

**Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology
Pantnagar, Distt. Udham Singh Nagar (Uttarakhand)**

Uttarakhand Chief Minister inaugurated the “Krishi Kumbh” of Pantnagar University

Pantnagar. 14 March 2026. On the second day of the 119th All India Farmers’ Fair and Agro-Industrial Exhibition, the fair was formally inaugurated by the Chief Guest, Pushkar Singh Dhama, Hon’ble Chief Minister of Uttarakhand, by cutting the ceremonial ribbon. On this occasion, the Vice-Chancellor of the university Manmohan Singh Chauhan, MLA Kichha Tilak Raj Behar, former Minister of State Rajesh Kumar, member of the University Board of Management and former MLA Rajesh Shukla, Mayor of Rudrapur Vikas Sharma, District President Kamal Jindal, District Panchayat President Ajay Maurya, Chairman of the Mandi Parishad Anil Dabhu, and Director of Extension Education Dr. Jitendra Kwatra were present on the dais.

After the inauguration, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Manmohan Singh Chauhan accompanied the Chief Minister on a visit to the horticulture exhibition and the various exhibition stalls set up by the university’s colleges. Thereafter, the Chief Minister paid floral tribute to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi at Gandhi Park.

Addressing the farmers on the occasion, the Chief Minister said that such fairs provide farmers with an opportunity to learn about innovations, new research and emerging knowledge in agriculture. He emphasized that farmers can gain information about advanced seeds, modern agricultural machinery, scientific farming techniques and new technologies at a single place during the fair. He expressed confidence that these insights would prove highly beneficial for farmers.

He further stated that farmers are not only the food providers of the nation but are also comparable to the brave soldiers of the country, as they work tirelessly to provide food for the nation. Referring to the vision of Narendra Modi, the Hon’ble Prime Minister of India, to make India a developed nation by 2047, he highlighted the crucial role farmers will play in achieving this goal. He noted that when farms prosper, villages prosper, and ultimately the nation progresses.

The Chief Minister mentioned that nearly 10 crore farmers across the country are receiving financial assistance through the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana. Recently, the 22nd installment of this scheme was released by the Prime Minister from Assam, directly benefiting farmers. Uttarakhand also received Rs. 25 crore under this initiative.

He highlighted that under the Prime Minister’s leadership, Minimum Support Prices (MSP) for major crops have been increased significantly, while the Pradhan Mantri Fasal Bima Yojana provides farmers protection against losses caused by natural disasters, adverse weather and crop diseases. Additionally, the Soil Health Card Scheme helps farmers scientifically analyze soil fertility and nutrient requirements, while the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Maandhan Yojana ensures pension benefits for farmers. The limit under the Kisan Credit Card Scheme has been increased from ₹3 lakh to ₹5 lakh to provide greater financial support for agriculture. Programmes such as drip irrigation, the Digital Agriculture Mission, and other initiatives are also strengthening farmers.

He further stated that to strengthen the agriculture sector, seven new projects worth nearly Rs. 14,000 crore have been initiated, focusing on natural farming, irrigation expansion and modern agricultural technologies. The state government is also supporting farmers through several initiatives, including interest-free loans up to ₹3 lakh, and up to 80% subsidy under the Farm Machinery Bank Scheme for purchasing agricultural equipment. Canal irrigation has also been made completely free for farmers in the state.

To enhance farmers’ income, Rs. 200 crore has been allocated for polyhouse construction, and around 350 polyhouses have already been established with financial assistance of about ₹115 crore. Additionally, farmers receive a bonus of Rs. 20 per quintal on wheat procurement, and the sugarcane price has been increased by Rs. 30 per quintal.

To promote horticulture in hill regions, the Uttarakhand Climate Resilient Horticulture Farming Project worth nearly Rs. 1000 crore has been launched. The government has also introduced a new Apple Policy, Kiwi Mission, and other horticulture schemes worth about Rs. 1200 crore to boost fruit production. Regions such as Rudrapur, Sitarganj, Bajpur and nearby areas are emerging as major dragon fruit production hubs.

For the development of horticulture, the Uttarakhand Horticulture Development Project is being implemented with Japanese cooperation, costing about Rs. 526 crore. The government has also introduced the “Mehak Kranti Policy 2026–2036” to promote aromatic and medicinal crops, and an Aroma Park worth about Rs. 300 crore is being developed in Kashipur.

He also highlighted that the “House of Himalaya” brand has emerged as an integrated brand of Uttarakhand, promoting products made by women, self-help groups, small industries and local agricultural producers at national and international levels.

The Chief Minister also noted that an MoU has been signed between the Uttarakhand Government and the Indo-Tibetan Border Police (ITBP) to supply agricultural products directly from local farmers to ITBP personnel stationed in remote areas. The state has made provisions of more than Rs. 3 crore for this initiative. Budget allocations of Rs. 42 crore for the Deen Dayal Upadhyay Cooperative Farmer Welfare Scheme and Rs. 5 crore for the House of Himalaya brand have also been made.

He praised the improved seeds and technologies developed by the university scientists and encouraged farmers to adopt modern agricultural practices and actively participate in the university's training programmes and seminars to enhance their income.

Vice-Chancellor Prof. Manmohan Singh Chauhan stated that the Farmers' Fair is organized twice every year, enabling farmers to gain knowledge about new technologies. He noted that for the first time, a special "Innovation Stall" has been set up where visitors can learn about the technologies developed by the university in the past two to three years. The fair also includes farmer seminars and a scientific advisory platform to address farmers' problems promptly.

He further mentioned that the country currently produces about 357 million tonnes of food grains, which represents nearly 30% growth over the past decade, while milk production has reached around 204.8 million tonnes. Around 4-5 lakh farmers are engaged in the horticulture sector. Emphasizing the theme of the fair "Empowered Women – Prosperous Farming," he stated that the university is conducting research and training programmes for women in beekeeping, mushroom cultivation, dairy products, horticulture, and household-based enterprises, enabling women farmers to become self-reliant. He also informed that more than 350 large and small stalls have been set up in the fair.

On this occasion, various agricultural publications were released by the dignitaries and nine progressive farmers and two agri-entrepreneurs—selected through the KVKs across various districts of Uttarakhand—were felicitated. The honorees included Mr. Chandra Shekhar Tiwari from Champawat Block; Mr. Ujjwal Saini from Roorkee; Mr. Sundar Singh Bisht from Kanalichhina; Mr. Mohan Singh Bisht from Dewal; Mrs. Deepa Devi from Bhimtal; Dr. Pooja Gaur from Chakrata; Mr. Prakash Chand Upadhyay from Chaukhutiya; Mrs. Uma Panu from Gadarpur; and Mrs. Anita Devi from Ukhimath. Additionally, the Agri-Entrepreneur Awards were presented to Mr. Krishnakant from Doiwala and Mr. Shubham Badola from Kashipur. The event, held at Gandhi Hall, was attended by the Registrar, the Director of Administration and Monitoring, Deans, Directors, faculty members, farmers, students, scientists, teachers, officials, representatives from various companies, and other visitors. At the conclusion of the program, Dr. Jitendra Kwatra, the University's Director of Extension Education, proposed the vote of thanks. The fair witnessed the presence of large number of farmers from various districts of Uttarakhand, as well as from other states and Nepal.



