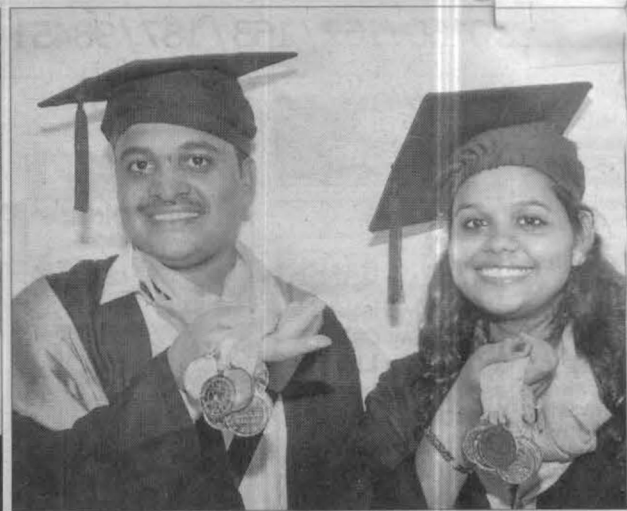




Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda who is the Pro-Chancellor of University of Agricultural Sciences, Dharwad presenting the honorary doctorates to Texas A & M University Interim President Mark Hussey and 'Water Man of India' Rajendra Singh during the 27th annual convocation of the varsity held in Dharwad on Thursday. UAS Vice-Chancellor D P Biradar is also seen.



Malik M bagged 12 gold medals to emerge as 'golden boy' and Nisha Kumari bagged 10 gold medals to emerge as 'golden girl'.

DH PHOTOS

UAS awards honorary doctorates to Rajendra Singh, Mark Hussey

Nisha Kumari bags 10 gold medals, emerges as 'golden girl'

DHARWAD: At the 27th annual convocation of the University of Agricultural Sciences (UAS) held in Dharwad on Thursday, honorary doctorates were presented to Rajasthan-based water expert Rajendra Singh and A&M University, Texas interim President Mark Hussey.

In the absence of Governor H R Bhardwaj, who is also the Chancellor of the State varsities, Agriculture Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, who is the Pro-Chancellor of the varsity presented the honoris causa to the two eminent personalities.

Speaking after receiving the honorary doctorate, Rajendra Singh, popularly known as 'Water man of India' dedicated the doctorate to the farmers of

Rajasthan.

He said, the agriculture varsities should focus on creating indigenous knowledge system, wherein the students pursuing career in agriculture can understand the tradition of Indian agriculture and the burning problems haunting the farmers. "Unless we adopt indigenous knowledge system, we cannot address the problems of the farmers and attain food security," he added.

The convocation got off to a glittering start with a large number of academicians, policy makers, progressive farmers and students participating in it.

The convocation procession began from the main building and reached the seed production unit center, wherein the

main stage was erected. UAS Registrar H S Vijaykumar who was the mace-bearer led the procession.

Speaking on the occasion, UAS Vice-Chancellor D P Biradar said, it is a matter of pride that the varsity is conferring honorary doctorates to two renowned person who have carved a niche in the agriculture sector.

He said, Mr Rajendra Singh, better known as the 'Water man of India' had played key role in popularising the community based water harvesting and water management in India.

His efforts have provided safe water for 1,000 villages in Rajasthan. He had been honoured with the Ramon Magsaysay award in 2005 and

based on his success stories, the varsity has presented the honoris causa to Mr Singh.

Mr Hussey is one of the eminent agricultural scientists and has the credit of leading and guiding several initiatives in the field of agricultural research. His academic research included serving as co-leader of a collaborative forage grass improvement team, developing new breeding methods for subtropical forage and bioenergy crops including the use of molecular tools to better understand and regulate the control of cold tolerance, hybrid vigour, seed production and re-production, he said.

On the occasion, 845 students were conferred various degrees, of which, 697 students received the degrees in person

and remaining 148 candidates received the degrees in absentia. 51 candidates received PhD 218 received post-graduate and 576 received under-graduate degrees.

'Golden girl, boy'

Nishakumari, the undergraduate student of the Agriculture College emerged as the 'Golden Girl' by bagging 10 gold medals for 2011-12 and Malik M of the same college emerged as the 'Golden Boy' by winning 12 gold medals for the year 2012-13.

As there was no permanent vice-chancellor to the UAS last year, the convocation was not held. This year, convocation of both the years were held together.

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