



LPS CELL ISAB GN
LITERARY AND PUBLIC SPEAKING CELL

AUGUST AND SEPTEMBER EDITION

KRISHI UNNATI

An Official Magazine of ISAB

THEME: EMPOWERING YOUNG AGRI-MINDS

Nurturing Future, Cultivating Excellence



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FOSTERING EXCELLENCE AND BUILDING FUTURES – A MESSAGE FROM THE LEADERSHIP



SAURABH V PANDEY
PROMOTER & FOUNDER

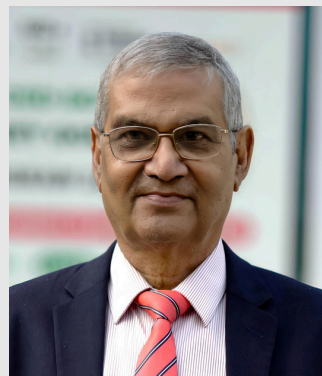
FROM THE FOUNDER'S DESK

ISAB's journey stands as a testament to vision, perseverance, and excellence, evolving into a premier institution known for academic rigor, industry engagement, and leadership development. This year's successful internships and ongoing placement preparations highlight the trust and recognition ISAB talent commands in the food and agri-business sector. Congratulations to the senior batch on their accomplishments, with encouragement to focus on upcoming placements while the junior batch of 2025–27 is warmly welcomed and encouraged to embrace every opportunity to learn, grow, and develop as future leaders. Sincere gratitude is extended to our industry leaders and alumni, whose guidance has enriched the students' learning experience, reinforcing ISAB's commitment to shaping a brighter future for the agri-business sector.

MESSAGE FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

At ISAB, we believe education is more than just classrooms and books—it's about shaping perspectives and building purpose. To our new batch, I encourage you to be curious, ask questions, and never hesitate to learn from one another. To our senior batch, completing your Summer Internship Program is no small achievement—it is a reflection of your hard work, patience, and growth. To extend students growth and knowledge towards research "Sangosthee-Seminar" has been introduced from this academic year to nurture students towards creating excellence towards creating excellence in Agribusiness Field.

I am deeply thankful to our speakers and alumni who joined Diksharambh. The insights and experiences you shared have left a lasting impression on our students and made the program truly meaningful.



DR. BIRENDRA KUMAR
DIRECTOR

MESSAGE FROM THE CHAIRMAN'S DESK

A new academic year is always special—it brings with it fresh beginnings, new dreams, and the chance to create lasting memories. To our junior batch, I warmly welcome you to ISAB and encourage you to approach this journey with sincerity, creativity, and an open heart. To our senior batch, I extend my congratulations on completing your Summer Internship Program. The challenges you faced and the lessons you learned will guide you with confidence in the years ahead.

My sincere appreciation also goes to the speakers and alumni who joined Diksharambh. Your presence added great value and reminded us of the strength of the ISAB family, where learning and mentorship go hand in hand.



DR. PRADYUMNA PANDEY
CHAIRMAN

MESSAGE FROM LITERARY & PUBLIC SPEAKING CELL



AKANSHA RAWAT
SECRETARY, LPS

Dear Readers,

It is my pleasure to present this edition of KRISHI UNNATI, capturing the vibrant spirit and achievements of ISAB. From the patriotic celebration of Independence Day to the cultural festivities of Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, Garba Night, and Teacher's Day, this edition reflects the joy and unity of our campus life.

We also highlight academic and professional milestones through the Diksharambh program, Alumni Talk, Sangosthee seminar, Placement Readiness sessions, and the Expo Visit, alongside the creativity showcased in the Cultural Tour and Student Corner.

This magazine stands as a testament to ISAB's commitment to learning, leadership, and community. May it inspire us to continue this journey with passion and purpose.



FAIZAN KHAN
CO-SECRETARY, LPS

Dear Readers,

As the Co-Secretary and Chief Editor of Krishi Unnati, I am delighted to present the August–September edition of our magazine KRISHI UNNATI. This edition captures the vibrant spirit of ISAB through academic, cultural, and global experiences. From the inspiring Diksharambh 2025 to celebrations of Independence Day, Janmashtami, Ganesh Chaturthi, and Teachers' Day, our campus was alive with learning and festivity. Highlights also include an Alumni Talk on career growth, the Global Exposure Program to Dubai, Sangam 2025, and a memorable visit to Agra. These milestones reflect ISAB's commitment to academic excellence and holistic student development. Together, let us continue nurturing ideas, celebrating culture, and shaping a future full of possibilities.

Placement Readiness

Mock Group Discussion & Personal Interview



The Group Discussion (GD) and Personal Interview (PI) sessions were conducted for the batch of 2024–2026 with the objective of enhancing students' confidence and readiness for their upcoming placement preparations. These sessions provided a platform for students to articulate their thoughts, demonstrate problem-solving abilities, and showcase interpersonal and communication skills under simulated placement scenarios. Alongside building confidence, the exercises also helped in evaluating the current level of preparation, identifying areas of strength, and highlighting aspects where further improvement is required. Constructive feedback provided during the sessions aimed to guide students in refining their approach, enhancing their presentation skills, and aligning their preparation with industry expectations, thereby ensuring they are well-equipped to face the challenges of the placement process with competence and assurance.



**"Your journey is your story—make it
one worth telling."**

INDIA'S 79TH INDEPENDENCE DAY CELEBRATING FREEDOM AND VISION



India's 79th Independence Day is not just a celebration of freedom—it is a tribute to the countless sacrifices, courage, and vision of those who dreamt of a sovereign nation. Independence was not handed to us; it was earned through relentless struggle, unyielding determination, and the power of unity. Leaders such as Mahatma Gandhi, Sardar Vallabhbhai Patel, Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, Bhagat Singh, and Rani Lakshmibai showed us that freedom comes with resilience, sacrifice, and the dream of justice, liberty, equality, and fraternity. Their legacy continues to guide us even today.

At ISAB, we are inspired to move forward with this vision. Together, we can strengthen India's agricultural backbone, empower communities, and shape a future where progress is shared by every citizen. On this Independence Day, let us remember that freedom is not only our right but also our duty—to ourselves, to society, and to the generations to come.

**“The best way to find yourself is to lose
yourself in the service of others”**

CELEBRATING JANMASHTAMI EMBRACING THE TIMELESS TEACHINGS OF LORD KRISHNA



Janmashtami, the birth of Lord Krishna, is a festival of devotion, joy, and timeless wisdom. From the playful child stealing butter to the divine guide of the Bhagavad Gita, Krishna's life teaches resilience, leadership, and harmony. His vision in the Mahabharata reminds us that true leadership lies in service and collective good—an inspiration for us as future leaders in agriculture and agribusiness.

As we celebrate Janmashtami 2025, let us reflect on Krishna's values and embody integrity, service, and resilience in our journey.

GANPATI BAPPA MORYA A CELEBRATION OF UNITY AND JOY AT OUR COLLEGE



Ganesh Chaturthi 2025 at our college was a vibrant celebration of unity and devotion. For five days, the Cultural Club turned the campus into a lively mandap filled with music, aartis, prasada, and joy. Students, faculty, and staff came together like one big family, creating memories through celebrations, dances, and shared traditions. The emotional Visarjan, with chants of “Ganpati Bappa Morya!”, reminded us that our college is not just about academics but also about togetherness and culture.



DIKSHARAMBH

Igniting the Journey of Future Agribusiness Leaders at ISAB

At ISAB Greater Noida, every new journey begins with Diksharambh—a celebration of fresh dreams, new possibilities, and the spirit of togetherness. Much more than an orientation, Diksharambh 2025 marked the dawn of an exciting academic voyage for the new batch of aspiring agribusiness leaders. The event brought with it the warmth of welcome, the wisdom of industry pioneers, and the energy of student camaraderie. With knowledge, inspiration, and creativity woven into every session, Diksharambh became a vibrant gateway—ushering young minds into the world of innovation, leadership, and holistic growth at ISAB.

Diksharambh 2025 strengthened ISAB's academia-industry connect with guidance talks by Mr. Amit Rana (Crystal Crop Protection Pvt. Ltd.), Dr. Shailendra Singh (Zydex Group), Mr. Manish Patidar (DS Group), Mr. Sushant Kumar Narang (CNH Industrial), and Mr. Nishant Barolia (McCain Foods). They shared insights on supply chains, sustainability, and digital agriculture, reflecting ISAB's strong industry ties. Their collective wisdom encouraged the new batch to embrace observation, continuous learning, leadership, and adaptability as keys to success.

ISAB alumni graced Diksharambh 2025 with their presence, including Mr. Md Adnan Rahaman (Meerut Udyami Foundation), Mr. Satyam Katara (Founder, Swadeshi Gaon Wala), Mr. Amardeep Tripathi (Madhusudhan), Mr. Abhishek Panda (Zomato Hyperpure), Mr. Ayush Suhane (AGRIM), and Ms. Priya Yadav (Incotec). Sharing their diverse journeys across entrepreneurship, agritech, supply chains, and agri-sales, they collectively inspired the new batch to embrace adaptability, confidence, and continuous learning as the true drivers of success in agribusiness.



गुरुर्ब्रह्मा गुरुर्विष्णुः गुरुर्देवो महेश्वरः। गुरुः साक्षात् परं ब्रह्म तस्मै श्रीगुरवे नमः॥



TEACHERS DAY at ISAB was a heartfelt celebration of gratitude, reverence, and joy, honoring the guiding lights of our academic journey—our teachers. The campus reverberated with vibrant energy as students and faculty came together to celebrate this special occasion.



The day unfolded with inspiring addresses by our esteemed faculty members, whose words of wisdom left a lasting impression on the young minds. This was followed by a soulful musical performance by the students, creating an atmosphere of warmth and harmony. Adding to the delight was a humorous courtroom-themed drama, where students portrayed teachers in a light-hearted manner, leaving the audience in fits of laughter. On this occasion, we extend our deepest gratitude to all our teachers, who continue to be pillars of wisdom, support, and inspiration, shaping us into better individuals and leaders of tomorrow.



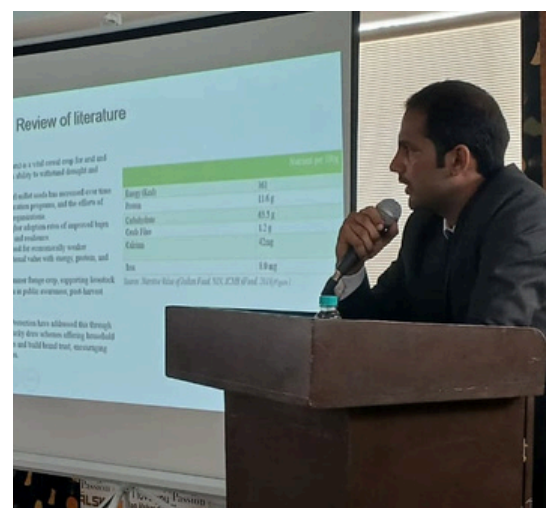
“Teaching is a very noble profession that shapes the character, caliber, and future of an individual.”

SANGOSTHEE Where Ideas Meet Action

ISAB recently initiated "Sangosthee", a seminar organized by Academic Team under the guidance of Dr. Birendra Kumar, Director, ISAB. The event provided a dynamic platform for students to showcase their experience and learning from the Summer Internship to explore the research skills and broaden the analytical skills in Agribusiness sector.

The preparation for the seminar turned out to be a great learning journey for the students. With constant guidance from Ms. Bhaktiprava Sahoo and Mr. Rajat Mishra, they received support at every step—from posture and gesture practice to refining their PPTs. To make things even better, a mock rehearsal was also conducted under the guidance of the Director, ISAB. These efforts not only boosted the students' confidence but also helped them overcome their limitations, resulting in drastic improvements on students performance.

The initiative inspired students to look beyond classrooms and step into the world of research, while also grasping business strategies in a more practical way. It fostered curiosity, provided a clear growth roadmap, and, through the integration of constructive feedback, enhanced their placement preparation in a structured and meaningful way.





CULTURAL TOUR AGRA

The campus of ISAB lit up with colours, music, and festive spirit during the much-awaited Garba Night Celebration. The event was graced by Founder of ISAB Mr. Saurabh V. Pandey, the Admin Team, and our esteemed Faculty Members, whose presence made the evening more memorable.

The celebration began with a powerful drama performance depicting the victory of Goddess Durga over Mahishasura, symbolizing the triumph of good over evil. The act created a devotional atmosphere and set the perfect tone for the festivities.

Following the performance, dandiya sticks were distributed, and the dance floor came alive with traditional Garba and Dandiya beats. Students, faculty, and guests danced together in circles, creating an atmosphere filled with energy, joy, and unity.



The event not only offered a refreshing break from academics but also strengthened the bond among the ISAB community. Garba Night concluded with smiles, laughter, and cherished memories, leaving everyone eager for the next celebration.

Inspiring Journeys - Alumni Talk Series

ISAB Greater Noida recently hosted an insightful Alumni Talk session, where distinguished alumni from the institute interacted with the new batch of 2025–2027. The event served as a bridge between the academic journey and professional aspirations of students, providing them with valuable guidance on industry expectations, skill-building, and career growth.

The session featured three successful alumni currently placed in JU Agrisciences – Ms. Anjali Sanga, Mr. Aman Saini, and Mr. Ritik Sharma – along with Ms. Sakshi Sharma, who is placed at Renuka Sugars and Mr. Nikhilesh Kumar Sadyal, who is placed at Lyncc Organics. All five alumni shared their real-world experiences, career insights, and practical tips with the budding agribusiness professionals.



The alumni encouraged students to make the most of their time at ISAB by actively participating in classroom discussions, case studies, industry interactions, and extracurricular initiatives. They highlighted how the institute's rigorous curriculum, coupled with consistent effort, can open doors to rewarding careers in the agribusiness sector.

The interactive Q&A session allowed the new batch to clear doubts about placements, industry expectations, and skill enhancement strategies. Students expressed that the session not only boosted their confidence but also gave them a clear roadmap for the next two years.

The event concluded with a note of gratitude to the alumni for taking time from their professional journeys to mentor the upcoming leaders of ISAB. Such interactions reinforce the strong bond between ISAB and its alumni network, motivating students to aim high and excel in their chosen paths.



World Food INDIA 2025

A Landmark Event for the Future of the Food Industry - Processing for Prosperity

The World Food India Expo 2025, held at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi on 27 September 2025, served as a premier platform for showcasing advancements in the global food and agribusiness sector. The event was graced by the presence of leading policymakers, industry stakeholders, entrepreneurs, and academic institutions, reflecting India's growing stature as a hub for food innovation and trade.

The Agro Marketing Club of ISAB, Greater Noida, organized and facilitated participation in this prestigious event, enabling students and young professionals to witness first-hand the evolving dynamics of the food industry.

Highlights of the Expo:

- **Global Participation:** Exhibitors from multiple countries presented cutting-edge technologies and value-added food products.
- **Technology Innovations:** Demonstrations of food processing machinery, modern packaging solutions, and cold-chain logistics underscored the role of technology in enhancing efficiency and reducing post-harvest losses.
- **Focus on Sustainability:** Special emphasis was placed on sustainable food systems, farmer-centric innovations, and environmentally responsible practices.
- **Policy & Trade Discussions:** Sessions highlighted India's role in global food supply chains, opportunities for export diversification, and policy support for the agri-food sector.



**Innovation on the Plate,
Inspiration for the Future.**

UP INTERNATIONAL TRADE SHOW 2025

The UP International Trade Show 2025, held at India Expo Centre & Mart, Greater Noida on 28 September 2025, served as a premier platform to highlight Uttar Pradesh's growing role in international trade, commerce, and industry. The event attracted global buyers, exporters, policymakers, and entrepreneurs, reflecting the state's emergence as a hub for economic growth and global business partnerships.

Highlights of the Trade Show:

- **Global Business Participation:** Exhibitors from India and abroad showcased diverse products across sectors, including food processing, agribusiness, handicrafts, textiles, and technology.
- **Export & Trade Opportunities:** Discussions focused on expanding international markets for Uttar Pradesh's agricultural and industrial products.
- **Innovation & Entrepreneurship:** Start-ups and MSMEs displayed innovative solutions, promoting the spirit of entrepreneurship and self-reliance.
- **Policy Support & Investment:** Special sessions highlighted government initiatives to encourage trade facilitation, ease of doing business, and investment opportunities in the state.



The UP International Trade Show 2025 was not only a showcase of Uttar Pradesh's strengths in agriculture, industry, and commerce but also a bridge to global opportunities. Through this initiative, the Agro Marketing Club of ISAB reaffirmed its commitment to exposing students to practical, industry-driven experiences, preparing them to become future leaders in agribusiness and international trade.



GARBA NIGHT CELEBRATION

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Global Exposure Program ICBA, DUBAI

The MBA (Food & Agri-Business Management) batch of 2023–25 at ISAB advanced their international learning journey with an insightful visit to the International Center for Biosaline Agriculture (ICBA), Dubai.



Guided by faculty mentor Mr. Tushar Pandey, the students explored ICBA's pioneering initiatives in sustainable agriculture, salinity management, and climate-resilient farming systems. The visit provided them with valuable exposure to innovative agri-tech solutions and resource-efficient practices that are addressing some of the most critical global challenges in food and water security.



This experiential learning opportunity not only broadened the students' global perspective but also strengthened their resolve to contribute meaningfully towards building a resilient and sustainable agri-business ecosystem in the years to come.



Students Corner

From Poppy to Pharmacy: The Journey of Opium

Opium, scientifically referred to as *Papaver somniferum*, is frequently termed "Black gold" due to its significant economic and medicinal worth. In India, this distinctive crop serves as a bridge between tradition and contemporary healthcare, although its cultivation is strictly regulated by the government.

The opium poppy flourishes in cool winter climates and necessitates fertile soil along with irrigation. In India, its cultivation is permitted solely under a license granted by the Central Bureau of Narcotics (CBN). Cultivating poppy without this license is illegal. Farmers are required to meet a Minimum Qualifying Yield (MQY) and must sell their entire harvest at designated government purchasing centers.

The areas authorized for cultivation are restricted to specific regions in Madhya Pradesh, Rajasthan, and Uttar Pradesh. Notable districts include Neemuch, Mandsaur, and Ratlam in Madhya Pradesh; Chittorgarh, Bhilwara, and Jhalawar in Rajasthan; and Barabanki, Bareilly, and Faizabad in Uttar Pradesh. Neemuch is particularly recognized as the epicenter of India's opium trade.

Tools and Methods of Extraction

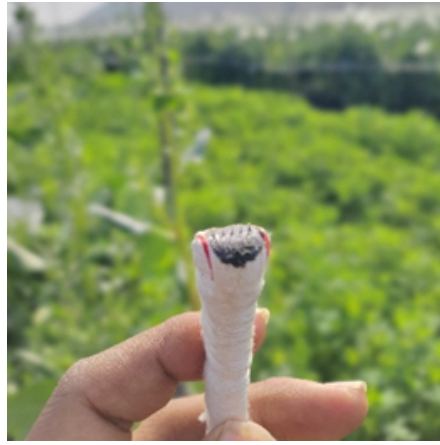
The process of harvesting opium is a traditional yet meticulous craft. As the poppy capsules reach maturity, farmers create shallow cuts on their surfaces using a specialized curved knife known as a "narsai" or "katri." Overnight, a milky latex seeps out and solidifies on the capsule. The following morning, this viscous gum is delicately scraped off with a flat blade and gathered into containers.

This technique of lancing and scraping is performed over several days to optimize yield. The raw opium collected is weighed, packed into containers, and delivered to government centers. Although this method is labor-intensive, it has remained consistent for centuries, merging traditional practices with regulatory oversight.



Deepak Dhaker





Historical and Medicinal Importance

India's connection to opium dates back centuries. The Mughals promoted its cultivation, and during British colonial rule, it evolved into a significant export, influencing global trade and even instigating the Opium Wars. In addition to its contentious past, opium has played a crucial role in medicine and culture. The importance of opium has always been crucial.

Raw opium is composed of essential alkaloids:

1. Morphine – a potent analgesic utilized in surgical procedures and cancer therapies.
2. Codeine – employed in cough syrups and medications for pain relief.
3. Thebaine – serves as a precursor for semi-synthetic drugs such as oxycodone and buprenorphine.

Therefore, what starts as a sticky latex in a farmer's hand evolves into a fundamental element of contemporary pharmacy.

Livelihood and Challenges

For licensed cultivators, the poppy represents both a cultural tradition and a source of income. Nevertheless, cultivating this crop entails significant responsibility. Inability to meet minimum quality yield (MQY), crop failure, or any diversion to illicit markets may lead to the revocation of their license. Rigorous monitoring, satellite tracking, and field inspections are in place to ensure adherence to regulations. Despite the associated risks, opium proves to be more lucrative than numerous other crops within the licensed areas.

Conclusion

The path of opium, from the fields of *Papaver somniferum* to life-saving pharmaceuticals, illustrates the equilibrium between heritage, livelihood, and regulation. The traditional practice of lancing capsules with basic tools links farmers to a time-honored tradition, while stringent government licensing guarantees that it benefits humanity in a responsible manner.

From the fields of Neemuch and Mandsaur to hospitals across the globe, this "silent crop" persists in its essential journey – transforming pain into relief, and tradition into healing.

Students Corner

Phyigital Agriculture: Blending Tradition with Technology

Agriculture has always been the backbone of India, feeding millions and supporting the livelihoods of a large share of the rural population. But today, farming is no longer just about soil, seeds, and seasons. It is stepping into a new era known as Phyigital Agriculture—a smart mix of physical presence and digital innovation.

Farmers still depend on their traditional knowledge—reading the soil, observing the weather, and understanding crop patterns. At the same time, they are now supported by modern tools such as mobile apps for mandi prices, drones for spraying, AI-based crop health advice, and satellite mapping for irrigation. The real change happens when both worlds come together.



Sharad Malviya

Take for example an agri-input company offering a mobile app. Technology can provide information, but it is usually the trust built by a local field officer that encourages a farmer to actually use it. In the same way, a drone may scan large fields in minutes, but it is the farmer's experience that decides how best to apply that knowledge.

This phyigital model ensures that innovation never replaces human connection—it strengthens it. Farmers, especially smallholders, get the advantage of advanced tools without losing the personal support they value most. This approach not only reduces risks but also opens up opportunities for more sustainable and profitable farming.

As students of agribusiness, we must carry forward this vision—where tradition and innovation go hand in hand, where farmers remain at the heart of progress, and where agriculture is seen not just as a livelihood but as a proud and respected profession of the future.

Agriculture is not just about growing crops—it's about growing trust, embracing technology, and building a better tomorrow.



Students Corner



Prince Kumar

MY RELATIONSHIP WITH THE SOIL

My relationship with the soil began the moment I opened my eyes to this world. I spent most of my childhood in the fields—sometimes watching the plough carve patterns in the earth, sometimes planting saplings with eager hands, and often waiting with silent hope for the harvest to ripen. For me, farming was never just a livelihood; it was a way of life. With every seed that touched the soil, a dream, a prayer, and a hope also found its place.

Yet, as I grew, one question haunted me: Why does a farmer who gives his sweat and soul to the land, so often see his dreams wither away? Sometimes the weather turned traitor. Sometimes the seed failed to keep its promise. And each time, a farmer's smile faded into silence.

This question became a compass for me. To find the answer, I shifted my path from the fields to the classroom, from farming as a tradition to agri-business as a mission. I began to see agriculture not just as cultivation, but as a system, an enterprise, and above all, a social responsibility.

Then came a turning point. I returned to my own roots for an internship with VNR Seeds. The same villages where I once ran barefoot as a farmer's son, I now walked as a student, eager to learn from the farmers themselves.

During the surveys, I listened to stories that opened my eyes. One farmer, his voice heavy with despair, told me how fake seeds had crushed his entire season's effort. Another, with pride shining in his eyes, pointed to his flourishing fields and said, "This time, joy has come to our home because I chose a better seed."

In that moment, I realized: a seed is not just a grain. A seed is faith. A seed is hope. It carries the family's bread, the children's education, and the parents' dreams within its shell.

My internship was not merely a project it was a revelation. I saw that each farmer, each soil, each field demands something unique. One needs a variety that braves drought, another seeks protection from disease, while yet another desires an early harvest. And then I understood: the true solution to agriculture is not in markets or margins, but in understanding the farmer's need at its core.

Today, when I look back, I do not just see myself as the son of a farmer, I see myself as a traveller on a shared journey, walking with millions of farmers of India towards a new dawn.

Because I believe one simple truth:

When we give the right seed and the right knowledge to the farmer, we don't just grow crops, we grow hope, we grow futures, and we grow a stronger nation.

Students Corner

Uttarakhand on the Edge: Why the Devbhoomi is Crumbling Under Floods and Landslides

Fragile Himalayan geology, reckless development, and climate change are combining to turn Uttarakhand's sacred mountains into a zone of recurring disasters.

Uttarakhand, the Devbhoomi of India, is blessed with glaciers, holy rivers, and soaring peaks. Yet, beneath this spiritual charm lies a fragile ecosystem that is collapsing under the weight of both nature and human intervention. In recent years, the state has witnessed devastating floods and landslides, from the Kedarnath tragedy of 2013 to the Chamoli disaster of 2021.



Arpit Kokliyal

The reasons are both natural and man-made. Geologically, the Himalayas are young and unstable, prone to erosion and landslides. Heavy monsoon rains, cloudbursts, and melting glaciers further destabilize slopes. Climate change is accelerating glacial retreat, creating dangerous glacial lakes that can burst without warning. Adding to this vulnerability is Uttarakhand's location in seismic zones IV and V, where earthquakes frequently loosen mountain rocks.

But the scale of recent disasters cannot be explained by nature alone. Reckless construction of roads, hotels, and hydropower projects has disturbed fragile slopes. Deforestation has stripped away natural protection, while unchecked tourism—especially during the Char Dham Yatra—has overwhelmed the region's carrying capacity. Encroachments on floodplains and riverbanks have reduced the natural drainage system, worsening the impact of floods.

The solutions are neither easy nor optional. Uttarakhand must adopt strict land-use planning, banning construction in high-risk zones. Afforestation and soil conservation must be treated as urgent priorities. Infrastructure projects should use eco-sensitive engineering rather than blasting through fragile slopes. Hydropower and mining activities must be stringently regulated. At the same time, modern early warning systems and community-based disaster preparedness can save lives during emergencies.

The Kedarnath and Chamoli tragedies should serve as grim reminders that ignoring ecological limits turns natural hazards into human-made catastrophes. Uttarakhand's mountains will always remain fragile, but whether they continue to inspire devotion—or become symbols of destruction—depends on choices made today.

Students Corner

India's Food and Agriculture Sector – Tradition, Transformation, and Tomorrow

Agriculture has always been the lifeline of India, contributing 18% to the national GDP and employing nearly 43% of the workforce. India is not only the largest producer of milk, pulses, and spices but also ranks second globally in rice, wheat, fruits, and vegetables production. This sector is the bedrock of food security, rural livelihoods, and cultural identity. Yet today it faces pressing challenges while unlocking new opportunities.



Shivam Tivari

The Legacy of Agriculture

From the fertile Indo-Gangetic plains to the coastal deltas, Indian agriculture reflects astonishing diversity. The Green Revolution of the 1960s transformed India from a food-deficient nation into a food surplus economy, ensuring buffer stocks and stability. Today, India produces over 330 million tonnes of food grains (2023–24), a testament to the resilience of its farmers.

Current Realities and Challenges

Despite these achievements, the sector grapples with significant hurdles. Over 86% of farmers in India are small and marginal, owning less than 2 hectares of land. Climate change has reduced crop yields by nearly 5% over the past decade, while post-harvest losses account for about 10% of total produce annually. Farmers' incomes remain under pressure, with an average monthly household earning of less than ₹12,000 (NSSO, 2021).

Winds of Transformation

Technology is reshaping the sector. Precision farming, AI-based crop monitoring, and drone spraying are being adopted across states. The e-NAM platform, connecting over 1,200 mandis, is creating a unified national market. Start-ups in agri-tech attracted over \$2 billion in funding (2022–23), signaling growing investor confidence. Schemes such as PM-KISAN (supporting 11 crore farmers with direct income transfers) and the promotion of 10,000 Farmer Producer Organizations (FPOs) are changing the rural landscape.

The Food Sector: From Farm to Fork

India's food processing industry—valued at \$535 billion in 2024—is among the largest globally. With exports worth \$50 billion annually, India is emerging as a major global supplier of rice, spices, dairy, and processed foods.

Rising urbanization and a growing middle-class of 300 million have fueled demand for organic foods, plant-based proteins, and ready-to-eat products. Agencies like APEDA (Agricultural & Processed Food Products Export Development Authority) are crucial in promoting Indian produce worldwide.

Sustainability and the Future

The future of Indian agriculture lies in balancing growth with sustainability. Water-efficient irrigation, crop diversification, renewable energy in farming, and natural farming practices are gaining traction. India's pledge to achieve net-zero emissions by 2070 will inevitably involve greener agricultural practices.

A Vision Ahead

The Indian food and agriculture sector is no longer just about subsistence; it is about innovation, entrepreneurship, and global leadership. With the resilience of farmers, the creativity of agripreneurs, and policy support, India is poised not just to feed itself but also to emerge as a global food powerhouse.

Reform GST in Agriculture Sector

The recent GST reforms include a reduction of tax rates on tractors and parts from 12–18% to 5%, making farm mechanisation more affordable. Fertilisers and raw materials like sulphuric acid, nitric acid, and ammonia also saw a cut from 18% to 5%, lowering input costs for farmers. On drip irrigation, sprinklers, bio-pesticides, and micronutrients, the tax rate has been reduced to 5%, encouraging sustainable and eco-friendly farming. Dairy products such as milk, cheese, and butter have been brought under lower GST slabs, directly benefiting livestock farmers. Value-added products like processed fruits and vegetables are also taxed less, boosting agro-processing industries. These changes have several benefits. First, they reduce the overall cost of cultivation for farmers. Second, they promote mechanisation among small and medium farmers. Third, they encourage sustainable farming practices through bio-inputs and water-saving irrigation systems. Fourth, they support the dairy sector, ensuring higher incomes for cooperative societies and farmers. Fifth, they strengthen logistics and value chains, making agricultural produce more competitive in the market.



Priya Raushan

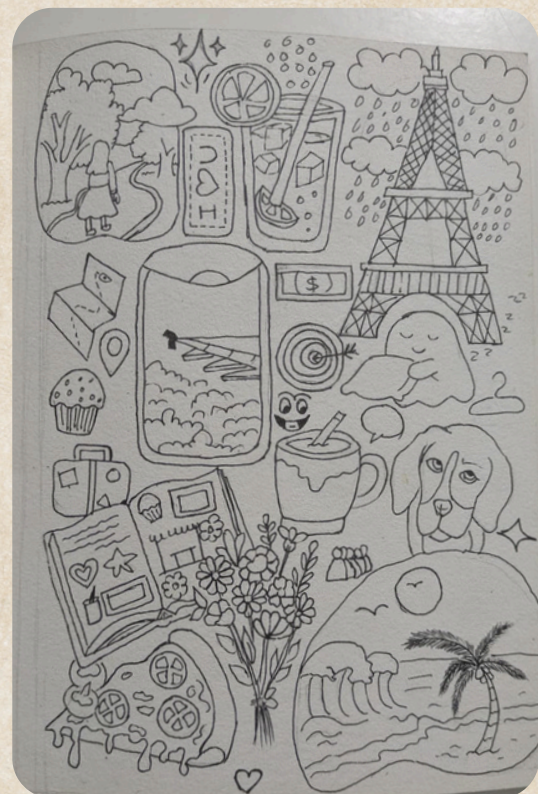
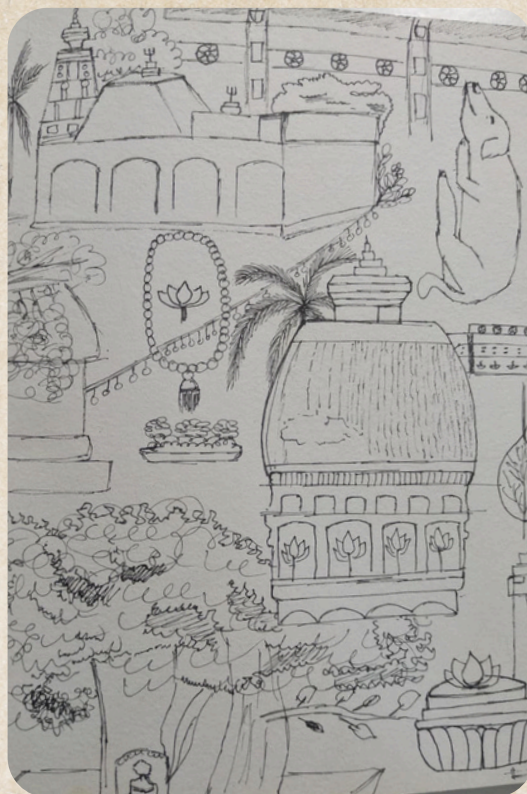
The Art Corner



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