



IDP-NAHEP Pantnagar Updates

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

No. 13
October 2020

Message of IDP Leader, GBPUAT, Pantnagar Taking the Quest of Excellence to Greater Heights

Ranking is not a competition; it is a quest of excellence. The ranking system that has come across into the world has an insight of bringing the most needed value sets in the education system. It is to break the complacency that has appeared in the university education system especially in government institutes. The ranking parameters must be monitored continually in order to earmark the gaps which prevail into the university system so that we can compete with our own performance. It is not competing with any other university; we will not get anything out of rivalry with other institutions. We have to compare our performance itself and must try to become more relevant with time. This is how even Pantnagar is emerging day by day at national level in ICAR ranking and we are preparing to get better scores in NIRF ranking as well as other world rankings to become saliently distinct in agricultural education, research and extension. This is what Pantnagar deserves to be as the first agricultural university of the country. This quest of Pantnagar has laid its way up to Sardar Patel Best Institution Award of ICAR this year and improvised ranking in ICAR ranking system. We are on the path and we are getting better day by day, by inculcating this internal quest of excellence into the University system and structures.

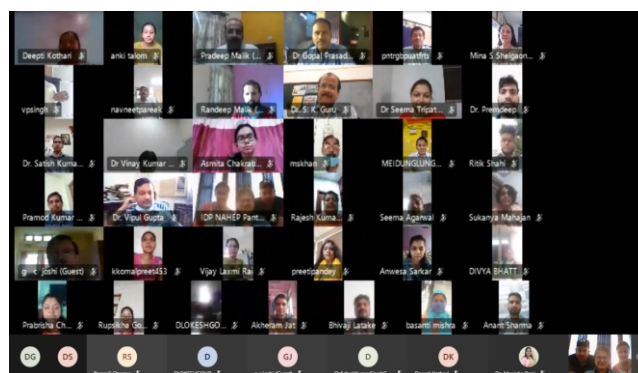


(Tej Partap)

A New Journey of Academic Excellence Initiates with Support of IDP Pantnagar Team

Online Certificate and Diploma Courses Launched

The online certificate and diploma courses as approved by the Academic Council of the University were recently launched in an online programme. In its course of history, Pantnagar University for the first time took this unconventional path of opening its windows for learners all across the world. In this first phase of launch, five agriculture based courses have been initiated namely, Protected Cultivation of Horticultural Crops, Nursery Production and Management of Horticulture Crops, Sericulture, Mass Production of Important Bio-Control agents and Beekeeping. The launch programme was held on September 25, 2020 in the presence of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Tej Partap. The launch was also graced by the presence of Dean, College of Agriculture and PI,



IDP-NAHEP Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP Dr. S.K. Guru, other Dean and Directors of the University, all course instructors involved in preparation and delivery of online certificate courses,

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Dr. Tej Partap as President of AIU Leads a Seminar on NEP and Agricultural Education

IDP Pantnagar Organized the Online Seminar

It is a matter of great honour for the University that the Indian Council of Agriculture (ICAR) has nominated the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of Pantnagar University Dr. Tej Partap as the Chairman of the Committee formed for implementation of new National Education Policy (NEP) in agricultural higher education institutes. Taking this agenda forward, the IDP Pantnagar team organized an online seminar on *National Education Policy and its Implications on Agricultural Education* on September 28, 2020. The session was led by Dr. Tej Partap alongwith Dr. Pankaj Mittal, Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities.

Initially the key features of the policy document and the target it aims to achieve were comprehensively elaborated. Advocating NEP 2020 as a forward-looking, student-centric, innovative and democratic policy, the session experts added that in terms of target the policy aims to double the gross enrollment ratio by 2035, implementing compulsory education for children in the age group of 3 to 18 years of age and increment in the education budget to 6.4% of the GDP of the country. They stated that with the renaming of Ministry of HRD as Ministry of Education, the policy has kept expansion at its prime focus with plans of increasing the enrolment, number of Universities and autonomous colleges. Apart from imparting quality in education, the system of



assessment and evaluation will also be reformed to curtail the concept of rote learning and foster the problem solving, scientific temper, leadership, creativity, innovation and other higher-order cognitive skills amongst students with use of innovative teaching methodologies. Further, the strengths of the NEP which will accrue direct benefit to agricultural education and other key highlights of the policy pertaining to the same were discussed.

On the occasion a policy booklet named Agriculture and COVID-19 was also released. The policy booklet contains implications for policy makers in context of managing the agricultural scenario of the country with respect to the present situation. Dr. S.K. Kashyap, PI, IDP-NAHEP mentioned special words of gratitude to the experts and stated that we must plan for convergence of our system into NEP framework. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP along with other faculty members and students of the University were also present in the session.

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the registered individuals and all working team of IDP Pantnagar.

The launch began with the welcome remarks of Dr. S.K. Guru. He gave an overview about the genesis of the courses and welcomed all the registered participants and assured them of a great learning experience and learning support. The launch address was then delivered by Dr. Tej Partap. Reflecting on the strength and prospects of the University, he said that Pantnagar University is a reservoir of knowledge and this renowned institute has many hardworking and dedicated scientists in different agricultural domains and allied fields. Their expertise and knowledge must benefit a larger pool of learners, hence these certificate courses will help bridge the gap between

knowledge and knowledge seekers. Thereafter Dr. S.K. Kashyap gave his remarks on the occasion. He detailed about the structure and functioning of the online certificate courses and encouraged all to gain as much possible from the entire learning process.

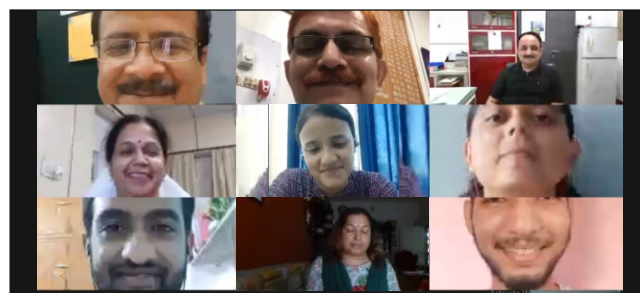
The complete technical and functional support to run these online certificate courses is being provided by the IDP Pantnagar team. Among the various efforts and endeavours of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar to bring a transformation in the teaching-learning ecosystem of the University, the start of certificate and diploma courses is a distinct, progressive step. In times to come, many more such endeavours will be taken to enhance the teaching-learning outcomes of the University.

Workshop Organized on Higher Order Cognitive Skills for University Students

The Deans of the Colleges Lead the Workshop

In the 21st century, workplace practices have changed drastically. Globalisation and technological advancements have transformed customary work practices, with an accompanying shift in demand in the skills required by employers. To understand such higher order cognitive skills, an online workshop was organized by the Academic team of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar on September 21, 2020. The workshop was led by the Deans of different colleges of the University, namely Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Dean, College of Agriculture and PI, IDP-NAHEP, Dr. Alaknanda Ashok, Dean, College of Technology, Dr. Alka Goel, Dean, College of Home Science and Dr. Sandeep Arora, Dean, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities. Dr. S.K. Guru, Nodal Officer (Academic), IDP-NAHEP was also present in the workshop.

The workshop discussed about the aspects and need of inculcating higher order cognitive skills and why it is necessary for gaining employability. Also, it was emphasized that students must do their own SWOT analysis. They should have proper agenda even beyond classroom teaching and planned targets must be set and strategies must be made to achieve those since they enter their college days. Another highlight of the workshop revolved around informal learning through interaction with faculty members. Student clubs and informal interaction spaces and events must be created for healthy discussions between the students



and the faculty members.

Many valuable suggestions came from students at the end of the session such as integration of undergraduate students with projects being undertaken by masters and Ph.D. students as well as University projects, some certificate courses must be taken by the University which could be part of floating credit courses and can be interdisciplinary, grooming classes for students on negotiating skills, soft skills, leadership skills must be there, compensation of practical classes must be made by means of mechanism of virtual lab classes and one-to-one mentoring, soft skills classes for students on personality developing, resume making, group discussions, facing personal interviews, and presentation skills, classes for entrepreneurship and startup development and courses on professional writing must be encouraged. This unique format and discussions of the workshop was highly appreciated by all the participants.

University Faculty Members Learn the Nuances of e-Content Development

Amidst the pandemic, the virtual world is playing a crucial role in the field of teaching-learning process. To make the University education system more robust into this virtual world performance, the e-content development component of IDP-NAHEP is working meticulously to shape the e-content modules of undergraduate courses on an online platform in a quick succession.

e-Content development component of IDP-NAHEP has started a series of interactive sessions with its consultant (Dr. Basavaprabhu Jirli, Professor, Department of Extension Education, Institute of



Agricultural Sciences, Banaras Hindu University) and the content writers on regular basis starting from September 23, 2020. In this series, the first session on *Agility to Reach Nuances of e-Content Development* was held online. Issues like different perspectives (technique of presentation), four quadrant approach of e-learning, steps in e-content development, e-tutorial (self-learning - audio/video), learn more / web resources / supplementary materials were discussed. At the end of the session, the content writers shared their queries and drafted a plan for better e-content creation.



The IDP Language Classes: An Epitome of Consistency

A language is a representation of ideas and thoughts and thus of culture and civilization. Among the initial activities of IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar, the language classes were the first long term skill building initiative for undergraduate students of the University. It has been almost ten months since the first language class began and today more than 600 student beneficiaries are there. The classes are conducted for English, French and German language in different modes and levels. Even in the current pandemic situation, the language classes are running undeterred. A brief description of the classes and reflection of beneficiary students is given below:

French Language Class

A total number of 78 students have registered themselves to learn French language. Total 33 students who appeared for examination of A1 Level (Group I) passed the online examination conducted on

May 29, 2020 with flying colours and are continuing A2 Level course.

German Language Class

A total number of 69 registered students are learning German language. All 34 students of A1 Level (Group I) passed and performed well in the online examination conducted on May 30, 2020 and are continuing A2 Level course.

English Remedial Class

The English remedial classes aim to enhance the basic writing and speaking skills of the students in the language. However due to social inhibition, students generally do not come forward to learn the language and hence face several difficulties later in their academic as well as professional life. Thus students were promoted to learn English language and till date more than 350 students have benefitted from these English remedial classes.

Language	Group	Commencement of Class	Termination of Class	Total Strength
French (A1 level)	I	November 3, 2019	May 29, 2020	33 students
French (A1 level)	II	April 24, 2020	October 10, 2020	45 students
French (A2 level)	I	April 27, 2020	October 10, 2020	33 students

Language	Group	Commencement of Class	Termination of Class	Total Strength
German (A1 level)	I	December 2, 2019	May 30, 2020	34 students
German (A1 level)	II	June 12, 2020	October 10, 2020	35 students
German (A2 level)	I	June 11, 2020	October 10, 2020	34 students

Success Case

Ms. Kritika Chauhan, a final year undergraduate student of College of Agriculture, Pantnagar got selected to pursue masters from Humboldt University, Berlin, Germany. She was a participant of the German Language Class and hence her learning will definitely prove to be useful in her higher education endeavours.



Feedback of Language Classes Beneficiaries

Amidst the COVID-19 pandemic which has brought life to a monotonous juncture, NAHEP English Remedial course not only provided a precious opportunity to make some productive use of my time at home, but also helped me a lot in improving my language skills, writing skills and above all to boost my confidence. I would also express my gratitude to our trainer for always being there to guide us and to correct our mistakes. His way of teaching has played a very important role in removing our hesitation in English so that we can learn more and more from him.

- Shreshtha Chandra, IIIrd Year, College of Agriculture



It's been a great experience for me to attend online language class during lockdown. This 60-days remedial class helped me a lot to rectify the common mistakes that we usually do in English. I would like to thank the NAHEP team for organizing such classes amid COVID-19 pandemic so that we students could utilize our time in a better way in lockdown and I hope to have advance course for this in future.

- Suravi Rawat, IInd Year, College of Agriculture



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133rd Birth Anniversary of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant Celebrated

It is a holy practice to honour great souls and pay homage to them through our words and actions. Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant was one such great soul, and on the occasion of his 133rd birth anniversary, the Pantnagar fraternity gathered at the NAHEP building premises to pay a tribute to him for his exemplary contributions and his exemplary life. His grand statue is placed amidst the lush green IDP lawns where initially the Registrar, GBPUAT, Pantnagar paid him floral tributes followed by all Deans and Directors of the University. The life and works of Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant were churned on the pious occasion and a



collective pledge of taking his legacy forward by taking the University to greater heights was accepted by all.

Plantation Drive Organized in NAHEP Building Premises

The newly developed University Centre - NAHEP Building is an epitome of a green building. Several major functionalities of the building work using natural sources of energy. The plantations both outside and inside the building are extensive and further planning to develop vertical gardens is underway. Taking the agenda of enhancing the green cover of the building ahead, a plantation drive was organized in the NAHEP Building on the occasion of Teacher's Day. The project PI and the project team planted saplings of medicinal plants and seasonal

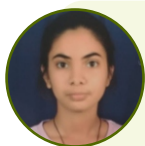


flowers. The IDP Pantnagar team is committed to continue its efforts in ensuring a green environment.

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It's a golden opportunity to express my gratitude to whole NAHEP team of Pantnagar that embolden us to learn even in this critical situation. In this epoch, English is an integral part of our education system and this 60 days remedial course helped us to learn the basic concepts which were really ignorant to us but are very important for the language command. This also proves beneficial in terms of one's personality development. The course curriculum is well stabilized and is hierarchical arranged from basic to complex topics and after each topic assignments are given to strengthen the concepts of respective topics. Efforts of IDP - NAHEP are very appreciable to involve students in workshops, remedial classes, language classes, internships and many more. Thanks to the whole team!!!!

- Pallavi Bisht, IInd Year, College of Agriculture



English Remedial class was a great experience for me, as in such a short span of time I have learnt so many basic things which we normally neglect in our daily life. This was the great initiative by IDP-NAHEP for providing such good classes with a highly qualified teacher and a planned course. If these types of classes are conducted in future, it will benefit more and more students.

- Kavita Arya, IInd Year, College of Agriculture

The entire A1 level German language course was an amazing experience. The best part was that the instructor was very open to feedback. He regularly changed the way he taught to suit our convenience and facilitate understanding. The course in general was very engrossing.

Sadaf, IIIrd Year, College of Agriculture



The language course opens the door to study abroad or work in a foreign country. The overall experience with the language classes was great and will be helpful in attaining more and better opportunities.

Chhavi Bisht, IVth Year College of Agriculture

IDP Pantnagar Organizes Guest Lectures for Participants of Certificate Courses

Over the period of pandemic, G.B. Pant University of Agriculture and Technology has worked consistently and progressively via online teaching-learning approaches. In its series of interventions, the launch of online certificate and diploma courses was an exemplary intervention which is being executed with extensive handholding of IDP Pantnagar team. The initiation of these courses was marked by a series of expert guest lectures on September 26, 2020. A total of five guest lectures were held, one each for each of the five certificate courses launched. The first lecture in the series was delivered by Dr. J. Kumar, who is an eminent plant pathologist, fellow of National Academy of Agricultural Sciences (NAAS) and Registrar, GBPUAT, Pantnagar. The lecture topic was *Bio-Control Agents: Understanding Their Role in Sustainable Agriculture*. Taking the session to its core, Dr. J. Kumar stated the urgent need for paradigm shift from chemicals to the integration of biological control in disease management practices. Furthermore, the concepts and implications of bioremediation, biofertilization, phyto-stimulation and action mechanisms of biological control of plant pathogens were also highlighted by the expert.

The next expert guest lecture was for the Beekeeping course and its topic was *Scope and Prospects of Beekeeping Industry for Entrepreneurship*. Dr. Balraj Singh, National Project Coordinator AICRP on Honey Bees and Pollinators, ICAR-IARI, New Delhi was the expert. He introduced participants to different species of bees in India and across the world, their foraging range and migration path, and gave an insight regarding the products from bees and its economic importance. He updated participants about different initiatives taken by government to promote beekeeping across India and he also informed the students about the various career opportunities in beekeeping industry.

The expert guest lecture for certificate course on Protected Cultivation for Horticultural Crops was the next scheduled lecture. The expert for this talk was Shri Sudhir Chadha, Director, Indo Dutch Horticulture Technologies Pvt. Ltd. and Member, Board of Management, GBPUAT, Pantnagar. A renowned agri-entrepreneur and popularly known as Papaya Man of India, he talked about the basic concepts and prospects of protected cultivation for inculcating



better employability skills. He mentioned about protected cultivation and horticulture development for Himalayan Region.

Continuing the guest lecture series, the next invited expert was Dr. R. Krishnan, Professor, Sericulture at Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore. His talk focused on *Exploring the Entrepreneurship Options in Silk Industry*. He gave an overview about the glorious sericulture tradition of India. Discussing further, he described sericulture as one of the most labour intensive sectors, combining activities of both agriculture and industry. Dr. Krishnan also emphasized on the fact that silk rearing is an art, hence multiple entrepreneurship options are available.

The final expert lecture of the day was held with Shri Harendra Singh, Managing Director, Rijk Zwaan India Seeds Pvt. Ltd. on the topic *Concepts of Nursery Management for Agripreneurship*. The expert initiated by presenting a comprehensive overview of the seed industry in the country and abroad. He also talked on the opportunities offered by seed industry and the gradual demographic changes that have been witnessed by the industry over years. He briefed upon the challenges of horticultural nursery sector in the country and the need of various nursery based start-ups ideas and business ventures. Talking about the advantages, types, future prospects and profitability of nursery management and related business ventures, he focussed upon employability potential of the sector.

The lecture series saw an enthusiastic participation of all participants, with interesting, though-provoking queries being raised to the experts. Positive feedback from the participants and their commitment towards gathering an enriching learning experience from these online certificate courses marked the success of these initial expert lectures.

Internship Pathshala 3 Launched by IDP Pantnagar

The IDP-NAHEP team at Pantnagar has been initiating unique activities for skill development of the University students. One of its such unique activity was two months paid internship programme called Internship Pathshala. The Pathshala aims to nurture students into basics of professional working and generate concepts, documentations, and working models for various developmental agendas of the University. So far, this Pathshala has completed two phase of two months each and has benefitted 30 selected undergraduate students of the University.

Looking into the massive response received from the University students and appreciable efforts and performance of the interns, the Pathshala - 3 was also launched on September 11, 2020. The selection process for the internship programme included an online test based on general aptitude and language skills, and thus this way 10 students were selected to undergo the internship programme. The selected students would be working under the guidance of mentors. The last two issues of the newsletter have the feedback of the interns of the earlier Pathshalas.

The Main Events of October 2020

S. No.	Event	Proposed Date	Venue	Nodal Unit	Convener
1.	2 Days Training on Remote Sensing and GIS Applications in Agriculture	01-10-2020 to 05-10-2020	Online	Agri Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture
2.	Webinar on Understanding the Prospects of Silk Industry in India for Promoting Agripreneurship	07-10-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
3.	French Language Beginners Level and Advanced Level Courses	15-10-2020 to 15-01-2021	Online	Language Lab Team	Dr. Alka Goel, College of Home Science
4.	German Language Beginners Level and Advanced Level Courses	15-10-2020 to 15-01-2021	Online	Language Lab Team	Dr. Alka Goel, College of Home Science
5.	Two Months NAHEP Online Internship for UG Students	16-10-2020 to 16-12-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
6.	Webinar on Research as a Career: Challenges and Opportunities on an Adventurous Journey	16-10-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
7.	Online Training on Modern Tools and Techniques in Agriculture	17-10-2020 to 18-10-2020	Online	Agri Informatics Team	Dr. A.S. Nain, College of Agriculture
8.	Interactive Session on Achievement Motivation: Understanding and Managing Self	21-10-2020	Online	Academic Team	Dr. S.K. Guru, College of Basic Sciences and Humanities



An Insightful Move Towards Excellence and Relevance

Dr. S.K. Kashyap
Dean, College of Agriculture/PI, IDP-NAHEP, Pantnagar

The IDP-NAHEP has provided us an opportunity to build up the strings of the whole institution towards excellence and betterment day by day. We are getting ahead towards improved performance in context of teaching, quality research outputs, inter-institutional networking, multi-disciplinary collaborations with other institutions, MoUs with industrial and academic houses, innovative ways to get self-sustainable in fundraising as endowment concept, bringing certificate and diploma courses into university system, and many other similar interventions which are facilitating the University structure and system to get ahead to the next generation of academics. The new National Education Policy has also earmarked many of those issues which are already addressed and covered by IDP-NAHEP at Pantnagar and across the country. Therefore, the insight of IDP-NAHEP is to become more competitive, more productive, and more relevant which is appearing in empirical terms and being visualised by all the stakeholders across into the University system.



Top Scorers of IDP Golden Points Till September 2020



Sarthak Kothiyal
ID : 51662
College of Agriculture
Points Earned : 805



Shubham Singh
ID : 53734
College of Technology
Points Earned : 555



Yogesh Pandey
ID : 50192
College of Basic Sciences and Humanities
Points Earned : 755



Rekha Bhandari
ID : 52961
College of Agriculture
Points Earned : 530



Yanshi
ID : 49758
College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences
Points Earned : 705



Aakash
ID : 53561
College of Technology
Points Earned : 500



Varsha Kamboj
ID : 53217
College of Home Science
Points Earned : 680



Pallavi Bisht
ID : 52958
College of Agriculture
Points Earned : 480



Sumit Tiwari
ID : 52963
College of Agriculture
Points Earned : 605



Tulika Sharma
ID : 51410
College of Agriculture
Points Earned : 455