



RLBCAU NEWS LETTER



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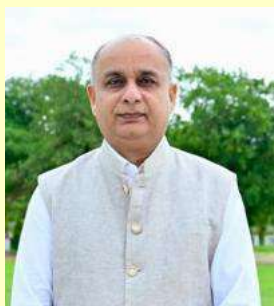
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From the Vice-Chancellor Desk



Many parts of India including Bundelkhand have long been recognized as regions where agriculture is intrinsically linked to the vagaries of the monsoon. This year, the delayed onset of the southwest monsoon and the forecast of below-normal rainfall prompted many farmers to reassess their cropping choices. Consequently, a significant area initially intended for paddy cultivation has shifted to other crops like Oilseeds and Pulses. Bundelkhand has witnessed shifting of area towards groundnut, a crop better suited to the region's rainfed conditions and comparatively lower water requirement. This response reflects not only the resilience and wisdom of our farming community but also the growing realization that water-intensive cropping systems are becoming increasingly difficult to sustain under changing climatic conditions.

While such adaptive decisions are encouraging, they also reinforce the need for a more strategic and long-term transformation of agriculture. Sustainable agricultural development in such regions must be founded on cropping systems that optimize the use of every drop of available water while maintaining farm productivity and profitability. Diversification towards less water-intensive crops, adoption of climate-resilient varieties, efficient water management practices, and conservation-based farming approaches are no longer optional interventions but essential components of resilient agriculture.

As an agricultural university, we have a vital responsibility to lead this transformation through scientific innovation, quality education, and effective extension services. The research must continue to develop technologies that enhance water productivity, improve drought resilience, and diversify production systems suited to the agro-ecological conditions. Equally important is our commitment to translating these scientific advancements into practical solutions that empower farmers to make informed decisions and adapt confidently to an increasingly uncertain climate.

The university remains committed to working closely with farmers, policymakers, development agencies, and other stakeholders to promote sustainable and resource-efficient agricultural systems. Through collaborative efforts, we can strengthen the resilience of agriculture, conserve precious natural resources, and ensure enhanced livelihoods and prosperity for its farming communities.

Vice-Chancellor



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❖ **RLBCAU Honoured with the 'University Puraskar' at the 36th Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Science Congress**

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, was conferred the prestigious 'University Puraskar' during the 6th Uttar Pradesh Agricultural Science Congress 2026, organized by the Uttar Pradesh Council of Agricultural Research (UPCAR) on 8th April, 2026. The award was presented by the Hon'ble Chief Minister of Uttar Pradesh, Shri Yogi Adityanath Jee to Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RLBCAU, in recognition of the University's outstanding contributions to agricultural education, research, and extension. The award ceremony was attended by Shri Surya Pratap Shahi, Hon'ble Minister of Agriculture, Government of Uttar Pradesh, along with several distinguished scientists, policymakers, and agricultural experts. The recognition highlights RLBCAU's significant role in advancing agricultural research, innovation, and sustainable rural development.



❖ **Ethiopian Delegation Visits RLBCAU, Jhansi; Appreciates Climate-Smart Agricultural Technologies**

A delegation from Ethiopia visited Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, as part of a special exposure programme organized in collaboration with the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT, Hyderabad). One source describes the delegation as 26-member and another as 30-member. The visit aimed to provide firsthand exposure to innovative agricultural technologies and research models developed for the semi-arid Bundelkhand region, which share similarities with Ethiopia's agro-climatic conditions.

The delegates visited the Integrated Farming System (IFS) Model, industrial agroforestry demonstrations, high-tech nursery, mushroom production unit, apiary/beekeeping unit, chickpea varietal trials, crop cafeteria, and the University's Central Laboratory. Scientists demonstrated how climate-smart technologies, efficient water management, and integrated farming approaches can improve farm income under resource-constrained conditions. The delegation also interacted with faculty members and researchers to discuss the adaptability of these technologies in Ethiopia. Appreciating the applicability of these models in regions such as Ethiopia, the delegation emphasized the importance of strengthening India-Ethiopia agricultural cooperation through continued knowledge exchange and collaborative

initiatives. The visit was guided by Dr. Ramesh Singh (Cluster Leader and Principal Scientist, Soil and Water Conservation, ICRISAT, Hyderabad), along with the University's senior faculty, including Dr. R.K. Singh, Dean, College of Agriculture; Dr. Manish Srivastav, Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry; Dr. Yogeshwar Singh, Dr. Akhilesh Singh, Dr. R.P. Yadav, Dr. Jitendra Tiwari, Dr. Shridhar Patil, Dr. Prabhat Tiwari, Dr. Ranjeet Pal, Dr. Usha, and Dr. Aartika Singh. The programme strengthened academic collaboration and highlighted the importance of international partnerships in promoting sustainable agriculture and technology transfer for dry land farming systems.



❖ **TB MukT Abhiyan**

NSS Unit RLBCAU organized TB MukT Abhiyan on 4th April 2026 by creating awareness about tuberculosis (TB) among NSS volunteers by conducting poster competition and rally in nearby areas. Students were informed of the precautions and preventions needed to be taken and consequences were also discussed.



❖ **Field Inspection Visit at PAU, Ludhiana (Punjab) under C S Scheme**

Under the Cost of Cultivation Scheme, a field inspection visit was undertaken by Dr. D.V. Singh, Field Officer, and Dr. Devendra Singh, Field Supervisor, RLBCAU, Jhansi, to Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana (Punjab), on 21–22 April 2026 for reviewing the work being carried out under the scheme as per the guidelines of the Economics, Statistics & Evaluation Division, Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India. In addition, three virtual monthly review meetings were organized during April–June 2026 under the chairmanship of the Director Extension Education/Nodal Officer to assess technical

progress, address administrative issues, and ensure the smooth implementation of scheme activities.



❖ Three-Day Workshop: Quest of Excellence - In Pursuit of Excelling Our Life Mission

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, in collaboration with ASEED-IDMAT, successfully organized a three-day residential workshop, "Quest of Excellence – In Pursuit of Excelling Our Life Mission," from 8–10 April 2026. The workshop witnessed the participation of 30 faculty members from the university's constituent colleges and focused on self-awareness, value-based leadership, teamwork, communication, and professional excellence.

The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, in the presence of Dr. Anil Kumar, Director Education, Dr. SK Singh, Director Extension Education, Dr. Nagendra P. Singh (Program Leader), and Mr. Santosh Sahoo (Program Coordinator). Through interactive sessions, group activities, and experiential learning, participants explored strategies for personal and institutional growth. The workshop concluded with a valedictory session featuring reflections from participants, inspiring addresses by the dignitaries, and the distribution of certificates, reaffirming RLBCAU's commitment to fostering academic excellence and leadership among its faculty.

❖ NSS Unit Observes Poshan Pakhwada 2026

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, observed Poshan Pakhwada from 8-23 April 2026 under the theme "Maternal and Child Nutrition & Early Stimulation for Brain Development." The programme aimed to raise awareness about the importance of balanced nutrition and healthy development during the early stages of life. As part of the campaign, NSS volunteers actively prepared informative posters and organized an awareness rally across the university campus to disseminate messages on maternal and child nutrition, health, and child development.

❖ RLBCAU Signs MoU with Central Ayurveda Research Institute to Promote Medicinal Plant Research

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Central Ayurveda Research Institute (CARI), Jhansi, to strengthen collaboration in research and capacity building in the field of medicinal plants. The MoU was signed in the presence of Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, RLBCAU, and Dr. Ravindra Singh, Assistant Director, Central Ayurveda Research Institute, Jhansi.

Speaking on the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh stated that the collaboration would promote research on medicinal plants, facilitate studies on their bioactive constituents, and support skill- and employment-oriented training programmes. The initiative is expected to provide valuable learning opportunities for students while enhancing the knowledge and capacity of farmers in medicinal plant cultivation and utilization.



❖ Celebration of Ambedkar Jayanti

On 14 April 2026, the NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, celebrated Ambedkar Jayanti with great enthusiasm and reverence.



The programme was organized to commemorate the birth anniversary of Dr. B. R. Ambedkar, the chief architect of the Indian Constitution and a champion of social justice and equality. On the occasion, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh paid floral tribute to Dr. Ambedkar and highlighted his invaluable contributions to nation-building,

education, social reform, and the empowerment of marginalized communities. He encouraged students, faculty, and staff to embrace and uphold Babasaheb's ideals of equality, education, fraternity, and social justice.

❖ **NSS Unit Organizes Awareness Programme on Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam**

On 18 April 2026, the NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized an awareness programme on the Nari Shakti Vandan Adhiniyam to promote women's empowerment and gender equality. The programme aimed to educate students and volunteers about the significance of women's representation and participation in nation-building. As part of the initiative, an engaging Poster Competition was organized, in which NSS volunteers actively participated and creatively expressed their views on women's rights, empowerment, and leadership. The event was followed by an awareness rally across the university campus, spreading the message of gender equality, social justice, and women's empowerment.

❖ **Certificate Course on Mushroom Production**

The fourth batch of the Certificate course on Mushroom Production was completed on 21st April, 2026. In this course 14 participants from Jhansi, Lalitpur, Jalaun, Mahoba, Mauranipur, Fatehpur Sikri, and Chhatarpur districts took part. During the course, they have learned about various mushroom species, their morphology, nutritional and medicinal properties and health benefits. Various lectures and interactive sessions with professionals and banking persons were also conducted on how to establish a mushroom production unit, legal procedures for setting up the mushroom unit, technical, financial and commercial aspects of business, government sponsored schemes and subsidies, company/industry registration and legal procedures in agricultural finance were discussed to support the entrepreneurs for establishing mushroom production as profitable venture.

❖ **Awareness Programme on Operation Sindoor by Army Personnel**

NSS Unit RLBCAU organized an awareness program on Operation Sindoor. Army personnel from Jhansi unit came and explained the causes, action, consequences etc. Overall, the success story of Operation Sindoor was told to students to create a feeling of patriotism among the youths of India. Major Anupama Rawat, Major Prashant and Captain Jiten Singh delivered lectures regarding the said topic. Students appreciated the government's prompt action and army's swift delivery leading to success of the Operation Sindoor. The event started with welcome address by Programme Coordinator Dr RP Yadav and concluded with vote of thanks by program officer Dr. Y. Bijilaxmi Devi.

❖ **College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Datia Celebrated World Veterinary Day 2026**

The College of Veterinary Science and Animal Husbandry, Datia, under the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural

University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, celebrated World Veterinary Day 2026 on 25 April 2026 with great enthusiasm and active participation from faculty, students, veterinarians, and livestock farmers. The celebration was organized in line with the global theme, "Veterinarians: Guardians of Animal Health, Food Safety, and Public Health," emphasizing the indispensable role of veterinarians in ensuring animal health, food security, and public health under the One Health framework.

The programme was inaugurated by the Hon'ble Chancellor, Dr. Panjab Singh, who graced the occasion as the Chief Guest. In his address, he highlighted the pivotal role of veterinarians in promoting sustainable livestock development, strengthening the rural economy, controlling infectious diseases, and ensuring safe food production. He also stressed the importance of adopting the One Health approach to address emerging challenges at the animal-human-environment interface.



The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, emphasized that veterinary professionals play a crucial role not only in livestock health and productivity but also in enhancing farmers' livelihoods and ensuring national nutritional security. The programme was attended by Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, Dr. Avinash Gupta, Deputy Director, Department of Veterinary Services, Datia along with distinguished officials, faculty members, students, and practicing veterinarians and farmers.



❖ **NSS Unit Organizes HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme**

On 1 May 2026, the NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized an HIV/AIDS Awareness Programme to educate students about HIV/AIDS prevention, stigma reduction, and social responsibility. The programme aimed to enhance awareness,

dispel misconceptions, and promote informed and compassionate attitudes toward individuals living with HIV/AIDS. As part of the event, a Poster Competition and an Oration Competition were organized, providing students with a platform to express their views and spread awareness about the disease. Participants actively shared insightful ideas on HIV/AIDS awareness, common myths and misconceptions, preventive measures, and the social challenges faced by affected individuals. The event concluded with a strong message that awareness, prevention, compassion, and elimination of stigma are essential for building an informed and inclusive society. Overall, the programme was successful in enhancing students' knowledge and encouraging their active participation in promoting HIV/AIDS awareness and social responsibility.



❖ **SPIC MACAY Bansuri and Tabla Recital**

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) organized a captivating Bansuri and Tabla Vadan programme under the auspices of SPIC MACAY (Society for the Promotion of Indian Classical Music and Culture Amongst Youth) on 08 May 2026. Dr. Anil Kumar, Director Education, graced the occasion as the Guest and appreciated SPIC MACAY's efforts in preserving and promoting India's rich cultural heritage among the youth. The event featured an enthralling performance by renowned flautist Pt. Ajay Prasanna and eminent tabla maestro Sri Himanshu Mahant Ji of the Banaras Gharana. Pt. Ajay Prasanna mesmerized the audience with a soulful rendition of Raga Komal Todi, a composition he had performed during the COVID-19 pandemic as a musical prayer for the well-being of humanity. The programme introduced students to the richness of Indian classical music and reflected SPIC MACAY's mission, founded in 1977 by Dr. Kiran Seth at IIT Delhi, to promote Indian and global cultural traditions among students. The dedicated efforts of Dr. Gaurav Sharma (SWO), Dr. Biji Laxmi, and Dr. Chandra Kant Awasthi in successfully organizing the programme were highly commendable.

❖ **NSS Volunteers Participate in One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) Awareness**

On 2 June 2026, NSS volunteers of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, actively participated in the One Nation, One Ration Card (ONORC) Awareness Quiz conducted on the MY Bharat platform. The quiz was organized to enhance awareness about the ONORC scheme and its role in ensuring food security and the seamless portability of ration benefits across the country. Through their participation, the volunteers gained valuable

insights into the objectives and benefits of the scheme, which enables eligible beneficiaries to access subsidized food grains from any fair price shop in India. The activity reflected the commitment of NSS volunteers towards promoting important government initiatives and fostering informed citizenship.

❖ **NSS Volunteers of RLBCAU Spread Joy Through Community Outreach**

NSS volunteers of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi on 2 June 2026 organized a community outreach programme for underprivileged children on the university campus. Volunteers provided stationery items and engaged the children in drawing, painting, and other interactive learning activities, fostering creativity and confidence. The initiative aimed to support children's education and well-being while promoting the values of compassion, service, and social responsibility among NSS volunteers. The programme brought smiles to the children and highlighted how small acts of kindness can make a meaningful difference in society.

❖ **NSS Unit Organizes "Education for All - A Step Towards Change!" Awareness Campaign**

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, on 2 June 2026 organized an awareness campaign titled "Education for All - A Step Towards Change!" on the university campus. The programme aimed to highlight the importance of education as a powerful tool for social transformation and inclusive development. As part of the campaign, a poster competition, elocution competition, and an awareness rally were organized to emphasize the critical need for child education, women's education, and equal educational opportunities for weaker sections of society. Students and NSS volunteers actively participated in these activities, spreading the message of literacy, empowerment, and social equality.

❖ **3rd NSS University Advisory Committee Meeting**

On 4 June 2026, the 3rd NSS University Advisory Committee Meeting was successfully held at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, under the chairmanship of Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh. The meeting was attended by Dr. Manju Singh, NSS Nodal Officer, Uttar Pradesh; Shri Samardeep Saxena, NSS Regional Director; the University's statutory officers; the State Horticulture Officer; representatives of Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs); and Pradhans of adopted villages.

The meeting reviewed the progress of NSS activities, special camps, community outreach programmes, and future action plans aimed at enhancing the effectiveness and impact of NSS initiatives. Discussions focused on strengthening community engagement, rural development activities, and youth participation in nation-building efforts. During the meeting, the Vice-Chancellor appreciated the dedication and efforts of NSS volunteers and encouraged them to extend their support to underprivileged and needy students through guidance, mentorship, and meaningful community service activities. The meeting concluded with valuable suggestions

and a renewed commitment to expanding the reach and impact of NSS programmes in the university and surrounding communities.



❖ Organized "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" Campaign

On 4 June 2026, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized the "Ek Ped Maa Ke Naam" campaign as part of its commitment to environmental conservation and sustainable development. The programme was inaugurated by Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh and graced by Dr. Manju Singh, NSS Nodal Officer, Uttar Pradesh, and Shri Samardeep Saxena, NSS Regional Director, along with the University's statutory officers. As part of the initiative, the dignitaries planted tree saplings in front of the entrance gate of the College of Horticulture and Forestry, symbolizing the University's dedication to creating a greener and healthier environment. The campaign encouraged students, faculty members, staff, and NSS volunteers to plant a tree in honor of their mothers, reflecting gratitude, care, and responsibility toward both nature and motherhood.



❖ World Environment Day 2026 Celebrated at RLBCAU, Jhansi

On the occasion of World Environment Day, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized a special programme to promote environmental conservation and sustainable development. The event was held under the leadership of Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, and was attended by Dr. Manju Singh, NSS State Liaison Officer, along with faculty members, university officials, staff, NSS volunteers, and students. The NSS Unit celebrated World Environment Day

under the theme "Inspired by Nature, For Climate, For Our Future." The programme featured a plantation drive, environmental awareness activities, and inspiring addresses by university dignitaries emphasizing environmental conservation, biodiversity protection, and sustainable development.

Addressing the gathering, Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh emphasized that World Environment Day serves as a reminder of humanity's collective responsibility towards nature. He highlighted the importance of protecting forests, wildlife, water resources, and biodiversity while encouraging every individual to plant trees and actively contribute to building a cleaner, greener, and more sustainable future.



❖ RLBCAU Faculty Participates in International Conference ICAPHS-2026 at Sanskriti University

A delegation of 11 faculty members from Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, actively participated in the International Conference on Agri-Tech, Plant and Health Sciences (ICAPHS-2026), held from 24–26 April 2026 at Sanskriti University, Mathura, India.



The conference brought together researchers, academicians, scientists, and industry experts from across the globe to discuss the latest advancements in Agritech Innovation, Plant Sciences, Health Sciences, Biotechnology, Smart Farming, Sustainable Agriculture, and Life Sciences. The event provided an excellent platform for sharing innovative research, exchanging ideas, and fostering interdisciplinary collaborations.

The Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor of RLBCAU, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, graced the inaugural session as the Chief Guest and highlighted the importance of integrating cutting-edge agricultural technologies with sustainable farming practices to address future food security and environmental challenges. He emphasized the crucial role of higher educational institutions in promoting research, innovation, and capacity building for the agricultural sector.

❖ Vice-Chancellor Visits Summer Mungbean Seed Production Fields under Seed Hub Project

Under the Seed Hub–Pulses Project of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, summer mungbean seed production is being carried out through a farmer participatory model at Hardua village in Jalaun district. During a field visit, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, accompanied by Director of Research, Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi, and Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. R. K. Singh, interacted with the participating farmers and reviewed the progress of the seed production programme. Farmers informed the visiting team that the improved MYMV-resistant mungbean variety 'Virat (IPM 205-7)' is producing excellent yields within 55–60 days, ensuring higher productivity and profitability. They also appreciated the university's continuous support in providing quality seeds, which has significantly expanded summer mungbean cultivation in the region and enhanced farmers' income.



❖ RLBCAU Showcases Agricultural Innovations at Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi actively participated in the Unnat Krishi Mahotsav 2026, organized at Dussehra Ground, Raisen,

Madhya Pradesh, from 10–13 April 2026. The University was represented through an exhibition stall aimed at promoting its agricultural technologies, research achievements, and extension activities. The stall attracted a large number of farmers, students, extension personnel, entrepreneurs, and other stakeholders interested in learning about the University's research and extension initiatives.

During the Mahotsav, the team showcased a wide range of agricultural technologies, improved crop varieties, and value-added products. Visitors were provided with technical guidance on modern crop production practices, improved farming techniques, integrated pest and disease management, and sustainable agricultural technologies. The team also interacted extensively with farmers and other participants, addressing their queries related to crop management, agricultural innovations, and the University's academic, research, and extension programmes. These interactions served as an effective platform for strengthening the connection between the University and the farming community while promoting the adoption of scientific agricultural practices. The participation of RLBCAU in the Unnat Krishi Mahotsav significantly enhanced the visibility of the University's technologies and extension efforts, while imparting valuable engagement with farmers and agricultural stakeholders from different regions. The visit proved to be a valuable opportunity to disseminate agricultural innovations, strengthen farmer–scientist interactions, and reinforce RLBCAU's commitment to advancing sustainable agriculture through research, education, and extension. The official team comprises Dr. Ashutosh Sharma, Dr. Vaibhav Singh, Mr. Keshav under the supervision of Dr. S.K. Singh Director Extension Education.



❖ Release of PM-KISAN 23rd Installment

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized a special programme to mark the release of the 23rd installment of the Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN) Scheme. More than 150 farmers, including 45 women farmers, from the villages of Birgua, Gandhinagar, and Raunija in Jhansi district participated in the event and watched the live telecast of the address by the Hon'ble Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, at the university campus. During the programme, the Hon'ble Prime Minister released the 23rd installment of the PM-KISAN Scheme, under which more than ₹18,881 crore

was transferred through Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) to the bank accounts of over 9.44 crore farmers across the country. The PM-KISAN Scheme continues to play a significant role in providing timely financial assistance to farmers for meeting their agricultural needs and strengthening the farming sector. The programme was attended by the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, along with all statutory officers, scientists, and staff members of the university. On this occasion, the university scientists interacted with the participating farmers, addressed their agricultural concerns, and provided technical guidance and practical solutions related to crop production, resource management, and improved farming practices.



❖ Yoga Practice Session

The NSS Unit of the college organized a special morning Yoga Session on 6th June 2026 at Rani Laxmibai Park. The session aimed to promote physical fitness, mental well-being, and spiritual harmony among NSS volunteers. Volunteers actively participated in various yoga asanas and breathing exercises, experiencing the benefits of yoga for a healthy and balanced lifestyle. The programme successfully encouraged discipline, mindfulness, and overall well-being among participants.



❖ Secretary, ICAR and Additional Secretary, DARE Visited RLBCAU Jhansi and Datia Campuses to Review Academic and Research Facilities

Shri Gyanendra Dev Tripathi, IAS, Hon'ble Additional Secretary (DARE) and Secretary (ICAR), New Delhi, visited the Jhansi and Datia campuses of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU) on 6 June 2026 to review the University's academic, research, and extension infrastructure.

At the Datia campus, accompanied by the Honorable Vice Chancellor, RLBCAU, he visited the Veterinary Clinical Complex, Veterinary Farm Complex, Fisheries Farm Complex, and the Main Administrative Building. At the Jhansi campus, he inspected the research farms, laboratories, Integrated Farming System (IFS) unit, high-tech nursery, veterinary clinical complex, livestock complex, business incubation centres, students' classrooms, and library. He appreciated the University's rapid progress in developing state-of-the-art infrastructure and strengthening its research and educational capabilities.

During the visit, Shri Tripathi interacted with various faculty members, scientists, staff, and students and showed keen interest in the teaching, research, and development activities being carried out at the University. Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, presented the University's recent achievements, ongoing initiatives, future development plans, and infrastructure proposals. He expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the Department of Agricultural Research and Education (DARE) and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) for their continued guidance and support in the establishment and development of the University. He stated that with the support of ICAR, RLBCAU has emerged as a major center for agricultural education, research, and rural development in the Bundelkhand region.



Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean, College of Fisheries, welcomed the Secretary (ICAR) and thanked ICAR for its support in strengthening fisheries education, research, and extension activities. He assured that RLBCAU will continue to deliver its best efforts to meet expectations through excellent teaching, innovation-based research, and effective extension programs. Shri Tripathi responded positively to the proposals and assured continued support from ICAR for the University's future growth and advancement. This visit

proved to be an important opportunity for the university to showcase its achievements and further strengthen its commitment to agricultural education and research. Faculty members and students also expressed their gratitude for the guidance and inspiration they received.

❖ **Fit India "Sunday on Cycle" Campaign**

On 7 June 2026, the NSS volunteers of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, enthusiastically participated in the Fit India "Sunday on Cycle" campaign, promoting fitness, healthy living, and environmental sustainability. The event encouraged participants to adopt cycling as a simple yet effective means of improving physical health while contributing to a cleaner and greener environment. Through this cycling activity, NSS volunteers spread awareness about the importance of regular physical exercise, an active lifestyle, and reducing carbon emissions through eco-friendly modes of transportation. The campaign highlighted the significant role of youth in fostering a culture of fitness, environmental consciousness, and sustainable living.

❖ **Educational Outreach Programme**

On 9 June 2026, the NSS volunteers of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, organized an educational outreach programme for underprivileged children residing at the university construction site. Stationery kits containing notebooks, colours, pencils, sharpeners, erasers, and files were distributed to support their education and creativity. Appreciating the initiative, Vice-Chancellor Prof. Ashok Kumar Singh, encouraged NSS volunteers to continue working for the upliftment of underprivileged sections of society and emphasized the importance of such community service activities in promoting inclusive social development.

❖ **RLBCAU Promotes Green Mobility Through the Use of Electric Vehicles**

In line with the Hon'ble Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi's call to reduce the consumption of petrol and diesel and promote sustainable transportation, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, took a significant step towards green mobility by encouraging the use of electric vehicles (EVs) within the university. Leading by example, the Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, Dr. Ashok Kumar Singh, commuted to the university in his personal electric vehicle. He was joined in this initiative by Director of Research, Dr. S. K. Chaturvedi; Director of Education, Dr. Anil Kumar; Dean, College of Agriculture, Dr. R. K. Singh; Dean, College of Horticulture and Forestry, Dr. Manish Srivastava; Dean, College of Fisheries, Dr. P. K. Pandey; and Registrar, Dr. S. S. Kushwaha, who also adopted the use of electric vehicles. The initiative aims to encourage the adoption of eco-friendly transportation and minimize dependence on fossil fuels. By promoting the use of electric vehicles, the university reaffirms its commitment to environmental conservation, clean energy, and sustainable development. RLBCAU continues to support national initiatives that foster environmental responsibility and inspire the community to embrace sustainable practices. The

university encourages everyone to contribute towards building a greener, cleaner, and more sustainable future through conscious lifestyle choices and the adoption of environmentally friendly technologies.



❖ **Successful Organisation of "Khet Bachao" Abhiyan**

In accordance with the directions of the Ministry of Agriculture & Farmers Welfare, Government of India and the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR) New Delhi, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi successfully implemented the Khet Bachao Abhiyan from 01 June to 30 June 2026 across the Bundelkhand region. The campaign was aimed at promoting balanced fertilizer use, sustainable soil health management, natural farming practices, judicious use of pesticides and fertilizers and scientific crop production technologies among farming communities.

To ensure effective implementation of the campaign, the University constituted 25 multidisciplinary teams of Scientists and Extension Personnel drawn from various faculties and departments. These teams extensively visited 50 villages across the Bundelkhand region and directly interacted with farmers through village-level awareness programmes, demonstrations, training programmes, field visits, and farmer-scientist interactions. The teams worked in close coordination with local stakeholders and disseminated technical know-how through participatory extension approaches.

Major Activities Carried out under Khet Bachao Abhiyan were awareness programmes on balanced and judicious use of fertilizers based on soil testing, Farmer trainings on Integrated Nutrient Management (INM) and scientific nutrient management practices, Promotion of green manuring and demonstration of its role in improving soil fertility, Awareness regarding organic and biological inputs, bio-fertilizers and bio-input production, Promotion of Natural Farming practices through farmer meetings and technical discussions, Field demonstrations on reducing excessive dependence on chemical fertilizers, Advisory services on efficient crop nutrient management and sustainable agricultural practices, Farmer-scientist interactions addressing location-specific crop production problems focus group interactions on improving soil health and conserving natural resources, Distribution of technical literature and extension advisories, Mobilization of village

communities for application of sustainable agricultural technologies.

The University successfully fulfilled the objectives envisioned under the “Khet Bachao Abhiyan” by creating widespread awareness on balanced fertilizer application based on soil health, Enhancing farmers' knowledge regarding integrated and balanced nutrient management, Promoting green manuring and organic/biological alternatives for sustainable agriculture, Encouraging adoption of natural farming practices, Demonstrating methods to improve soil health while reducing indiscriminate use of chemical fertilizers, Promoting scientific crop management practices for improving productivity and resource-use efficiency, Strengthening farmer awareness regarding long-term soil fertility conservation, Encouraging community participation in sustainable agricultural development.

The campaign generated significant awareness among farmers regarding sustainable nutrient management and environmentally sound agricultural practices. Farmers actively participated in training programmes, demonstrations and interactive sessions conducted by University Scientists. The field visits enabled direct transfer of technologies from laboratories to farmers' fields, strengthened the linkage between research and extension, and promoted adoption of climate-resilient and sustainable farming practices across the Bundelkhand region. 25 teams of scientists covered 5000 farmers including approx. 1500 farm women of 50 villages in Bundelkhand region.



❖ Rani Lakshmi Bai Balidan Diwas Tribute

The NSS Unit of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University organized a solemn tribute programme on 18th June 2026 at the RLBCAU Campus Entrance on the occasion of Rani Lakshmi Bai Balidan Diwas to honour the bravery and supreme sacrifice of the Queen of Jhansi. The programme included a floral tribute where the Vice-Chancellor, Director's Dean(s), faculty members, and students paid homage by garlanding the statue of Rani Lakshmi Bai. This was followed by the lighting of approximately 500 Diyas around the statue, symbolizing patriotism, respect, and remembrance of her valor.

The Vice-Chancellor, Dr. A. K. Singh, addressed the gathering and highlighted the heroic contributions of Rani Lakshmibai, emphasizing the importance of her courage, leadership, and patriotism in inspiring the present generation. The event was conducted with great respect and successfully instilled a sense of national pride among the participants.



❖ International Yoga Day Celebrated at Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Datia Campus

International Yoga Day was celebrated with great enthusiasm on June 21, 2026, at the Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Datia campus. Faculty, students, and non-teaching staff of the university actively participated in the event. The event was organized in line with the International Yoga Day 2026 theme, "Yoga for Healthy Ageing." This theme highlights the importance of yoga in strengthening the physical, mental, and emotional health of people of all age groups and promoting a healthy and active ageing.

The yoga session was conducted by renowned yoga teacher, Shri Ramesh Gupta. He led participants through various yoga asanas, breathing exercises, and meditation techniques. He explained that yoga is an effective means of maintaining physical fitness, reducing stress, improving concentration, and leading a healthy lifestyle. During the program, participants enthusiastically practiced various yoga asanas and pranayama. The session emphasized the importance of incorporating yoga into daily life for achieving holistic health and well-being.

On this occasion, the University administration urged all attendees to practice yoga regularly to maintain physical health, mental peace, and emotional balance. The program concluded with a pledge to promote yoga and health promotion in daily life. On this occasion, Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean of the College of Fisheries and the College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences, Datia, encouraged all participants to practice yoga daily, stating that yoga is the foundation of a healthy, balanced, and stress-free life. He urged everyone to incorporate yoga into their daily lives to promote good physical health, mental peace, and a positive lifestyle. This event demonstrated the University's commitment to promoting health awareness and developing a culture of healthy lifestyles among students and staff. All

participants appreciated this initiative and pledged to continue practicing yoga regularly.



❖ **RLBCAU, Jhansi Participates in Akashvani's 90th Anniversary Celebrations**

Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, joined the celebrations marking 90 glorious years of Akashvani (All India Radio), recognizing the broadcaster's remarkable contribution to agricultural extension, public awareness, and rural development. As part of the commemorative programme, Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education, delivered a special radio talk on "Soil Conservation and Sustainable Agriculture: Importance of the Khet Bachao Abhiyan." In his address, he emphasized the importance of soil health management, balanced nutrient use, water conservation, and climate-resilient farming practices for ensuring sustainable agricultural productivity.

Akashvani has played a pivotal role in connecting agricultural scientists with farmers through reliable dissemination of scientific information and advisories for nine decades. Dr. Singh appreciated Akashvani's invaluable role in strengthening agricultural extension services and enhancing farmers' access to research-based technologies. He highlighted the long-standing collaboration between RLBCAU and Akashvani Jhansi in promoting farmer awareness through expert talks, interactive programmes, and initiatives such as Radio Krishi Paathshaala. The University extended its heartfelt congratulations to Akashvani on completing 90 years of distinguished public service and reaffirmed its commitment to further strengthening this partnership for the benefit of the farming community in Bundelkhand.

❖ **A two-day training program for fish farmers in Bundelkhand:**

The aim of strengthening the Blue Revolution in the Bundelkhand region and developing fish farming as a profitable and sustainable livelihood, ICAR-National Bureau of Fish Genetic Resources two-day SCSP training program on "Carp Farming in the Bundelkhand Region" was organized at the College of Fisheries, Datia (Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University). Fisher farmers, progressive farmers, and young entrepreneurs from various districts of the Bundelkhand region participated

enthusiastically. During the training program, participants were provided with important information on scientific methods of carp farming, pond management, water quality management, seed selection, nutrition and feed management, disease control, and marketing. Practical sessions also provided participants with hands-on experience of the techniques, enabling them to successfully implement them in their own fields.



❖ **Mahindra Demonstrated 'EV 9S' to Deans at RLBCAU, Datia Campus**

Taking a major step towards promoting environmentally friendly technology at the Datia campus of Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Mahindra's senior leadership visited the university for a live demonstration of its latest electric vehicle, the 'EV 9S'. This demonstration was conducted exclusively for the university's top leadership. The Mahindra delegation was led by General Manager Mr. Sarvind Pandey and Key Manager Mr. Kanchan Yatin. This special demonstration was held before Dr. Pramod Kumar Pandey, Dean of the College of Fisheries and College of Veterinary and Animal Sciences at RLBCAU.

The primary objective of this presentation was to showcase the operational capabilities, efficiency, and sustainability features of the 'EV 9S' and to highlight how these clean-energy utility vehicles can be useful for large-scale institutional campuses and specialized agricultural facilities. Dr. Pandey and the university's technical staff were briefed in detail on the vehicle's battery runtime, zero-emissions, and its design to suit campus routes.

The live demonstration also included a test run on campus, giving university officials an opportunity to assess the vehicle's performance in real-world conditions. Adopting such eco-friendly transportation solutions is in line with RLBCAU's broader vision of incorporating smart and sustainable technologies into its academic and research infrastructure.

❖ **Proper Growth Observed in FLDs on Agroforestry Demonstration**

The Front Line Demonstration (FLD) on Agroforestry established by Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University, Jhansi at Ronija village, Block-Badagaon, District-Jhansi, is showing highly encouraging results. The demonstration comprises Kadamb (*Neolamarckia cadamba*), Melia (*Melia dubia*) and Teak (*Tectona grandis*) based agroforestry models developed to promote sustainable

land-use practices and enhance farmers' income in the Bundelkhand region.

Regular field monitoring by university scientists has revealed that Kadamb and Melia plantations have established successfully and are exhibiting excellent growth, healthy vigour and high survival, reflecting the suitability of these species under the local agro-climatic conditions. To improve land-use efficiency and provide immediate economic returns, participating farmers have adopted groundnut as an intercrop between the tree rows. The intercrop is performing well without affecting tree growth, providing additional income while improving overall farm productivity. Studies have also witnessed that Melia dubia-based agroforestry systems perform well with intercrops and contribute to higher farm profitability and sustainable resource utilization. The successful performance of the FLDs is motivating neighbouring farmers to adopt agroforestry, highlighting its potential for enhancing livelihood security, carbon sequestration and climate-resilient agriculture in the Bundelkhand region.

❖ Certificate Course in Remote Sensing and GIS

The Geospatial Research and Technology Lab (GTRL), Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, successfully conducted a three-month Certificate Course in Remote Sensing and Geographic Information System (RS & GIS) from 1 February to 30 April 2026. A total of 21 students actively participated in the course. The training focused on developing fundamental and practical skills in Remote Sensing, GIS, spatial data handling, image interpretation, mapping, and geospatial analysis. The course provided participants with hands-on exposure to geospatial technologies and their applications in agriculture, forestry, natural resource management, and environmental studies. The programme enhanced the participants' technical knowledge and practical capabilities in applying RS and GIS tools for real-world problem-solving.

❖ Radio Krishi Paathshaala: Strengthening Agricultural Knowledge Dissemination through Airwaves

The Directorate of Extension Education, Rani Lakshmi Bai Central Agricultural University (RLBCAU), Jhansi, has launched "Radio Krishi Paathshaala" - Part II, an innovative farmer-centric outreach initiative in collaboration with All India Radio, Jhansi. Sponsored by the University, the programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor

Prof. A. K. Singh and is being conducted under the guidance of Dr. S. K. Singh, Director of Extension Education. The initiative aims to disseminate scientific, practical and location-specific agricultural technologies to farmers across the Bundelkhand region through radio, ensuring timely and wider access to research-based farm advisories.

The programme further strengthens the University's extension mandate by complementing its existing farmer advisory and technology dissemination services. The series comprises 24 resource person episodes covering major thematic areas, including crop production, natural farming, integrated farming systems, horticulture, agroforestry, veterinary sciences and fisheries. 24 Scientists from various disciplines of the University and allied sectors are contributing to the programme, ensuring multidisciplinary, scientifically validated, and need-based technical guidance for the farming community. The current kharif season schedule includes episodes on pulse and oilseed production, rice, maize and millet cultivation, protected vegetable production, fruit crops, forestry, livestock management, fisheries and integrated farming systems. Coordinated by Dr. Prabhat Tiwari (Assistant Professor & In-charge, Electronic Media), the initiative demonstrates the University's commitment to promoting climate-resilient agriculture, technology transfer and sustainable livelihood enhancement for farmers in Bundelkhand.

