'AUD focus on research work on indigenous knowledge'
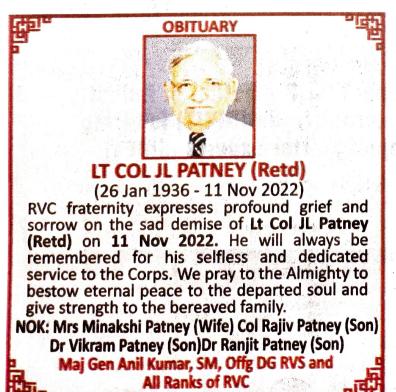
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New Delhi: Research work is currently underway at Ambedkar University Delhi (AUD) on indigenous knowledge systems and Indian languages, which will eventually be made available on a single online platform.

Speaking to **TOI**, AUD vice-chancellor Anu Singh Lather said that in line with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, the objective of the centre is to connect universities with the traditional forms of knowledge that are currently surviving on a word-of-mouth basis.

"We are trying to create a single online platform for all sources of Indian languages and indigenous knowledge systems. Once the research work makes headway, it will be inaugurated; and the chief minister is most likely to do so. The NEP has emphasised on Indian knowledge systems and their integration into the course curriculum and also for society at large. Even though earlier there have been some centres, our centre will be the first under NEP," Lather said.

Stating that the research work will be based on manuscripts or any form of documentation that existed in the past, Lather said, "For instance, the Kamakhya temple in Guwahati was a centre for astrology. For several years, people have learnt various aspects about it through word-of-mouth. The British had recorded the knowledge and how to interpret the position of the planets, climate, behaviour, mood, and especially health, but then mass killings took place. However, the knowledge still exists. Even Karnataka was one such centre."

Research assistants, who are not necessarily students of the varsity, have been selected from across the country for the projects. The varsity has also received Rs 10 crore from the Delhi government to ramp up its IT infrastructure, Lather said.

"As of now, we have appointed nine research assistants who come from the areas where we are looking for research work. Our aim is to integrate all of this and place it under one portal so that anyone from any part of the world can find information about what existed. We received applications from pan-India and selected those who suited the part depending on their expertise," Lather said.

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