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From the Vice Chancellor's Desk

Nutrient Use Efficiency, Alternative Inputs and Precision Agriculture : Pathways to Fertilizer Self-Reliance

Fertilizers have played a pivotal role in enhancing agricultural productivity and ensuring food security in India. However, increasing fertilizer consumption, rising subsidy burden, and imbalanced nutrient use have emerged as major concerns for sustainable agriculture. India's total fertilizer consumption has increased significantly from about 25.6 million tonnes (Mt) in 2014–15 to nearly 32.9 Mt in 2024–25 on nutrient basis. Nitrogen consumption alone accounts for nearly 22.1 Mt, indicating heavy dependence on urea. The fertilizer subsidy has become one of the largest agricultural expenditures in the country, with urea alone contributing nearly 65–70 percent of the total subsidy burden.



A major challenge in Indian agriculture is the imbalance in nutrient application. Although the broadly accepted balanced N:P:K ratio is around 4:2:1, the present national average is approximately 7.1:2.7:1, reflecting excessive nitrogen use. Significant regional variation also exists in fertilizer consumption, ranging from about 189 kg/ha in North India, 176 kg/ha in South India, 143 kg/ha in East India, and 96 kg/ha in West India, against the national average of around 137 kg/ha. Therefore, soil test-based and site-specific balanced fertilization is essential for sustainable agriculture.

Excessive and imbalanced fertilizer use leads to nutrient runoff, groundwater contamination, soil degradation, decline in soil microbial activity, greenhouse gas emissions, and reduced nutrient-use efficiency. Improving nutrient use efficiency through biofertilizers, organic manures, green manuring, nano fertilizers, crop residue recycling, precision fertigation, and integrated nutrient management offers sustainable pathways for restoring soil health and reducing dependence on chemical fertilizers. Biofertilizers, in particular, help restore nutrient balance and improve nutrient availability.

Junagadh Agricultural University is actively contributing toward sustainable nutrient management and fertilizer self-reliance through research, extension, and digital agriculture initiatives. The university is working on precision nutrient management, precision fertigation, nano-fertilizers, biofertilizers, remote sensing-based agricultural applications, and soil health improvement. JAU also supplies various bio-inputs to farmers at subsidized rates and promotes climate-resilient technologies such as micro-irrigation, conservation agriculture, natural farming, rainwater harvesting, and watershed management for improving nutrient and water-use efficiency. In addition, the university conducts trainings and demonstrations on drones, balanced fertilization, soil test-based nutrient management, and sustainable agricultural practices.

The integration of nutrient use efficiency, alternative inputs, and digital agriculture can pave the way toward sustainable and fertilizer self-reliant Indian agriculture.

(V. P. Chovatia)

JAU celebrated the Twenty First Annual Convocation

On the day of January 21, 2026; Junagadh Agricultural University celebrated the 21st Annual Convocation with being



presence of Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University, Shri Acharya Devvratji; Dr. S. K. Malhotra, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal, Haryana as a chief guest. The convocation program started with welcome address by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of JAU. He presented the glimpses of activities and achievements of JAU in teaching, research & extension for the period of 2024-25.



A total 74 Gold Medals/Gold Plated Silver Medals including 3 Chancellor's Gold Medals, 3 Vice Chancellor's Gold Medals, 2 Donors' Gold Medals and 66 Donors' Gold Plated Silver Medals and 1 cash prize awarded to 30 graduates and post graduates from different faculties for their brilliant academic performance. Moreover two JAU's publications were released by dignitaries



Chief Guest of this convocation Dr. S. K. Malhotra delivered the convocation address. He ignited the minds of the scientists, teachers and students of JAU in taking Indian agriculture to new horizons. He advised the graduate to apply knowledge into action and bring more accuracy and perfection in given task which ultimately bring joy and happiness in Indian farming community.



Shri Acharya Devvrat, Hon'ble Governorshri of Gujarat and Hon'ble Chancellor of the University conferred a total 578 degrees to Graduates and Post Graduates of various faculties of JAU. The Chancellor appreciated students for their academic excellence and asked them to adopt natural farming and popularize its benefits to serve the farming community.



Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar, proposed vote of thanks to dignitaries, all guests and students.



MoU under NEP-2020: Strengthening Academic Collaboration

JAU, Junagadh, signed an MoU with Bahauddin Government Science College, Junagadh, affiliated with Bhakta Kavi Narsinh Mehta University, in line with NEP-2020. The MoU aims to enhance student exposure to professional practices, improve employability and research skills, strengthen industry-academia linkages, and promote knowledge exchange and experiential learning. The agreement was signed by Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar, JAU, and Dr. R. P. Bhatt, Principal, in the presence of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia, along with other dignitaries.



Patent Granted on Agrivoltaic Greenhouse

The Agrivoltaic Greenhouse developed under ICAR-AICRP on PEASEM, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, was granted design patent by the Office of the Controller General of Patents, Designs and Trade Marks (CGPDTM), GoI on January 22, 2026. The design patent was registered in the names of ICAR and Junagadh Agricultural University. The design of this innovative structure emphasizes the unique shape, configuration and surface pattern integrating greenhouse cultivation with solar energy utilization.



Grant Distribution to CAET Students under SSIP 2.0

Adding yet another milestone to the chapter of industry-academia linkages of the university, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, distributed a total grant of ₹4,18,500 under its Student Startup and Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) to eight projects of UG and PG students of the college. The sanction letters for SSIP grant awardee students were distributed in the presence of Hon'ble Governor, Shri Acharya Devvratji during the 21st convocation held on January 21, 2026. While seven

student projects were supported for proof-of-concept development, one student project received assistance for IPR (Trademark) registration. Overall, under SSIP 2.0, the college organized workshops, conferences, seminars, and capacity-building programs within and outside the JAU campus, by which 587 students were sensitized towards student startups and entrepreneurship.



Celebration of Days

Subhash Chandra Bose Jayanti

CAET, JAU, Junagadh, celebrated the 129th Birth Anniversary of Netaji Subhas Chandra Bose, January 23, 2026. On this occasion, the floral tribute was rendered to the statue of Netaji at the college by Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; Dr. K. C. Patel, Director IT; and Dr. H. D. Rank, Principal & Dean. The principal and deans of other colleges of JAU, along with faculty members, technical staff, and students of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, took part in this ceremony.



National Voters' Day

The 16th National Voters' Day was celebrated at ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat, on January 25, 2026, with active involvement of faculty members and students. The event comprised the oath-taking ceremony during which students and faculty members pledged to follow democratic values and vote responsibly.



Republic Day Celebration

Republic Day was celebrated with great patriotic zeal on January 26, 2026 at the Indoor Stadium, JAU, in the presence of officers, staff, students, and their family members. Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia unfurled the National Flag and addressed the gathering. The programme included vibrant cultural performances and an impressive march-past by NCC cadets, showcasing discipline, unity, and national pride. The celebration concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, JAU.



Shaheed Diwas

ASPEE College of Agriculture, Khapat observed Shaheed Diwas on January 30, 2026 to pay tribute to the martyrs of the nation. A two-minute silence was observed in memory of freedom fighters and Mahatma Gandhi.

On the occasion, at Polytechnic in Horticulture, Dr. S. J. Donga, NSS Programme Officer, delivered a lecture on “Unsung Heroes of the Indian Freedom Struggle,” highlighting the contributions of Birsa Munda, Kamaladevi Chattopadhyay, and Matangini Hazra. A total of 75 students and 6 staff members participated in the event.

Farmer's Day Celebration

A Farmer's Day programme was celebrated on March 9, 2026 at Trimandir, Surendranagar, organized by the Cotton Research Station, JAU, Kukada, under the chairmanship of the Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble VC, JAU, Junagadh.



The programme was conducted under the “Agriculture Demonstration Activities in SSP Command Area Phase-II” scheme of Sardar Sarovar Narmada Nigam Ltd., Gandhinagar. The programme was graced by the presence of Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, JAU, Junagadh, along with officers from various departments and a

large number of farmers from the district. During the programme, farmers from Surendranagar district were sensitized on modern cotton cultivation practices. Expert guidance was provided by Dr. D. S. Hirpara, Dr. M. L. Patel and Dr. R. P. Kalma.

World Sparrow Day

The World Sparrow Day was observed March 20, 2026, by the NSS Unit of CoA, JAU, Junagadh, with active participation of students and faculty members.



The programme was organized with the objective of creating awareness regarding the declining population of sparrows and emphasizing the need for their conservation. The NSS volunteers from CoA, JAU, Junagadh and CoA, JAU, Morbi actively engaged in the installation of bird houses at suitable locations across the college campus to promote sparrow habitation.

World Water Day

World Water Day was celebrated on March 22, 2026 at the Irrigation and Drainage Engineering Department, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, on the theme “Water and Gender” organized by the AICRP on Irrigation Water Management. A computer-based quiz on water resources and general questions related to water was conducted for UG and PG students, and the winners were awarded certificates. Altogether, 60 students and 15 staff members participated.



Dignitary Visits

Hon'ble Governor of Gujarat, Shri Acharya Devvratji Hon'ble Governor, Shri Acharya Devvratji, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, JAU, Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Maharana Pratap Horticultural University, Karnal, Dr. S. K. Malhotra, along with



other Vice Chancellors of SAUs of Gujarat as well as district administration of Junagadh visited the Department of Plant Pathology, CoA, JAU, Junagadh as well as Instructional Farm, Research, Testing and Training Centre (RTTC), JAU, Junagadh on January 21, 2026.



The dignitaries appreciated the progress of the field experiments on Natural Farming and other innovative aspects conducted by both the departments. He appreciated the university's efforts towards sustainable and eco-friendly agricultural development.

Visit of Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Vice-Chancellor and Chairman of PPV&FRA



Dr. R. R. Hanchinal, Former Vice-Chancellor and former Chairman of PPV&FRA, visited the Wheat Research Station, JAU on February 21, 2026 and appreciated the wheat hybridization, selection programme, and performance of newly developed varieties. Further, Dr. Thobhanbhai L. Dholariya, Member, Board of Management, along with Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia, visited the station on March 5, 2026, reviewed ongoing research activities, and provided valuable suggestions for strengthening wheat breeding and varietal development programmes.



Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) Meetings of KVKs

The Scientific Advisory Committee (SAC) meetings of all seven Krishi Vigyan Kendra (Jamnagar, Pipalia, Khapat, Targhadia, Amreli, Morbi and Surendranagar) under Junagadh Agricultural University were organized on different dates during January-February 2026, under the chairmanship of Hon. Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia. During these meetings, senior officials including Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Director of Research; Dr. N. B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education and Dr. H. C. Chhodvadiya, Associate Director of Extension Education along with other dignitaries and stakeholders, remained present. Annual Progress Reports for 2025 and Action Plans for 2026 were presented and discussed, with valuable suggestions offered to strengthen extension activities. The meetings witnessed active participation from officers, scientists, representatives of ICAR institutes, NABARD, line departments and progressive farmers, aiming to enhance the impact of KVK activities in the farming community.



Bi-Monthly Training Programme

A bi-monthly training workshop was organized on March 16-17, 2026 by the Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh, under the inspiration of Hon. Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia and the chairmanship of Director of Extension Education Dr. N. B. Jadav.

The workshop was attended by Shri G. S. Dave, Joint Director of Agriculture (Ext.), Rajkot; Shri S. M. Gadhesariya, Joint Director of Agriculture (Ext.), Junagadh; Shri D. G. Rathod, Deputy Director of Agriculture (Training); Dr. H. C. Chhodvadiya, Associate Director of Extension Education;

Dr. P. K. Chovatia and Dr. D. M. Jethva, along with other officers and scientists. A total of 40 officers participated in the training workshop



Certificate Programme on Integrated Nutrient Management

The 15-day certificate programmes for the 41st, 42nd and 43rd batches of “Integrated



Nutrient Management for Fertilizer Dealers” were successfully organized by the Directorate of Extension Education under the chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor JAU, Junagadh. The programmes were graced by Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR; Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. H. C. Chhodvadia, ADE; along with other dignitaries.

A total of 126 fertilizer dealers actively participated in these programmes, strengthening capacity in integrated nutrient management.

Millet Mahotsav 2026

The Department of Agriculture, Govt. of Gujarat organized Millet Mahotsav during March 21-22, 2026, in which DEE and Krishi Vigyan Kendras actively participated. Scientists highlighted the importance of millets, modern farming practices, natural farming and government initiatives for enhancing farmers' income. Various stalls were set up to showcase millet crops and value-added products, creating awareness among farmers about sustainable agriculture and improved technologies.



Krishi Mela 2026 on Cotton at KVK Amreli

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Amreli successfully organized Krishi Mela-2026 on March 18, 2026 under

the Special Project on Cotton at Village Juna-Vaghania, under the guidance of Senior Scientist & Head, Dr. Minaxi K. Bariya. A total of 410 farmers participated and featured an agricultural exhibition showcasing new crop varieties, advanced technologies and inputs from private companies. Experts including Dr. Minaxi K. Bariya, Dr. Sweta Patel, Dr. V. C. Gadhia, Dr. J. J. Vaghani, and Dr. N. M. Kachhadiya provided technical guidance on cotton cultivation, pest management, nutrient management and bio-input use.



Training on Digital Era Management

A one-day HRD training programme on “Finance, Procurement & Technology Transfer in the Digital Era” was organized on March 25, 2026 by the Directorate of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia. The programme covered important topics including IoT and sensor technology, accounts, academic administration, GeM procedures, RTI, CR, and record maintenance. A total of 102 university employees participated in the training programme.



Participation in Natural Farming Exhibition at Gujarat Vidhan Sabha

JAU participated in the Natural Farming Exhibition organized at the Gujarat Vidhan Sabha during February 26–27, 2026.



By setting up an informative stall showcasing live specimens, posters, and research exhibits on sustainable agriculture, stall attracted wide attention and was visited by the Hon'ble Governor, Hon'ble Chief Minister, Ministers, and MLAs of Gujarat, who appreciated the university's efforts in promoting natural farming practices. Dr. P. D. Kumavat, Dr. P. J. Gohil, and Dr. V. B. Bhalu represented JAU during the exhibition.

Training Programmes at SSK

A total of Five on-campus training programmes were successfully organized by the Sardar Smruti Kendra under the DEE, JAU, Junagadh. These programmes witnessed the active participation of 235 trainees representing various organizations, including ATMA - Rajasthan, ATMA - Anand, Shikshan and Samaaj Kalayaan Kendra (Una), as well as farm women from Kalavad and Jasdan. Relevant agricultural literature was also distributed to all trainees to support their learning and promote the dissemination of improved farming practices.



Natural Farming Conference at KVK, Morbi

A natural farming conference was organized by KVK, Morbi, Gujarat Natural Farming Development Board and ATMA on March 10, 2026 at Halvad of Morbi District. Prof. M.F. Bhoraniya, Senior Scientist and Head as well as Dajibhai Gohil, progressive farmer delivered lecture on pest and diseases management, nutrition management in natural farming. Shri C.H. Dabhi, Project Director ATMA delivered lecture on marketing management of natural farming projects. A total of 246 farmers and 11 farm women actively participated.



Field Days Organized by KVK, Jamnagar

Krishi Vigyan Kendra (KVK), Jamnagar conducted Front Line Demonstrations (FLDs) on castor

(GCH-9), coriander (GCr-4), cumin, and wheat crops. To promote wider adoption of these technologies, KVK organized six field days at the farmers' fields where the demonstrations were conducted. During the field days, farmers observed the demonstrated technologies and discussed their benefits and recommended practices.



Mahila Krishi Sammelan at Wankaner

KVK, Morbi in collaboration with SEWA Rudi Association organized a Mahila Krishi Sammelan on February 10, 2025 at Wankaner. Prof. M. F. Bhoraniya delivered lecture on natural farming. Women members of Taluka Panchayat and SEWA Rudi Association interacted with farm women regarding various schemes and opportunities for small-scale businesses and home industries. A total of 189 farm women actively participated in the event.



Fire Safety Mock Drill at Agro-Based ITI

Under the guidance of Dr. N. B. Jadav, Director of Extension Education, JAU, Junagadh, a mock drill on fire safety was conducted at the Agro Based ITI, Junagadh to create awareness and preparedness among trainees and staff. Participants were trained in the proper use of fire extinguishers and learned practical techniques to control and manage fire emergencies. The activity helped build confidence and ensured readiness to respond effectively in real-life situations.



Live Broadcast of Bharat-VISTAAR AI Launch Programme

The Bharat-VISTAAR AI tool, a multilingual initiative to enhance agricultural productivity through AgriStack integration, was launched at Krishi Vigyan Kendras under Junagadh Agricultural University on February 17, 2026. Live broadcast sessions of the launch programme were organized at KVK, with active participation from farmers and farm women, providing first hand updates on the AI tool and related agricultural innovations.



Viksit Bharat Gram Awareness Campaign

The Viksit Bharat-GRAM Awareness Programme was organized on January 3-4, 2026 across all Krishi Vigyan Kendras with aims to educate rural communities about the Viksit Bharat - Guarantee for Rozgar and Ajeevika Mission (Gramin) Act, 2025. Under the guidance of respective Senior Scientists & Heads, Sarpanch Samelans, village-level meetings and awareness activities were conducted with active participation of public representatives, farmers and stakeholders. Scientists disseminated key provisions of the Bill and provided technical guidance, while awareness materials were distributed to ensure effective outreach at the grassroots level.



Training cum Demonstration Programme

AICRP on PEASEM, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh organized “Training cum Technology Demonstration programme” for farmers and farm women at Arniyala Village of Junagadh district on March 11, 2026. Dr. S. P. Cholera, Post Harvest Engineer delivered lectures on foldable plastic boxes for storage and transportation of agricultural produce and the importance solar tunnel dryer during the training. A total of 22 progressive farmers and farm women actively participated in the training.



Training on Agricultural Engineering Techniques for Profitable Farming

A one-day farmers' training programme on “Nafakararak Kheti Mate Krushi Ijneri Takniko (Agricultural Engineering Techniques for Profitable Farming)” was organized by the Department of Agricultural Engineering Extension Education, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, under the Mera Gaav Mera Gaurav (MGMG) Scheme at Rafaliya village, Junagadh. The event saw the participation of 170 farmers from Rafaliya and surrounding villages. Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, DR, and Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE, graced the occasion with their presence.



Training on Fruit and Vegetable Preservation

Two 5-days training programmes on “Fruit and Vegetable Preservation” was jointly organized by the Office of the Deputy Director of Horticulture, Amreli; KVK, JAU, Amreli; and NSS Unit, PIA, JAU, Amreli during January and February 2026 at KVK, Amreli. A total of 28 students participated in the programme and received theoretical as well as hands-on training on fruit and vegetable preservation and value addition techniques from Dr. Minaxi K. Bariya and Dr. Neha Tiwari. Participants were also awarded stipends and certificates.



Breast Cancer Awareness Programme

On the occasion of Breast Cancer Awareness Day, DSW, JAU, Junagadh organized a Breast Cancer Awareness programme on February 4, 2026 at the Girls' Gymnasium, Hostel premises, JAU. Mrs. Varshaben D. Radadiya delivered an awareness lecture on breast cancer prevention and early detection, while Ms. Sonalben Bagda conducted a yoga session on wellness practices. Around 225 girl students participated in the programme.



Seminars on Gender Sensitization, Nutrition and PoSH Awareness

Junagadh Agricultural University organized two one-day seminars on “Gender Sensitization, Nutrition and PoSH Awareness” on February 6-7, 2026 at CoA, JAU, Junagadh under the SETU Programme in collaboration with the Women and Child Development Department. The programme was inaugurated by Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia in the presence of senior officials. Expert lectures on gender equality, balanced nutrition, and the PoSH Act, 2013 were delivered by Dr. Dina H. Lodhiya, Dr. Preeti H. Dave, and Dr. Parvez M. Bloch, respectively. A total of 150 students and 155 staff members participated in the seminars



Training on Modern Castor Cultivation Practices

A two-day farmer training programme on Modern Castor Cultivation Practices was conducted on January 15-16, 2026 under the AICRP on Castor at the Main Oilseeds Research Station, JAU, Junagadh. The programme was inaugurated under the chairmanship of Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, JAU, Junagadh and were attended by Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Director of Research, along with other distinguished scientists and university officials. The training programme witnessed active participation of 35 progressive farmers from Bhavnagar district, who benefitted from technical lectures, interactive discussions and practical exposure to advanced castor production technologies.



Training on Sustainable Sesame Cultivation: Scientific Approaches, Natural Farming and Post-Harvest Value Addition

A training programme on Natural Farming and Post-Harvest Value Addition was organized during 9–10 March 2026 by the Agricultural Research Station, JAU, Amreli. The programme was graced by Dr. S. P. Deshmukh and Dr. Minaxi Bariya. Eminent scientists and experts delivered lectures on summer sesame cultivation, nutrient management, quality seed production, value addition, integrated pest management, irrigation scheduling, and weed management. Progressive farmers actively participated and benefited from the technical sessions, interactive discussions, and practical exposure to improved sesame cultivation practices.



Training on Seed Spices Scientific Cultivation, Value Addition and Export

A one day farmer training programme on “Seed Spices Scientific Cultivation, Value Addition and Export” was organized by the Vegetable Research Station, JAU, Junagadh on March 4, 2026 at Mendarda, Junagadh.



A total of 79 progressive farmers (51 male and 28 female) from various villages of Junagadh district participated. Dr. V. H. Kachhadia, Research Scientist (G & O), welcomed the participants and highlighted the importance of scientific cultivation and value addition in spice crops. The programme was attended by Dr. A. S. Jethava, Dr. K. B. Asodariya, and other staff members. Various scientists delivered lectures on production technologies, economics, marketing, processing, export regulations and improved varieties of seed spice crops.

Scientist–Farmer Interaction Programme on Natural Farming

On February 13, 2026, a scientist–farmer interaction programme was organized at Bhimgadh village under the guidance of Hon'ble Governor Shri Acharya Devvrat. Scientists of KVK, Surendranagar provided technical guidance to farmers and briefed them on various extension activities, demonstrations, and training programmes. The team also visited fields practicing natural farming. Around 1100 farmers and farm women actively participated in the programme.



NSS Activities

Special Camps

Special Camps under NSS were organized by various colleges and polytechnics of Junagadh Agricultural University during January–March 2026 at different villages across Gujarat.



Participating institutes included Polytechnic in Agriculture, Halvad; CAET, Junagadh; CoA, Mota Bhandariya; ASPEE CoA, Khapat; CoH, Junagadh;

CoA, Junagadh; Polytechnic in Agriculture, Dhari; Polytechnic in Agriculture, Sidsar; and Polytechnic in Horticulture, Junagadh.

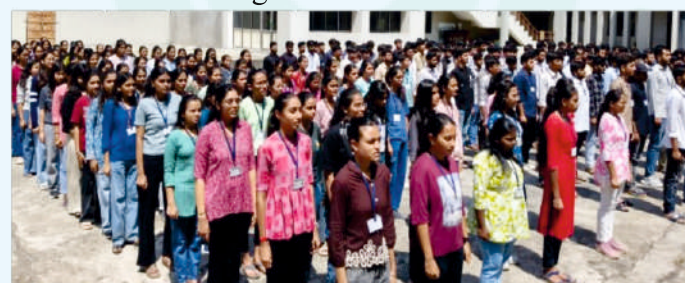
The camps were organized in villages such as Mansar, Choki, Bagasara, Kuchadi, Dungri, Alidhra, Ghudvadar, and Dhanfulia between 7 January and 14 March 2026.



The activities conducted during the camps included cleanliness awareness drives, anti-drug campaigns, tree plantation, women empowerment programs, fruit and vegetable preservation, bakery demonstrations, grain storage awareness, prabhat pheri, wall slogan writing, khedut shibir, youth leadership activities, and interaction with progressive farmers. The objective of the camps was to inculcate social and ethical values among the students.

Collective Singing of Vande Mataram

The NSS Unit of CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya, organized the collective singing of 'Vande Mataram' to commemorate its 150th anniversary on March 23, 2026, to celebrate the legacy of the national song. On this auspicious occasion, a total of 310 students and 14 staff members of the college participated in the rendition of the song.



Camp on Special Sanitation Activity

NSS Unit of Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh organized a one-day Special Sanitation Activity at Deepanjali Society, Junagadh to promote awareness on cleanliness, hygiene, and environmental responsibility on February 7, 2026.



Dr. H. L. Kacha, Principal, PiH, addressed the students and emphasized the importance of sanitation and the role of youth in maintaining a clean environment. A total of 75 NSS volunteers and 10 faculty members participated in the cleanliness drive, covering street areas, the periphery of Omkareshwar Temple, and the Garbi Chowk area of the society.

Thalassemia Screening Camps

Thalassemia Screening and Checkup Camps were organized at various JAU campuses in collaboration with the Indian Red Cross Society under the Thalassemia/Sickle Cell Prevention Programme during January–February 2026. Camps were conducted at Polytechnic in Agriculture, Amreli; Polytechnic in Horticulture, Junagadh; ASPEE CoA, Khapat; and CoA, Mota Bhandariya for the benefit of students. Awareness lectures on prevention and early detection of thalassemia were delivered by experts, and blood samples of students were collected for testing and screening. A large number of UG students actively participated and benefited from the programme.



NSS Quiz Competition

A quiz competition on the theme “Iron Men of India” was successfully organized under the NSS on February 26, 2026 at the Polytechnic in Agro Processing, JAU, Junagadh. The event was conducted under the guidance of Principal Dr. N. K. Dhamsaniya and organized by NSS Programme Officer Dr. A. M. Shingala. The main objective of the quiz was to create awareness among students about great national leaders, their contributions and to inspire a sense of patriotism and national unity.

Seminar on Empowering Women Through Awareness of Workplace Rights

An awareness seminar on the Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act, 2013 was organized on February 27, 2026 at KVK, Amreli. The programme was jointly organized by KVK, Amreli, Women Complaint Mechanism Cell, and NSS Unit of PIA, JAU, Amreli in collaboration with the Department of Women and Child Development, GoG, Amreli.

The seminar aimed to create awareness on workplace dignity, legal rights, safety measures, and redressal mechanisms under the POSH Act, 2013. A total of 59 girl students and staff members participated in the programme.



Awareness and screening Drive on Tuberculosis (TB)

Under the Government of India's “Prime Minister TB-Free India” Campaign, the NSS Unit of Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh organized a TB awareness and screening drive on March 18, 2026 at Ganesh Nagar Society, Bhavnath, Junagadh. Guided by Dr. Swayamprakash Pandey, City TB Officer, NSS volunteers conducted a door-to-door survey covering 813 people in a TB-sensitive area, during which 81 vulnerable TB patients were identified. A rally was also organized to spread awareness among the public. The campaign witnessed active participation of 73 NSS volunteers along with Dr. H. L. Kacha, Principal, and Dr. Sarika J. Donga, NSS Programme Officer.



World TB Day Awareness Program

With the theme “Yes! We Can End TB: Led by Bharat, Powered by Janbhagidari,” World TB Day was observed at JAU on March 24, 2026 through an awareness programme jointly organized by JAU and the City TB Centre under JMC at the CoA Conference Hall. The programme was chaired by Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia, with Municipal Commissioner Shri Tejas D. Parmar (IAS) as the Chief Guest. Expert lectures on TB history, symptoms, transmission, diagnosis, treatment, and government initiatives were delivered by City TB Officer Dr. P. S. Prakash. Students and staff



enthusiastically participated and pledged to spread awareness and support the mission of TB eradication.

Rank Ceremony of the NCC Officer

Shri Hardik Patel, NCC Officer, was conferred the rank of Lieutenant at the Rank Ceremony organized by CoA, JAU, Junagadh, on March 13, 2026. The rank was conferred by Dr. V. P. Chovatia, Hon'ble Vice-Chancellor, and Colonel Vijaykumar Mishra, Administrative Officer, 8 Gujarat Battalion NCC. On this momentous occasion, Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW, and Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean and NCC cadets of the university remained present.



Elocution Competition on the occasion of Ram Navami



Shri Kanubhai Mandaviya Foundation, Ahmedabad, in collaboration with the DSW Office, JAU, Junagadh, organized an Elocution Competition on the theme of Shri Ram on March 21, 2026 at the Girls' Gymnasium, Hostel premises, JAU, Junagadh, as part of Ram Navami celebrations. Around 100 girl students attended the event, with 13 participants showcasing their oratory skills. Devotional bhajans presented by students added a spiritual essence to the programme. Ms. Mantrana Sharma secured the first prize in the competition. The programme was coordinated by Dr. Shraddha Parmar and Dr. Harsiddhi Limbani in the presence of Dr. R. M. Solanki, Dr. Bhawana Asnani, and Dr. Lata J. Raval.

Late Shri Kantibhai Thakkar Smruti Nidhi Memorial Lecture

CoA, JAU, Junagadh, organized the Late Shri Kantibhai Thakkar Smruti Nidhi Memorial lecture on “Cyber Awareness and Risk Management: Understanding Digital Arrest, Investment and Financial Fraud” on March 16, 2026. Mrs. B. R. Jugal, Police Sub-Inspector, Cyber Police Station, Junagadh, served as the invited speaker, in which Dr. A. G.

Pansuriya, DR, presided over the event as its president. The program was attended by Dr. N. B. Jadav, DEE; Dr. Y. H. Ghelani, Registrar; Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; and Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal & Dean, along with heads of various departments, staff members, and students.



Expert session on Igniting Entrepreneurial Mindsets

An expert session titled “Igniting Entrepreneurial Mindsets: Opportunities for Student Startups in Agriculture and Allied Sectors” was organized on February 11, 2026 by the NSS Unit of the CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya during the NSS Special Camp at Bagasara, with participation of 73 students and faculty members. Dr. Chirag Matholiya, served as the resource person and provided valuable insights into emerging startup opportunities in agriculture, innovations, mechanization prospects, government support schemes, and the process of converting ideas into viable business models.



Training Programme on Intellectual Property Rights & Patents in Agriculture

A two-day training programme on “Intellectual Property Rights and Patents in Agriculture” was organized during February 20-21, 2026 at CAET, JAU, Junagadh by ICAR–AICRP on PEASEM, Department of Renewable Energy Engineering, in collaboration with ICAR–National Research Centre on Yak, Dirang, Arunachal Pradesh.



The programme began with an inaugural session addressed by Dr. A. G. Pansuriya, Director of Research. Dr. Rakesh Sharda, PC, ICAR-AICRP on

PEASEM, Ludhiana and Dr. R. R. Hanchinal were roped in as resource persons. Expert lectures covered key aspects of IPR including fundamentals, patents in agriculture, plant variety protection, farmers' rights, and important legal frameworks such as the Biological Diversity Act (Amended 2023), GI Act, and PPVFR Act.

Participation of JAU faculty and Students in Remote Pilot Training Program

Dr. D. B. Chavda, Assistant Professor, and Dr. S. K. Gaadhe, Senior Research Assistant from the Department of Farm Machinery and Power Engineering, CAET, JAU, Junagadh, participated in the 15-day Remote Pilot Instructor Training (RPI) program for medium-category drones at Gurugram, Haryana. They successfully completed the training and enhanced their technical expertise in drone operations and applications. They will utilize the acquired knowledge in agricultural research and also contribute to training aspiring drone operators and trainees in the field.



JAU NCC Cadet Ajay Chandrapal successfully completed Drone Training at Sanskardham Drone Academy, organized under the aegis of NCC Directorate, Dadranagar Haveli, Diu-Daman, Ahmedabad (Gujarat), from March 6-15, 2026. He was awarded a certificate for his accomplishment. His achievement was appreciated by the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, Dr. V. P. Chovatia.

Basic Rock Climbing Campaign

Basic Rock Climbing Camps were organized at Pandit Deendayal Upadhyay Mountaineering Center, Junagadh during January 7–16, 2026 for boys and 28 January to 6 February 2026 for girls.



A total of 200 students from various colleges and polytechnics of JAU participated, including CoA Junagadh, CAET Junagadh, CoH Junagadh, CoA Mota Bhandariya, ASPEE CoA Khapat, CoA Morbi, and different polytechnic institutes of Junagadh,

Sidsar, Dhari, Halvad, Targhadia, and Amreli. Students received training in climbing, monkey climbing, traversing, river crossing, and rappelling techniques.

Agri-Technology Business Idea Pitch Competition

The Regional Round of the Agri-Technology Business Idea Pitch Competition was organized on March 3, 2026 by the Department of Agricultural Economics and SSIP Unit, CoA, JAU, Junagadh in collaboration with Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India, Ahmedabad. More than 100 students and faculty members participated in the event. Out of 25 student teams presented innovative business ideas, six teams were shortlisted by the jury panel comprising experts from EDII, Ahmedabad and Vikas Seeds, Junagadh. The programme was organized under the guidance of university officials and faculty coordinators.



Capacity Building Programme on Entrepreneurship Promotion

CoA, JAU, Junagadh, organized a one-day capacity building programme on “Entrepreneurship Promotion and Business Development” under the aegis of Student Start-up Innovation Policy (SSIP 2.0) on March 18, 2026.



Shri Kamleshbhai Patel, Export-Import Consultant, Rajkot; Dr. Parth Sejpai, Professor, Saurashtra University, Rajkot; and Dr. Vishal V. Agrawat, Assistant Professor, CoA, JAU, Mota Bhandariya served as the invited speakers. The speakers provided insights into various aspects of intellectual property, including GI tags and patenting newly developed technologies. Dr. R. M. Solanki, DSW; Dr. V. D. Tarpara, ADR; and Dr. P. D. Kumawat, Principal and Dean remained present along with the faculty members and students of the college. The event was coordinated by Dr. H. P. Dholariya, Associate Professor and SSIP Convener.

Seminar on Entrepreneurship Opportunities under SSIP 2.0

The seminar on 'Entrepreneurship Opportunities through SSIP & Other Government Initiatives' was conducted on January 28, 2026 at PGIABM, JAU, with participation from around 60 MBA (Agri-Business) students and faculty members. This seminar was organized by SSIP 2.0 Unit of CAET, JAU, Junagadh, to promote awareness of agribusiness entrepreneurship. Dr. C. S. Matholiya, Asstt. Prof. at the college provided insights into innovation, value addition, market linkages, and opportunities across agricultural entrepreneurship.



Ms. Rubina Akhtar Selected for National Level VBYLD 2026

Under the Viksit Bharat Young Leaders Dialogues (VBYLD), 2026, Ms. Rubina Akhtar, student of CoA, JAU, achieved remarkable success by qualifying up to the Leadership Round and was selected for the National Level Youth Festival at Bharat Mandapam, New Delhi. She represented Gujarat and received valuable national-level exposure for presenting innovative ideas.



University level screening of Viksit Bharat Ag Techathion

JAU organized the screening of entries for the Viksit Bharat Ag Techathion on March 10, 2026 at the DSW Meeting Hall, coordinated by Dr. Bhawana Asnani, Office of DSW, JAU. Students from various constituent colleges presented over 23 innovative agricultural ideas and technological solutions, out of which the best 10 entries were forwarded to ICAR, New Delhi for the National-Level Ag Techathion.



Drawing Competition

Under the nationwide campaign “Jal Mahotsav – Gaon Ka Utsav, Desh Ka Mahotsav 2026” of the Ministry of Jal Shakti, the NSS Unit of PiH, JAU, Junagadh organized a drawing competition on water harvesting, water conservation, forests, and economy on March 17, 2026. Dr. H. L. Kacha and Dr. Sarika J. Donga guided the students during the programme. A total of 17 NSS volunteers participated enthusiastically in the competition.



Sports, Cultural and Literary Achievements

Students of Junagadh Agricultural University actively participated in various SAU and AIU sports, cultural, literary, and youth festival events during 2025–26, bringing laurels to the university.



A team of 15 students represented JAU in the SAU Cricket (M) Tournament held at JAU, Junagadh during January 16–17, 2026 under the guidance of Dr. B. V. Patoliya and Prof. V. K. Dobariya. JAU emerged as champion in the tournament.



Inter-Polytechnic Games 2025–26 comprising badminton, table tennis, chess, kho-kho, cricket, and athletics events for boys and girls were organized during February 2026. Polytechnic in Horticulture, JAU, Junagadh secured the Overall Championship.



A total of 32 students participated in the SAU Polytechnic Cricket (M), Kho-kho (M), Chess (M), and Badminton (M) tournaments held at NAU, Navsari on January 20, 2026. Further, 36 students represented JAU in SAU Polytechnic tournaments held at SDAU, Dantiwada on 13 February 2026, where the university secured championship titles in Table Tennis (M) and Chess (W).

The closing ceremony of Inter-College Sports and Cultural-Literary Competitions was held on February 18, 2026 under the chairmanship of Hon'ble Vice Chancellor Dr. V. P. Chovatia.



A team of 35 students participated in SAU Cultural and Literary Competitions held at NAU, Navsari on March 6, 2026. JAU secured runner-up positions in Mime and Folk Dance, while Ms. Rubina Akhtar secured second place in Elocution.



At the SAU Athletics Competitions held at SDAU, Dantiwada on March 25, 2026. A total of 27 students represented JAU and won 15 medals including 7 Gold, 5 Silver, and 3 Bronze medals, securing the overall runners-up trophy.

In AIU West Zone Chess tournaments, Ms. Vrushika Chitroda secured Board Medal – 1st Rank in Chess (W) at MJRP University, Jaipur, while Mr. Shyam Barad secured Board Medal – 1st Rank in Chess (M) at HSNC University, Mumbai.



A contingent of JAU participated in the 39th AIU West Zone Youth Festival – Pashchimanchal 2026 held at CVM University during February 11–15, 2026 and secured 5th rank in the procession event.



Mr. Zala Ayush J. of ASPEE CoA, Khapat represented JAU in the South West Zone Inter University Karate (M) Tournament held at SAGE University during March 19–21, 2026.

In the GCWAS-2026 West Zone Elocution Contest held online on January 30, 2026, Ms. Rubina Akhtar and Ms. Asodia Dhruvi secured first positions at UG and PG levels, respectively. Both students also participated in the ICAR–IARI Inter-zonal Elocution Competition held on February 16, 2026 at IARI, New Delhi.

Awards and Accolades

Best Innovative Farmer Awards at National Level Seminar

Farmers associated with Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVKs) were honored during the National Seminar on “Digital Extension and Farmer Empowerment: Pathway to Viksit Bharat” held on February 20-21, 2026 at AAU, Anand. Mr. Rajeshbhai Chhaganbhai Limbasiya (KVK Targhadia) was recognized for natural farming and animal husbandry Mr. Dineshbhai Bhagwanbhai Sarvaiya (KVK Amreli) was honored for innovation in natural fig cultivation, value addition.



Best Oral Presentation Award

Dr. D. M. Kakkad, Asstt. Prof. (Agril. Extension), ASPEE CoA, JAU, Khapat, was bestowed with the Best Oral Presentation Award (First Position) at the national seminar on “Digital Extension and Farmer Empowerment: Pathway to Viksit Bharat,” organized by the Society of Extension Education, Gujarat (SEEG), Anand, in collaboration with AAU, Anand, during February 20-21, 2026.



Best Business Idea Awards

Students from CoA, JAU, Junagadh, won three Best Business Idea Awards for their agri-technology business ideas at the Agri-Tech Business Contest organized by the Entrepreneurship Development Institute of India (EDII), Ahmedabad, during March 13-15, 2026. Among the awards, the Platinum Award (first position) was secured by the team comprising Prit R. Visodiya, Bhuvra Hirak, and Khush Ghetiya, for their innovative business idea titled “Non-contact Thermal Pest Detection Technology.” Additionally, the undergraduate student team comprising Radhika Vijayvargiya, Teena Bikuniya, and Pooja Yadav won a Silver Award for their business idea “Soil Health ATM Machine.” Another team, consisting of Ujjwal Kumar Singh and Anupam Kumar, also won a Silver Award for their business idea “Mali”, which focusses on generating wealth from waste.



JAU NCC Cadets received Motivation Cash Prize from ADG, NCC, Ahmedabad

NCC Cadets of JAU, Junagadh have brought pride to the institution through their commendable

achievements and dedication. Cadets Ajay Chandrapal, Sujal Parmar, Krupali Viradiya, Shreyansh Chauhan, Rina Pathar, Abhishek Rupala and Divya Nandaniya were honoured with a Motivational Cash Prize of ₹2,000 each by the ADG, NCC, Ahmedabad, in recognition of their sincere efforts, discipline and active participation in NCC activities.

In addition to this achievement, Cadets Ajay Chandrapal and Rubina Akhtar were further distinguished by being awarded the prestigious CWS Scholarship by NCC, acknowledging their outstanding performance and commitment.

Retirement / Resignation			
Sr.	Name and Designation	Designation	Remarks
January - 2026			
1	Dr. A. R. Parmar	Subject Matter Specialist	Resignation
2	Shri R. M. Vikani	Asst. Professor	Retirement
3	Shri N. B. Safvani	Chokidar	Retirement
February - 2026			
4	Shri M. B. Kanzaria	Agri. Assistant	Retirement
5	Shri H.K.Karangiya	Agri. Assistant	Retirement
6	Shri A.T.Kotak	Kadiya	Retirement
7	Shri T.N.Mehta	Lab Boy	Retirement
March - 2026			
8	Shri N.P.Vaidh	Office Superintendent	Resignation
9	Shri D.K.Patel	Agri. Assistant	Retirement



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