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LU planetarium to be revamped soon, says VC

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LUCKNOW : A major revamp of the city's oldest planetarium - situated on the Lucknow University (LU) campus - is expected by the end of this year, said JP Saini, vice-chancellor, LU. This followed Saini's visit to the planetarium housed in the department of mathematics and astronomy on Thursday. In a report dated December 13, 2025, HT had highlighted the crumbling state of the planetarium and central mess.

"The Planetarium of Lucknow was established in 1946. I have asked the department to prepare a detailed report keeping in view the requirements of modern equipment. A major revamp of the planetarium will be carried



Saini visits the planetarium during his inspection of facilities at LU on Thursday

HT PHOTO

out," said Saini.

He also said that the university is planning to have a total of 5000+ research scholars by end of the year. "We are planning to conduct PhD admission twice a year and decentralise PhD admissions to the departments. The number of PhD seats under faculty members may be increased under special circum-

stances," he added. He stressed the need to constitute a committee to monitor research facilities in colleges and to set up research centres in neighbouring districts and share equipment and facilities. He said that LU will adopt the Delhi University model of research supervision for college teachers. He also visited the departmental library of the department of mathematics and astronomy and discussed ways to increase access to e-journals, mathematical databases.

He later motivated research scholars to submit their dissertations soon. He also shared the possibility of granting fellowship to non-JRF PhD students, while assuring all faculty members that their promotion process will be done soon under Career Advancement Scheme and direct recruitment will be done against the vacant posts. Besides, he highlighted that this year the annual convocation will be a two-day affair, followed by the Golden Pride Dinner.

Inter-disciplinary research: Solving cyber crime, forensics

LU will soon begin inter-disciplinary research where students of biology, cyberpsychology and forensics will work together to conduct research. It will help resolve problems related to cyber crime and forensics, which can work as a consultancy centre for UP Police and related forces.

TIMES OF INDIA

Campus Buzz: New Vistas On Academic Frontier

LU mulls med insurance for students

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: In a step towards strengthening student welfare, Lucknow University Vice Chancellor directed Dean of Student Welfare to collect and submit student data for implementation of a medical insurance scheme on campus. The initiative aims to provide healthcare security to students and ensure timely medical assistance during emergencies. University authorities believe the move will reduce the financial burden on students during health related issues.

The proposed insurance coverage is expected to include basic medical treatment and emergency care. University administration is also exploring coordination with various departments to ensure accurate data collection and effective implementation.

Dean of student welfare V K Sharma said, "The objective is to create a safety net for students through medical insurance coverage. We are compiling comprehensive student data to ensure smooth implementation of the scheme, which will benefit the maximum number of students and help create a supportive academic environment focused on students' overall well-being."

Research supervision on lines of DU

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: The vice-chancellor of Lucknow University, JP Saini, is of the view that varsity should adopt University of Delhi's research supervision model for college teachers, which involves departmental committees monitoring PhD progress and providing structured guidance to both supervisors and scholars.

He revealed this during an interaction with professors, PhD scholars and students at



LU VC at university planetarium

the department of mathematics and astronomy on Thursday. He also reviewed proposals for constructing a new Ramanujan Auditorium in the department. The VC inspected LU planetarium, established in 1946, but now lying in neglect, and directed the department to prepare a detailed proposal for upgrading astronomical instruments to modern standards. He said LU convocation will now be a two-day event, main function followed by 'Golden Pride Dinner.'

Four-year B.Ed course at LU soon

TIMES NEWS NETWORK

Lucknow: Lucknow University is set to introduce a four-year integrated Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) programme.

The programme will integrate undergraduate studies with professional teacher education, enabling students to earn both qualifications within a reduced time frame. Although the Academic Council had approved the course in 2024, it could not be implemented earlier as procedural requirements were pending.

Students will pursue a subject-based undergraduate degree alongside B.Ed training. After completion, the graduates will be eligible to teach at secondary and senior secondary levels and appear for the Central Teachers' Eligibility Test and other teaching recruitment exams. Head of education department Dinesh Kumar said, "Aspiring teachers complete a bachelor's degree followed by separate two-year B.Ed course, but integrated B.Ed will allow students to save one academic year by combining both degrees. The programme will also develop professional competencies required to establish and manage educational institutions."