune of ₹40,02.400 were financially supported under this scheme to refine and further develop for commercialization.



Student Conclave held at Madras Veterinary College, Chennai

Global Conference on AI in Agriculture and Industries Summit 2026

Global Conference on AI in Agriculture and Industries Summit 2026 at Mumbai. Shri Devendra Fadnavis, Dr Jitendra Singh, Minister PMO, Miss Sumitra Pawar, Agriculture Minister, Horticulture Minister, Director General ICAR, Director General MCAER, and all Vice Chancellor and Additional Chief Secretary Agriculture, Commissioner Agriculture and officer of Government of Maharashtra participated in two-day Summit. i.e. 22 and 23 February 2026 at Mumbai, which was organised by Government of Maharashtra.



Glimpses of Global Conference

Maharana Pratap Horticultural University (MPHU), Karnal

Establishment of Vermicompost Unit

A Vermicompost Unit was established at Horticulture Research Centre, Raiya, Jhajjar on 25 March 2026 under the guidance of the Vice Chancellor Dr Suresh Kumar Malhotra. The initiative aims to promote sustainable horticulture by ensuring the availability of quality organic manure. This unit will support eco-friendly nutrient management and serve as a demonstration model for farmers.



Vermicompost Unit at HRC, Raiya, Jhajjar

Future Programmes

Agriculture University (AU), Kota

The 9th Convocation of the University shall be organized on dated 13 May 2026, in which Hon'ble Governor of Rajasthan and Chancellor will felicitate the students by gold medals and degrees for various UG, PG & Ph.D. Programmes of Agriculture, Horticulture and Forestry.

Sher-e-Kashmir University of Agricultural Sciences and Technology of Jammu (SKUAST-J), Jammu

- Trainings of farmers/ Krishi Sakhis on Natural Farming by KVK Poonch at cluster level.
- Joint training Programmes with Department of Agriculture on Organic farming by Krishi Vigyan Kendra Poonch.
- Trainings and demonstrations on hydroponics was continued under JK HADP project.
- Development and evaluation of bacterial alginate oligosaccharide based nanocarriers as an efficient antigen delivery system for IBD antigens.
- To establish OPD/OT for each organ system for:
 - Small animal general surgical OT
 - Orthopaedic surgery
 - Ophthalmology unit
 - Contaminated surgical unit
 - Neurology unit
 - Physiotherapy unit
 - Small ruminant surgery unit
 - Equine surgical unit
- Identification of biomarker for tumor diagnosis and molecular characterization of pox-virus and *Salmonella* infection in livestock and poultry.
- Online data recording system
- To work on emerging zoonoses and to study the Epidemiology of important livestock diseases of public health significance in Jammu Region of UT of J&K.
- Cryopreservation, semen handling and artificial insemination.
- Augmentation of fertility and control of calving interval through synchronized induction of Oestrus and ovulation.
- Development of cost-effective progestogen implant for estrus induction in dairy animals.

Tamil Nadu Veterinary and Animal Sciences University (TANUVAS), Chennai

- National level workshop on Computational approaches in drug discovery will be conducted from 07.04.2026 to 09.04.2026 at Veterinary College and Research Institute, Theni.
- National Workshop on Applications of Molecular Modelling and Molecular Interactions will be conducted from 20.04.2026 to 24.04.2026 at Bioinformatics Centre, Madras Veterinary College, Chennai for Faculty, Scientist, Technical Staff, Research Scholars, Students and Biological Sciences Graduates.
- International Conference on Emerging paradigms in animal breeding for improvement and sustainability and XX Annual convention of the Indian Society of Animal Genetics and Breeding at College of Poultry Production and Management, Hosur on 20.11.2026 and 21.11.2026.

NEW VICE CHANCELLORS**Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, (AAU, Jorhat)****Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa**

Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa joined as the Vice Chancellor of Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat, Assam, India on 13 March 2026. He completed his B.Sc. (Agriculture) and M.Sc. (Agriculture) with distinctions followed by PhD from Assam Agricultural University, Jorhat. He served in various capacities from Assistant Professor, Senior Scientist, Professor at AAU, Jorhat and later on as Principal Scientist and Head, Natural Resource Management Division at ICAR Research Complex for NEH Region, Umiam, Meghalaya, Joint Director, ICAR, Nagaland Centre. He has 35 years of experience in teaching, research, extension and administration.



Dr Rajkhowa developed 4 Integrated farming system models, Package of Practices for organic production of crops, Climate change adaptation/mitigation, Integrated weed management, and development of 3 Climate Resilient Rice varieties through multidisciplinary team. He is pioneer in developing and popularizing vermicomposting technology across the North Eastern Region. Dr Rajkhowa guided 19 Post Graduate students in Agriculture besides, designing courses on organic farming and chairing a number of technical sessions in National and International scientific fora. Dr Rajkhowa also developed state-of-the-art research facilities like FATE, CTGC, Rain Out Shelter, Biochar production unit, and established NICRA laboratory, Custom Hiring Centres, etc., at ICAR RC for NEH Region, Meghalaya. He was also instrumental in establishment of KVKs in Peren and Kiphrie Districts of Nagaland.

Dr Rajkhowa has published 196 Research Papers, 17 Books, 41 Book Chapter etc. and contributed to policy documents including Vision 2030 and 2050 for ICAR NEH and Technology Vision 2047 Food and Agriculture, priorities for North east India as assigned by TIFAC, DST, Government of India. He organized 29 National and International Seminars/workshops, 3 summer schools and delivered key note and lead talks in more than 74 national and 18 international conferences.

He is a recipient of Gold Medal, Indian Society of Agronomy; and is Fellow of -- Indian Society of Agronomy, Indian Society of Weed Science, Indian Association of Hill Farming; and has Distinguished Scientist Award, Best Paper Award; Best Centre Award, Centre of Excellence Award.

Dr Rajkhowa is a Member of Executive Council and university court of NEHU, Tripura University, Tripura; Dibrugarh University Court and Executive Council; Member, Academic Council, Pragjyotishpur University, Guwahati, Assam; Member RAC, Central Agricultural University, Imphal, Manipur; Member RAC Central Eri Muga Research Institute (CMERI); Rain Forest Research Institute (RFRI), Assam of the Central Institute of Horticulture, Nagaland; Member, NRC on Mithun, Nagaland; NICRA monitoring Committee, CRIDA, Hyderabad; Regional Advisory Group, NABARD, Nagaland; National advisory Committee, and Indian Association of Hill farming.

ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE, Mumbai)

Dr N.P. Sahu

Dr Narottam Prasad Sahu (Dr N.P. Sahu) is an internationally recognized fisheries nutrition scientist, innovator, and academic leader, appointed as the Director of the ICAR–Central Institute of Fisheries Education (CIFE), Versova, Mumbai, India w.e.f. 24.03.2026. He holds a Ph.D. in Animal Nutrition from the Indian Veterinary Research Institute (IVRI), Bareilly, and brings over 30 years of experience spanning research excellence, higher education, technology development, and institutional leadership. His expertise encompasses aquafeed nutrition, nutraceuticals, nutrigenomics, medicated feeds, and nutritional strategies for stress mitigation, with strong relevance to sustainable and climate-responsive aquaculture systems. He is a Fellow of the National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS, 2023), the National Academy of Veterinary Sciences, and the Maharashtra Academy of Sciences, and a recipient of the Dr M.S. Swaminathan Award for Best Indian Fisheries Scientist and Achievement Award from CLFMA of India.



Dr Sahu has authored 400+ peer-reviewed publications, accruing 11,000+ citations (h-index: 59; i10-index: >200), reflecting sustained global research impact. He holds a granted patent on an ivermectin-based medicated fish feed, and has successfully commercialized approximately 10 aquafeeds and functional feed additives, translating science into scalable industry solutions. He played a pioneering role in conceptualizing and establishing India's first Master's and Ph.D. programmes in Fish Nutrition and Feed Technology, significantly strengthening national human-resource capacity.

His international engagement includes appointments as Visiting Professor at the Institute of Marine Biosciences, Canada, and the University of Idaho, USA. Dr Sahu mentored overseas postdoctoral fellows, Ph.D. scholars, and M.F.Sc. students, including international candidates, contributing to global talent development. He also held strategic leadership and policy roles, including Joint Director, Dean (academics), Head of Department (Fish Nutrition), Convener of national curricula (ARS and BSMA), and member in multiple academic councils and research advisory committees. His career is defined by a strong commitment to science-led innovation, industry-ready technologies, and capacity building for sustainable aquaculture at national and global scales.

Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj

Prof. (Dr) ir. Jonathan A. Lal

Prof. (Dr) ir. Jonathan A. Lal is serving as the Vice Chancellor of Sam Higginbottom University of Agriculture, Technology and Sciences (SHUATS), Prayagraj, India.

He has served SHUATS in various capacities as Pro Vice Chancellor (Academic Affairs), Dean (Jacob Institute of Biotechnology & Bioengineering), Chairman (Institutional Animal Ethics Committee), Director (Innovation, Projects & Consultancy) and Director (Auxiliary Units). During this time he was also a Visiting Professor at the Institute for Public Health Genomics (IPHG) at Maastricht University (UM), Netherlands, and also an editor of the Public Health Genomics Journal and the Allahabad Farmer



Journal.

He is the Chair of the Asia Pacific Region at the International Cancer Patient Coalition (ICPC) and Board Member of ICPC. He is Scientific Advisor of the European Alliance for Personalised Medicine (EUAPM). In addition, he is Scientific Advisor and Board Member of Tuba Scan Ltd/ Microbe & Lab B.V., a Dutch Biotech Company.

Prior to joining SHUATS, he worked in the Netherlands as the CEO of Theragnostic Pvt. Ltd and before that he was its Chief Scientific Officer (CSO). He also held the position of Director of Health Innovation Ventures Pvt. Ltd. During this time he was also a researcher in the department of Radiotherapy (UM), as well as CSO of Maastric Clinic, a Dutch Cancer Research Hospital.

Before this, he worked as a Researcher at the IPHG at UM, Netherlands. During this time he was also the Project Manager of the ERA-NET Africa project 'InnXchange' and was briefly a Research Advisor to EUAPM. At UM, he was the Project Manager of the EU DG SANCO Public Health Genomics European Network and also worked as a B-Team member for the EU pilot flagship project IT Future of Medicine. Previous to this, he worked as a Bioproduct Designer at Delft University of Technology (TU Delft), Netherlands.

He has experience with entrepreneurship, valorization, management, financial administration, negotiations, contracts, spin-offs, acquisitions, business development, health policy, best practice guidelines, personalized medicine, public health genomics, biotechnology, proteomics, molecular biology, grant writing, teaching and research.

He has a Cum Laude PhD in Public Health Genomics (UM), an Engineering Doctorate (Eng D) in Bioproduct Design (TU Delft), Master's degree in Life Science & Technology (TU Delft & Leiden University, Netherlands) and Bachelor's degree (B. Tech, gold medal) in Biotechnology (Allahabad Agricultural Institute-Deemed University, India).

**IAUA heartily congratulates the new Vice Chancellors:
Dr Dipjyoti Rajkhowa, AAU, Jorhat;
Prof. (Dr) ir. Jonathan A. Lal, SHUATS, Prayagraj; and
Dr Narottam Prasad Sahu, CIFE, Mumbai, and
wish them a very successful and rewarding tenure.**

The IAUA sincerely thanks the following outgoing (during January-March 2026) Vice Chancellors for their kind cooperation and support to the Association, and wish them and their families a very happy, healthy, peaceful and prosperous life ahead

**Dr B.C. Deka
Vice Chancellor
AAU, Jorhat**



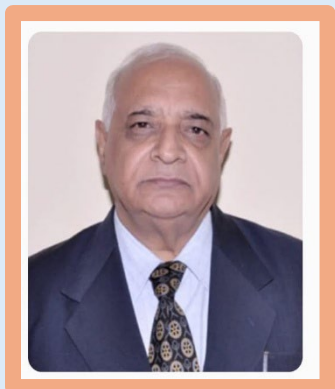
**Dr K.B. Kathiria
Vice Chancellor
AAU, Anand**



**Prof. Rajendra B. Lal
Vice Chancellor
SHUATS, Prayagraj**



Padma Shri: A National Honour for Excellence



DR P.L. GAUTAM

CHANCELLOR, DR RPCAU, PUSA, SAMASTIPUR
FORMER CHAIRPERSON NBA, CHENNAI AND PPVFRA, NEW
DELHI FORMER DDG, CROP SCIENCE, ICAR, NEW DELHI
FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR, GBPUAT, PANTNAGAR



DR GOPALJI TRIVEDI

FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR
DR RAJENDRA PRASAD CENTRAL AGRICULTURAL
UNIVERSITY, PUSA, SAMASTIPUR, BIHAR



DR A.K. SINGH

FORMER DIRECTOR & VICE
CHANCELLOR, IARI, NEW DELHI



DR K. RAMASAMY

FORMER VICE CHANCELLOR
TNAU, COIMBATORE



DR N. PUNNIYAMOORTHY,
FORMER PROFESSOR
PHARMACOLOGY,
TANUVAS, CHENNAI

Heartiest Congratulations on Being Confirmed the Padma Shri. A Proud Moment and Richly Deserved Honour for Outstanding Contribution and Dedicated Service.

- Indian Agricultural Universities Association (IAUA)