

Press Release

Report UC 26

University Chef- 2026: Students showcase their culinary talent

March 16-17, 2026

The University Chef- 2026 was successfully held at Shyam Lal College (Morning), Delhi University, on March 16-17 for the ninth time. In this five-round culinary competition, the duo of Ishaan and Himanshu from the Delhi School of Hotel Management emerged victorious, while the duo of Divyansh and Shubham from Delhi School of Economics secured second place, and the duo of Preeti and Sanya from Shyam Lal College secured third place. It is noteworthy that this is the only and unique competition of its kind in DU, modelled after international chef competitions, where students from various DU colleges and hotel management institutes showcase their culinary skills. During the various rounds, ranging from street food to three-course meals, the college campus was filled with the colourful aromas of local and international cuisines. The contestants not only prepared delicious dishes but also displayed their exquisite plating. This year, 14 teams participated in the competition.

Mukesh Kumar, Executive Chef, Rashtrapati Bhavan, Amit Gothwal, Executive Chef, Ashoka Hotel, Delhi, Veeta Singh, Director Pratham Hospitality Services and ex-DGM, the Ashok, New Delhi, Dr. Chef Balendra Singh from IBCA, and Chef Jatin Khurana, MasterChef India Season 5 fame were the esteemed jury members. Food bloggers Anmol, Vidhi Gupta, and Swati Goswami joined the competition as social media delegates. The prizes were presented by Pratham Hospitality. Other sponsors of the event included Bikano, Rosa Herbal Care, Cura Appliances, Awakenox Cutleries, Cornitos, Vadilal, Bonn Breads, and Igru Farms. Winners received cash prizes as well as various gift hampers. Chef Veeta Singh, Director, Pratham Hospitality, congratulated all the winners and participants and apprised them about the various career opportunities in the hospitality industry.

College Principal Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar who conceived this initiative around 2016, stated that this competition encourages skill development among students and encourages them to pursue new career paths. Event coordinator Dr. Abbas Tapadar stated that this being the ninth edition of the competition, always maintained a professional culinary skills test for the young budding chefs. He added that the Principal Prof. Rabi Narayan Kar, the esteemed jury, and sponsors have consistently supported the competition, adding that their support has brought the competition to its current heights. Event co-coordinator Supriti Mishra stated that the competition has grown in popularity year after year. Prof. Kavita Arora, Dr. Kanika Solanki, Dr. Kavita Yadav, Dr. Deepak, Dr. Jitendra, Dr. Awanish Mishra, and student volunteers worked together to make the event a grand success.

