### BEST PRACTICE-1. Rural to Global: Inculcating excellence in rural and marginalized students through emerging technologies

#### Achievers with rural background from CCS University, Meerut

#### Aarti Chaudhary: A farmer's daughter made her dreams of becoming a global researcher

The success story of 26-year-old Arti Chaudhary is as inspiring as any Olympian who faces all sorts

of hardships to make a mark in the international arena. Born to a farmer in Jeevna village of Muzaffarnagar, Arti, an MPhil in Physics from Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, made a mark when she was selected for the prestigious MEXT scholarship (5% success rate) under which the Japanese government "adopts" 15 foreign scholars annually from all over the world to study and conduct research at any of the top 30 universities in Japan for three years. Arti who has specialized in nanotechnology, is studying the impact of pollution on plants by injecting nanoparticles through the water as a medium at the Saitama University in Japan.



At a very young age Arti lost her best support system in her grandfather and father that plunged the family into a financial crisis. Her father died of sudden heart attack in 2018, only a couple of years ahead when her grandfather died. It was a shattering experience for Arti. At one point, she was even considering taking a humble job to support her mother. But destiny had other plans. She braved all odds and finally decided to continue with her higher studies at CCS University to fulfill her father's dream. Having studied in a village school, she found it difficult to continue with the English medium of instruction at the University. However, she benefited enormously by the IT/ICT infrastructure designed and implemented by the University especially for the students with rural background. The implementation of modernized digital learning e-resources implemented by the University for rural and marginalized students, along with the appropriate guidance from the faculty, played a significant role in providing Arti with an easily accessible learning platform to pursue her research interests.

Arti is the first student in CCS University, ever since its inception in 1969, who has made it to such a prestigious international scholarship program. Concerned over environmental degradation and its impact on the food chain which is threating life on the planet, Arti aspires to neutralize the toxic elements by flora and fauna. Her research will help detection of heavy metals in plants so that contamination-free crops could be cultivated.

#### Lavista Tyagi- Making a mark from rural to global scientific community

When she was growing up in the village of Muradpur Jaunpura, Tehsil Garmukhteshwar, District Hapur of Uttar Pradesh Lavista Tyagi sometimes struggled to make sense of the world map. Countries like the UK and the US were so far away from her own small world that picking them out was a task.But, today, after winning the prestigious MEXT scholarship she is pursuing her Ph.D. from Japan. This is nothing less than a dream come true for her.

Lavista father, who is a small scale farmer, had aimed higher for her daughter. There had been so many financial ups and downs in her family, but her parents always made sure that Lavista get the best of education. Being inspired by her parents, Lavista opted to peruse her post-graduation from the Department of Physics at CCS University. This became a turning point for Lavista, because she was able to harness various educational resources and state-of-the art laboratory facilities to help achieve her desire of making a career in scientific field.

According to Lavista, she always desired to be part of the global scientific community. And she was able to win the scholarship only because of the constant encouragement, inspiration and guidance she received from the faculty of Department of Physics at CCS University. She feels grateful to have received excellent learning and healthy environment at the Universitywhich enabled her to get such competitive scholarship.

#### Neeraj Kumar: From Paddy farms to an International Researcher

Born in a farmer's family at the village Saloni of Hapur District in Uttar Pradesh, Neeraj always dreamed of becoming an Agriculture Scientist. Neeraj spent his childhood years in studying at a Government School and helping his father in fields. Neeraj's general interest in the agriculture made him opt masters and Ph.D. degree in the Genetics and Plant breeding Department (Formerly known as Agriculture Botany) of Chaudhary Charan Singh University. The excellent guidance from his research guides and the world class level research and infrastructure facility at the department enabled Neeraj to conduct a high quality research which translated into excellent publications at



various international and national journals. These scientific achievements along with various technological skills he learned at the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding enabled Neeraj fetch a post-doctoral position at the Washington State University, USA. He is now holding a senior researcher position at the WSU.

#### Rajeev Kumar Varshney, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize winner form CCSU, Meerut

- Director Centre for Crop & Food Innovation; Director State Agricultural Biotechnology Centre; International Chair in Agriculture & Food Security at Murdoch University
- Research Program Director, Genetic Gains, ICRISAT, Perth, Australia

Rajeev Kumar Varshney, an agricultural scientist with expertise in genomics, genetics, molecular breeding, and capacity building in developing nations, was born on July 13, 1973 at Bahjoi, Uttar Pradesh, India. Rajeev Kumar Varshney joined the P K Gupta lab at Chaudhary Charan Singh University in Meerut and completed work on a Wheat Biotechnology Project funded by the Department of Biotechnology, Government of India, in order to get a doctorate (PhD) in agriculture (molecular biology). Ch Charan Singh university provided him the opportunity to excel in the area by enhancing its technical skills in the area of Agriculture Biotechnology.



Varshney has also taken a number of high-performance management and leadership courses from prestigious business and management schools in Singapore,

Malaysia, and the Philippines. He is having google citation scholre with Hindex:114 and I Index: 538.Varshney began working as a knowledges chaftlicher Mitarbeiter (Research Scientist) at the Leibniz Institute of Plant Genetics & Crop Plant Research (IPK), Gatersleben, Germany, in 2001 after getting his PhD. He spent five years there working in the fields of comparative genomes of cereals and structural and functional genomics of barley. Later, in late 2005, he agreed to take a position as Senior Scientist for Applied Genomics at ICRISAT. While working at ICRISAT, he took up a half time appointment with Generation Challenge Programme, hosted at CGIAR CIMMYT, as Sub Programme Leader for Sub Programme 2-Genomics towards Gene Discovery in 2007.

He founded the Center of Excellence in Genomics in 2007 as a Founding Director with assistance from the Department of Biotechnology Government of India with the aim of accelerating genomics research in dryland crops. This centre changed its name to Center of Excellence in Genomics & Systems Biology later in the year. In 2008, he received a promotion to the ICRISAT position of Principal Scientist (Applied Genomics). From 2007 to 2013, he had dual positions with ICRISAT as Principal Scientist and GCP as Sub programme Leader. After the Research Programs at ICRISAT were restructured in 2015, he worked for three years as the Global Research Program Director for Grain Legumes before moving to that position in 2016.

Previously, Varsheny served as the Director of the Center of Excellence in Genomics & Systems Biology at the International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT), a global agricultural research institute. This position oversees the Forward Breeding, Pre-Breeding, Cell, Molecular Biology, and Genetic Engineering, Seed Systems, Biotechnology-ESA, Sequencing and Informatics Services Unit, and Genebank (until 2020) units of the Genetic Gains Research Including Murdoch University, The University of Western Australia, University of Queensland, West Africa Centre for Crop Improvement (University of Ghana), University of Hyderabad, Chaudhary Charan Singh University, and Professor Jayashankar Telangana State Agricultural University, he holds Adjunct/Honorary/Visiting Professor positions at ten academic institutions in Australia, China, Ghana, Hong Kong, and India.

Varshney is a very prolific author and an often-invited speaker, including a TEDx speaker. He has been a highly cited researcher for seven years running (2014–2020). In several high-level forums, including the G8

International Conference on Open Data for Agriculture on Open Data in Genomics and Modern Breeding for Crop Improvement, organized by the US and UK Governments in the World Bank (2013), the Brainstorming Session on the Digital Revolution for Agriculture at the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation in 2012, and the Brainstorming Session on DNA Fingerprinting for Impact Assertion in 2011, Varshney has presented research and novel concepts related to food and nutrition security. KULALA LULU, Malaysia (2017) etc.

He has received awards from the USA, Germany, China, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, and UAE, including the Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, the science and agricultural sciences awards from the Government of India in 2015 and 2019, respectively. He has also received elected and honorary fellowships from a dozen academies and societies. He has been honored with elected and honorary fellowships from a dozen academies/ societies and awards from USA, Germany, China, India, Nepal, Vietnam, Philippines, UAE, including Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize and Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award, the science and agricultural sciences awards from Government of India in 2015 and 2019, respectively. He was Elected Fellow of Indian Academy of Sciences, Bangalore in 2019,, American Society of Agronomy (ASA) in 2018, American Association for the Advancement of Sciences (AAAS) in 2016, The World Academy of Sciences (TWAS) in 2016, German National Academy of Sciences Leopoldina in 2013, The National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI) in 2015, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India (NASI) in 2015, National Academy of Agricultural Sciences, India (NAAS) in 2010, Elected Fellow of AP Akademi of Sciences (APAS) and Telangana Academy of Sciences (TAS), India in 2014, Elected Fellow of Indian Society of Genetics and Plant Breeding in 2015, Elected Fellow of Association of Biotechnology & Pharmacy (ABAP), India in 2015.

Dr Rajeev was awarded with Scientific and Technological Co-operation Award by Government of Guangdong Province China, 2020, Rafi Ahmed Kidwai Award for Outstanding Research in Agricultural Science 2019, Honorary Fellow of Indian Society of Pulses Research & Development 2019, Professor Jayashankar (PJTSAU) Life Time Achievement Award 2019, G. D. Birla Award for Scientific Research for 2018, Prof. Lalji Singh Achievement Award by ADNAT/ CSIR- CCMB, 2019, JC Bose Fellowship from Science and Engineering Research Board, 2018, Honorary Professorship of Zhejiang Academy of Agricultural Sciences (ZAAS) in 2018, Certificate and Honor for Outstanding Science Contribution by Uttar Pradesh Government, 2018, One of the "40 Most Influential Foreign Experts" by The Association for International Exchange of Talents in Shandong, China, 2018, Faculty research Awards 2018: Outstanding Authors 2018 for 2018, Doreen Margaret Mashler Award by ICRISAT for 2016, IPGI Award for leadership & contribution to peanut research by the International Peanut Genome Initiative for 2017, Qilu Friendship Award by the People's Republic of China for 2016, Shanti Swarup Bhatnagar Prize-Biological Sciences, the most coveted award from Council of Scientific & Industrial Research (CSIR) on behalf of the Government of India in 2015, Research Excellence India Citation Award 2015 by Thomson Reuters, The Illumina Agricultural Greater Good Initiative Award, 2013, Young Crop Scientist Award by Crop Science Society of America (CSSA), 2013, Young Scientist Award in Agriculture in 2010 by National Academy of Sciences, India and Elsevier South Asia, INSA-Young Scientist Medal by the Indian National Science Academy (INSA), 2008, NASI-Young Scientist Platinum Jubilee Award by the National Academy of Sciences, India (NASI), 2007.

Dr Rajeev is proud alumni of the university.

#### Dr. Manish Roorkiwal Research Assistant Professor, United Arab Emirates University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

https://scholar.google.co.in/citations?user=L5WKMx0AAAAJ&hl=en

#### Area of Specialization

Next Generation Sequencing, Modern Breeding Approaches, Breeding Modernization, Applied Genomics, Decision Support Tools, Whole genome re-sequencing, Epigenomics.



#### <u>h-index</u>: 28; <u>i10-index</u>-43

Dr. Manish Roorkiwal, admitted to Master of Science (M.Sc.) in Biotechnology at Dept. of Biotechnology, CCS University, Meerut, India.Here university provided him essentials training and skills to work in the area of Biotechnology. Besides theoretical understanding, the university campus equipped with IT resources helped him to gain practical skills and scientific knowledge. Manish was from rural background and he was having diminutive knowledge of English and communication skills. He belongs to mid income family from Hapur district, Uttar Pradesh. In 2004, he was Awarded UGC JRF-SRF conducted by Council of Scientific and Industrial Research India; 2015- Awarded the DST-INSPIRE Faculty Award by the Government of India; 2015-Awarded ICRISAT's Science Award for 2015 in the category of Resource Mobilization Awards: First Grant as Principal Investigator.

Dr. Manish Roorkiwal, worked as a Senior Scientist (Genomics and Molecular Breeding) at International Crops Research Institute for the Semi-Arid Tropics (ICRISAT) based in Hyderabad, India. With a basic background in molecular genetics and applied genomics, Manish has over 15 years of research experience. At the core of his work is the improvement of crop productivity of legumes in marginal environments using modern genetics and breeding approaches, including genomic selection and GWAS. Manish has strong interest in the area of modern breeding approaches such as genomic selection and next generation sequencing-based re-sequencing and low-cost genotyping for enhancing the use of markers in routine breeding. He is known for leading the efforts in developing cost-effective genotyping platform enabling use of markers in routine breeding program. The guidance from his research guides and the exceptional research and infrastructure facility at the department enabled Dr Manish to conduct high-quality research which is evident from his admirable publications at various international and national journals.

Presently, Dr Manish is working as Research Assistant Professor, United Arab Emirates University, Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates

#### Dr. Vikas Sharma (PhD Genomics & Bioinformatics)

Post-Doctoral Researcher

IBG-1: Biotechnology, Institute of Bio- and Geosciences, ForschungszentrumJülich, Wilhelm-Johnen-Strasse, D-52425 Jülich, Germany

Email: sharmavikas3529@gmail.com; v.sharma@fz-juelich.de

Dr. Vikas Sharma. I am a computational biologist, currently working as a scientific staff at the Institute of Bio- and Geosciences (IBG-1), ForschungszentrumJülich, Germany. His research area of



interest is to understand the origin, evolution of viruses and diversity of integrated viruses across the prokaryotic and eukaryotic genomes and study their positive or negative impacts on host evolution.

He was born and raised in Meerut, Uttar Pradesh, in a rural family with meager resources. He completed my B.Sc. in biotechnology and joined my M.Sc. Bioinformatics at the Department of Microbiology, CCS University, Meerut. During these two years of tenure, I learned the basics of bioinformatics and its applications from the well-qualified professional staff at CCS University. Besides theoretical knowledge, the university campus is equipped with IT resources that helped him to gain practical skills. In addition, the central library on campus provided him with free access to numerous expensive books and study materials. Here, he worked on bacterial genomics on a project entitled "Ecological and Evolutionary Genomics of Stenotrophomonas." This work, including different collaborative projects, resulted in seven publications. The modernized digital learning eresources executed by the University for rural and marginalized students, along with the apposite guidance from the faculty, played a substantial role in providing easily reachable learning platform to pursue his research interests. Overall, this experience motivated him to further expand his knowledge and carrier in bioinformatics.

After skills upgradation at CCSU, Meerut he completed his Ph.D.in Genomics and Bioinformatics from Aix Marseille University, Marseille (France), under Professor Didier Raoult and Professor Pierre Pontarotti. During his Ph.D. research, he explored his knoeldge gain at CCSY, Meerut and worked on the "Origin, evolution, and classification of giant viruses" using phylogenetics and comparative approaches. During the three years of Ph.D., he made approaches to detect and classify giant viruses, which has resulted in six publications. After, Ph.D. He completed his postdoc at the University of Bordeaux in the Institute of Vine and Wine Sciences (ISVV) with Dr. Philippe Marullo. During this tenure, he worked on industrial wine yeast genomes to detect and understand the role of genetic variation (SNP, Indels, copy number variation, Strain-specific genes, chromosomal rearrangement) linked to phenotype. During 18 months of the postdoctoral period, He published articles and made several automatic pipelines to detect genetic variations, assembly, and annotation of yeast genomes on the local galaxy server.

Currently, he is working as a scientific staff / Postdoctoral Researcher at IBG-1, ForschungszentrumJülich, Germany and working on working on a project entitled "Comparative genomics of phages infecting Actinobacteria." During this tenure, he identified the horizontally acquired Transcription factors (TFs) in actinobacteriophages and studied their impact and function on host bacterial species.

#### Dr. Deepansh Sharma Assistant Professor-Microbiology Department of Life Sciences J C Bose University of Science & Technology, YMCA, Faridabad https://scholar.google.com/citations?user=mZZjgdIAAAAJ&hl=hi

Dr.Deepansh Sharma belongs from a 'Marginal Farmer' family with limited resources from a little town Babugarh in



District Hapur of Uttar Pradesh. During his Undergraduate education he build a dream to join CCSU campus, Meerut. As he was from rural area, he was not good in English and in communication skills. Attending M. Phill Microbiology (Session 2009-2010) at Department of Microbiology at Chaudhary Charan Singh University, Meerut, UP was one of the important phase of his life. He started at CCS University, Meerut during a challenging time in my life and it couldn't have been the more perfect fit for him. Looking back, he can certainly say that Department of Microbiology, CCS University was the most important institution in shaping her professional career. He was having many up and down in his life during this period. His mother was diagnosed with a ventricular septal defect (VSD), a hole in the heart. Throughout the academic sessions, he was challenged to discover capabilities that he never knew. Along with academics, the University focuses on research support and guidance which helped him to build a rewarding career. During his M. Phill, he came to know about the various national and international organisations involved in modern microbiological research and practices. Just after my M. Phill degree, he was selected to work as a visiting Ph. D researcher in DAAD fellowship to work at Technical Biology Group, Karlsruhe Institute of Technology, Germany. He to extends his gratitude for the kind support and recommendations provided by the university professor & mentors during his selection process. He has learned academic and scientific ethics during his stay from teachers and his project mentor, which are crucial to develop the research character. It has been an unforgettable journey since he joined his academic responsibilities and owe his success to his Alma Mater.

#### **Other Achievers:**

The educational programs run by the CCS University aims to provide entrepreneurship awareness, top notch knowledge and practical experience in agriculture and allied sciences to students belonging from rural background. After their actual learning, several of our former students who came from far poor and far-flung areas such as Dr. Rahul Siwach, Dr. Dinesh, Dr. Kuldeep, Dr. Nawab Singh, Dr. Nivedita, Dr. Anil Kumar, Dr. Yogendra Kumar, Dr. Rahul Panwarfrom the Department of Chemistry received prestigious postdoctoral fellowship at world class institutes and universities at Singapore, Israel, Korea, France, and USA. Miss Himani Sharma, Masters Student of Department of Biotechnology was selected for Ph.D Programme at Purdue University, USA; Sanjay Kumar Uppadhya as Research Scientist University of Alberta, Canada and Mohd Shadab, Microbiologist at Arabian Gulf University, Kingdom of Baharain.

Apart from this, Dr. Anuj Tomar is working as Regional Lab Manager at Novecare, Industrial Process Solution, Solvary, France, and Dr.Anuj is working as Assistant Professor at School of Chemical Engineering Yeungram University, Gyeongsan, South Korea. Dr. Brijesh Kumar is working as R&D- Manager (Polyester polyol & Polyurethane systems), Huntsman Corp., Dubai, UAE. Dr. Tinku Gautam from the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding has recently been awarded the Agriculture and Agri-Science Scholarship for conducting his post-doctoral research at Canada.

Other prominent academic achievers from the rural background include Mr.Harsh Gupta who graduated from the Department of Physics and receiving the Italian University Fellowship (IstitutoItaliano Di Tecnologia, Italy) and Mr. Rajat Chaudhary, also a Graduate from the Department of Physics winning the Milano-Bicocca Fellowship from Italy. Several of our students hailing from villages after graduating from the University have made a mark in the field of science; prominent one are Dr. Rajeev Varshney who did his Ph.D. from the Department of Genetics and Plant Breeding is now the acting Director at Centre for Crop & Food Innovation, Murdoch University, Australia. Dr. Akash Goyal earned his Ph.D. from the Department of Genetics and Plant breeding and thereafter joined the wheat and triticale breeding program at Lethbridge Research Center, Agriculture and Agri Food Canada (AAFC) and is currently working at RAYN Cultivation Inc., Edmonton, Alberta, Canada as Chief Executive Officer (CEO).

A number of university students from low socio- economic background are working as Postdoctoral fellow in world best research laboratories and proven their skills: Dr Nitin Kumar Chaudhary, PDF, university of North Texas, USA; Dr Dushyant Kumar and Dr. Shivani, PhD, University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, USA; Kopal Arora, Ph.D, University of Exeter, UK, Mohit Kumar, Ph.D Korea, working at Ajou University, Korea; Dr Andleep Zahra working at Sapienza University of Rome, Italy, Varun Kumar Chaudhary, Ph.D NTU Singapore; Dr Parul devi PDF at Helmholtz-Zentrum Dresden-Rossendorf, Germany; Dr Anuj Panwar, PDF at South Korea, Pohang University of Science and Technology&St. Francis Xavier University, Canada.

### Dr. Somendra Tomar: A village and CCSU Meerut student from Student Politics to State Minister

Dr. Somendra Tomar is a politician from India who represents the Indian state of Uttar Pradesh in the 17th and 18th Legislative Assemblies. He won twice and now serves as the representative for Meerut South in Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Tomar was born on July 3, 1980, in the Uttar Pradesh district of Meerut. He is from the rural village of Khaila, Block-Khekada, Meerut, District of Uttar Pradesh, and comes from a rural background family with no political t



from a rural background family with no political ties. His father was teacher in a school.

Dr Somendra did his initial education from Khekada, rural area and passed UP board high school Examination in 1995. He graduated from CCSU Meerut with a Bachler degree in 2000. He had regular N.C.C training at the University up until the point of his graduation. Besides his keen interest in the Physics subject, he was also worried about his communication skills. He took admission and awarded MSc in Physics with Specialization in Electronics, M. Phil in Physics; PhD in Physics from CCS University Campus, Meerut.Besides theoretical knowledge, the university campus equipped with IT resources that helped him to gain practical and communication skills. In addition, the central library on campus provided him with free access to numerous expensive books and study materials. Dr. Tomar initiated his political carrier from Ch Charn Singh University campus students' politics.

On January 19, 2018, Dr. Tomar received the Model Youth Legislative Award at the 8th Annual Convention of the Indian Students' Parliament hosted by the M.I.T. World Peace University in Pune. From December 2017 until October 2019, he served as chairman of the



Uttar Pradesh Panchayati Raj Samiti. Tomar has served as the representative for the Meerut South seat in the 18th Legislative Assembly of Uttar Pradesh since March 2022.He was appointed State Minister in Yogi Adityanath's government in Uttar Pradesh. Dr. Tomar began working for "Akhil Bhartiya Vidyarthi Parishad (ABVP)" in 1999 and continued there until 2004. In 2003, he won the "Alumni association" elections under the ABVP. His candidacy from South Meerut was announced in

2012, and he has been working with the party despite opting for elections, Participated in the Haryana Assembly Elections as Co-Charge. In the Delhi Assembly Elections, responsibilities were granted by the "Youva Morcha." served as "Bhajyumo's" general secretary at work. Dr. Tomar served in Uttar Pradesh's 17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly. He has served as the Meerut South constituency's representative since 2017 and is a BJP member. On January 19, 2018, M.I.T. World Peace University's 8th Annual Convention of Indian Students' Parliament in Pune presented Dr. Somendra Tomar with the Model Youth Legislative Award. Dr Tomar represented India in the International Visitor Leadership Program in the United States from September 28 to October 19, 2019.

## Annu Rani, a Village Girl : First Indian Woman Javelin thrower to compete in the World Athletics Championship

On August 28, 1992, Annu Rani was born into a Dhankhar Jat family in the Bahadurpur, district of Meerut, Uttar Pradesh. Her brother Upendra recognised her talent after noticing her upper body power while watching a cricket match. He asked her to throw sugarcane sticks in a barren field as he started to train her. Because she couldn't afford one, Annu made her own first javelin stick out of a lengthy piece of bamboo.

At 18 years of age, she was the first to take up the sport of javelin throw. Despite her father's opposition to girls participating in sports, her brother started to pay for her training.

In 2010, she was admitted to CCSU, Meerut for a



UG programme in Bachelor of Arts. There, the sport officer noticed her talent in the javelin throw competition. She competed for the institution and won four straight gold medals in the javelin throw event at the All India Inter University Athletics championship. She received a NodaiK range Javelin valued Rs. 45,000 from the Vice Chancellor. Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut.

Rani won a gold medal in the National Inter-State Athletics Championship in Lucknow (2014) with a throw of 58.83 metres, shattering her previous national record of 14 years. She also qualified for the Commonwealth Games-2014, where she was placed eighth position. She competed for India at the Olympics in Tokyo, in which she won a bronze medal and she also became the first woman to win a medal in the most recent Commonwealth Games, held in Birmingham in 2022. In 2014, she also earned a bronze medal in the Asian Games and earned a bronze and silver medal at the Asian Championships in Bhubaneswar (2017) and Doha (2017), respectively.

She earned the bronze medal in the Asian Games in Incheon, South Korea (2016), with a throw of 59.53 metres. At the National Inter-state Athletics Championship two years later, she once more smashed her personal record with a throw of 60.01 metres. She beat her own record in March 2019 at the National Senior Athletics Championships in Patiala, Punjab, with a throw of 62.34 metres. After proven her skill by breaking the national record in 2014, her father eventually changed his mind and is now a supporter of Annu's aspirations.

Rani became the first Indian woman javelin thrower to compete in the World Athletics Championship on April 21, 2019, where she won a silver medal at the 23rd Asian Athletics Championships in Qatar. At the IAAF World Challenge competition heldin Ostrava, Czech Republic, she took home the bronze medal. In 2020, she received the Athletics Sportstar Aces Sportswoman of the Year Award. At the 59th National Open Athletics Championship, she took home a gold medal in the women's javelin throw competition.

#### Rupal Chaudhary: 'Meerut Express': UP farmer's daughter and CCSU, Meerut Student: First Indian to win two medals at the World U20 Athletics Championship

Rupal Chaudhary in the 4x400m relay with a bronze in the women's 400m relay held in August 2022 in Colombia. She made history by becoming the first Indian athlete to win two medals at the World U20 Athletics Championship. The 17-year-old comes from a low-income household. Her father is a part-time farmer in the village of Shahpur Jainpur in the Meerut region of Uttar Pradesh. She is an excellent athlete, having competed in four 400-meter races in just three days. Rupal came in third with a time record of 51.85 seconds, after Kenyan Damaris Mutunga (51.71) and British competitor Yemi Mary John (51.50). She won a



silver medal in 4x400-meter relay team in Asian junior competition held in the US. Rupal previously competed for CCS University in the All India Inter University Athletics Championship in 2021–2022, where she won back-to-backtwo silver medals in the 400meter and 4000-meter hurdle races.

# Divya Kakran: Muzaffarnagar girl from a rural background and with meager resources bagged Bharat Kesari 08 times.

India's Divya Kakran, a freestyle wrestler, was born in 1998. In Delhi State Championship, Divya won 60 medals, including 17 gold ones and the Bharat Kesari crown eight times. Divya Kakran hails from Uttar Pradesh and is a member of a middle-class family from the village of Purbaliyan, Muzaffarnagar. In an interview, she talked about her family and recalled how she would compete in wrestling matches after consuming a packet of glucose that would cost her Rs. 15. Her talent was identified for the first time when she defeated a boy in a wrestling match in 2010. At Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut, Kakran pursued her interest in physical education and sports sciences (BPES), where her skills were sharpened by the coaches of the



University and provided a launch pad for her wrestling. She earned a gold medal during her wrestling career at the 2017 Commonwealth Championship in South Johannesburg, Africa. Kakran earned the Bharat Kesari title and a silver medal in the women's freestyle 69 kg competition at the 2017 Asian Wrestling Championships in Bhiwani, Haryana. Geeta Phogat, an international champion who is a eminent personality in the field of wrestling, was defeated by Kakranin a championship match. At the 2018 Asian Games in Jakarta and Palembang, Kakran defeated Chen Wenling of Taiwan to win the bronze medal in the women's freestyle 68 kg competition. Additionally, she earned a bronze medal in women's 68 kg freestyle wrestling. Divya works as a senior ticket examiner for the Indian Railways at the moment.

Alka Tomar: Arjuna Awardee Wrestler of Ch. Charan Singh University, Meerut

Alka Tomar is a wrestler from India. She won bronze medal in wrestling (55 kg freestyle) at the Asian Games in Doha (2006). At the Senior Wrestling Championships in Guangzhou, China (2006), Alka Tomarwon bronze. She was born on December 1st, 1983 in the Sisoli village, Meerut district, Uttar Pradesh. She pursued her Masters in Physical Education at Chaudhary Charan Singh University. She was also given the Arjuna Award for great athletic accomplishments in 2007. At the Senior Wrestling Championships in Guangzhou, China (2006), Alka Tomar also won bronze. At the Commonwealth Games in Delhi (2010), she competed against Tonya Verbeek of Australia, and bagged a gold medal.

In 2006, Alka Tomar, the first female wrestler from India, competed in the Senior World Wrestling Championships in Guangzhou, China, and brought home a medal. In the same year she won a second bronze at the Asian Games in Doha.



She is, the sole gold medalist from Western Uttar Pradesh. Additionally, in 2005 and 2009, she won two gold medals at the Commonwealth Wrestling Championships. It is important to note that she has consistently won gold medals at national wrestling tournaments since 2000, as well as gold medals at the National Games.

# Yuvika Tomar: First female shooter representing Uttar Pradesh state to win a gold medal at the National games

Yuvika Tomar (born 06 July 2001) is an Indian sport shooter. She belongs to a marginal farmer family from Arifpur Keri village, district of Baghpat, of western Uttar Pradesh situated in the sugarcane belt of Yamuna-Gangatic planes of north India.

She initiated playing shooting game in Year-2016. In her family, she is having 03 elder sisters and a brother. For the I<sup>st</sup> time she played district level shooting competition in 2016 and bagged her I<sup>st</sup> Gold Medal. In the same year she won a gold medal at national level Individual event and in a team event. In the same year, her support system her father Sh. Kiranpal Tomar got Paralysis and she plunged into the financial crunch. It was a difficult time for her. But destiny has other plan for Yuvika. She joined Ch Charan Singh University and in year



2022; Session 2021-2022 while playing for University she credits major achievement in her and university account.

ISSF world cup, Korea (2022): Yuvika Tomar got Silver medal. In 2022 36th National Games, Gujarat: Gold Medal (Individual), Silver (Team Event) All India University Games Championship, Meerut (2022): 01 Gold (Individual), and 01 Gold Mix, and 01 Silver Team Medal 1<sup>st</sup> Khelo India University Games, Bengluru (2022): 01 Gold (Individual), 01 Gold Mix and 01 Silver Team Medal National Shooting Championship, Bhopal (2019): Gold Medal (Team). KSS Shooting Championship Dulni, Meerut (2019): Khelo India Shooting Game, Pune (2019): Silver Medal)

14<sup>th</sup> Asian Championship Dotla, Quator (2019): Gold Medal (Individual).

#### Varun Tomar: A western UP farmer son proved: Don't wait for Opportunity, Create it

Varun **Tomar** is son of Shri Vivesh Kumar, resident of Garhi Kagran Village, in Binauli Block in Baghpat District of Uttar Pradesh State, India. He was born in village Garhi Kagran. The Village is situated 20 km from the Baraut. Varun belongs to a rural backgournd from a farmer family. He completed his primary education from the Primrary School situated in the village. He completed his high School and Inter-mediate from Adarsh Vidhyapeeth, Khapana, Bhagphat. During this period he developed interest in the shooting and admitted to a College affiliated to Ch Chaudhary Charan Singh University. As he was born and brought up in the village he was not able to use essential facilities required for sports. Good Sports facility and resources were beyond his reach. This help him alot but still he has to travels 15 Km everyday's to reach Binoli where he was doing his practice. Due to Scarity of money he was not able to purchase his oen Pistol. He has to borrow postol of other student for his practice. After a continuous saving of money for a period of two years he got his own pistol. This paves the way to practice more and he excelled in his shooting events. While playing for University she credits major achievement in her and university account.

- 1. Selected for ISSF World Championship Misr, Egpyt (2022)
- 2. Selected for Sian air Gun Championship, (2022)
- 3. Selected for National Games, Ahmadabad, Gujarat (2022)
- 4. Selected for World University Games, Korea (2022)
- 5. KSS Bronze medal (2022)
- 6. I<sup>st</sup> Khelo India University Games, Bengluru (2022): 01 Gold (Individual), 01 Gold Mix and 01 Silver Team Medal

#### Administrative Posts:

Besides above mention areas university students have also contributed significantly in the Government Administrative Posts:

Ravi Kumar, IRS; Bhim Singh, DSP; Raj Kumar, SDM, Rampur; Dr Jasvindra Singh, Nayab Tehsildar; Vimal Moral, Nayab Tehsildar, Ratan Das, Khadh Avam Apurti officer; Dr Deepa veram, Khadh Avam Apurti Officer; Ms. tabsum Osni, Treasury officer, Tek Singh Allied IAS; Ravindra Kumar, SDM, Vaibhav Tyagi, Law Officer.