



# 2026

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## From the Vice-Chancellor Desk



In an era marked by unprecedented global uncertainties, the importance of building resilient, self-reliant, and sustainable rural economies has never been more evident. Escalating geopolitical tensions, particularly in the Middle East, have once again exposed the vulnerabilities of nations heavily dependent on imported energy and agricultural inputs. Volatility in crude oil and gas markets has far-reaching consequences for countries like India, which imports large proportionate of its crude oil requirements and its natural gas consumption. Additionally, India's dependence on Liquefied Petroleum Gas

(LPG) imports has risen overtime, reflecting the rapid expansion of clean cooking initiatives alongside limited domestic production. Such dependence not only exerts pressure on national finances but also creates cascading effects across key sectors, especially agriculture.

The fertilizer sector presents a parallel challenge. India is among the world's largest consumers of fertilizers, yet it remains heavily reliant on imports for critical inputs. The country depends on imports for phosphatic and potassic fertilizers, along with significant quantities of feedstock for nitrogenous fertilizers. Global price fluctuations—often linked to energy markets—have sharply increased subsidy burdens in recent years, highlighting the widening gap between domestic production and consumption. These structural dependencies underscore the urgent need for sustainable, locally anchored alternatives.

In this context, sustainable rural economies emerge as a strategic imperative. The promotion of decentralized and renewable energy systems such as biofuels, biogas, ethanol blending, and solar energy—offers a viable pathway to reduce reliance on imported fossil fuels. India's ethanol blending program has made significant progress, reducing crude oil imports while enhancing farmer incomes. Likewise, biogas and compressed biogas (CBG) initiatives convert agricultural residues and organic waste into clean energy, simultaneously addressing rural energy needs and waste management challenges. Solar energy, with its vast potential in rural landscapes, further strengthens decentralized energy access and resilience.

Equally critical is the transition toward sustainable agricultural practices. Approaches such as Natural Resource Management (NRM), natural farming, organic farming, and Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) play a transformative role in reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers while improving soil health and long-term productivity. These practices enhance nutrient-use efficiency, promote ecological balance, and lower cultivation costs, thereby improving farmers' resilience to market and supply shocks.

Universities and academic institutions have a pivotal role in this transformation. Through research, innovation, skill development, and extension services, they can facilitate the adoption of sustainable technologies and practices at scale. Strengthening collaborations between academia, industry, policymakers, and rural communities will be key to realizing this vision.

**Vice-Chancellor**

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### ❖ Third Convocation Ceremony of RLBCAU held with Dignity and Enthusiasm

The Third Convocation Ceremony of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University was held with great dignity and enthusiasm on 27 February 2026. The Chief Guest was the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. Distinguished guests included Member of Parliament, Shri Anurag Sharma; MLA, Shri Ravi Sharma; Director General, ICAR, and Secretary, DARE, Dr. M. L. Jat; Chancellor Dr. Punjab Singh (joining online); and Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh. In his address, Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan paid tribute to the brave land of Bundelkhand and stated that India must become the food basket of the world production must increase, costs must decrease, and farmers' income must reach new heights. He emphasized that through modern agricultural practices, innovation, entrepreneurship, and technology-based solutions, Bundelkhand can make India self-reliant in pulse production. Director General Dr. M.L. Jat congratulated all graduating students and noted that the university has established a distinct identity in a very short time.



A total of 365 students received their degrees, 15 meritorious students were awarded gold medals for achieving the highest marks in their respective subjects, and three students were conferred the degree of Vidya Vachaspati (Ph.D). The Vice-Chancellor also administered a pledge to all university members to plant 11,001 saplings during the year.

On 27 February 2026, an interaction programme was organized at the Farmer Field School of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. The Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan; Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary, DARE and Director General, ICAR, New Delhi; and Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RLBCAU, Jhansi, interacted with innovative, progressive, and entrepreneurial farmers on various aspects of agriculture and allied sectors. During the interaction, farmers briefly shared their experiences regarding the cultivation of pulses (covering more than 400 ha area), sandalwood (covering more than 100 ha area in Jalaun district), mushroom cultivation, and beekeeping activities. The Hon'ble Minister expressed happiness that farmers of the Bundelkhand region are increasingly adopting the cultivation of medicinal and high-value crops through the involvement of more than

11,000 farmers. This approach clearly indicates that farmers believe in working collectively in groups for sustainable income generation. The Hon'ble Minister also assured the participating farmers about the establishment of a vibrant market system to support agricultural produce and improve farmers' livelihoods.

*"Reconnect, Reminisce, and Refresh the Golden Memories"* (February 27–28, 2026): Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi successfully organized its first Alumni Association Meet 2026 on 27–28 February 2026. The event brought together alumni, faculty, and students on a common platform to reconnect, relive cherished memories, and strengthen their association with the university. The programme commenced with an inaugural session graced by Dr. M. L. Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General (ICAR), as Chief Guest, along with Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh and Director of Education Dr. Anil Kumar. The ceremonial lighting of the lamp marked the beginning of the event, symbolizing knowledge and unity. On this occasion, the first official alumni souvenir, the *"Raag Newsletter,"* was released, aiming to strengthen communication and showcase alumni achievements. In his keynote address, Dr. Jat emphasized the importance of rural development and sustainable agriculture in achieving the vision of *Viksit Bharat 2047*. Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh highlighted that alumni are the invaluable heritage of the university and play a crucial role in its growth. Dr. Anil Kumar, Director Education, highlighted that alumni act as brand ambassadors of the university, strengthening its identity and reputation. Their involvement inspires current students and enhances the quality of education, research, and extension activities. He further encouraged alumni to actively contribute to academic and innovation initiatives of the university. The Cultural Night added a vibrant and nostalgic dimension to the event, featuring performances by students and enthusiastic participation of alumni. It provided an opportunity for informal interaction, rekindling old memories and strengthening bonds.



On the second day, alumni interaction sessions facilitated knowledge sharing, networking, and collaboration. Distinguished lectures by eminent personalities, including Dr. A. K. Singh and entrepreneur Mr. Saurav B. Pandey, inspired participants to focus on innovation and entrepreneurship. A felicitation ceremony honored distinguished alumni for their achievements, motivating current students. The programme concluded with campus visits, group photographs, and informal interactions.

Overall, the Alumni Meet 2026 was a grand success, laying a strong foundation for a vibrant alumni network and fostering lifelong connections with the university.

A historic chapter of development was added to Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University on 27 February 2026, when the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare and Rural Development, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, inaugurated six new state-of-the-art buildings.



These buildings are expected to propel the university towards new heights of academic excellence research, innovations, and agricultural entrepreneurship. The inauguration was attended by Member of Parliament, Shri Anurag Sharma; Director General, ICAR, Dr. M. L. Jat; MLA Sadar, Shri Ravi Sharma; MLA Garautha, Shri Jawahar Lal Rajput; Chairman, Gau Seva Aayog, Shri Shyam Bihari Gupta; and Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh. The newly inaugurated buildings include the Krishi Vigyan Mandapam (700-seats capacity), Vivekananda Hostel (Block-2), Manu Hostel (Block-3), Haldhar Bhawan, Mushroom Laboratory (Entrepreneurship Centre), and Beekeeping Laboratory (Incubation Centre).

Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, visited the research programmes of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 28 February 2026 and appreciated the progress made in chickpea, mustard, barley, and durum wheat crops. Dr. Blade highlighted the importance of collaboration in research and development. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, suggested potential areas for collaboration during the interaction. Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director of Research, appraised the progress being made and showcased different research programmes. Dr. Ramesh Singh from ICRISAT and faculty members from RLBCAU were also present during the visit and interaction.

#### ❖ Inauguration of the 4<sup>th</sup> All-India Kisan Mela and Agricultural Exhibition 2026 at RLBCAU

The 4<sup>th</sup> All-India Kisan Mela and Agricultural Exhibition 2026, organized at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on the theme "Viksit Krishi- Viksit Bharat @2047", was inaugurated on 14 February 2026 by the Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture and farmer welfare of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Surya Pratap Shahi. The programme was attended by Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog; Member of Parliament, Shri Anurag Sharma; Vice-

Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh; and several other distinguished guests. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister inaugurated the "Centre of Excellence for Shri Anna" and the "Centre of Excellence for Organic and Natural Farming." In his address, he declared "Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan" and stated that taking research from the laboratory to the field is the key to a Viksit Bharat. The mela recognized participation from 14 ICAR Institutes, 6 Agricultural Universities, 20 Krishi Vigyan Kendras more than 150 Companies, FPOs, Start-ups, and Voluntary Organizations,. On this occasion 12 progressive farmers were honoured. The event also featured the launch of three mobile applications "DraQ", "Aqua Scan", and "Pashu Aahar Mitra" along with the release of technical books and bulletins prepared by university scientists. Prof. Ramesh Chand, Member, NITI Aayog, graced the Kisan Mela as Special Guest and delivered an insightful address on accelerating agricultural growth in the Bundelkhand region and advancing the vision of Viksit Krishi – Viksit Bharat @2047.



During the inaugural session of Kisan Mela-2026, the release of a comprehensive set of scientific and extension publications on millets marked a significant achievement for the university. A total of eleven books and documents were developed by the dedicated team of the Centre of Excellence (CoE) on Nutri-Cereals, aimed at promoting the cultivation, processing, and value addition of millets, particularly in Uttar Pradesh and the Bundelkhand region.

These publications were formally released by the Hon'ble Agriculture Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, in the presence of other esteemed dignitaries during the Kisan Mela, as well as at the Shree Anna-Shreshth Ann Mandapam, workshops, and millet-based cuisine demonstrations. The event added prestige to the occasion and highlighted the growing importance of millets as "Shree Anna" in ensuring nutritional security and sustainable agriculture. The developed resources encompass a wide range of topics, including improved production technologies, value addition, processing techniques, entrepreneurial opportunities, and climate-resilient practices. These publications are designed to serve as practical guides and knowledge resources for farmers, students, Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs), Self-Help Groups (SHGs), and researchers working in the field of millets. The

accomplishment reflects the relentless efforts and commitment of the CoE on Nutri-Cereals team, who worked tirelessly under expert mentorship to produce these valuable documents. Their contribution is highly commendable, as these resources will play a crucial role in bridging the gap between scientific research and field-level application. Overall, the release of these publications stands as a milestone initiative, strengthening extension outreach and supporting the widespread adoption of millets for enhanced income, nutrition, and sustainability.



A joint session was held on 15 February 2026 during the *All India Kisan Mela & Agricultural Exhibition-2026* at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, in collaboration with Deendayal Research Institute, Chitrakoot. Hon'ble organisation secretary, Bhartiya Kishan Sangh, Sri Dinesh Kulkarni was chief guest of this important session. The session was graced by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, with Shri Abhay Mahajan (Session Chair), Shri Dinesh Kulkarni (Chief Guest), Shri Basant Pandit (Co-Chair), and distinguished guests Dr. S. K. Dubey and Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi (Director Research).



The three-day event witnessed the participation of 150 stalls including ICAR institute, SAUs, FPOs, Agri-Entrepreneurs, Krishi Vigyan Kendras, and more than 10,000 farmers from the Bundelkhand region. The Chief Guest at the concluding session, Mayor Shri Bihari Lal Arya, described the mela as a boon for the farmers of Bundelkhand. The Special Guest, Divisional Commissioner of Jhansi, Shri Vimal Kumar Dubey, highlighted the significant role of farmers for making Uttar Pradesh a one-trillion-dollar economy. In presidential address, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof.

Ashok Kumar Singh, stated that the university's technologies are reaching the fields, with positive transformations visible in crop cultivation and animal husbandry. All three days of interactions, discussions, field visits, and visits to each stall were organized in a very systematic manner to provide participants with comprehensive learning and practical exposure.



On 17 February 2026, the live telecast of the national launch of Bharat Vistaar (Phase-1) was organized at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, with the enthusiastic participation of more than 300 farmers. The initiative was launched from Jaipur by the Hon'ble Union Agriculture and Farmer Welfare Minister, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, in the presence of the Chief Minister of Rajasthan, Shri Bhajanlal Sharma. The programme was attended by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, along with university officers. Bharat Vistaar is an AI-powered integrated digital platform for farmers, providing information on government schemes, weather forecasts, market prices, and agricultural advisory services in regional languages.



Thematic Pavilion "Shree Anna-Shreshtha Ann Mandapam" organized during Kisan Mela 2026 (14-16 February 2026), emerged as a landmark initiative for the promotion and revival of millets (Shree Anna) in the Bundelkhand region. The concept, originally developed by RLBCAU in 2020 and supported by the Government of Uttar Pradesh, has materialized into a vibrant platform backed by the RKVY project and the establishment of two Centres of Excellence on Nutri-Cereals and Natural Farming & Organic Certification with an outlay of ₹27.5 crores. The pavilion

was inaugurated by Hon'ble Agriculture Minister Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, and has consistently attracted stakeholders over the past three years through exhibitions, workshops, and millet-based cuisine competitions. During the event, 11 important publications on millets were released by distinguished dignitaries, underlining the growing relevance of Shree Anna.

A major highlight was the live telecast of the digital initiative “Bharat Vistar (Phase-I),” inaugurated by Union Agriculture Minister Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan. More than 300 farmers benefited from the programme, gaining knowledge on weather forecasts, market prices, and scientific advisories, along with access to expert consultation via the toll-free number 155261. The Mandapam also showcased a special exhibition of traditional Indian kitchen utensils curated by Bundelkhand University, reflecting the region's rich cultural heritage. Tribal woman Lahari Bai's inspiring journey of millet conservation demonstrated the seamless integration of indigenous knowledge with modern scientific approaches. Additionally, exhibitions of value-added millet products and entrepreneurial displays by Farmer Producer Organizations highlighted the commercial potential of millets. A key attraction was the display of six scientific models by students under faculty mentorship. The model on “Climate-Resilient Agricultural Practices for Shri Anna” secured first place. The models “From Traditional Techniques to Modern Crop Improvement Technologies” and “Digital Agriculture (Modern Technology)” jointly secured second place. The model on “Primary Processing Equipment for Shri Anna” won third place, while “Post-Harvest Technology” and “Agroforestry” received consolation awards.



Under the leadership of Director of Education Prof. Anil Kumar and guidance of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, the event successfully highlighted the nutritional, environmental, and economic importance of millets, promoting sustainable agriculture and transforming Shree Anna into a mass movement.

#### ❖ 4<sup>th</sup> Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference 2026 at RLBCAU, Jhansi

The 4th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference 2026 was held from 28-30 January 2026 at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, bringing together researchers, academicians, and

industry experts to deliberate on advancements and innovations in horticulture.



The Chief Guest, Dr. Punjab Singh, Hon'ble Chancellor, emphasized in his keynote address that indigenous and underutilized fruit, vegetable, and spice crops hold immense potential for ensuring nutritional security, medicinal benefits, climate resilience, and income enhancement for small and marginal farmers. Presiding over the inaugural session, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, stressed the need to promote region-specific species, quality planting material, enhanced productivity, and horticultural innovations aligned with nutrition and changing dietary habits, especially for semi-arid regions like Bundelkhand. Dr. Manish Srivastav, Organizing Secretary and Dean, informed that more than 300 participants from 8 countries and 20 Indian states were attending the summit. The inaugural session also featured the release of the Souvenir, Book of Abstracts, and several important technical books, along with distribution of awards.



The second day of the 4th Indian Horticulture Summit-cum-International Conference 2026, held on 29 January 2026 at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, witnessed intensive deliberations on the sustainable development of indigenous and underutilized horticultural crops. Experts from India and abroad emphasized the importance of crop diversification, smart and protected cultivation, processing, value addition, and AI- and IoT-based technologies for enhancing farmers' income and promoting regional development. Poster presentations and online lectures by international experts were special highlights of the day. The Organizing Secretary and Dean, Dr. Manish Srivastava, stated that this conference provides new direction to the commercialization, value addition, and marketing of indigenous and underutilized horticultural

crops, and would be helpful in promoting climate-smart, sustainable, and income-enhancing horticulture.



### ❖ 13<sup>th</sup> Foundation Day of RLBCAU Celebrated at Krishi Vigyan Mandapam

The 13th Foundation Day of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, was celebrated on 5 March 2026 at Krishi Vigyan Mandapam with great pride and enthusiasm. The programme was graced by Padma Bhushanand former Director General, ICAR, and Secretary, DARE, Dr. R. S. Paroda, as the Chief Guest. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh; Director, ICAR-Central Agroforestry Research Institute, Dr. A. Arunachalam; and Registrar, Dr. S. S. Kushwaha, marked their esteemed presence on the occasion. All the statutory officers, faculty members, students of College of Agriculture, Horticulture & Forestry, Jhansi and College of Veterinary & Animal Husbandry & Fisheries Datia (M.P) took active part in this.



### ❖ Five-Day Farmers Training Programme on Millets (12–16 February, 2026)

A five-day Farmers Training Programme on “Production Technology and Value Addition of Millets” was successfully organized from 12–16 February, 2026 with the objective of enhancing farmers’ knowledge on millet cultivation, processing, and entrepreneurship. Millets, being highly nutritious and climate-resilient crops, are gaining importance for ensuring food, nutritional, and livelihood security. The programme focused on promoting sustainable agriculture and improving farmers’ income through value addition and market linkages.

Day one commenced with an inaugural session, including registration, welcome address, and lighting of the

ceremonial lamp. Dr. Rumana Khan outlined the objectives of the programme. The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, emphasized the nutritional value, market demand, and export potential of millets, encouraging farmers to increase their cultivation. The Director of Education, Dr. Anil Kumar, highlighted the renewed importance of millets in the context of declining soil health and nutritional imbalance. Dr. Ramkeval Singh stressed millets as a low-input and climate-resilient crop. Technical lectures focused on the nutritional benefits of millets and their role in preventing lifestyle diseases. Second day covered the “Production Technology of Millets,” where experts explained improved agronomic practices including variety selection, sowing techniques, nutrient and water management, and pest control. A field visit provided hands-on exposure to demonstration plots and practical crop management. Third day focused on advancements in millet production and primary processing. Experts highlighted modern technologies to improve yield and discussed processing techniques such as cleaning, grading, and milling to enhance value and income. Day 4 included hands-on training on preparation of millet-based products. Farmers actively participated in making millet cookies and laddoos, learning hygienic processing, formulation, and marketing strategies for entrepreneurship development. On day fourth, a session on insect pest management, emphasizing integrated pest management practices. The programme concluded with a valedictory session, where farmers shared positive feedback and expressed readiness to adopt improved millet technologies. Overall, the training programme proved highly informative and practical, empowering farmers with scientific knowledge and skills for sustainable millet production and value addition.

### ❖ Celebration of New Year 2026

In 2025, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi achieved major milestones, including new centres for *Natural & Organic Farming* and *Plant Genetic Resources*, a *Speed Breeding Facility*, a 300-acres Morena campus (with Horticulture admissions), a Veterinary Hospital, improved chickpea variety, e-Office implementation, and a Sports Complex. Academically, 65 students qualified ICAR-NET, 45 cleared ARS (Prelims), and 22 were selected through BPSC, with total strength crossing 1,000. On New Year 2026, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh extended greetings and emphasized continued focus on education, research, innovation, farmer-centric approach for sustainable development.



### ❖ Inauguration of Cafeteria "AAHARIKA" at RLBCAU

On 1 January 2026, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, inaugurated the newly established cafeteria "AAHARIKA" at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. The cafeteria is a new initiative focused on providing healthy and affordable food, and is expected to strengthen care and convenience for the entire campus community.



### ❖ Sensitization Workshop on Women's Health under ICSSR-Funded Research Project

A two-day sensitization workshop titled "Empowering Women in Oral and Dental Hygiene, Nutrition, and Pre-Natal/Post-Natal Care" was organized under the ICSSR-funded research project "Dynamics of Women in Agricultural Livelihood in Bundelkhand Region" on 7 January 2026. The workshop witnessed active participation from 105 female participants. Presiding over the programme, Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director (Research), emphasized the importance of adopting a disciplined lifestyle for a healthy life. Resource persons deliberated on key issues including cervical cancer, anaemia, nutrition, oral and dental health, and dental safety, highlighting the need for health awareness among women.

### ❖ National Youth Day and Launching of Rashtriya Yuva Mahotsav at RLBCAU

On 12 January 2026, the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda was celebrated as National Youth Day at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. On this occasion, the Rashtriya Yuva Mahotsav (12–23 January 2026) was also formally launched. The programme was graced by the Chief Guest, Maharaja Govind Rahul Dev Singh; Special Guest, Dr. Sanjay Singh, Director General, UPCAR; and the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh. In his address, the Chief Guest described Swami Vivekananda as a great thinker, an inspiration for youth, and a champion of nation-building. Dr. Sanjay Singh highlighted that self-confidence, character-building, discipline, and a spirit of service are the core principles of a meaningful life. The Vice-Chancellor encouraged students to imbibe the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and contribute to the realization of a Developed India. He further emphasized the importance of youth participation in social transformation and urged students to actively engage in innovation, leadership, and community service for building a stronger and self-reliant nation.



### ❖ Winter Training Programme on Dryland Crop Breeding

A 21-day winter training programme titled "Integrated Breeding Approaches for Enhancing Tolerance and Accelerating Genetic Progress in Dryland Crops," funded by ICAR, New Delhi, concluded successfully at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 19<sup>th</sup> January 2026. The programme was chaired by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, who described climate change as the greatest global challenge of the present era and emphasized the urgent need to develop climate-resilient, sustainable, and high-yielding varieties for dryland crops.



The Chief Guest at the concluding ceremony, Dr. Pankaj Kaushal, Director, ICAR-IGFRI, highlighted the importance of integrated breeding approaches for dryland crop improvement and stated that modern breeding technologies can play a decisive role in addressing climate change challenges. Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director of Research, outlined the key achievements of the training programme and described it as a catalyst for innovation and research in dryland ecology across the country. The programme witnessed active participation from scientists, researchers, and students.

### ❖ 77<sup>th</sup> Republic Day Celebrated with Enthusiasm at RLBCAU

Republic Day was celebrated with joy and dignity at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on Monday, 26 January 2026. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, hoisted the

national flag. University officers, faculty, staff, and a large number of students participated in the programme. NCC cadets presented an impressive parade, while students performed patriotic cultural programmes that added grandeur to the celebration. In his address, the Vice-Chancellor stated that Republic Day inspires us to remain committed to the constitutional values of equality, liberty, and justice, and that the goals Vikshit Krishi and Vikshit Bharat can only be realized through the active participation of young scientists and farmers. He urged youth to play an active role in nation-building, innovation, and agricultural development.



#### ❖ Inauguration of Hi-Tech Nursery for Vegetable Seedling Production at RLBCAU

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, inaugurated a newly established Hi-Tech Nursery at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 23 January 2026.



The nursery, funded by the Horticulture Department of the Government of Uttar Pradesh, is designed to facilitate the production of high-quality vegetable seedlings. Addressing the occasion, the Vice-Chancellor stated that hi-tech nurseries are the cornerstone of quality seedling production, and that farmers in the Bundelkhand region will now have access to healthy, disease-free, and high-productivity vegetable seedlings, thereby improving production and enhancing their income. He upon importance Hi-Tech nursery in the present context of development of agriculture in general and vegetable production, technological innovation, and sustainable agriculture in the semi-arid Bundelkhand region.

#### ❖ Rashtriya Yuva Mahotsav on Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose Jayanti

The Rashtriya Yuva Mahotsav (12–23 January 2026) concluded successfully at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 23 January 2026, coinciding with the birth anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose. The festival strengthened among youth the values of leadership, courage, patriotism, and social responsibility. On this occasion, Dr. Manish Srivastava, Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, inspired students to adopt the ideals of Swami Vivekananda and Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose in exercising leadership and fulfilling social responsibility. Dr. R. K. Singh, Dean, College of Agriculture, encouraged students to contribute to the building of a “Vikshit Bharat” through innovation and active participation in agriculture and science.



#### ❖ Successful Conclusion of 4th Indian Horticulture Summit at RLBCAU

The three-day 4th Indian Horticulture Summit–cum–International Conference 2026, organized jointly by Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, and the Society for Horticulture Research and Development (SHRD), Uttar Pradesh, concluded successfully on 30 January 2026. The conference was attended by more than 250 scientists from India and abroad. Presiding over the concluding session, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, stated that horticulture is today the fastest-growing and income-enhancing sector of Indian agriculture. He emphasized the adoption of natural and organic farming, precision farming, protected cultivation, polyhouse technology, and hi-tech nurseries, and described indigenous and super fruits, crop diversification, value addition, and strengthened market linkages as effective means of enhancing farmers' income. The conference concluded with important recommendations on crops suitable for Bundelkhand, climate-resilient horticulture, entrepreneurship development, quality seed production, and biodiversity conservation.



❖ **Visit of ICRISAT Director General to RLBCAU**

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, was honoured to host Dr. Himanshu Pathak, Director General, ICRISAT, on 3 February 2026. During his visit, Dr. Pathak interacted with scientists, faculty members, and students, and deliberated on strengthening international collaboration for climate-resilient and sustainable agriculture in Bundelkhand. In his inspiring address on "How to Achieve Success - Ten Simple Steps", Dr. Pathak urged students and faculty to emphasise thinking, asking the right questions, discipline, teamwork, continuous learning, adaptability, enjoying one's work, and forgiveness, highlighting that knowledge, skills, and a positive attitude are the true drivers of enduring success. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, reaffirmed RLBCAU's commitment to region-specific research, innovation-led education, and farmer-centric technologies, and emphasized those strategic partnerships with global institutions like ICRISAT will accelerate scientific solutions, empower youth, and ensure sustainable livelihoods for farmers.



❖ **Holi Festival Celebrated with Traditional Cheer at RLBCAU**

The festival of Holi was celebrated with joyful enthusiasm and traditional spirit at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 4 March 2026, in the gracious presence of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh. Officers, faculty members, staff, and students of the university participated with great enthusiasm. While extending his greetings, the Vice-Chancellor stated that Holi is not merely a festival of colours, but a powerful message of positive energy, harmony, mutual goodwill, unity, and brotherhood inspiring us to move forward together.



❖ **International Women's Day 2026 Organized on the theme "Give to Gain" at RLBCAU**

On the eve of International Women's Day, a programme dedicated to women's empowerment was organized at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 7 March 2026. The Chief Guest, Municipal Commissioner Smt. Akanksha Rana, emphasized in her address the need to provide equal opportunities and respect to women. Presiding over the programme, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, highlighted the growing role of women in agriculture and science. Special Guest, Deputy Labour Commissioner Smt. Kiran Mishra, and Programme Coordinator and Director of Extension Education, Dr. S. K. Singh, also shared their views. Women farmers, scientists, officers, teachers, and a large number of students were present at the programme. More than 150 farm women took part in this programme. 100 seedlings of bottle gourd, bitter gourd, cucumber, tomato, brinjal were provided to each farm women on this occasion.



❖ **Three-Day State-Level Farmer Training under ATMA Scheme at RLBCAU**

A three-day state-level farmer training and visit programme was organized at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 11<sup>th</sup>-13<sup>th</sup> March 2026, under the Sub-Mission on Agricultural Extension Agricultural Technology Management Agency scheme, for 40 farmers from Fatehpur, Uttar Pradesh. Addressing the farmers, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, stated that in changing times, farmers must adopt not only traditional farming but also modern agricultural technologies, improved seeds, water conservation, diversified farming, and agriculture-based enterprises. Director of Extension Education, Dr. Sushil Kumar Singh, briefed farmers on polyhouse technology, fruit and flower production, agroforestry, integrated farming system models, and advanced cultivation techniques. During the programme, the farmers observed various technologies and models developed at the university and expressed enthusiasm about adopting them in their own regions.



### ❖ Visit of ICRISAT Deputy Director General to Research Programs at RLBCAU

Dr. Stanford Blade, Deputy Director General, ICRISAT, Hyderabad, visited the research programmes of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 28 February 2026 and appreciated the progress made in chickpea, mustard, barley, and durum wheat crops. Dr. Blade highlighted the importance of collaboration in research and development. The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, suggested potential areas for collaboration during the interaction. Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, Director of Research, appraised the progress being made and showcased different research programmes. Dr. Ramesh Singh from ICRISAT and faculty members from RLBCAU were also present during the visit and interaction.



### ❖ Kisan Goshti Held at RLBCAU with Participation of Over 300 Farmers

A Kisan Goshti (Farmers' Conference) was organized at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 13 March 2026, with the enthusiastic participation of more than 300 farmers. On this occasion, farmers were provided with information on modern agricultural technologies and government schemes. During the programme, the live telecast of the release of the 22nd instalment of the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, from Guwahati, Assam, was also shown to the farmers. On this occasion, scientists and officers of the university interacted with the farmers, listened to their problems, and provided suitable solutions.

### ❖ The 7<sup>th</sup> Research Council Meeting

The 7<sup>th</sup> Research Council Meeting of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi was successfully held on 19 March 2026 under the leadership of Vice Chancellor Prof. A.K. Singh. The meeting brought together senior scientists, academicians, and experts to review the progress of ongoing research activities over the past year. During the session, key focus areas included improving agricultural productivity, strengthening research in pulses and oilseeds, and promoting Integrated Farming Systems (IFS). The council emphasized the importance of adopting modern technologies such as artificial intelligence, genomics, and precision farming to address current agricultural challenges. Experts also highlighted the need for long-term research programs, better data management, and stronger collaboration with national and international research institutions. Special attention was given to region-specific issues of Bundelkhand, including soil health, water

management, and sustainable farming practices. The meeting concluded with important recommendations to enhance research quality and ensure farmer-oriented outcomes. It was also decided that the Research Council should meet twice a year for regular review and effective planning of future research initiatives.

### ❖ World Forestry Day Celebrated with Tree Plantation Drive at RLBCAU

World Forestry Day (International Day of Forests) was celebrated with enthusiasm at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, on 20 March 2026. On this occasion, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, stated in his address that forests are the foundation of our lives and environmental balance, and called upon all to plant as many trees as possible.



Dr. Ravindra Singh, Assistant Director, CARI, Jhansi, attended the programme as Chief Guest and shed light on the economic importance of forests and their role in sustainable development. Dr. Manish Srivastava, Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, inspired students to remain aware of environmental conservation. Under the coordination of Dr. M. J. Dobariyal, Head, Department of Silviculture and Agroforestry, a tree plantation drive and various competitions for students were also organized on this occasion.

### ❖ YUVA-AI for All Campaign: Empowering NSS Volunteers with Future Skills

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi organized the YUVA – AI for All Campaign under the IndiaAI Mission, launched on the occasion of National Youth Day (12 January 2026). During the programme, details of the campaign were shared with NSS volunteers. An online lecture was delivered to inform volunteers about the objectives, importance, and scope of the foundational AI literacy course, highlighting the role of Artificial Intelligence in shaping future skills and career opportunities. Following the orientation, students have started enrolling in the course, demonstrating active participation in digital and AI literacy initiatives.

### ❖ Screening for 15th Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad: Nurturing Youth for Democratic Leadership

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, conducted the screening of participants

for the 15th Bharatiya Chhatra Sansad (Indian Students' Parliament)-“Inspiring Youth: Strengthening Democracy”, scheduled from 21st to 23rd February 2026 at MIT World Peace University, Pune, supported by the Ministry of Youth Affairs and Sports, Government of India. As part of the screening, 35 NSS volunteers participated in the debate programme and expressed their views on the topics (a) Campus to Cabinet: Can Universities Become the Nurseries of Democracy?, (b) The Bharat We Don't See: Can Tradition and Transformation Coexist?, (c) Celebrity Without Credibility: Have We Started Valuing Visibility Over Virtue? (d) From Stadium to Statesmanship: What Can Politics Learn from Sports?, thereby promoting democratic values and leadership skills among youth.

#### ❖ Youth Mahotsav: Inspiring Young Minds for Viksit Bharat @2047

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi organized Youth Mahotsav with active participation of NSS volunteers. During the event Quiz Competition, elocution competition, Slogan Competition, and Essay Writing competitions were conducted on themes “Role of Youth in Viksit Bharat @2047” and “Ignite the Self, Impact the World.” The programme inspired youth to express their ideas, creativity, and commitment towards nation-building.

#### ❖ NSS volunteers from RLBCAU represented Uttar Pradesh at the National Integration Camp, Kerala

Ten NSS volunteers from Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University represented Uttar Pradesh at the National Integration Camp held from 17–23 February 2026 at Marian College, Kuttikkanam, Kerala. During the camp, the volunteers showcased the rich cultural heritage of Uttar Pradesh through folk dance, folk songs, and traditional cuisine. Their active participation highlighted the spirit of unity in diversity and promoted national integration among youth from different parts of the country.



#### ❖ Vande Bharat Awareness Rally & MY Bharat Budget Quiz Participation

NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University prepared posters and organised a rally on Vande Bharat in the university premises to create awareness. The rally aimed to promote national spirit, civic responsibility, and active participation of youth in nation-building. Volunteers also participated in the online MY Bharat Budget Quiz–2026 and received certificates for their involvement and learning.

#### ❖ Seven-Day Special Camp in Village Simardha

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi organized a Seven-Day Special Camp in Village Simardha from 7th to 13th March 2026 under the guidance of the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, with the participation of 300 volunteers. The camp included daily Yoga and Meditation, awareness rallies on key social issues, a village survey, and expert lectures on topics such as road safety, Skill India, and mental health. Evening sessions featured sports, cultural activities, and competitions. Overall, the camp promoted community service, awareness, and holistic development among volunteers. Overall, the camp provided a valuable platform for community service, awareness generation, and holistic development of NSS volunteers.



#### ❖ One-Day Training Programme on “Modern Agroforestry for Sustainable Agriculture and Income Enhancement”

A one-day training programme on “Modern Agroforestry for Sustainable Agriculture and Income Enhancement” was organized on 9 March 2026 under the College of Horticulture and Forestry, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi, with financial support from the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research. The programme was graced by Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, as the Chief Guest. The inaugural session began with a warm welcome address by Dr. R. P. Yadav, Associate Professor. Dr. M. J. Dobriyal, Head of the Department and Training Coordinator, introduced the theme and objectives of the programme. He emphasized that integrating trees with agriculture in the Bundelkhand region can help farmers not only meet their needs for fuelwood and timber but also enhance their income by supplying raw materials to industries. Dr. Gaurav Sharma, Professor of Floriculture and Landscaping, highlighted the potential of floriculture under agroforestry systems as a means to generate higher income. Dr. Manish Srivastava, Dean of the College of Horticulture and Forestry, encouraged farmers to explore additional dimensions of agroforestry, such as livestock rearing, beekeeping, and sericulture, to further strengthen their livelihoods. In his address, Chief Guest Dr. S. K. Singh explained that agroforestry is not only a pathway to increasing farmers' income but also an effective approach for soil and water conservation in the Bundelkhand region. He also underlined the importance of trees in ensuring resilience against future environmental changes and promoting sustainable farming systems. The programme

further included a series of technical sessions where experts shared practical and scientific insights on key topics such as the role of agroforestry in rural livelihoods, selection of suitable tree and crop species, utilization of agroforestry products, integration of medicinal and aromatic plants, tree management practices, farmers' participation, and opportunities in industrial agroforestry. A total of 50 farmers from Ari and Birgua villages actively participated in the training program.

#### ❖ **Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development Program**

A one-day training programme on “Capacity Building and Entrepreneurship Development Program on Agroforestry Technologies for Rural Youth and Women Clusters to Foster Startup” was organized on 13<sup>th</sup> March 2026 funded by UPCAR, Lucknow. This training is organised by the Department of Entomology, College of Agriculture, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi. A total of 40 farmers from Jhansi district participated in this programme.



The inaugural session was graced by Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, as the Chief Guest, and Dr. Parmendra Singh, Deputy Director General, UPCAR, Lucknow, as the Guest of Honour. The training focused on Apiculture as an entrepreneurial venture for rural youth. In this training lectures delineated; Economic of Apiculture, Scientific beekeeping, colony management, and practical demonstration on the use of beekeeping equipment and harvesting of beehive produces. Practical exposure was provided in the Apiculture laboratory and University's beekeeping unit. (Resource persons: Akhilesh Kumar Singh, Priyanka Kaundal, Usha, Yogendra Kumar Mishra).

#### ❖ **Virtual meeting under Comprehensive Scheme**

Three virtual mode monthly meetings were organised under C S Scheme with all staff of the scheme under the Chairmanship of Director Extension Education/ Nodal Officer, to discuss technical work status and administrative issues for the smooth functioning of scheme during January to March, 2026.

#### ❖ **Farewell Ceremony**

A heartfelt farewell ceremony was organized on 28.02.2026 at the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, to mark the retirement of the esteemed founder Dean Dr. V. P. Singh whose dedicated service and visionary leadership have left a lasting impact on the institution. The event witnessed the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. A. K. Singh, Deans, Directors, faculty members, staff, students, and distinguished guests, all gathered to honor the remarkable career and contributions of the retiring Dean. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor highlighted the Dean's commitment to strengthening veterinary education, promoting innovative research, and fostering a collaborative environment within the college. Colleagues described him as a guiding force and a mentor who inspired many with his knowledge, humility, and dedication. In his farewell address, the retiring Dean expressed deep appreciation for the cooperation and support he received throughout his tenure. The ceremony concluded with the presentation of mementos and a vote of thanks, marking the end of an illustrious chapter in the history of the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia.

