

AUD to follow FYUP from 2024-25, start two schools, introduce several courses

Shreya.Ghosh@timesgroup.com

New Delhi: The four-year undergraduate programme (FYUP) will be implemented at Ambedkar University Delhi from the academic session 2024-25, said Anu Singh Lather, who has been reappointed as the vice-chancellor of AUD.

The schools of tribal studies and religion studies will be launched and masters in political science and public policy and courses on Indian knowledge systems will also be introduced this year. "There were 33 PhDs and 13 MPhil's conferred last year, the highest in the history of AUD," Lather told TOI.

Under FYUP, as recommended by National Education Policy 2020, admissions to the undergraduate and postgraduate programmes will be conducted thro-

ugh the common university entrance test (CUET), said Lather. National Testing Agency didn't approve CUET for AUD's PhD admissions, but the university wants it from the 2025-26 session, she added. The PhD entrance at AUD will be held on March 2 and 3 and the scholars will have to finish their PhD in six years.

To cater to the increasing number of students, AUD now needs to boost its infrastructure and create more space. "The number of PhD scholars has increased manifold, and we are sharing our labs with Indira Gandhi Delhi Technical University for Women (IGTDUW). I have requested IGDTUW to transfer the labs to us," Lather said. On the 2.4-acre campus at Kashmere Gate, a heritage building, AUD also shares the auditorium and the playground with IGTDUW and more area is

VICE-CHANCELLOR SAYS

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given to IGTDUW, she added.

The current campus is temporary and a new building at AUD's Karampura campus is to be completed in three months. The semi-pucca structure, whose construction started 18 months ago, will have 16 classrooms, two seminar halls and faculty rooms. "Since we will have fourth-year students (with FYUP) and two new schools, I have requested for eight classrooms by March," Lather said.

"The Kashmere Gate campus is in a low-lying area with a high water table. During the monsoon, almost everything gets flooded, and being a heritage building, we can't even build a new structure," the VC pointed out.

In 2022, Delhi govt sanctioned Rs 2,306.6 crore for building two campuses of AUD in Dheerpur and Rohini that could accommodate 30,000 students.

"The construction work has not begun as the cabinet is yet to greenlight the project," Lather said. Delhi govt did not respond to a query about the delay.

On govt suggesting affiliating 12 Delhi University colleges fully funded by it with AUD, the VC said, "I won't say it's impossible. If govt takes such a decision, it will definitely ensure compliance with all kinds of rules and resources."