

# Unprecedented Achievement by an Agricultural University in India



**Udaipur:** Maharana Pratap University of Agriculture and Technology (MPUAT) has set a remarkable benchmark by successfully getting three medicinal crop varieties—Pratap Ashwagandha-1, Pratap Isabgol-1, and Pratap Asaliya-1—notified simultaneously for cultivation in Rajasthan.

This is a first-of-its-kind achievement by any agricultural university in India under a single research project,

where three medicinal crop varieties have been notified together. With this, farmers in Rajasthan will now be able to cultivate these crops on a larger and more structured scale.

According to Dr. Arvind Verma, Director of Research at MPUAT, farmers in Rajasthan have been cultivating Isabgol, Ashwagandha, and Asaliya for generations due to their medicinal importance.

However, with the official notification of these scientifically developed varieties, farmers are set to gain even greater benefits. The decision was formalized during the 32nd meeting of the Central Sub-Committee on Crop Standards, Notification, and Release of Horticultural Crops, chaired by Dr. Sanjay Kumar Singh, Deputy Director General (Horticultural Science), ICAR, New Delhi.

## Unique Traits and Medicinal Benefits of the New Varieties

Dr. Amit Dadhich, Principal Investigator and Breeder of the All India Coordinated Research Project on Medicinal and Aromatic Plants, funded by ICAR and hosted at MPUAT, provided details

about the unique features of the new varieties:

### Pratap Isabgol-1:

Yields an average of 1,207 kg/ha of seeds. The crop matures in just 115 days, earlier than other varieties, and shows multiple disease resistance. Isabgol is known for its medicinal properties, aiding in issues such as constipation, diarrhea, dysentery, obesity, diabetes, and dehydration. As a dietary fiber, it improves digestion and promotes healthy bowel function.

### Pratap Ashwagandha-1:

This is the first Ashwagandha variety developed and notified from Rajasthan. It yields an average of 421 kg/ha of dry roots and also has strong resistance to multiple diseases. A staple of Ayurvedic medicine, Ashwagandha is renowned for its stress-relieving and rejuvenating properties. It enhances sleep, strength, and mental clarity.

### Pratap Asaliya (Aliya)-1:

Offers a high average seed yield of 2,028 kg/ha and matures in 111 days, earlier than other varieties. It is disease-resistant

and suited for Rabi season cultivation with low cost, low water, and minimal resources. Botanically known as *Lepidium sativum* and a member of the mustard family (Brassicaceae), this crop is effective in treating anemia, skin disorders, digestive problems, gas issues, eye irritation, fatigue, and for promoting growth.

### Consistent Milestones by MPUAT: Dr. Karnataka

Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajeet Kumar Karnataka expressed pride in this triple notification of medicinal crop varieties, calling it a golden achievement for MPUAT. He highlighted that apart from research and extension, the university is setting new benchmarks in entrepreneurship development.

In recent years, the university has been awarded 54 patents, and successfully registered three goat breeds—Sirohi, Gujri, and Karauli—at the national level.

This year, the university has also developed new varieties like Chetak (opium), PHM-6 (maize), and Pratap Groundnut-4, all aimed at benefitting the farming community of Rajasthan.

- Dr. Latika Vyas

## “Healthy Child, Healthy Nation” — Three More Schools Join Geetanjali’s Unique Health Initiative

**Udaipur:** Under the ongoing “Healthy Child, Healthy Nation” campaign, Geetanjali Hospital, Udaipur organized a comprehensive health check-up and awareness program on Saturday, May 3, 2025, for the students of Yash Public School, Adarsh Public School, and L.B.S. Public School. The initiative included active participation from the Pediatrics, Ophthalmology, and GDRD Dental departments of the hospital and was hosted within the hospital campus.

School principals Hemant Lohar, Prakash Dangri, and Girja Jat, along with teachers Lata, Pankaj Nagda, Meena, Sangeeta Kanwar, Khushboo Kanwar, Suresh Chandra Kumawat, and Satyanarayan Jat, attended the event and extended their full support.

A special session on hand hygiene was conducted by the Microbiology Department, where students were trained in the six-step handwashing technique to promote awareness about personal cleanliness and hygiene among children.

Kalpesh Chand Rajbar, Head of Marketing at Geetanjali Hospital, welcomed the guests in a traditional manner by presenting them with ‘Uparna’ and emphasized continued active collaboration for children’s health in future endeavors as well. The program was smoothly conducted by Harleen Gambhir, PR Head of the hospital.

This initiative served not just as a health screening drive but also as a valuable awareness campaign encouraging students to adopt healthy hygiene practices. Geetanjali Hospital’s campaign is a meaningful step toward a brighter and healthier future for children, with enthusiastic participation from schools across the region.

It is worth noting that CPS, Rockwoods, DPS, Miranda, St. Lore, DAV, Royal Academy, Prayas, ABPS, Shishu Bharti, and several other schools have already been part of this noble initiative involving pediatric, eye, and dental check-ups for their students.



## Launch of PG Diploma in Medico-Legal Services Marks Milestone for Udaipur

**Udaipur:** The two-day Medico-Legal Conference 2025, jointly organized by Janardan Rai Nagar Rajasthan Vidyapeeth (Deemed to be University) and Panacea Medico Legal Services Private Limited, concluded on Sunday. The event featured a series of expert-led sessions and interactive student discussions, culminating in the significant announcement of the Post Graduate Diploma in Medico-Legal Services (PGDMLS) course—a major academic addition for Udaipur.



The second day began with students sharing their experiences from the previous day. Participants reflected on key issues such as consent, biomedical waste management, and legal interpretations related to medico-legal procedures. The interactive format facilitated an exchange of practical knowledge among students and young medical professionals.

Dr. Sushil Gupta, a senior expert from the coordinating team in Delhi, conducted two intensive sessions. He elaborated on recent developments in medico-legal issues at the National Commission, State Commissions, and the Supreme Court, emphasizing the need for deep academic engagement with the subject.

Special sessions on the second day featured insightful talks by Dr. Vinita, Dr. Neerav, and Dr. Anju, who were also felicitated by the university for their contributions. Dr. Ishita Gupta also shared her valuable perspectives with the attendees.

Held under the guidance of Vice Chancellor Prof. Shiv Singh Sarangdevot, the conference marked the formal introduction of the PGDMLS course, hailed as a significant academic advancement for the region.

Conference convener Dr. Yuvraj Singh shared that the event witnessed enthusiastic participation from medical professionals, legal experts, officers, and students over both days. The sessions and presentations were widely appreciated for their relevance and motivational value.

Key contributors to the conference included University Registrar Dr. Tarun Shrimali, Controller of Examinations Dr. Paras Jain, IQAC Director Dr. Yuvraj Singh, Law College Principal Dr. Kala Munet, and Dr. Chandresh Chhatlani.

## Scarless Thyroid Surgery Performed Successfully at Paras Health Udaipur

**Udaipur:** A team of doctors at Paras Health Udaipur has successfully performed a scarless thyroid surgery on a female patient using a minimally invasive technique. The innovative procedure, performed through the patient’s underarm, ensured that no visible scar appeared on her neck.



The 40-year-old patient, Ms. Ritu, had visited the hospital with swelling on the right side of her neck. Upon evaluation, it was diagnosed as a thyroid goiter, not a cancerous tumor. Hence, complete thyroid removal wasn’t required. The surgery was carried out by Dr. Abhishek Vyas, Consultant in Advanced Laparoscopic and Bariatric Surgery at Paras Health Udaipur.

Dr. Vyas explained, “Conventional thyroid surgery requires an incision in the middle of the neck, leaving a visible scar. However, in this case, the patient was concerned about any marks. So, we opted for an advanced endoscopic technique, making three small 5 mm incisions in the armpit area—an area typically covered by clothing.”

The thyroid gland was successfully removed through one of these tiny incisions. Great care was taken during the surgery to protect critical structures like the thyrohyoid (which supports the voice box and is essential for speaking and swallowing) and the sternal notch (a small dip above the chest bone used for orientation during surgery).

This technique not only ensures excellent cosmetic results but also promotes faster recovery. Patients can return home within six hours of surgery and resume regular activities within 24 hours. It is a safe and effective solution, especially beneficial for women who wish to avoid visible surgical scars.

## DPS Udaipur Celebrates 19th Foundation Day with Grandeur

**Udaipur:** Delhi Public School, Udaipur marked its 19th Foundation Day with great enthusiasm and joy. The event began with a tribute and two-minute silence in memory of the tourists who lost their lives in Pahalgam on 22 April 2025. Principal Sanjay Narwaria welcomed School Management Committee members Smt. Mani Agrawal and Smt. Apoorva Agrawal on their arrival. The celebration commenced with the lighting of the ceremonial lamp and a prayer. Students then enthralled the audience with vibrant cultural performances, including Western group dance, English group song, classical dance, and a Saraswati Vandana performance.



Students who achieved 100% attendance during the 2024–25 session were felicitated with certificates of appreciation. Addressing the gathering, Smt. Apoorva Agrawal expressed pride and happiness, noting the school’s consistent growth and achievements since its inception. Principal Narwaria emphasized the school’s commitment to academic excellence and holistic development, which has enabled its alumni to secure prestigious positions worldwide.

The event concluded with a plantation drive in the school premises, joined by young Cambridge students and committee members, reinforcing the message of environmental conservation. The program was compered by Mr. Hukmichand Nagda and Ms. Garima Kasturi, and a vote of thanks was delivered by Vice Principal Mr. Rajesh Dhabhai.

## St. Anthony Alumnus IAS Subrat Singh Balaut Felicitated



**Udaipur:** IAS Subrat Singh Balaut, a proud alumnus of St. Anthony Sr. Sec. School, Udaipur, was warmly welcomed at his former school in a grand ceremony guided by Principal William D’Souza. Subrat and his mother were honored with a Pagdi and Odhna, as students expressed their joy through poems, songs, and dance.

Reflecting on his journey of eight years, Subrat shared fond school memories and encouraged students to embrace failures as stepping stones to success. He announced lifetime financial support for deserving students from underprivileged backgrounds. Teachers Mahesh Garden and C.M. Jain recalled his school days with pride, while Principal D’Souza lauded his dedication and achievements. The program, anchored by Vinita Mehta, concluded with the management’s heartfelt gratitude for Subrat’s inspirational gesture and continued excellence.

## Dr. Rajesh Kumawat Retires, Ends Examination Era

**Udaipur:** Dr. Rajesh Chandra Kumawat, the Controllor of Examinations at Mohanlal Sukhadia University, Udaipur, has officially retired today. His contribution to the academic and administrative development of the university has been truly remarkable and inspirational. Over a career spanning more than three decades, Dr. Kumawat introduced a series of transformative reforms that modernized the university’s examination system.

During his tenure, he held several key administrative positions, demonstrating exceptional foresight and efficiency in each role. Under his leadership, critical changes were made to the examination system—including restructuring the format of question papers, improving the design of answer booklets for main exams, and introducing innovations in the revaluation process. He was instrumental in successfully integrating information technology into examination operations, ensuring greater transparency, organization, and technological advancement. Noteworthy achievements under his guidance include the modernization of mark sheets, development of an online result processing system, and implementation of a secure question paper transportation mechanism. These accomplishments reflect his vision, leadership, and technical proficiency.

### Significant Role in NAAC Accreditation

Dr. Kumawat played a key role in the NAAC accreditation process of the university. He effectively represented the examination department during three presentations before NAAC’s peer team, contributing substantially to the university securing a high ranking. His administrative acumen and insight ensured that all examination-related parameters were successfully highlighted during evaluation.

### Leadership in Implementing National Education Policy 2020

He also took a leading role in the effective implementation of the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020 within the university. By organizing various workshops and seminars, he ensured that faculty members, officers, and staff were well-acquainted with the new policy framework.

**Other Major Responsibilities and State-Level Contributions** - Alongside his primary role, Dr. Kumawat efficiently managed the responsibilities of Director, College Development Council for the past two years. During this period, he organized several state-level seminars on examination reforms, which were attended by senior officials and staff from various universities across Rajasthan. In recognition of his exemplary service, he was nominated by the Governor and Chancellor of Rajasthan as a member of the Academic Council of Raj Rishi Bharti Matsya University, Alwar, for a two-year term. He also served as Chief Flying Squad Officer during examinations, ensuring fairness and discipline in the process. Dr. Kumawat’s contributions extended to the successful conduct of major state-level entrance exams such as PTET and BSTC. Known for his dedication to discipline, innovation, and transparency, he consistently upheld these values in the examination system. The retirement of Dr. Rajesh Chandra Kumawat marks not just the end of a significant chapter for Mohanlal Sukhadia University, but a defining moment for the broader academic fraternity. His departure leaves behind a legacy of commitment and excellence that will continue to inspire future generations.

## Three Hours of Colorful Performances at CCAS Annual Fest 'EveFest-2025'

**Udaipur:** The Annual Fest ‘EveFest-2025’ of the College of Community and Applied Sciences (CCAS), MPUAT, was marked by vibrant and high-energy performances that enthralled the audience for over three hours. Students from BSc, MSc, and PhD programs showcased their talents in Krishna Leela, Rajasthani folk dances, western and retro performances, captivating the crowd at the Rajasthan College of Agriculture auditorium.



Highlights included a graceful Rasleela, the folk number “Panihariya Le Gayi Re”, and retro dances on “Kajra Mohabbat Wala” and “Hawa Ke Saath Saath”, which drew loud applause. A solo performance by Avisha Saxena on “Madhuram Madhuram” was especially appreciated, while group performances such as “Just Do It – Hare Ram” captivated with dynamic western choreography. The event was inaugurated with a lamp-lighting ceremony by MPUAT Vice Chancellor Dr. Ajeet Kumar Karnataka, First Lady Mrs. Saroj Karnataka, and Dean Prof. Dhriti Solanki. Dr. Karnataka emphasized the importance of co-curricular activities in holistic student development and encouraged students to strive for excellence.

**Outstanding students from academic and extracurricular domains were honored, including:**

Best Outgoing Students: Avisha Saxena (Community Science), Lakshita Agarwal (Food & Nutrition)  
Best NCC Cadet: Gavakshi Rathore  
Best NSS Volunteer: Vansh Sharma (Community Science, II year)

Best Cultural Performer Shield: MSc Students  
Academic Awards: Lipi Goyal, Kanchan, Indu, Baldev Singh, Namrata Aashiyaa, Bhavika Banjara, Branchi Ahuja, Sakshi Ranjit Singh, Ankita Chauhan, Arni Ahmad Noori  
Sports Awards: Vishal Jangid, Neha (2024–25); Lakshita Agarwal (2023–24); Ramesh Gurjar, Kanchan, Sanjay Yadav, Aarti Katara (Athletics); Akhilesh Meena and Neha (Badminton)

The school magazine, authored by faculty members, was also released during the event. The program was compered by Dr. Vishakha Bansal and Anjali Juwal, with a vote of thanks delivered by Dr. Kamla Mahajani.

## NEET UG 2025 Conducted Peacefully at 27 Centres in Udaipur

**Udaipur:** The NEET UG 2025 examination was conducted smoothly across 27 centres in Udaipur on Sunday, with an impressive attendance rate of 95.5%. Out of 8,664 registered candidates, 8,274 appeared for the exam held from 2 PM to 5 PM. District Collector Namit Mehta and Additional District Magistrate (Administration) Deependra Singh Rathore visited various centres to oversee arrangements and ensure a seamless process. ADM Rathore confirmed the exam was organized efficiently across all centres. Collector Mehta inspected Shaheed Abhinav Nagori Government Sr. Sec. School, Bhuwana, and Mahatma Gandhi English Medium School, Dhanmandi. All facilities and protocols were found to be well in place during the inspection. The administration ensured a peaceful and orderly atmosphere, contributing to the successful execution of this critical national-level examination.