

## Statue of Rishi Parashara unveiled by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog

*Mukul Giri Goswami*  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



*Rubal Vimal Kumar*  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



The premises of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar is now adorned with a beautiful marble statue of Rishi Parashara. With the vision of renewing our ancient knowledge, the college took the lead in establishing the marble statue of Rishi Parashara. The oldest treatise on agriculture - Krishi Parashara was written by Rishi Parashara in 400 BC. It contains 243 verses on different aspects of agriculture, livestock rearing, plant protection, nutrient management, irrigation management, agrometeorology, and other aligned aspects. Dr. Y.L. Nene, the Founder and Emeritus Chairman of Asian Agri

History Foundation (AAHF), Pantnagar worked intensively on the verses and recommendations mentioned in Krishi Parashara for years and also translated the treatise in many languages including Hindi, English, and Marathi. On June 09, 2021, the marble statue was unveiled by Dr. Rajiv Kumar, Vice-Chairman, NITI Aayog in presence of Dr. Tej Partap, Vice-Chancellor and Dr. Shivendra Kashyap, Dean Agriculture. Breeding; and Dr. Anju Arora, Associate Professor, Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding, and the other workers.

Speaking on the occasion Dr. Rajiv Kumar appreciated the marvellous effort of Pantnagar University in recognizing the agricultural heritage and its importance for a sustainable future. "I wish Pantnagar University emerges as the hub of researches in natural and organic farming to up bring scientific protocols through scientific validation", said Dr. Kumar. Vice-Chancellor

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"No race can prosper until it learns there is as much dignity in tilling a field as in writing a poem.."

- Booker T. Washington

## 8<sup>th</sup> Dr. Coleman Lecture delivered by Dr. J. Kumar, former Registrar and Dean Agriculture

**Rashi Chahal**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



**Ravi Kumar Jha**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year

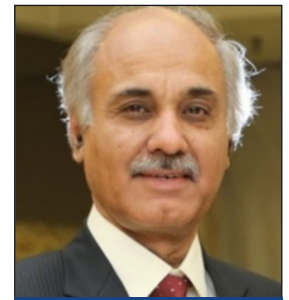


The eminent and highly experienced team of faculty members and scientists of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar are renowned for their excellent teaching skills and their contribution to agricultural research and development. Our scientists and professors stand the best in the nation and around the world. One of our veteran professors and an eminent plant pathologist, Dr. J. Kumar was invited to deliver the prestigious Coleman Lecture arranged by University of Agriculture Sciences (UAS), Bangalore. Dr. Kumar addressed the house on *Plant Health, Food Security and a One Health Perspective*. The lecture was organized on June 16 and was the 8th edition in the Coleman Lecture series.

The 'Coleman Lecture' series was initiated by the Department of Entomology and Department of Plant Pathology of UAS, Bangalore in the year 2014. The lecture series aims to honour the contributions of Dr. Leslie Coleman, who served as the first State Mycologist in 1908 in the Mysore State Department of Agriculture. Dr. Coleman's extraordinary and pioneering

research in the area of plant protection have proved extremely significant for the agricultural community in India and Canada.

Addressing the audience during the 8<sup>th</sup> Coleman Lecture, Dr. Kumar said that food security is the moving target because the population is growing year after year. He mentioned that about 80% of the human diet is derived from plant sources only. Emphasizing the need to ensure plant health, he mentioned that even after investing 32 billion dollars in plant protection, about 40% of crop losses occur because of pests, diseases, etc. Food shortages have occurred because of transboundary movement of plant pathogens, changing climatic condition, unsafe handling of harvested products and other factors which further leads to food insecurity. He further added that the time has come to incorporate human, animal, plant and environment health under one umbrella which he named as One Health Perspective. He concluded that the effort to protect plants from emerging pathogens helps not only to strengthen food security but also benefits the human health, brings equity, boosts economic development, and strengthens the global partnership.



**Dr. J. Kumar**  
Former Dean Agriculture  
and Registrar,  
GBPUAT, Pantnagar

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Dr. Tej Partap appreciated the effort of College of Agriculture in showing keen interest towards research in natural and organic farming and also for establishing the grand marble statue of Rishi Parashara to show the respect towards the agricultural heritage of the country which mostly remains undermined due to ignorance. "Enough has been done on the chemistry aspect of agriculture and now it is important to conduct formal researches in physics of agriculture which will reveal many of those secrets which are hidden in the ancient literatures", reflected Dr. Partap. Dean Agriculture, Dr. Shivendra Kashyap speaking on the occasion said that the contributions and knowledge set of our sages and seers which are preserved in the precious literatures remain hidden, and the young generation is unable to take pride in their illustrious ancestors and their immense contributions. This statue of Rishi Parashara is a symbol of our respect to the knowledge set and the wisdom which prevailed into this country hundreds of years ago and supported the farming system of the country for ages. "The hi-tech agriculture and improved knowledge sets need to emerge with the roots in the ancient wisdom which not only talked about productivity but also about sustainability and preserving of soil fertility, ecosystem health, plant health, water management, livestock health, preserving friendly insects as well as natural and organic farming practices", remarked Dr. Kashyap. Dr. Sunita T. Pandey, Professor, Dept. of Agronomy, College of



Agriculture supported the college initiative by giving financial support in statue creation. She is also the Coordinator of Uttarakhand Chapter of Asian Agri History Foundation. Till date, the College of Agriculture, Pantnagar has done tremendous work in bringing the root forms of agricultural practices to forefront and the establishment of a marble statue of Rishi Parashara is yet another step in this direction. This initiative will surely fulfil the objective of enriching the rich heritage prevailing since the ancient times. This unique initiative will also encourage the young generations to commemorate the contributions made in the field of agriculture by the ancient scientists.

# Accolades for AICRP on Maize running in Pantnagar

## Conferred the Best AICRP Centre Award

**Asad Rehman**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



**Malika Tripathi**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



The College takes pride in the spectacular achievements of its research and development activities throughout the year. Among the several achievements, another feather to the cap of achievement was added in the 64<sup>th</sup> Annual Maize Workshop Meeting where Pantnagar AICRP on Maize was declared as the Best AICRP Centre for the biennium 2018-19 and 2019-20. The award was conferred by ICAR- Indian Institute of Maize Research (IIMR), Ludhiana to Pantnagar centre for its outstanding contribution towards maize research and development. On June 17, 2021 the Director of IIMR Ludhiana announced the award and congratulated all the scientists and staff working on maize research in College of Agriculture, Pantnagar.

Pantnagar centre is one of the 32 research centres working under All India Coordinated Research Project on Maize

and has been engaged in maize improvement and evaluation activities since September 1961. Pantnagar centre has developed many composite varieties namely Protina, Tarun, Navin, Shweta, Kanchan, D-765, Surya, Amar, Pragati, and Pant Sankul Makka-3 for early and extra-early maturity groups for different geographical regions. Recently, by developing two more hybrid maize species along with Pant Popcorn-1, Pant Sankar Makka-5, and Pant Sankar Makka-6, the University has further strengthened its contribution towards development of high yield maize, and thus supporting the cause of agricultural development of the country.

On receiving this esteemed award, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Tej Partap and Dean, College of Agriculture Dr. S.K. Kashyap credited the achievement to the scientists who worked with conviction and dedication even during the pandemic period. They congratulated Senior Maize Breeder Dr. N.K. Singh, Maize Pathologist Dr. R.P. Singh, Soil Scientist Dr. Veer Singh, Agronomist Dr. Amit Bhatnagar, Field Assistant Dr. Ramvir Singh, Sh. Durjan Ram and other scientists and workers working on the maize research project. The College Editorial Board extends warm greetings to the entire team of AICRP Maize, Pantnagar.



**Dr. N.K. Singh**  
Professor  
Dept. of Genetics and  
Plant Breeding



**Dr. R.P. Singh**  
Professor  
Dept. of Plant Pathology



**Dr. Veer Singh**  
Senior Research Officer  
Dept. of Soil Science



**Dr. Amit Bhatnagar**  
Senior Research Officer  
Dept. of Agronomy



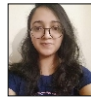
# Academic year 2020-21 comes to a closure

## Amalgamation of offline and online learning

*Arpit Jain*  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



*Palak Chaturvedi*  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



Looking forward to a new beginning, the University gates were opened for the students after almost a year of online classes. The classes for second semester of session 2020-2021 started in offline mode on February 16, 2021. Few activities under RAWE, some lab classes, and some field visits were undertaken by the students in the offline mode. Unfortunately, the COVID-19 problems escalated in the entire country and as a result, the University was forced to keep offline studies at a halt once again and the hostels were vacated for the safety and well-being of all. Since stopping was never an option, the classes resumed in online mode with the same zeal and enthusiasm. Owing to the unprecedented circumstances, the pre-finals and the semester final examinations were decided to be conducted through online platforms. Both first and second pre-finals for

various courses were conducted by the respective instructors at the convenience of the students. Lab final examinations were conducted through assignments, online tests, and viva voce.

The semester moved towards culmination with the commencement of the semester final examinations from June 25, 2021 to July 05, 2021 for all undergraduate, postgraduate and doctoral students of the University as declared by the Office of The Controller of Examinations. The final examination schedule was uploaded on the University website. Various guidelines were issued regarding the smooth conduct of the final examinations by the concerned authority. The exams were to be conducted through the Microsoft Teams platform. The dedicated faculty members of the college and the technical staff made sure that the examinations are conducted smoothly without any inconvenience to the students. The entire examination process was carefully monitored by Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture, through the Examination Coordinators. The little time spent by students at Pantnagar was indeed invigorating for all. The College Editorial Team wishes all the students good results and hopes that the next semester is enjoyed by everyone at Pantnagar.



# Agriculture Society organized Sankalan – the idea contest

## Student teams shared their Vision 2025 of the college

**Diksha Mathpal**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



**Rajat Joshi**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



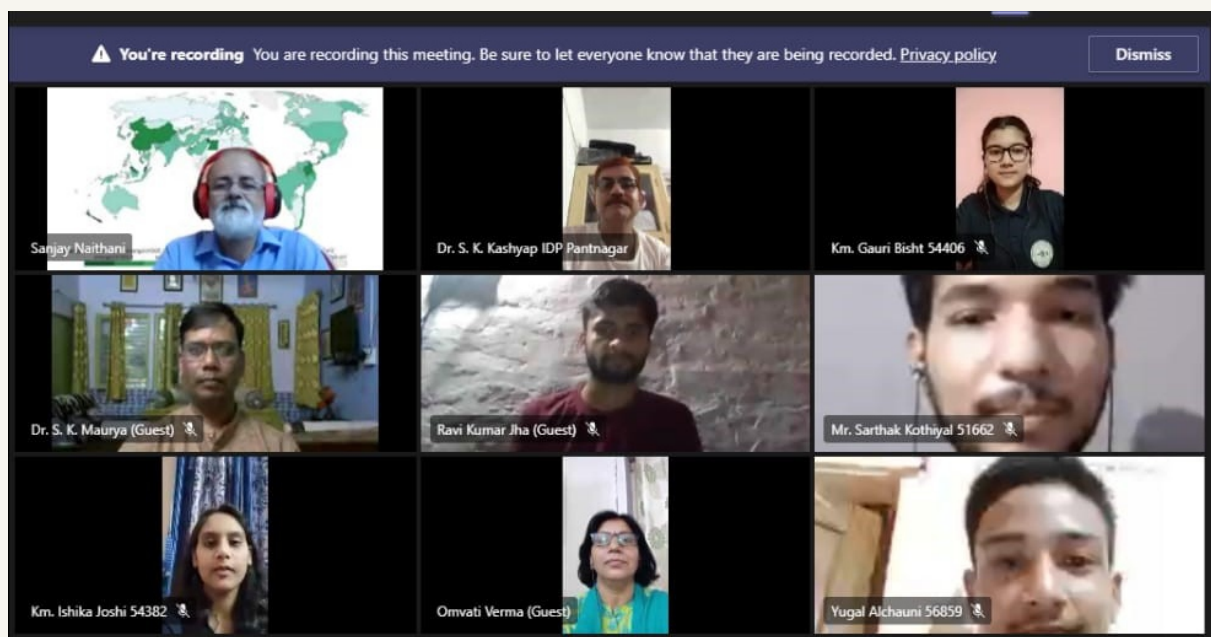
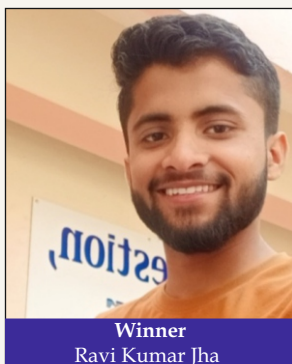
The Agriculture Society of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar organized Sankalan – The Idea Contest on the theme Vision 2025. The event was held on June 20, 2021 and challenged the young minds to present their futuristic vision about the college. Since the havoc of COVID-19 is trailing around, everything is changing with leaps and bound, and so is the mode and pattern of activities and events conducted by college societies. For contending and withstanding the situation, Sankalan was held in online mode.

The participants presented their ideas and views on several aspects related to the college in the most creative way possible. The efforts put in by each participant and the way they answered the questions posed to them was truly commendable.

The contest was judged by the esteemed alumni of the college and included Mr. Raju Barwale, Managing Director, Maharashtra Hybrid Seeds Co. Ltd., Mr. Kaushal Jaiswal, Managing Director, Rivulis Irrigation India Pvt. Ltd. and Dr. Sanjay Naithani, Chief Agronomist, Israel Chemicals Limited.

Contests are not just about winning and losing, it is more about learning and exploring. Though it was a tough call for the judges, top three winners were announced towards the end of the event. Mr. Ravi Kumar Jha from B.Sc. Agriculture second year was declared as the winner, while Ms. Mallika Tripathi and Ms. Aishna Srivastava again both from B.Sc. Agriculture second year were the first and second runner-up respectively. Ms. Pragya Gargya from B.Sc. Agriculture first year received the Consolation prize. The enthusiastic participation of the students was appreciated by Dr. Omvati Verma, the Staff Counsellor of Agriculture Society. The abundance of were a clear indication of the excitement and positivity to provoke a change. Overall, this contest had helped students to foster their thinking towards how they want the change should be.

### Winners of Sankalan



## Dean Kashyap shares his experiences of year 2020-21

### *Journey led by vision, vigour and value creation*

**Mukul Giri Goswami**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



**Himani Panwar**  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



The best way of making improvements is to analyze your past and identify the mistakes. Once we are able to identify the mistakes then it is possible to work on our weak points and create a better version of ourselves. Upholding this vision, we had a conversation with Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture regarding the overview of academic year 2020-21. His dedication towards the betterment of College of Agriculture and Pantnagar University not only left us astonished but also inspired us a lot. Here are some glimpses of the insightful conversation with Dean Kashyap.

**Q** The academic year 2020-21 has been completed, and how did it align with the vision for this academic year?

➤ The College is historic and it has crossed more than six decades during which thousands of illustrious students have been nurtured. The vision for the year was to create an ecosystem of excellence for better teaching-learning, research and entrepreneurship development and also to get adapted with the changing demands in the education sector during this period of pandemic. The RAWE programme and the National Youth Fest organized in the college were supported from NAHEP to generate enhanced professionalism. Even the faculty members contributed a lot through certificate courses in different disciplines which was a new initiative. Overall, the evolving ecosystem brought a drastic change in the outlook of teachers and students which was envisioned in the beginning of this year.

**Q** Though the year was disturbed a lot due to pandemic but what were some of the positive aspects which can be recalled as point of motivation in context of College of Agriculture and Pantnagar University?

➤ There are many good memories of the year which will be cherished forever. The college won the championship of Dean Student Welfare section. The college ingeniously organized the National Youth Fest 'Adamyra'. The scientists worked meticulously and kept the researches going in the best possible manner. Challenging the challenges, Pantnagar University stood strong, and even during this period of pandemic crop varieties were released. The activities of NAHEP also continued brilliantly across during the pandemic and hundreds of college students participated in them. The College Newsletter publication is another wonderful experience led by undergraduate students in a meticulous manner.

**Q** Though College of Agriculture has come up with many illustrious alumni till time and they have brought pride and laurel, but the present generation of students mostly go for a safer career which doesn't emerge as extraordinary. How do you analyze this change?

➤ The difference between ordinary and extraordinary is that little extra. In every generation, majority of the students try to get into a safer path but some of them choose to become different due to their risk bearing ability and willingness to put that extra effort. Even present generation students also have similar temperament and students are going on path of entrepreneurship, untraditional career paths like competing for biotechnology, degree from overseas universities in untraditional subjects etc. Therefore, I personally get the present generation students even more ambitious and expeditious.

**Q** As compared to the students of earlier years, how do you get the students of present generation in light of the performance in year 2020-21?

➤ The outcomes of year 2020-21 provide a strong hope of future. I observed cent percent students coming upto online teaching, online examinations, referring to e-resources, participating in online internships and trainings, national and international webinars, aligning with foreign experts for guidance and what not. The huge efforts taken by the present generation students in 2020-21 during very odd time of pandemic seems like they have carved a tunnel of hope through dark mountain of disappointment. This generation will cross a long way.

**Q** As we look into the performance of Pantnagar University, the University received the Best Institution Award but still it does not come up to rank first in ICAR ranking. How can Pantnagar emerge as a global destiny in the years to come?

➤ Pantnagar need not to compete with anyone but need to compete with its own performance. The University has huge untapped potential which needs to be unlocked. An institution of higher education is a partnership among students and alumni, faculty and administrators, donors and trustees, neighbourhoods and more, in order to build a community and a culture. There is no denial of the fact that this partnership is well bloomed in Pantnagar University. The only challenge is that complacency has emerged with time due to several valid reasons which needs to be broken. If Pantnagar gets on foot with sincerity and seriousness with proper system support, then the University will obviously emerge as a global institution which paves a hope for very bright future.



**Dr. S.K. Kashyap**  
Dean, College of Agriculture

# Exemplary effort in e-content creation: SRO Dr. Amit Bhatnagar posts 150 lectures of Agronomy on YouTube

## An enthusiastic conversation with Dr. Amit Bhatnagar

Tannu Pandey  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



Unnati Joshi  
B.Sc Agriculture, II<sup>nd</sup> Year



The Senior Research Officer of Agronomy Department of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar Dr. Amit Bhatnagar started a YouTube channel an year ago. Since then, he has been regularly posting videos on various fundamental and advanced topics of Agronomy. With years of teaching and research experience, the videos are extremely interesting and a rich source of knowledge. Recently he reached the milestone of uploading the 150<sup>th</sup> video, and on this momentous occasion we approached him for a conversation.

**Q** How did the idea of starting an educational YouTube channel occur to you?

➤ During the lockdown imposed last year due to COVID-19, the college had to shift to online platforms for conducting classes. There were constant network connectivity issues and particularly in the hilly areas students were not able to avail the benefits of online classes. So, I started recording the lectures and provided them to the students through WhatsApp. But again, it was not a very convenient option as the lectures were quite lengthy. We began looking for alternative options and with the suggestion of our Dean Dr. S.K. Kashyap, we stumbled upon the idea of recording the lectures and posting them on YouTube. A setup with cameras and other facilities was created in the studio of Department of Agricultural Communication of the college itself, where I recorded the initial videos. Thereafter, I started recording them at my home itself.

**Q** What is the main purpose this YouTube has been serving since initiation?

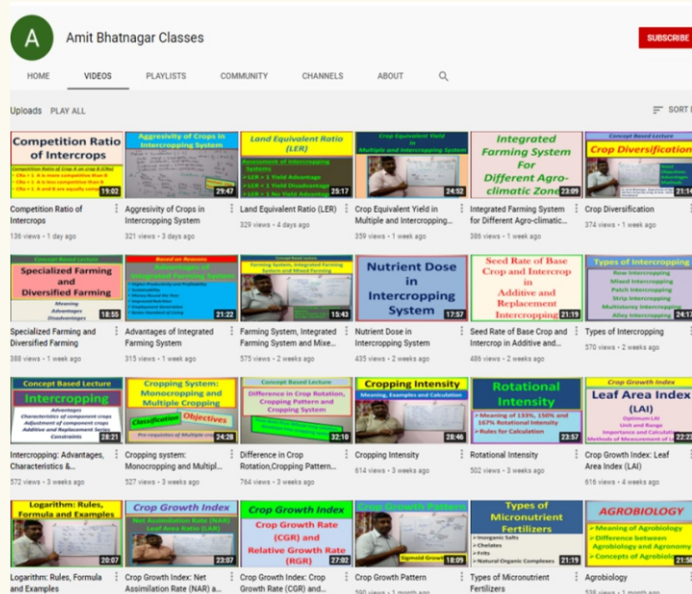
➤ The main purpose is that the students gain an access to the core content of the Agronomy discipline, sitting safely in their houses during the pandemic time, without missing out on knowledge in their crucial college years. Also, knowledge dissemination on YouTube benefits the students of all academic years and is more like an online library that can be accessed by them as and when they like. Students not only from our college, but from across India and even from universities abroad in Malaysia, Nepal, Pakistan etc. have responded positively to the videos and came up to me with queries and suggestions.

**Q** What message would you like to give to the undergraduate students who are aiming for higher studies in Agronomy discipline? Any tips or tricks on how to approach the preparation along with college studies?

➤ The students need to be well versed with the concepts of Agronomy right from the first year of college, the rest is not very difficult. If your basics are strong, you have a strong foundation to build upon the rest of the knowledge. Practice makes a person perfect. If one approaches the JRF preparations systematically, brushes their concepts regularly, one is sure to succeed easily. Practice is very important and on the YouTube channel, I have uploaded solutions to the JRF Agronomy exam paper along with mock question papers. Covering the whole syllabus equally is not the key. One needs to identify the important topics and focus more on them. Attempting 75-80% questions properly is enough to clear the cutoff.

**Q** With your expertise in Agronomy you have created a lot of videos focusing on ICAR Agronomy JRF exam, can we expect more content related to it in the future?

➤ Yes, as of now my focus will be on JRF Agronomy related videos, some of them divulge into concepts related to soil science, horticulture etc. as they overlap with some topics in Agronomy. My videos mainly tackle one topic at a time in detail so that the students can cover the subject matter in an organized and easy way.





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### Official Youtube Channel of the College

[https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMw8k8\\_iO5zeor\\_LQx6VFg](https://www.youtube.com/channel/UCPMw8k8_iO5zeor_LQx6VFg)