

# LU has set a high benchmark - Dr Alok Kumar Rai



**L**ucknow University has been in news for all the right reasons. It clocked 100 years and more, it has shown promise in placements and the NAAC A++ accreditation has given the University place amongst the best academic institutions. LU Vice Chancellor, Dr. Alok Kumar Rai believes with concretization of processes the future at LU looks clearer. Dr. Rai said, "We recently held the convocation and it also brought with it pre convocation events wherein several talk shows and other distinguished guests shared knowledge with the students. There were also cultural programs which marked the August occasion." Dr. Rai said that to make the University a much more progressive place, work is going on across dimensions and there is a 360 degree approach to transforming the University Campus.

He said that not just academics but financial sustainability, better hostels, spots all combined, the response

has been good. Around 200 selections and promotions which were in backlog had now been set in motion.

Speaking to the Lucknow Tribune, Dr Alok Kumar Rai said that in the post Bharat lab, times, the efforts continue to concretize an arrangement wherein there is better Academy and industry interface. The Bharat Lab - a think tank launched by Rediffusion and the University of Lucknow to track consumer insights from India's Tier 2 and 3 markets and hinterland villages - has released a report titled 'Apna Time Aa Gaya,' a study on how the youth in India kill their time versus how they fill their time. They later released a report to gauge what's on youngsters shopping list during festive season. Now there will be another project called Mera Pehla Pyar, it will be released on 14 February. This will tell a number of good love stories which will be encouraged by Corporates. Elaborating further he said the focus will now be on bring the gap between the industry and the university so that both Research and practical knowledge can be imported to the young students on campus.

Speaking on the new accolades coming the way of the university, especially the NAAC and UGC category I appreciation, Dr Rai said the biggest change of image has been in the eye of the stakeholders. He said achievements have been way more satisfying than even private players in the education sector. He said placements are much better and there are efforts going on to cohesively attain the goals. He said that efforts continue on co-curricular and vocational training.

He talked about the participatory approach and work on New experience which covers areas like spiritual, yoga, naturopathy & educational aspects. Add to that things

like molecular genetics, practical learning and karmiyog. He said the recent excursions at Kathmandu and Nepal have been very encouraging. For the coming times, 2 plans have been laid for further collaboration with Bangladesh and Bhutan. He said the highest number of application letters have come which are 1462 in number.

He said twinning and joint degrees are further helping in furthering the cause of better overseas education for campus students. He said there is scope for flexibility and it has tremendous scope which includes areas China, India and Australia. Dr Rai added that now effort is to make things more easier. He said now a student can come and do a short course for certain number of credits. Complete his education and move on for example for 10 credit course in a short span of 2 months.

At the same time in the Khelo India generation, Lucknow University is working on the Kushal Khiladi Kosh which is giving wings to young sporting talent. Providing the right platform for now as a starting course, it just has one candidate but with proper support, fees and financial support in the coming 4 to 5 months the number of people involved in this will be much higher. Talking about the Vikat Bharat 2047 initiative, Dr Rai said that it is a golden opportunity for the youth it can be a great knowledge sharing platform. Talking of modernising the campus in a digital first era, Dr Rai said that attempts continue to scale up facilities. He said you must see it to believe it. Underlining the developments he said that now things are much more online. PhD is online, the leave rule is automated and gradually things will get greatly automated. He said students will not have to run from pillar to post. • Arijit Bose