Press release

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

Pantnagar University Vice-Chancellor Dr. S.K. Kashyap honoured with 'Vice-Chancellor of the Year' Award

Pantnagar, November 22, 2026: Dr. S.K. Kashyap, Vice-Chancellor of Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology (GBPUAT), Pantnagar was conferred the prestigious 'Vice-Chancellor of the Year' Award at a grand ceremony held at the Uttarakhand State Council for Science and Technology (UCOST), Dehradun. The award was presented by Dr. Meenakshi Sundaram, Principal Secretary, Government of Uttarakhand; Prof. Durgesh Pant, Director General, UCOST; and Dr. Tripta Thakur, Vice-Chancellor of Uttarakhand Technical University and Chairperson of the Selection Committee comprising 14 eminent academicians. The award recognises Dr. Kashyap's exemplary leadership, pioneering initiatives to revitalise academic, research and innovation activities, and significant contribution towards enhancing the university's global recognition.

On the occasion, Prof. Durgesh Pant, Director General, UCOST, remarked that Dr. Kashyap's immense and sustained contributions had brought distinction to the award itself. He observed that Dr. Kashyap's tireless efforts and remarkable contributions were multifaceted and extended far beyond the scope of any award or recognition.

Dr. Kashyap has completed just 200 days in office as Vice-Chancellor. During this brief period, nearly 100 innovations and initiatives have been introduced at the university, with new initiatives being undertaken almost every day, creating a vibrant and progressive academic and administrative environment. During this period, Pantnagar University secured recognition in the QS Asia University Rankings as the highest-ranked agricultural university in the country. The quality of the university's research received international recognition, while the Pantnagar model once again emerged as a subject of discussion before ICAR and the State Government. Alongside meaningful deliberations on improving teaching and research standards, several major infrastructure development and construction projects were also initiated over the past six months. Through sustained efforts, an additional government grant of approximately Rs. 300 crore was mobilised from the State Government for these initiatives. Furthermore, Rs. 28 crore was provided under the Chief Minister's announcement for the repair of university roads. Road widening, footpath construction, repair of hostel roofs, improvement of toilets, drinking water, electricity and dining facilities, and installation of generators in certain hostels have also been initiated.

Recruitment and promotion matters, which had remained pending for several years, witnessed significant progress during this period. The State Government accorded approval for recruitment against vacant positions, and the relevant advertisements were issued. The extensive screening process is also nearing completion. Interviews for all Heads of Departments were completed, promotions of all accounting personnel were finalised, and a promotion scheme for Field Assistants was implemented. These achievements were made possible through the collective efforts and dedicated teamwork of the university fraternity, whose members worked tirelessly towards accomplishing these objectives.

Dr. Kashyap's efforts towards accelerating and guiding the development of Uttarakhand received a significant new dimension when the State Government entrusted him with the responsibility of preparing the State's Agriculture Roadmap 2047. With the objective of making Uttarakhand fully self-reliant and developed in the agricultural sector, a 250-member team comprising senior government officials and university scientists was constituted. A two-day intensive workshop of this group was organised at Pantnagar, during

which a comprehensive vision was developed for preparing district-wise roadmaps covering 25 thematic areas, including agriculture, horticulture, animal husbandry, fisheries, forestry and climate. The ambitious roadmap is now nearing completion.

During the same period, the historic Farmers' Fair organised at Pantnagar witnessed the participation of approximately 1.5 lakh visitors. Seeds and agricultural inputs worth crores of rupees were purchased, setting new records. Once again, the event established a benchmark through effective leadership, coordination and collective teamwork.

The Vice-Chancellor’s daily public interaction programme, held at 8:00 a.m., emerged as one of the most widely appreciated initiatives. More than 500 people participated in these interactions, and over 200 long-pending cases were resolved. A separate Wednesday Interaction Programme was also introduced for students, providing them with an opportunity to share their valuable suggestions. Hundreds of students participated, and several of their suggestions have already been implemented.

The university also made significant strides in digital innovation. Its entire website was revamped, and a five-day Artificial Intelligence (AI) training programme for all university teachers was conducted on a priority basis. An online portal was developed for guest house bookings. Preparations are also underway to introduce a Learning Management System (LMS) to strengthen the digital framework for teaching and learning.

In the area of social responsibility, an important initiative was launched through the Bharat Ratna Shri Nanaji Deshmukh Destitute Cattle Protection Programme. To strengthen industry-academia linkages and bring greater industry participation into education, the Bridge Series programme was introduced, connecting more than 250 industry experts with the university.

Another innovative initiative, BRAIN 3.0, was organised, bringing together 75 entrepreneurs and academicians from across the country to develop a roadmap for Pantnagar University's future growth and progress. Several innovations were also introduced in the Student Induction Programme (Deeksharambh) for newly admitted students to make it more meaningful and effective. The 15-day programme was successfully conducted for 1,000 new students.

Dr. Kashyap attributed the entire credit for this prestigious recognition to the dedicated teachers, students, officers, employees, workers and the entire university fraternity. He stated that they were the true source of his inspiration and that all the initiatives undertaken were aimed at providing them with a better working, teaching and learning environment.



Vice-Chancellor Dr. Shivendra Kumar Kashyap receiving the award.

Director Communication