



UNIVERSITY NEWS 26 FEBRUARY 2025

HINDUSTAN TIMES

Course on AI from next session at LU, two other universities

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LUCKNOW: The city's prominent universities—Lucknow University, Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University and Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University—are set to offer Artificial Intelligence (AI) as a value-added course for students across all disciplines starting next session.

At Lucknow University, the syllabus is being finalised. "Each faculty is preparing a syllabus related to the use of Artificial Intelligence in their disciplines. The syllabus will be discussed during a meeting of Deans and implemented after approval from the academic council. This

will enable students to have hands-on training on optimum utilisation of Artificial Intelligence while coping with today's times and industry requirements," said LU vice-chancellor prof JP Saini.

The authorities at Babasaheb Bhimrao Ambedkar University are planning to set up a Centre of Excellence in Artificial Intelligence besides starting a common value-added paper in Artificial Intelligence. "The Centre of Excellence will hold workshops while also heading the activities related to the common value-added paper providing in-depth information regarding AI to the students. The Centre of Excellence will also organise training programmes making students

AI-friendly," said vice-chancellor BBAU prof Raj Kumar Mittal.

A value-added course is also planned at Khwaja Moinuddin Chishti Language University. "Keeping up with the times, we are planning to initiate a 30-hour course in Artificial Intelligence for faculty members and students. It will be offered by the department of Computer Science and Engineering. Any student or faculty member of the university can enroll. They will receive basic training on using Artificial Intelligence as a tool to aid their studies, research and professional work. Those enrolling in the course will also receive a certificate upon completion," said vice chancellor KMCLU prof Ajay Taneja.

Lal Baradari revamp hangs in balance; LU VC assures steps

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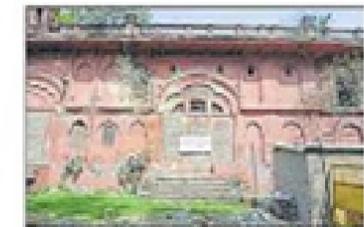
LUCKNOW: Even as student protests have brought attention to the dilapidated state of ASI-protected Lal Baradari on the Lucknow University campus, uncertainty persists over how the 19th-century heritage structure will actually be conserved and restored.

Former head of the department of medieval and modern history at Lucknow University, prof Aroop Chakraborty, said, "The university should write to the Union ministry of culture for grants and the Archeological Survey of India (ASI) to take up restoration work. Even bodies like Agah Mirza Foundation can be approached for monetary and expert support in restoration of the monument."

Historian PC Sarkar said that in medieval times, the term 'baradari' or 'baradwari' referred strictly to a hall or pavilion with 12 doorways — a characteristic feature of Islamic architecture.

"By that definition, the large red-coloured structure with a 'tahkhana' does not qualify as a baradari. Apparently, there were three buildings within the premises, one of which was a square house washed in red ochre. This is the building that survives today as the Lal Baradari," he said.

"A portion of the building collapsed in 2021, forcing authori-



LU's Lal Baradari

HTPHOTO

ties to cordon off the area. In 2024, it was announced that repairs would be undertaken under the Pradhan Mantri Uchchatar Shiksha Abhiyan (PM-USHA), but no progress has been made so far," he said.

Mohammad Haider, a heritage enthusiast, said the university should coordinate with the ASI, UP State Archaeology Directorate, or the Indian National Trust for Art and Cultural Heritage (INTACH). "The vice-chancellor must move a proposal to these three bodies, while funds can be mobilised through crowd-funding, cultural grants or alumni support," he said.

Vice-chancellor prof JP Saini said the university was preparing a revised proposal for submission to the ASI after undertaking a fresh cost assessment.

"A proposal of ₹5 crore was sent in 2012, but subsequent damage necessitated a revised estimate. The updated proposal will be shared with the agency and industry partners concerned who may contribute CSR funds," he said.