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## IHT Celebrates Republic Day 2025 with Patriotism and Enthusiasm

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) celebrated Republic Day 2025 with great enthusiasm and patriotic spirit at both its campuses—Greater Noida and Mandira, Assam. The event was marked by a flag-hoisting ceremony, thought-provoking speeches, and reflections on India's journey as a republic.

The celebration commenced with the unfurling of the national flag by Shri Sandeep Sudan, Co-Chairman of IHT, accompanied by the singing of the national anthem. In his address, Shri Sudan spoke about India's glorious history, the progress made over the decades, and the nation's promising future. He emphasized the role of education and technological advancements, particularly in agriculture, as key drivers of national growth.

Dr. Vijay Koul, Associate Director of IHT, provided deep insights into the historical significance of Republic Day, shedding light on the fundamental rights and duties enshrined in the Indian Constitution. He highlighted the importance of citizens upholding their responsibilities, stressing that the fulfilment of these duties is essential for nation-building and societal progress.

Shri Sanjeev Kulshrestha, Registrar of IHT, along with faculty members and staff, also shared their thoughts on the occasion. Their speeches underscored the crucial role of horticulture and agricultural innovation in strengthening the country's economy and ensuring food security. They reiterated IHT's unwavering dedication to research, education, and skill development in the field of horticulture, aligning with the nation's vision for a self-reliant and sustainable future. The celebration concluded on a high tea. The ceremony was a great success, reflecting IHT's dedication to national progress and agricultural excellence.



## Capacity Building Training Programmes

### Commercial Hydroponics

In January 2025, the Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT), Greater Noida, conducted a specialized training program on Commercial Hydroponics, addressing the growing demand for this innovative farming method. Entrepreneurs and professionals from various states across India participated in the program to enhance their skills and knowledge of soil-less farming.

Recognizing hydroponics as a key driver of sustainable agriculture, the training was designed to equip participants with the expertise needed to adopt and implement this advanced technique successfully. The training covered comprehensive topics, including the cultivation of crops such as lettuce, spinach, wine crops, and herbs using nutrient-rich water. Participants were trained in setting up and managing diverse hydroponic systems like NFT (Nutrient Film Technique), Grow Bags, Dutch Buckets, and DWC (Deep Water Culture). Practical sessions emphasized creating and maintaining optimal environments to maximize plant growth and productivity. This hands-on approach enabled participants to grasp the nuances of hydroponic farming effectively, preparing them to meet the increasing demand for premium crops.



### Protected Cultivation of Vegetables Crops

IHT conducted training programs on Protected Cultivation of Vegetables Crops for entrepreneurs. Trainees learned the importance of following standard operating procedures in nursery production. The program included interactive lectures on growing capsicum, cucumber, and tomato in protected environments. Hands-on training sessions were held at the Institute's technology park, where participants practiced key techniques. The training covered essential topics such as soil health management, soil sterilization, solarization, nursery production, soil and soilless bed preparation, amendments, pH and EC correction, mulching, nutrient management, integrated pest management, and post-harvest handling. Participants also learned about storing produce in zero-energy chambers for better shelf life.



*Hands on training on protected cultivation - vine crop training/punning practices and bed preparation*

## IHT Organizes Out-of-State Training and Exposure Visits for Bihar and Jharkhand Farmers

The Institute of Horticulture Technology (IHT) successfully organized a series of out-of-state training and exposure visits for farmers from Bihar and Jharkhand under the State Horticulture Mission, National Horticulture Mission, and the Mission for Integrated Development of Horticulture (MIDH). These visits, conducted in January, aimed to enhance farmers' understanding of modern horticultural practices, innovative technologies, and advanced crop management techniques through direct exposure to successful models.

Farmers from Saraikela, Gumla, and West Singhbhum (Chaibasa) districts of Jharkhand embarked on an insightful journey to Shimla and Haryana. During their visit, they observed and learned about the latest advancements in horticulture, including high-tech greenhouse farming, potato cultivation, mushroom cultivation, precision irrigation, and integrated pest management. The farmers interacted with experts and progressive growers who shared their knowledge and experience on improving horticultural productivity. Similarly, farmers from Palamu district in Bihar visited Nashik, Maharashtra, where they explored cutting-edge horticultural technologies. They gained valuable insights into crop diversification, protected cultivation, and mechanization. A key focus of their visit was learning about advanced onion cultivation practices, including post-harvest management techniques that can significantly enhance productivity and profitability. Additionally, farmers from Madhubani and Begusarai districts of Bihar visited Nagpur, Maharashtra, where they received specialized training on citrus farming. They interacted with leading citrus growers and experts who provided in-depth knowledge about high-density planting, disease management, and post-harvest handling of citrus crops, particularly lemons. The exposure helped them understand how to implement scientific techniques to boost citrus production in their respective regions.

Throughout these visits, the participating farmers had the opportunity to tour renowned horticultural institutions, progressive farms, and research centers. They engaged in interactive sessions with agricultural scientists, subject matter specialists, and experienced farmers who shared their successful cultivation practices and innovative solutions to common farming challenges.

The exposure visits were well-organized and effectively conducted, leaving a lasting impact on the participating farmers. They expressed their satisfaction and enthusiasm, highlighting the practical knowledge gained and their commitment to applying these modern techniques in their own fields. By implementing what they have learned, these farmers are expected to contribute significantly to the advancement of horticulture in Bihar and Jharkhand, thereby promoting sustainable agricultural development and increased farm incomes. The initiative by IHT, under the aegis of the horticulture missions, has once again reinforced its commitment to empowering farmers with the latest agricultural innovations. These training programs are instrumental in bridging the gap between traditional farming methods and modern, technology-driven horticulture, ensuring long-term benefits for the farming community.



*Glimpses of Out-of-State Training and Exposure Visits of Bihar and Jharkhand Farmers*



## Upcoming Trainings

IHT is excited to offer these valuable training programs in the upcoming month to help you enhance your skills and grow your agricultural ventures.

1. Basic Hydroponics (Online): A comprehensive introduction to hydroponic farming, ideal for beginners looking to explore soilless cultivation.
2. Commercial Hydroponics (Online & Offline): A hybrid training program offering in-depth knowledge on setting up and managing large-scale hydroponic farms.
3. Protected Cultivation of Vegetable Crops with Nursery Production (Offline): Hands-on training on advanced greenhouse farming techniques and efficient nursery production methods.
4. Hydroponic Saffron Cultivation (One-Day Online Program): A specialized course focused on the innovative techniques of growing saffron hydroponically.
5. Mushroom Production Technology (Online): Learn the latest scientific methods for cultivating different varieties of mushrooms successfully.



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