



UNIVERSITY NEWS 26 AUGUST 2026

TIMES OF INDIA

New chapter begins as LU freshers explore campus life

Anjanaya Singh | TNN

Lucknow: With no uniforms to wear, no school bells to follow and no heavy bags to carry, undergraduate freshers at Lucknow University embraced their first day on campus on Tuesday as a vibrant entry into adulthood.

The day marked the beginning of the academic session for first-year undergraduate students.

"I loved the feeling of coming to university without a uniform. We made reels, clicked pictures and our bags felt much lighter than the ones we carried in school," said Ananya Sharma, a first-year BCA student.

For many, the day was also about discovering corners of the campus that could soon become part of their daily routine. Canteens emerged as a favourite hangout, while the Tagore Library drew students eager to explore one of the university's most iconic landmarks.

"I was nervous at first, but meeting seniors made things easier. They told us about classes, campus life and the best places to hang out. The chole samosa at Moti Ram Canteen is amazing,"



BEGINNINGS: Tuesday marked the beginning of the academic session for first-year undergraduate students

said Radhika Katiyar, a first-year BSc chemistry student.

The first day also carried a sense of nostalgia for students who had grown up listening to stories about the university from their parents.

"It feels special knowing that my parents studied here too. Now I am beginning my own university journey at the same place. My parents have also increased my pocket money to cover travel and food expenses," said Adina Khan, a first-year BSc biology student.

Raanya Siddiqui, a first-year BCA student, said she had seen pictures of the Tagore Library before joining

the university, but visiting it in person was a completely different experience.

"Seeing the manuscripts, rare books and the original copy of the Constitution housed there was fascinating. The building itself has so many beautiful corners that you naturally want to stop and take pictures," she said.

"The Arts College was one of my favourite places because its walls are filled with colourful artwork reflecting Lucknow's Nawabi culture. It does not feel like just a college building; it feels like a piece of the city's history," said Vaani Singh, a first-year fine arts student.

{ 18TH BRICS ACADEMIC FORUM }

Meet ends at LU, council presents recommendations

HT Correspondent

letters@htlive.com

LUCKNOW : The BRICS Think Tanks Council on Tuesday presented its recommendations during the concluding session of the 18th BRICS Academic Forum at Lucknow University, recommending practical pathways to build economic and climate resilience, deepen cooperation on innovation and technology, advance sustainable development and support a more inclusive multilateral system.

The recommendations were presented to Shambhu L Hakki, joint secretary, multilateral economic relations, ministry of external affairs and BRICS Sous-Sherpa. The Forum, convened by Observer Research Foundation in partnership with Research and Information System for Developing Countries and LU, brought together policymakers,



Shambhu L Hakki, joint secretary, multilateral economic relations, ministry of external affairs and BRICS Sous-Sherpa, addresses the BRICS Academic Forum at LU on Tuesday.

HT PHOTO

academicians and experts from BRICS nations under the theme 'Building for Resilience, Innovation, Cooperation and Sustainability'. A Youth Townhall was held where Hakki said BRICS is not anti-something nor aimed at replacing existing global institutions, but a complementary institution filling gaps in development finance, citing the New Development Bank as an exam-

ple. "India as chair has adopted a constructive approach, producing consensus documents across ministerials, with practical outcomes such as cooperation frameworks on agriculture inputs discussed in Indore, a proposed startup innovation fund, supply chain and logistics mechanism, BRICS Connect for skilling, understanding on global value chains and a science and research depository, besides ICT ministerial deliberations on emerging technologies including AI in Pune," he said.

Emphasising India's approach of taking diplomacy to cities like Lucknow, Pune and Kochi, he said such meetings include Janbhagidari activities like heritage tours, yoga, walkathons, visits to local industries and Gramin Haat, tasting local cuisine.

"Taking diplomacy to cities like Lucknow, Pune and Kochi is aimed at making people part of

diplomatic initiatives. Wherever meetings are held, delegates take cultural heritage tours, do yoga, walkathons, see local artifacts, industries and Gramin Haat products and try local cuisine," said Hakki.

"The idea is simple: you cannot grow alone. Countries must work together and grow together," Hakki added, underscoring partnership and collective development guiding BRICS cooperation. He said that as part of Janbhagidari, a quiz on BRICS is live and students can scan the QR code to participate for an introduction to BRICS.

Citing outcomes, he said work is underway on a startup innovation fund, a supply chain mechanism in logistics, cooperation to protect farmers as discussed by agriculture ministers, BRICS Connect for skilling, understanding on global value chains and a science and research depository.