

## **Press Note**

### **64th Convocation of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (February 13, 2026)**

The 64th Convocation Ceremony of the Indian Agricultural Research Institute (IARI), New Delhi, was held on February 13, 2026, with great enthusiasm, dignity, and national resolve. On this historic occasion, the Hon'ble Union Minister of Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan, graced the ceremony as the Chief Guest and President of the function. The Hon'ble Ministers of State for Agriculture and Farmers' Welfare, Shri Bhagirath Choudhary and Shri Ramnath Thakur, attended as distinguished guests.

Dr. M. L. Jat, Director General of the Indian Council of Agricultural Research (ICAR), along with senior officials of the Ministry of Agriculture, scientists, faculty members, students, parents, farmer representatives, and members of the media were present in large numbers.

In his inspiring and visionary address, Shri Shivraj Singh Chouhan stated that IARI is not merely an educational institution but the nerve center of India's agricultural progress. He noted that the historic Green Revolution began on this sacred land and that whenever the nation faced food crises, Pusa provided solutions. Referring to the goal of "Developed India 2047," he emphasized that "Developed Agriculture and Prosperous Farmers" form the foundation of this vision. Agriculture, he said, is not only a major pillar of the economy but also the basis of livelihood, culture, and self-reliance for millions of families.

Addressing the graduating students, he remarked, "You are not merely degree holders, but future leaders of agriculture. Your discoveries will fill the plates of future generations." He stressed the need to maintain a 5 percent growth rate in agriculture and called for the adoption of science-based, sustainable, and inclusive agricultural models. He highlighted innovation and research as essential to addressing challenges such as climate change, soil degradation, water scarcity, and nutritional security.

The Minister emphasized the expansion of water conservation and micro-irrigation technologies, improvement of soil health, promotion of natural farming and organic inputs, the use of drones and artificial intelligence in smart agriculture, and the development of low-cost technologies for small and marginal farmers. He stated clearly that "Lab to Land" is not merely a slogan but the responsibility of every scientist.

Highlighting the role of youth, he encouraged students to become "Job Creators" rather than "Job Seekers." He urged them to promote agri-startups, agri-processing, value addition, and digital platforms to connect farmers with markets and position India as a leader in agricultural exports. He also mentioned plans for the redevelopment of the institute, including state-of-the-art laboratories, an agri-innovation park, a startup incubation hub, and a green campus.

The Hon'ble Ministers of State congratulated the students and expressed confidence that the scientific outlook and technical competence of the new generation would lead India toward a self-reliant agricultural economy.

Dr. Mangi Lal Jat, Secretary (DARE) and Director General, ICAR, stated that the Indian agricultural research system has established a distinct global identity and is ensuring food and nutritional security through climate-smart agriculture, biotechnology, and digital innovations.

Dr. C. H. Srinivasa Rao, Director of the Institute, informed that a total of 470 students were awarded degrees this year, including 290 M.Sc./M.Tech. and 180 Ph.D. scholars. He urged students to uphold ethics, scientific integrity, and social commitment as guiding principles in life. Dr. Anupama Singh, Dean and Joint Director (Education), encouraged students to remain lifelong learners and adopt a multidisciplinary approach.

During the ceremony, various awards were presented to students and scientists for outstanding academic achievements. After evaluation by a special committee, five Ph.D. and five M.Sc. students were awarded Merit Medals.

For the year 2025, the “ICAR–IARI Best Student Award” and the “NABARD–Prof. V. L. Chopra Gold Medal” were awarded to Shri Rakesh V. (Entomology) in the Ph.D. program and Shri Suman Barman (Entomology) in the M.Sc. program.

Members of the scientific faculty were also honored for their outstanding research contributions. The Fifth Dr. H. K. Jain Memorial Young Scientist Award was conferred upon Dr. Veda Krishnan and Dr. Roaf Ahmed Parrey. The 24th Sukumar Basu Memorial Award (Biennial Period 2023–24) was presented to Dr. T. K. Bhattacharya, Director, ICAR-NRC on Equines. The Fifth NABARD Researcher Award for 2025 was conferred upon Dr. Raghubar Sahu.

The ceremony concluded with the inspiring slogan: **“Jai Jawan, Jai Kisan, Jai Vigyan, Jai Anusandhan”** (Hail the Soldier, Hail the Farmer, Hail Science, Hail Research), expressing confidence that IARI graduates would emerge as pioneers of agricultural innovation both in India and abroad, contributing significantly to the nation’s agricultural advancement.



