G.B. Pant University of Agriculture & Technology, Pantnagar
Distt–Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand)

Pantnagar Agricultural University Research Scholars and Alumna Receive Young Scientist Awards

***Pantnagar, October 28, 2026*.** Research on sustainable fruit bagging in litchi and alternative textile fibres brought recognition to Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar, at the 21st Uttarakhand State Science and Technology Conference. Five research scholars and one alumna of the university received Young Scientist Awards in four thematic areas under the oral and poster presentation categories. The conference, organized by the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST), was held on October 25–26, 2026, at Vigyan Dham, Jhajra, Dehradun.

In the thematic area of **Home Science, Health and Nutrition**, Surya Tejasvi Desu, a Ph.D. research scholar in Apparel and Textile Science, received the Young Scientist Award for her research on sustainable fruit bagging in litchi. The study was conducted under the scientific guidance of Dr. Alka Goel, Professor and Dean of the College of Community Science; Dr. Sanjay Debnath of ICAR-NINFET, Kolkata; and Dr. A.K. Singh, Joint Director of the Horticultural Research Centre, Patharchatta. The judges appreciated the novelty of the research and its relevance to contemporary research needs. The study highlights the potential for integrating innovations in the textile sector with sustainable horticultural practices. In the same thematic area, Dr. Monika Negi, an alumna of the university and currently an Assistant Professor at Dev Bhoomi Uttarakhand University, also received the Young Scientist Award. Her research focused on the use of dhaincha as an alternative textile fibre for developing nonwoven materials. The study contributes to preliminary research on the textile applications of dhaincha. It was conducted under the scientific guidance of Dr. Anita Rani, Professor of Apparel and Textile Science at the College of Community Science.Other research scholars from the university also received awards in various scientific disciplines. Aastha Joshi, a Ph.D. research scholar in the Department of Chemistry, was honoured in the thematic area of **Agricultural Sciences, Botany, Environmental Sciences and Forestry**. Sheetal Alchoni, a Ph.D. research scholar in the Department of Microbiology, received an award in **Biotechnology, Biochemistry and Microbiology**. Pooja Bargali and Akanksha Kotiyal, Ph.D. research scholars in the Department of Chemistry, received Young Scientist Awards in the thematic area of **Chemistry**.

The conference also provided an opportunity for other students to present their outstanding research work. While selected presentations were recognized through awards, the work of all participants reflected dedication, sustained effort and scientific curiosity. Their collective research contributions brought distinction to the university and highlighted that the value of research, as well as the hard work behind it, extends far beyond awards and recognition.

The university's Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Shivendra Kumar Kashyap, has congratulated all the students on their achievements, adding that this will also serve as an encouragement to other research scholars.



Director, Communication