LU V-C exploring newer avenues for revenue
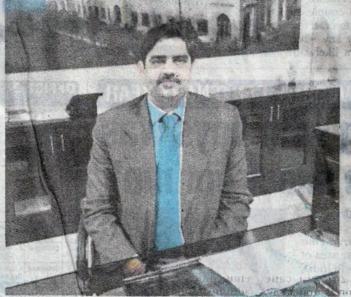
PIONEER NEWS SERVICE ■ LUCKNOW

Lucknow University Vice Chancellor Alok Kumar Rai said that his intent was to explore newer avenues for generating income for the institution. He said that universities have two major sources of income — government grants and fees deposited by students.

"Universities generally have greater expenditures as compared to income and they survive primarily through the income generate through self-financed courses. My intent is to explore other avenues so that we can have greater sources of revenue for the university and it will be a departure for dependence on governmental grants," he said.

Elaborating more on the issue, he said the sources through which the university can generate income were projects, consultancy and research grants which would address majority of the developmental works in the departments. "For example, there is a scheme of Stride which was recently launched under which huge grants were being given. If a department gets Rs 5 crore as grant under these projects, it can use the same for labs, computers and manpower," he explained.

Rai said that his focus was on academics. "This is a wonderful institution with great intellectual capital, good research and excellent teachers. I am working on what can strengthen it further. Being the biggest university in the

state, I believe LU enjoys a very good research culture and in my opinion, it only requires a little bit of polishing and encouragement. Teachers get discouraged if they have to run for money for every small thing. My intent is to motivate them," he added.

The Vice-Chancellor said he was mooting a system powered by information technology for all the functions of the university so that there was speed, accuracy and transparency. He added that what he had assessed in his brief innings till now was that the university required a structured system. "A large organisation has got to design a system and abide by it. We all work on a system whose primary responsibility is students" he said.

Lucknow University Vice-Chancellor Alok Kumar Rai