



# IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar Updates

**G. B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology  
Pantnagar 263145, Uttarakhand**

**No. 9  
May 2020**

**Message of IDP Leader, GBPUAT, Pantnagar**

## **Building on the Opportunity of Digital Learning**

The COVID-19 circumstances have provided for a compulsive push towards online teaching and learning, and even within agricultural universities of the country such large-scale execution of digital platforms is occurring. This digital learning platform has indeed overtaken the concept of physical classrooms and the size constraint of a physical classroom, as the digital world provides an arena which is far wider and beyond the constraint of physical space. The way 'work from home' has emerged as the latest trend in services industry, similarly, 'study from home' would also emerge as a popular option especially in context of higher education as well as skilling programmes. The efforts made by IDP Pantnagar team in the same direction have also been commendable so far. A research conducted by them found that students are appreciating online learning initiatives of Pantnagar University owing to the flexibility of time, location, attire, and learning style. Further, the research also indicated that online classroom situation is providing students an opportunity to interact with the instructor in a different yet impactful way where they can raise their queries and concerns, put up their viewpoint, and participate in classroom discussions without much social inhibition. I expect that this emerging digital learning mode will bring in pedagogical advancements, improved classroom dynamics, and greater access to learning sources. I appreciate the efforts made by IDP Pantnagar team and hope that several new initiatives will be further taken up in this regard.



(Tej Partap)

## **Undaunted Efforts of IDP Team Towards Digitalizing Pantnagar**

The changing scenario around the world has opened new dimensions of teaching and learning, while digital learning has been taken the front seat in higher education institutes in India. This builds an inherent potential and associates immense possibility with digital learning platforms. IDP Pantnagar has been making consistent efforts to educate and train faculty members and students of the University in the usage of this technology. Several workshops, demonstrations, and interactive sessions have been conducted to get this new system of online teaching-learning in place. Since, majority of the stakeholders are first time users of online teaching-

learning tools and digital platforms, there have been separate sessions on cyber security concerns. Also, concerted efforts are being made to enhance the digital teaching-learning experience by conducting surveys and gathering regular feedback from faculty members and students. In coming times, IDP Pantnagar would also be initiating the design and development of more online courses to address the needs of a larger learner community. Though this global pandemic brought several unseen challenges, yet on the optimistic side it resulted in a massive shift towards digitalization which will certainly expand the educational opportunities and experience in the times to come.

## Online Learning Certification Workshop Attended by IDP Pantnagar Faculty Members

**QASPIR, UK and AIU, India Conducted the Workshop**

Pantnagar University has initiated its efforts to get its teaching activities onto the digital platform and many of these initiatives have been led by IDP Pantnagar team. In order to effectively introduce this new teaching system, the IDP Pantnagar team including faculty members from different colleges were enrolled in a three-day workshop on Online Learning for Faculty. The workshop was facilitated by Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in collaboration with Quality Assurance Strategic Planning Institutional Research (QASPIR) which is an international consultancy organization based in the United Kingdom and specializing in quality assurance, program accreditation, and student success in higher education. The workshop was held from April 1 - April 3, 2020 and it aimed to provide training to the faculty members to deliver academic curriculum online. The Workshop was executed through Zoom Webinar along with a special Learning Management System (LMS) software for the support of the learners which provided the reading material. The workshop covered three critical components including planning for online delivery, student engagement for online learning and

evaluating and assessing online learning. The entire learning process of the workshop was supported with e-text, online videos, modules for future references and self-assessment exercises. The online sessions of the workshop were conducted for all three days and the experts for the workshop were Dr. Katherine Jewitt (Visiting Honorary Associate in The Open University's Faculty for Science Technology Engineering and Mathematics, UK and independent Educational Technology and Management Consultant) and Dr. Pete Boyd (Reader, Professional Learning at the University of Cumbria, UK). The workshop provided an impetus and insight to the faculty members to take forward the online teaching-learning system.



## The Foreign Language Classes of IDP Pantnagar Resumes in Online Mode

**60 Hours English Language Remedial Classes Initiated**

The Language Lab component of IDP Pantnagar is immensely popular among the University students owing to the unique opportunity it is providing to the students. Knowledge of foreign language enhances prospects of higher education and employment in foreign countries, and Pantnagar student community was for the first time getting an option to pursue a full-fledged three months language course. These evening language classes have been catering to almost 200 students of the University with classes in English, French, and German language. Due to lockdown restrictions, the classes were called off for sometime, however with instructors taking the initiative and support of the IDP Pantnagar team, the classes have been resumed in online mode through Zoom platform. The students appreciated this effort and have been regularly participating in the online classes.

The English language remedial classes have been initiated separately to nurture the University students in fundamentals of spoken and written

English. These 60 hours remedial classes have been designed to suitably address the needs of the learners especially with respect to the aspects of grammar and pronunciation. The remedial classes were launched online on April 27, 2020 in the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University Dr. Tej Partap, and other IDP Pantnagar team members including Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP. Currently, 160 University students have been enrolled in these remedial classes and the classes would be running regularly for 60 days on an hourly basis. The students' response till date has been overwhelming. The feedback suggests that the comfort level of students is comparatively higher in the online mode, and they are getting appropriate options to discuss their queries with the instructor. Otherwise, in context of English language learning students used to feel confronted while raising their doubts in the physical classroom situation. Hence, online mode is providing options to shy learners as well as to slow learners.

## Becoming Industry Ready Graduates, Understanding Required Skills and Behaviours

The rapidly changing technological and social conditions calls for developing a learning orientation which perhaps makes individuals employable. Looking towards this significant aspect, a one-day workshop on *How to Become 21<sup>st</sup> Century Industry Ready Graduate: Needs and Requirements* was organized on April 6, 2020. The workshop was designed and executed by Mr. Sanjay Naithani who is an alumnus of Pantnagar University and working as Chief Agronomist with Israel Chemical Limited. The workshop was centered around understanding contemporary skills and behaviours as per industry requirement, expectations of employers from potential employees, and do's and don'ts for managing self. Initiating the workshop, Mr. Sanjay Naithani stated that disruptive technologies have changed the employability scenario and therefore, as graduating students we must build certain core competencies. He told the participants that though technical skill set requirement varies from one industry to another, but the higher order cognitive skills such as creativity, critical thinking, communication, leadership, team work, etc. hold importance across all industrial domains. The



workshop discussions also led to a common understanding of generating an industry specific database of the University alumni. This database would then be useful for students in terms of aligning with industry professionals for internships, placements, exposure visits, live projects, and startup funding. The closing remarks of the workshop were given by Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic). He thanked the expert for such a stimulating and insightful workshop and said that Pantnagar alumni are indeed great resource persons as they are better able to connect with student requirements.

## Online Guest Lecture on Nutrient Management in Crops Organized by IDP Pantnagar

An online guest lecture of Mr. Sanjay Naithani, Chief Agronomist, Israel Chemicals Limited was organized by IDP Pantnagar for University students on April 11, 2020. The lecture was delivered on *Nutrient Deficiencies in Crops and Its Management* and was focussed on educating the students about the historical aspects of nutrient management, causes, identification and correction of nutrient deficiency. Being a renowned agronomist with more than two decades of work experience in agro-chemical industry, Mr. Naithani discussed about the concept of nutrient management comprehensively. He briefed the students on how agro-industries are researching on nutrient deficiencies and developing viable solution with their research team. Using varied illustrations, he detailed the concept of nutrient mobility and the factors affecting the process. He further suggested that being students of agriculture,

it is important to understand the concept of nutrient deficiency and related aspects as it is a crucial point of information that helps in developing dialogues with the farmers. He stated that the field situations are practically different from the classroom teaching situation, thus we need to have comprehensive knowledge of the expression of nutrient deficiencies in crops, fruits and vegetables. He also informed about the tools and equipments are used by the industries for aiding the identification of nutrient deficiency and gave some tips on diagnosis of farmers' fields. A short question and answer session was conducted after the lecture. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar applauded the expert for his efforts in organizing such an informative lecture. The session was attended by University students from undergraduate, masters, and doctoral programmes and was appreciated by all.



## EXPLORING CAREER PROSPECTS

IDP Pantnagar Organizes Interactive Session Series on Career Options

### Exploring Opportunities in Construction and Infrastructure Innovations

The infrastructural development of a country is a significant ladder in economic and social progress. An interactive session on career options and prevailing opportunities in the infrastructure sector was organized on April 1, 2020 and was led by Mr. Ashutosh Gautam, Chief General Manager (Technical), National Highways Authority of India (NHAI), and Regional Officer, Gujrat, Ministry of Road Transport and Highways, Government of India. He is also an alumnus of Pantnagar University and was the recipient of Chancellor Gold Medallist during his undergraduate degree programme. The session was focused on highlighting the immense opportunities Indian infrastructure sector offers, skill sets required to work in this sector, and how graduating students can prepare for job applications in this sector. Mr. Gautam briefly described about the Indian road networks and the working mechanism of NHAI. He



thereby elaborated on the various type of construction processes that are currently being practiced in Indian and abroad and the kind of executing modes which are being used in prevailing contracting models. Regarding infrastructural innovations, he discussed about the basic guidelines of contract management covering mega projects, infrastructure planning, and contracting patterns. He even suggested some researchable issues and futuristic prospects in the construction and infrastructure sector. With his three decade of work experience in techno administrative control and management of mega highway projects, he dealt with student queries in a thoughtful way, which was applauded by all. The session was concluded by Dr. S. K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP where he extended his regards to the expert and praised all students for their enthusiastic participation.

### Understanding Digital Trends in Information Technology Industry

Digitalization is gradually taking over all industrial sectors, and now the education sector is also a frontline adopter of digital teaching-learning platforms. The information technology (IT) industry is thus the overarching industry responsible for generating and disseminating digital technologies. Hence, it is important for students to keep aware of prospective career options in the IT industry. Mr. Vikas Kumar, Vice President, Capgemini Invent was invited for an interactive session with students of Pantnagar University students to deliberate on emerging digital transformation, trends and possibilities in IT Industry. The session was held on April 2, 2020. Mr. Kumar is an alumnus of Pantnagar University and has vast experience of working in various multinational organizations including BHEL, Maruti Suzuki, Ariba, Wipro, Capgemini, etc. In the initial part of the session, he talked about the emerging technologies of 2020 and times to come which included fifth generation (5G) network technology, data analytics, blockchain, artificial



intelligence (AI), conversational AI, machine learning (ML), and intelligent process automation (IPA) and robotic process automation (RPA). He then spoke about the current and future digital transformations occurring in India and worldwide such as smart everything (cities, vehicles, factories, drones, wearables) XaaS - Everything as a service, user experience and customer service mapping, digital privacy and security, and digital governance. After highlighting the trends and transformations, he suggested students on how to explore suitable career options and the immense possibility of venturing into IT-based entrepreneurship options. He even focused on multi-disciplinary collaborations to initiate and engage into digital startups. The deliberation was followed by a question and answer session, where he followed the unique example based approach to relate to student queries. The closing remarks of the session were given by Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic) who accentuated the need to have an awareness and skill set related to IT fundamentals.

## Recognizing Career Options in Rural Development Sector

An interactive session was organized on April 24, 2020 which was conducted by Mr. Rajkumar Jha, a renowned name in the field of advertising and rural communication from Bihar. “In order to work for rural development one needs to understand the lifestyle, habits of rural people, the existing weather conditions, the cropping pattern and everything that contributes to the rural culture. The same principle applies for the Agriculture also, we cannot understand agriculture by separating the concept of culture”, said Mr. Rajkumar Jha. He briefed the participants about the challenges faced during communication with the rural clientele and how the role of communication can act as a catalyst in accelerating the pace of development. Citing examples from his own experiences of working with women, adolescent girls and children on issues of health, nutrition, hygiene, sanitation, contraception he stated that in order to sell an idea in a community we need to understand the social structure, social system and stratification. He further added that one needs to understand that change in social setting changes the expectations of a consumer which in turn affects the buying behaviour. Putting his views on the issues of communication in rural setting, Mr. Jha stated that as a professional it is a prerequisite for us that we



understand the existing myths and challenges in rural communication and design our strategy accordingly. He added that the existing culture of selling wrong agricultural package of practices has resulted in making the farmers ignorant of what to produce, how to produce, when to produce, how to sell and make farming a lucrative avenue. He further briefed that there are numerous and lucrative career opportunities in rural communication and rural marketing sector, but initially there is a need to understand that what skills are required by an individual wishing to pursue a career here. As a development professional we need to start from simplifying the content used in the extension materials, devising customized community-oriented communication strategies, following a timeline, being empathetic in observing, and placing/positioning the product in the rural setting. In the end, the participants raised many questions with the expert in context of rural communication and agricultural practices and got apt responses for their queries. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer, Academic, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar culminated the online session by stating that the session was very insightful, enriching and provided a realistic view of the existing rural setting.

## Generating Strategies for Administrative Services Examination

The administrative services in India is an aspiring career option for many. The IDP Pantnagar team organized an interactive session to further streamline the efforts and preparations of Pantnagar students who are eyeing the Union Public Service Commission (UPSC) as their career goal. The session was directed by Mr. Yogesh Bhatt, Co-Founder/Partner at Ecobasket Consultancy Private Limited. He has worked as a Programme Specialist (Agriculture) with Aga Khan Rural Support Programme and is a UPSC aspirant waiting for the final result of Civil Services Examination 2019. The entire session was precisely designed to guide the UPSC aspiring students towards strategic preparations and the ways to start early at the level of graduation. The pattern of examination, syllabus, core and optional subjects to study were enlisted and briefed by the expert step by step with more focus towards agriculture optional. The three stages of UPSC examination, qualifying criteria, marks distribution and paper patterns from the trend



of preceding years were discussed in detail and every individual query from the student's side was answered. The students were also provided with the information of many authentic web-based study resources as well as with the tips on stratification strategies for selective and effective preparation. Emphasis upon developing the habit of analytical thinking, command over current affairs, persuasive subject knowledge and time management were the success *mantras* imparted to students during the session. Almost 100 students actively participated in the session and were acquainted with tricks and tips of effective preparation. The session concluded with encouraging feedback and submissions from the participants that showed a higher level of motivation amongst the students. Concludingly, Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, boosted the confidence level of students with his closing remarks and conveyed his best wishes to the session expert as well as to the students.

## IDP Pantnagar Organizes Webinar on Staying Positive during Adversities

The world is currently witnessing one of the greatest crises impacting human life in unprecedented ways. Despite such an enormous challenge, the world is to move on with hope and courage. IDP Pantnagar organized a webinar on April 23, 2020 on *How to Stay Positive During Adversities* and the webinar was delivered by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP. “There is no concept of adversity in life. Adversity is not a fact, it's not static thing, and rather it's an illusionary figure and thought process. We need to understand is the adversity? Adversity is attached with life, if we have expectations, desires, thoughts and dreams in life and are unable to fulfil them, the adversities emerge in life. Sometimes, we don't deserve the expectations, we don't convert them into realistic goals, we don't earn the eligibility and then we don't get it and state that life has become adverse. These adversities in a way are the opportunities. It gives us chance to reconsider, resettle and introspect,” stated Dr. Kashyap in the webinar. Through his enlightened words, he suggested that how human beings fall prey to illusionary concept of adversity in life and what should be done to win over it. He stated that in life we ignorantly get into the feeling of being a doer and consequently we feel burdensome. Often our reaction to changing situations, make us stressed and disheartened. Hence, we are unable to visualize the reality and loose the happiness, contentment and joy of the present moment. Referring to Shrimad

Bhagwad Geeta as an integrated science of management of self, relationship and thoughts, Dr. Kashyap stated that it educates us on how to look towards life, duties and responsibilities that we uphold, generating a broader outlook and giving meaning to life without much confusions and complexities. He further elaborated that in life we live with two types of unknown fears, first is the one which is controlled and another is beyond our control. He stated that we need to understand that change is inevitable in life and we need to become fearless by generating a perspective in life. The perspective as per him calls for a planned agenda, temperament and taste for all ups and downs, for every crest and trough, for every light and darkness and every moment that is offered to us by life. He added that the shades of life change but one's potential, expectations, dreams, desires, vigour and capacity remains same. Developing a perspective of life here calls for us to foresee future, carry hope, accept the shade of life and become optimistic towards failures. Further citing the verse 38 of chapter two of Shrimad Bhagwad Geeta he informed that Lord Krishna asked Arjuna to get out of transitory illusions and emotions and remain dutiful towards his required actions. While closing the session, he addressed some queries of the attendees and finally gave a closing message that we need to develop an attitude of rising out of adversities and creating our own unique story of success in life.

## Workshop on Cyber Security Organized for Faculty Members of Pantnagar University

The IDP Pantnagar team conducted an online workshop for faculty members of Pantnagar University on Security Issues on Online Platform: Do's and Don'ts on April 17, 2020. The workshop reinforced upon the practices to keep the personal information and the information systems secure and instilled the need for staying abreast with cybersecurity issues and measures to tackle them. Use of strong and separate passwords for all accounts, installation of an effective and preferably total security antivirus shield on the device, keeping login credentials personal, use of online platforms on self-owned

devices, use of encrypted sites and browsers, taking backups, ensuring system and software updates were suggested as precautionary measures. Moreover, the hands-on session of security measures and settings to follow while using Zoom cloud meeting platform was taken as a case study during the workshop to ensure the data safety of faculty members while taking online lectures and meetings. The faculty members actively participated in the workshop and assured the secure adoption of online platforms and changing education imperatives in this time of crisis, thus making the workshop valuable.



## Students' Verses

The rural communication interactive session was wonderful, and the expert presentation was highly informative. I would thank the NAHEP team and I hope to have more of such career based sessions in future as well.



- Soumya Pokhariya, College of Agriculture

I felt lucky to have such a beautiful experience of real and authentic information of village area throughout the country. As I also belong to a village, therefore the session enabled me to link all those thoughts and experience. It enforced me to recognize my potential and motivated me to further develop my skill set.



- Ashwini Kumar, College of Technology

Nowadays every student is sensitive for adversities of various things like adversity of job, adversity of career, et. I am very thankful to Dr. S.K. Kashyap who gave us a lot of knowledge about how should we handle adversities related to different things without any pressure. His words were impactful and we could directly relate it with our profession, career, and our degree programme.



- Rohit Kumar, College of Agriculture

## Main Events of May, 2020

S. No.	Event	Proposed Date	Venue	Nodal Unit	Convener
1	Training on Linking Livestock Science with Economics in Indian Perspective	02-05-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
2	Webinar on Himalayan Agriculture in India by Dr. Tej Partap, Vice Chancellor, GBPUAT, Pantnagar	02-05-2020	Online	Project Team	Dr. S.K. Kashyap, College of Agriculture
3.	Training on Skilling Agri-Graduates for Technology Transfer through Participatory Learning	12-05-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
4.	Training on Application of Artificial Intelligence Tools in Agriculture	22-05-2020 to 24-05-2020	Online	Agri-Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture

## Expanding the Universe of the University

**Dr. S.K. Kashyap**

**Professor and Head, Agricultural Communication/PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar**

Universities do not fulfil their purpose by just creating four walls with certain amenities. Perhaps, the role of imparting man making education is beyond that, and in the present context the liberation from the four walls is being generated by digitalization. In the Indian scenario, the enrolment in higher education would be increasing drastically, and now is the chance for Pantnagar University to contribute in fulfilling this purpose. It is time that Pantnagar University expands its universe to accommodate learners from across the world. Through online teaching-learning, it is possible to get ahead the boundaries of time, space, qualification, duration, and language and cater to all those who wish to learn about agriculture and related subjects. It is equally a beneficial opening for the University as well. The land grant mandates of teaching, research and extension can be now be achieved and imparted to various stakeholders, and hence it shall be the most pertinent utilization of wisdom lying in the University. The upcoming IDP-NAHEP initiatives shall be contributing in designing online programmes and courses that would help the University in crossing over the tradition, formal boundaries of education and moving towards a more liberal approach. We shall be making all possible efforts to universalize University education and generate multiple connects to benefit learners from across all the world.



## Top 10 Scorers of IDP Golden Points Till April 2020



**Yogesh Pandey**  
ID: 50192  
College of Basic Sciences and Humanities  
Points Earned: 480



**Chinmay Gupta**  
ID: 49787  
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences  
Points Earned: 325



**Sarthak Kothiyal**  
ID: 51662  
College of Agriculture  
Points Earned: 430



**Rekha Bhandari**  
ID: 52961  
College of Agriculture  
Points Earned: 305



**Shubham Singh**  
ID: 53734  
College of Technology  
Points Earned: 355



**Varsha Kamboj**  
ID: 53217  
College of Home Science  
Points Earned: 305



**Shaurya Dumka**  
ID: 49766  
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences  
Points Earned: 330



**Sumit Tiwari**  
ID: 52963  
College of Agriculture  
Points Earned: 305



**Mohit Singh Bohra**  
ID: 53038  
College of Agriculture  
Points Earned: 325



**Samyak**  
ID: 53589  
College of Technology  
Points Earned: 305

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