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PROF JP SAINI TAKES CHARGE AS LUCKNOW UNIVERSITY VICE-CHANCELLOR

Cites innovation and research as priority

Students seek solutions to long-pending wishlist

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Prof JP Saini took charge as Lucknow University's vice-chancellor on Wednesday.

He was handed over the charge by the officiating VC Prof Manuka Khanna, who had held the post since July after the incumbent Prof Alok Kumar Rai was appointed the director of Indian Institute of Management, Calcutta.

Prof Saini, who visited the Hanuman Setu temple before taking charge, said upholding the glorious traditions of LU was his top priority. He emphasised that education, research, and innovation would be the central pillars of the university, and that special emphasis would be placed on student-centric education, employment-oriented courses, and interdisciplinary research.

"Special attention would be given to the effective and timely implementation of the National Education Policy. Concrete steps would be taken to expand digital education, strengthen industry-academia collaboration, and promote academic partnerships at the national and international levels," said Prof Saini.

He appealed to all faculty members, staff, and stu-



Prof JP Saini taking charge

dents to actively cooperate in leading the university towards academic excellence, social responsibility, and global recognition.

Before joining LU, Prof Saini served as the VC of Madan Mohan Malaviya Technical University (MMTU), Gorakhpur. He is credited with the strong performance of MMTU in the NIRF 2025 rankings, including 99th overall, 66th in engineering, 68th in university, 83rd in management, and 23rd among state universities.

He is a distinguished academician, an accomplished administrator, and an experienced researcher with extensive experience in higher education, academic policy, quality assurance, and institutional development.

Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Lucknow: As LU began a new chapter under Vice-chancellor JP Saini, students from both campuses are hopeful that long-standing issues affecting their academic and daily lives will finally receive attention.

From open Wi-Fi and medical facilities to administrative access, campus safety, sanitation, digital platforms, and student representation, students say basic necessities remain unaddressed despite repeated representations.

Anilish Pail, student, said, "In the digital era, restricted or slow internet hampers research, online submissions, and competitive exams preparation. Open Wi-Fi is a basic academic requirement."

Another major issue highlighted is the lack of adequate medical facilities on campus. While a dispensary exists, students say it does not meet their needs. Abhishek Maurya, a student, said, "The campus dispensary exists, but many essential medicines are unavailable, forcing students to go outside even for minor health issues."

Administrative accessibility continues to trouble students, especially those enrolled at the second campus. Vamika Kesarwani, student, said, "For even small paperwork

like certificates or corrections, we are asked to visit the main campus, which is time-consuming and costly."

Students also raised serious concerns about campus safety, citing incidents of physical clashes between hostellers and day scholars.

Ansh Singh, student, said, "Such incidents create fear and disturb the academic environment. We need stricter security measures, CCTV surveillance, increased patrolling, and timely action from proctorial boards."

Amita Arora, student, said, "Female washrooms are often unhygienic, and sanitary pads are not always available in women's washrooms."

Students have also highlighted problems with digital portals, including Samarth, LU Ease, and other platforms used for scholarship submissions and official documentation. Shivam Sharma said, "The portals are slow, glitchy, and often crash during submissions. This delays scholarship applications and other official processes, adding to students' frustration."

Akshat Pandey, student, said, "A representative students' body is essential for dialogue. The council which was made after 7 months into the academic session, does not even hold regular meetings, leave alone addressing students' issues."

LUACTA seeks CM's intervention

The Lucknow University Associated College Teachers' Association (LUACTA) has written to CM Yogi Adityanath raising serious concerns over inordinate delays, alleged exploitation, and corruption in the directorate of higher education. According to LUACTA, crucial service-related matters, including promotions of teachers and non-teaching staff, General Provident Fund (GPF) withdrawals, pension and retirement benefits, pay revisions, and transfer cases are pending for months without justification. The association has urged the CM to take cognizance of the issue and issue clear directions for time bound and accountable disposal of all pending cases in the directorate of higher education. TNN

Will focus on stronger industry-academia collab: New LU V-C

HT Correspondent

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LUCKNOW : Prof. JP Saini on Wednesday took over as the vice-chancellor of Lucknow University.

The post had fallen vacant after Prof Alok Kumar Rai was appointed the director of Indian Institute of Management-Calcutta in July last year. Following Prof Rai's departure, Prof Manuka Khanna was, in August, entrusted with the additional charge of the V-C for a period not exceeding six months.

In his brief address after assuming the office, Prof. Saini described education, research, and innovation as central to the university. He said that special emphasis would be placed on employment-oriented curriculum and interdisciplinary research.

"Special attention will be given to the implementation of the National Education Policy 2020. Concrete initiatives will be taken towards expanding digital education, strengthening industry-academia collabora-



Prof JP Saini and Prof Manuka Khanna at Lucknow University on Wednesday.

tion and promoting academic partnerships at national and international level," said Saini.

Prior to his current stint, Saini had been serving as the vice-chancellor of Madan Mohan Malaviya University of Technology, Gorakhpur, since September 2023. He has also been the V-C of Netaji Subhas University of Technology, New Delhi. An engineer by training, he completed his B.Tech (Electronics Engineering) in 1987 from KNIT Sultanpur, M.Tech. (Electrical Engineering) in 1996 from IIT Kanpur and Ph.D. in January 2001 from KNIT Sultanpur/ Dr. R.M.L Avadh University, Faizabad.

THE PIONEER

Prof JP Saini takes charge as LU V-C



PIONEER NEWS SERVICE
Lucknow

The newly-appointed Vice-Chancellor of Lucknow University, Professor JP Saini, formally took charge on Wednesday.

He took over the responsibility from the former vice-chancellor, Prof Manuka Khanna.

On the occasion, senior university officials, deans, heads of departments and staff members were present.

The formal process of handing over charge was completed in the vice-chancellor's office, where Prof Manuka Khanna handed over the relevant documents to Prof Saini and extended her best wishes to him.

Prof JP Saini is a distinguished academician, a

capable administrator and an experienced researcher. He has extensive experience in higher education, academic policy, quality assurance and institutional development.

In his brief address after assuming office, Prof Saini stated that carrying forward the glorious tradition of Lucknow University would be his highest priority.

He emphasised education, research and innovation as the central pillars of the university and said that special focus would be given to student-centric education, employment-oriented curricula, and interdisciplinary research.

Prof Saini also stated that special attention would be given to the effective and timely implementation of the

National Education Policy. Along with this, concrete initiatives would be taken to expand digital education, strengthen industry-academia collaboration and promote academic partnerships at the national and international levels, he added.

He appealed to all teachers, staff, and students to actively cooperate in taking the university forward towards academic excellence, social responsibility and global recognition.

On the occasion, the university community welcomed the new vice-chancellor and expressed hope that under his leadership, Lucknow University would achieve new heights in the fields of education and research. HTc

