

Spring Festival 2021 at Raj Bhawan, Dehradun

Date -13th & 14th March, 2021

Traditional harvest festival Phool Dei was celebrated with much fervor in Uttarakhand on Sunday. The festival is celebrated annually on the first day of the Hindu month Chaitra to mark the onset of spring season.

Uttarakhand Governor Baby Rani Maurya inaugurated the two-day Vasant Otsav -Spring Festival 2021, at Raj Bhawan on Saturday. She inaugurated the festival by unveiling a special postal cover of Asian Honey Bee (*Apis cerana*) and subsequently cutting a cake prepared with edible flowers. The main attractions of the festival are different varieties of flowers, cactus, succulents, hanging pots and Bonsai. More than 150 varieties of flowers are displayed in the flower exhibition under the categories of cut flowers, flowers in potted plants and edible flowers.



A stall was setup during the Basantostav 2021 at Raj Bhawan Dehradun, by ICAR-Vivekananda Parvatiya Krishi Anusandhan Sansthan, Almora. KVK, Uttarkashi (ICAR-VPKAS) officials Dr. Pankaj Nautiyal, Dr. Gaurav Papnai & Miss Ritika Bhaskar represented ICAR-VPKAS, Almora at Basantostav. Various technologies developed by ICAR-VPKAS, Almora were demonstrated & explained to the visitors at the stall. Honorable Governor, Uttarakhand Mrs. Baby Rani Maurya along with Mr. Subodh Uniyal, State Agriculture Minister, Uttarakhand visited the stall and got to know about the technologies demonstrated. They appreciated the efforts of ICAR-VPKAS, Almora and emphasized on popularization of the latest technologies amongst the farmers.



Dr. Pankaj Nautiyal, SMS (Horticulture) was also bestowed upon the responsibility to judge the flower show. He was later felicitated by the Honorable Governor, Uttarakhand, along with the Chief Minister, Uttarkhand, Cabinet Minister & State Agriculture Minister, Uttarakhand for participating in the Spring Festival 2021.



Besides this, Uttarakhand horticulture board, Uttarakhand sericulture directorate, Herbal Research and Development Institute (HRDA) and Uttarakhand horticulture and food processing department also participated in the festival. Locally produced products in the stalls including mushrooms and products prepared from it besides the delicacies prepared from local organic produce were also among the attractions of the festival. A total of 171 stalls were set up in the festival by various private organizations and non-governmental organizations (NGOs). Moreover, a total of 1,316 contestants participated in various contests organized under 11 categories that prominently include school children painting contest, hanging pots contest, on the spot photography contest and cactus and succulent contest.