

RSS ready for its own varsity

Contributed by Correspondant

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After setting up a number of educational institutions in Rajasthan, the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) is now ready to get its own Hindutva university. The Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) government has issued a letter of intent for the self-financing university. The new university is to be set up at Jamdoli, surrounded by small hills on the outskirts of Jaipur, where a huge tract of land has been demarcated for the purpose. The Sangh has already named it Keshav Vidyapeeth Vishwavidyalaya. According to sources, the university will award postgraduate degrees. The RSS has already established an educational centre at Jamdoli, which has hosted two high-level RSS Pratinidhi Sabhas. In 2004, a national-level meeting of RSS leaders was held at Jamdoli. Rajasthan education minister Ghanshyam Tiwari has directed his department to provide all the help needed for the project. The sources say the university will be a model institution and implement the ideology of the Sangh Parivar. The courses will be based on cultural nationalism and science and will incorporate Ayurveda, Vedic science, Yoga and medical science. The RSS is planning to make the university "a model" for other institutions. Commenting on the new university, Rajasthan Congress joint secretary Sanyam Lodha says, "It is wrong to have a high-level institution based on religion. It is matter of concern for us." The Sangh already runs a large number of schools, known as Adarsh Vidya Mandirs, in Rajasthan and more than three lakh students pass out of these institutions annually. These schools have their own syllabi, besides the one prescribed by the government and also teach students about karsevaks who lost their lives during the Ayodhya Mandir movement. After Gujarat, the Sangh is focusing on Rajasthan. The Sangh Parivar has split Rajasthan into three separate administrative units. It has set up its headquarters at Chittorgarh in Mewar, a tribal belt, and Jodhpur and Jaipur have separate headquarters.