



सांस्कृतिक छटा भी बिखरी। कविता अरोड़ा के संचालन में छात्र-छात्राओं द्वारा प्रस्तुत रंगारंग नृत्य ने दर्शकों को मंत्रमुग्ध कर दिया।



UNIVERSITY NEWS ON 12 JANUARY 2026

HINDUSTAN TIMES

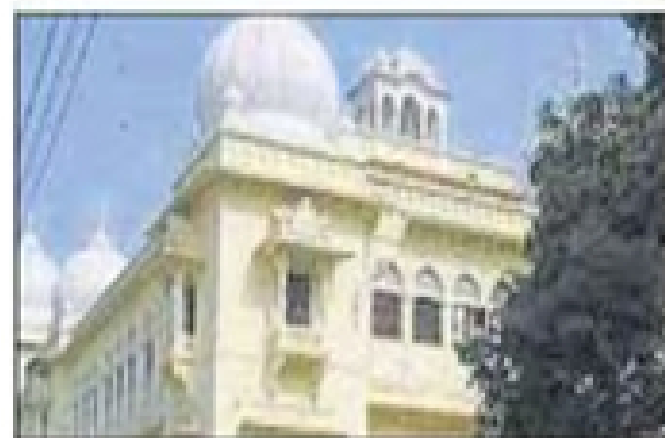
LU cadets set up YAMS stall at R-Day Camp in Delhi

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LUCKNOW: In a first, a dedicated stall under the Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme (YAMS) has been set up at Republic Day Camp (RDC)-2026 in New Delhi, marking a significant milestone in youth-led disaster preparedness initiatives in the country. The stall has been established for a duration of 30 days by the 64 UP Battalion NCC, University of Lucknow, with the aim of creating awareness and encouraging youth participation in disaster management. The details were shared by the Office of the Director, Institute of Public Policy and Research (IPPR), LU.

The Yuva Aapda Mitra Scheme is a flagship initiative of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA) under the Ministry of Home Affairs, Government of India. It is the first scheme launched by NDMA specifically focused on empowering youth with practical



Cadets from 64 UP Battalion NCC, Lucknow University, are participating in the camp.

knowledge and skills related to pre-disaster preparedness, swift response during disasters, and post-disaster relief and rehabilitation. Through live demonstrations and interactive sessions, the stall disseminates information on disaster management protocols, emergency response techniques, and public safety measures to citizens, NCC cadets, and visitors.

Cadets deployed at the stall are demonstrating training-based activities such as cardiopulmonary resuscitation (CPR), first aid and bandaging, use of emergency medical kits, safe evacuation of injured persons, construction of temporary shel-

ters, and response techniques for natural disasters, including floods and fires. The training aims to prepare cadets to function as capable and disciplined first responders during emergencies.

Representing the UP Directorate of Training, cadets from 64 UP Battalion NCC, LU, are participating under the coordination of Administrative Officer Colonel Animesh Rai. LCpl Shruti Kumari, Cadet Deepak Gupta, and Cadet Aditya Vajpayee played a key role at the YAMS stall, effectively explaining the objectives and activities of the scheme and earning appreciation for bringing laurels to both the state and the university.

TIMES OF INDIA

Ancient DNA research traces popn history using human bones

Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Guniya gets Namita Joshi gold medal

Lucknow: Hidden inside ancient human bones lies a detailed record of India's past, a record that scientists are now reading to understand why Indians look different, eat differently, and even fall ill differently. At the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP), Lucknow, researchers are using cutting-edge genetic tools and archaeogenetics technology to trace the population and demographic history of the Indian subcontinent going back nearly 10,000 years.

This was discussed at the 3-day joint conference at Lucknow University, organised by the Department of Anthropology in collaboration with the Indian Archaeological Society (IAS), the Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies (ISPQS), and the History and Culture Society (HCS). The event was sponsored by the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI).

India today is one of the most genetically diverse regions in the world. This diversity is the result of extensive genetic mixing over thousands of years. However, studying the DNA of modern Indians alone cannot explain when these mixing events happened or how ancient populations lived and moved. That is where ancient DNA research comes in.

Senior scientist and group head of the Ancient DNA Laboratory at the Birbal Sahni Institute of Palaeosciences (BSIP) in Lucknow, Niraj Rai, is leading efforts to recover genetic material from human remains dating

Lucknow: Guniya Yadav received the best paper award *Namita Joshi Gold Medal* at the annual conference jointly hosted by the Indian Archaeological Society, the Indian Society for Prehistoric and Quaternary Studies and the History and Culture Society. The event, held in collaboration with the department of anthropology, Lucknow University, also marked the department's 75th anniversary celebrations on Sunday. The award comprises a gold medal, a certificate, and a cash prize of Rs5,100. UP Singh, head of the department of anthropology, said, "I thank all the participants, speakers and organisers for making this conference a success. It is a remarkable platform for exchanging knowledge and ideas." Pawan Singh Chauhan, MLC, Sitapur, said, "I urge the youth to embrace self-reliance and contribute to national development." Alok Tripathi, senior archaeologist, said, "Archaeology is not just about excavating objects; it is about understanding their purpose and context. By studying ancient remains, we connect with the lives of people who came before us." TNN

from the recent past to nearly 10,000 years old.

"Modern DNA only tells us the end result. To understand our real history, we need to look directly at the DNA of our ancestors," said Rai.

For the first time in India, ancient DNA data is being used systematically to reconstruct population history. The research involves genetic analysis of samples from the Harappan civilisation, Mesolithic hunter-gatherers of the Ganga plains, Chalcolithic communities, and megalithic cultures of south India. These human bone samples were sourced from universities, state archaeology departments, the Archaeological Survey of India, and the Anthropological Survey of India.

All this work is being carried out in India's first dedicated ancient DNA laboratory at BSIP, Lucknow, a facility designed to handle extremely fragile genetic material without contamination. "Ancient DNA work

needs special infrastructure. This lab allows us to extract and study DNA with high accuracy, something that was not possible earlier in India," said Rai.

The benefits of this research go far beyond academic history. By studying ancient DNA, scientists can identify past genetic mixing events, understand how different ethnic groups formed, and trace genetic bottlenecks that shaped present-day populations. The research also helps answer practical questions such as how ancient people domesticated plants and animals, what diseases existed in the past, and how human bodies adapted to changing environments.

"This research helps us understand not just our demographic history, but our biological history as well. It can explain why certain diseases are more common in specific communities and how ancient lifestyles still influence our health today," said Niraj Rai.