

Report on

BUDGET PE CHARCHA

AN EVENT TO DISCUSS AND DEBATE ON SALIENT FEATURES OF
UNION BUDGET 2023-24

27th February, 2023



राजीव गांधी विश्वविद्यालय
Rajiv Gandhi University
रोनो हिल्स, दोईमुख, अरुणाचल प्रदेश
Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh

Organized by

समाज-कार्य विभाग
Department of Social Work,
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh

In Collaboration with

राष्ट्रीय सुरक्षा अध्ययन विभाग
Department of National Security Studies
Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh

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Acknowledgements

We extend our gratitude to the Hon'ble Vice Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University Prof. Saket Kushwaha for his enthusiastic support and endless motivation, without whom planning and execution of this event would not have been possible. The moral support received from the Vice Chancellor has been more than encouraging and acknowledges the highest contribution of his highest office in successful organization of this programme.

We would like to express immense gratitude to Prof. Simon John Samuel, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University for his presence as Keynote Speaker and as Chairperson for the programme. The organizing team is much obliged to express sincere thanks to Dr. K. P. Singh, Ms. Chaphiak Lowang and Mr. John G Gangmei, Assistant Professors of Department of Social Work, Rajiv Gandhi University, for their thorough talk on different topics during plenary sessions.

The organizing team would also like to express sincere gratitude to Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Head (Officiating), Department of Social Work, Rajiv Gandhi University for his kind guidance and support, as well as his tremendous cooperation to make this event successful. Along with him our sincere gratitude goes to Dr. Arvind Kumar Kushwaha, Head (Officiating), Department of National Security Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University for his continuous guidance and insightful motivation. We are also thankful to Mr. Jonya Kamsi, Department of National Security Studies, Rajiv Gandhi University for his help and assistances throughout this event.

We acknowledge the support extended by all the members of Department of Social Work and National Security Studies and other colleagues, research scholars, and students. We are thankful to all the participants who have enriched our programme through their lively and active participation. Last but not the least a big thanks to each one of you for going through this report.

Organizing Team

About the University

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University), located in Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, was established in 1984 with objective of providing high quality educational and research opportunities for the learners of all communities. The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April 2007 as per notification of the then Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India. The University offers UG, PG and Ph.D. programmes apart from certificate courses, diploma and vocational course across several disciplines in its departments and centres.

There are eleven Faculties of Studies, with a total of thirty-eight Departments, along with a Centre with Potential for Excellence in Biodiversity. There are 45 colleges affiliated to the University. Ever since its inception, the University has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The Faculty members have been actively engaged in research activities. The University has been maintaining its academic excellence. The students from the University are contributing at significant positions not only in State and Central Government Services, but also in various Institutions, Industries and Organizations.

Vision

Rajiv Gandhi University aspires to be India's most vibrant, energetic, responsive and acclaimed University, to be recognized for excellence in teaching, research and providing the highest quality educational opportunities for the learners of all communities. The University aims at nurturing their talent by promoting intellectual growth to shape their personality and serve humanity as multi-skilled, socially responsible, creative, adaptable, contributing and morally sound global citizens.

Mission

Our mission is to provide opportunities and support students from diverse background and assist them to become well-informed global citizens by developing their intellectual, moral, civic and creative capacities to the fullest through multi-faceted education and sustained engagement with local, national and global communities. The University also aims to carry out academic process for achieving excellence through active and dynamic student-teacher participation and inculcate high moral, ethical and professional standards among students which will enable them to develop knowledge and skills necessary to achieve their professional goals so as to improve the performance and also provide leadership and service to the community.

About the Departments

Department of Social Work

The Department of Social Work (DSW) at Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) was established in 2015 with the vision of providing quality Social Work Education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh. DSW at RGU is the first full-fledged Department of Social Work offering face-to-face Master of Arts in Social Work (MASW) Program in the state with a total of four regular faculty members and sixteen students in the first batch. Department offers a Certificate Programme in Environmental Sanitation. The Doctoral Program in Social Work (Ph.D. SW) was introduced with July 2018 to focus on strengthening the research component in the region with an emphasis on “evidence-based practice and practice-based evidence”. Class room lectures and social work practicum form the main crux of the Program.

The students/trainees are also exposed to carefully crafted skill building and personality development programs and are provided with opportunities to participate in workshops, seminars and lectures from external experts on regular basis. The department with a commitment towards “evidence based practice and practice based evidence” is dedicated in grooming and equipping students to reach their full potential and acquire the knowledge, skills, values and techniques essential to become professional social workers who not only acquire personal and professional competency and growth, but also contribute to the betterment of the society and country at large.

Department of National Security Studies

The Department of National Security Studies established in 2019, is one of the newest departments of the Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU). Its main objective is to analyse, compare, and theorise every security issue that India faces. The Department offers the Doctoral Programme (from 2021 onwards) and the two years Masters Programme (based on Choice Based Credit System-CBCS).

The Department's core expertise revolves around reviewing, considering, and providing policy inputs and alternative policies to pertinent Indian government and security agencies. This department serves as a super speciality hub of national importance on the domestic and international security issues of India. With the sole purpose of defending India's essential national security interests, preserving its territorial integrity, and advancing world peace, the department tends to examine national security issues through the lens of Indian civilizational knowledge and its security traditions.

‘Budget Pe Charcha’ – Background

“Budgeting is not just for people who do not have enough money. It is for everyone who wants to ensure that their money is enough.”. ‘Budget Pe Charcha’, a deliberation and panel discussion by distinguished experts on the Annual Union Budget, presented by the Hon’ble Finance Minister.

A Union Budget is one of the most important policy documents presented by the government. It sets the priorities and targets in motion, a strategic plan, and an expression of aspiration, the state of the country’s economy, a list of challenges, and many more. On 1st February 2023, Hon’ble Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman presented the Union Budget 2023-24, before the Parliament and declares this as the first budget of AmritKaal. This is the aspirational vision for India when it will celebrate its 100th year of Freedom.

Our Hon’ble Vice Chancellor, Prof. Saket Kushwaha, rightly stated in his message, that as all of us from the academia, the society looks upon us for each and every solutions and way forward. It is for the reasons, the Union Budget 2023-24, calls for more illuminated discussion and debates on various highlights of the budget and their implications to various sections of society and the nation as a whole, a ‘Budget Pe Charcha’ is being organized with plenary session with speakers from different specializations and a debate competition for students.

Objectives of the Event

- To draw a comprehensive idea of Union Budget 2023-2024
- To enhance student for acquiring knowledge on monetary stability and budgetary restraint.
- To disseminate the knowledge regarding government’s revenues and expenditures.
- To provide platform and environment for critical thinking in the sphere of national interest.
- To engaged students in a process of thinking and interactive constructivist learning.

Session Wise Deliberations

Welcome Address

To begin the event, Dr. Rimi Tadu, welcomed all the dignitaries present in the event and mentioned their specializations and achievements. As a coordinator of the event, she explained the reason and occasion behind this event to the attendees of the event and also briefed the event's proceedings. After that, she invited the Chair, Dr. Simon John Samuel, on the podium, to disseminate his knowledge on the topic.

Summary on Plenary Discussion on 'Salient Features Of Union Budget 2023-24: A Way Forward to Amrit Kaal'

In his introductory address, Prof. Simon John Samuel deliberated on the implications of the Union Budget 2023 and gave a brief overview on the topic of budget. He touched all the nitty-gritty of the topic. He also talked about how the policies are made and implemented along with examples of some schemes like Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act 2005, National Scholarships Schemes for higher education, etc., all the attendees got absorbed into his talk.

After given the talk, Prof. Simon John Samuel started the plenary discussion session with discussants. First Dr. K. P. Singh gave brief overview on the Union Budget 2023-24 and stated important data. He explained percentage wise decreased and increased budget for different sectors. In his talk, he mentioned how Union Budget has effects on common man's day to day life. His talk covered all the social aspects which have impacts on planning of Union Budget

In Prof. Simon John Samuel's and Dr. K. P. Singh's talk, several key areas were discussed where the Government has increased the budget allocation like capital expenditure for rail and road infrastructure for capacity building, digitalization of healthcare and agriculture while reduction in budget allocation to MGNREGA and subsidies as a balancing act to contain the fiscal deficit. The Budget supports the vision of Atma Nirbhar Bharat and Amrit Kaal and is indeed a bold and growth-oriented budget.

Ms. Chaphiak Lowang, in her speech highlighted the hiked allocations toward health sector and mentioned the government mission to eliminate Sickle Cell Anaemia by 2047 and National Tele Mental Health Programme. She thoroughly explained why India needs Mental Health Awareness Programme in the current un-acknowledged environment of depression.

Ms. Vimal, in her talk, explained about the defence budget allocations and how it is distributed in different sectors of defence, and how it is going to be used for procurements of defence equipment, salaries, pension, and in training and aids to new recruitments. She also mentioned threats and other security concerns which India is facing at present.

After the talk, there was a short session of Q&A towards the discussant panel.

Debate Competition

A debate competition was conducted for the students of both departments. There was a two-level category of debate competition, senior level for Ph.D scholars and junior level for Masters. The students were judged and marks were allotted on the basis of; clear and orderly presentation, tone of voice, clarity of expression, precision of arguments all contribute to keeping audience's attention.

Beneficiaries

The intended target audience included the postgraduate students, research scholars, and faculty members. Nearly 40 (Forty) participants attended the programme.

Critical Analysis of different aspects of Union Budget 2023-24

Department of Social Work on Social Aspects

The budget aims to address the welfare concerns of a cross-section of people, including youth, women, farmers, Other Backward Classes (OBCs), Scheduled Castes (SCs) and Scheduled Tribes (STs). The NAMASTE (National Action Plan for Mechanized Sanitation Ecosystem) scheme aims to facilitate 'scientific management of dry and wet waste' and provide capital subsidies to sewer cleaners on the purchase of sanitation machinery, training of workers with a stipend amount, and loan subsidies with capped interest rates on sanitation equipment. This is important for ensuring a healthy and dignified life for people engaged in the dehumanizing work of manual scavenging.

The budget has allocated funds for post-matric and pre-matric Scholarship schemes for Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes, De-notified Tribes, and Extremely Backward Classes. The SEED scheme for economic empowerment of DNTs has been increased from INR 28 crore to INR 40.4 crore. The Pradhan Mantri-PVTG Development Mission has been allotted an expenditure outlay of INR 15,000 crores in the next three years to improve socio-economic conditions of 75 identified vulnerable tribal groups. The PM VIKAS has been introduced to provide financial assistance to traditional artisans and craftspeople. The PMAY has been raised by 66% to over INR 79,000 crore and the Mahila Samman Savings Certificate has been increased to INR 15 lakh.

Government spending on health and education has increased in absolute numbers, but has decreased as a percentage of overall budget allocations. Efforts like a Digital Library, Pradhan Mantri Kaushal Vikas Yojana 4.0, increased funds for PM POSHAN and steps for revamping teachers' training have been included, but the Samagra Shiksha scheme and National Digital University project were not.

Compared to the anticipated expenditure of INR 89,155 crore for this year, the budget projection for healthcare was lowered from INR 86,200 crore in 2022–23 to INR 76,145 crore. A

larger budget has been allocated to the National Health Mission (NHM), Pradhan Mantri Swasthya Suraksha Yojana (PMSSY), and the National AIDS (Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome) and STD (Sexually Transmitted Diseases) control programme, but more attention must be paid to enhancing the primary healthcare system. The revenue from agriculture in the agricultural sector has decreased in absolute terms, and COVID-19 has made the issue worse. Long-term growth necessitates agrarian changes.

Notwithstanding a reduction in funding from INR 73,000 crore to INR 60,000 crore for the Mahatma Gandhi National Rural Employment Guarantee Act (MGNREGA), the government has promised to set aside more money.

The Ministry of Minority Affairs' budgetary allotment has been cut by 38%, however funding for minority post-matriculating scholarships has increased. Nevertheless, there is no long-term strategy for migrant employees employed within. A stronger focus on the socio-economic improvement of disadvantaged groups will strengthen India's multi-faceted welfare architecture. The budget prioritises capital investment to meet the demands of public infrastructure.

Department of National Security Studies on Military Aspects

From last year's allocation of Rs 5.25 lakh crore to 2023-24's allocation of Rs 5.93 lakh crore, India's defence budget jumped by 12.95 percent, with pensions accounting for a staggering Rs 1.38 lakh crore and wages for uniformed soldiers and civilians totaling nearly Rs 1.54 lakh crore. About half of the defence budget, or Rs 273.08 lakh crore for the fiscal year 2022–23, or 13.18 percent of the entire budget and 2.17 percent of GDP, goes towards wages and pensions (due to the revision of OROP scheme). For defence pensions, Rs. 1.19 lakh crore was allotted in the previous year.

The capital budget, which supports the armed forces' needs for modernization such as the purchase of new weapons and equipment, has seen a modest increase of 6.57 percent by Rs 10,000 crore, bringing it from Rs 1.62 lakh crore in the previous fiscal year to Rs 1.62 lakh crore for the new financial year. This allotment needs to be understood in light of the increase in the value of the dollar, which was around Rs. 75 last year and is currently at Rs. 81.

The Navy and the Army have witnessed a significant boost in their capital budget allotment as a result of persistent tensions with China as well as a full-fledged modernization effort.

Both the Navy and the Army are looking at procuring a host of new technologies including specialised drones, loitering munitions, small arms, light tanks, upgrade of existing tanks and armoured personnel carriers besides new naval fighters.

The revised estimates of the current capital budget showed it was reduced to Rs 1.50 lakh crore. A closer look showed that the Indian Air Force (IAF) was not able to spend the Rs 55,586 crore meant for modernisation and surrendered about Rs 2,000 crore.

A more thorough investigation revealed that the budgetary allotment for purchasing equipment other than fighter jets experienced the biggest increase. It jumped to Rs 36,223 crore this year from Rs 26,624 crore previous year. This category also covers the purchase of specialised technology like drones and new missiles.

In addition, less money has been allocated for buying aeroplanes and aviation engines. The Finance Minister decreased it from Rs 18,966 crore for the current fiscal year to Rs 15,721 crore for the following year.

This conclude, that the IAF's intention to request the purchase of 114 Multi Role Fighter Aircraft (MRFA) is unlikely to occur in the current fiscal year since contract signing would require 10% of the total cost to-be paid up front.

Annexures

Programme Schedule

Time	Event
2:30 pm	Welcome Address By Dr.Rimi Tadu, Guest Asst. Prof., Dept. of Social Work, Coordinator
2:35 pm	Plenary Discussion on 'Salient Features of Union Budget 2023-24: A Way Forward to Amrit Kaal' Discussants: Dr. KP Singh, Dept. of Social Work, Ms. Chapiak Lowang, Dept. of Social Work, & Ms. Vimal, Dept. National Security Studies Chair: Prof. Simon John Samuel, Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies, RGU
3:00 pm	Senior Category Debate: India needs a more robust defense budget than social welfare budget Judge: Mr. John Gangmei, Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Dr. Arvind Kumar Kushwaha
3:15 pm	Junior Category Debate: Youth are the only future of the country? Judge: Mr. John Gangmei, Dr. Ravi Ranjan Kumar, Dr. Arvind Kumar Kushwaha
3:30 pm	Vote of Thanks by Ms. Vimal, Guest Asst. Prof., Dept. of NSS, Coordinator Followed by light refreshment

Message from Hon'ble Vice Chancellor, RGU

प्रो. साकेत कुशवाहा
कुलपति
Prof. Saket Kushwaha
Vice Chancellor



राजीव गाँधी विश्वविद्यालय
केंद्रीय विश्वविद्यालय
रोनाहिल, दोइमुख - ७९१ ११२
अरुणाचल प्रदेश, भारत
Rajiv Gandhi University
Central University
Rono Hills, Doimukh - 791 112
Arunachal Pradesh, India

February 1, 2023

MESSAGE


Warm greetings to Rajiv Gandhi fraternity University from the Office of the Vice Chancellor.

As all of us are aware, the Union Budget for the year 2023-2024 was presented today in the Parliament by the Hon'ble Finance Minister. I feel that as all of us from the academia, the society looks up to us for various solutions and way forward. In this regard, I urge upon each and every Department/Institute of Rajiv Gandhi University to debate and conduct a programme of at least one hour by organising a programme on the different aspects of the Union budget 2023 taking up various components relevant to respective Departments.

All the Deans of Faculties and Heads/ Directors of Departments / Institutes are requested to organise the programme before it becomes stale. The Department should not forget to include UG/PG/Ph.D students and try to produce a four paged document containing candid opinions and critical analysis on the Union Budget 2023. Every department will have a place in the university website for displaying their reports.

Saket Kushwaha
Vice Chancellor

Brochure of the Event



समाज कार्य विभाग / Department of Social Work
राजीव गांधी विश्वविद्यालय (केन्द्रीय विश्वविद्यालय)
Rajiv Gandhi University (A Central University)
 रोनो हिल्स, दोईमुख - ७९१११२, अरुणाचल प्रदेश, भारत
 Rono Hills, Doimukh - 791112, Arunachal Pradesh, INDIA

2023-24

BUDGET PE CHARCHA

An intra-departmental event to
discuss and debate salient features
of the Union Budget 2023-24.

*Monday,
February 27th*

Time: 2:30 pm onwards
*Venue: Classroom No.2,
Dept. of Social Work*

Coordinators::
Dr. Rimi Tadu
Ms. Vimal

Organized by

**Department of Social
Work**
**Rajiv Gandhi University,
Rono Hills, Doimukh**

In collaboration with
**Department of National
Security Studies,**
**Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills,
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It is for these reasons, the Union Budget 2023-24, calls for more illuminated discussions and debates on various highlights of the budget and their implications to various sections of society and the nation as a whole, a 'Budget Pe Charcha' is being organized. This event is being organized by the Dept. of Social Work in collaboration with Dept. of National Security Studies. There will be a plenary session with speakers from different specializations. And a debate competition for students.

The topic for the debate:

Senior (Ph.D.) category: **India needs a more robust defense budget than social welfare budget**
 Junior (Masters) category: **Youth are the only future of the country?**

Date: 27th February 2023
 Time: 2:30 pm
 Venue: Classroom No. 2, Dept. of Social Work

Interested participant for the debate competition may contact@ 9811777907

Budget of the Event

SI	Descriptions	Remarks
1	Refreshments	2000
2.	Banner	500
3.	Certificate printing cost	250
4.	Miscellaneous	200
	Total	2950/-

Photographs from the Event



Image 1: Group photo after session



Image 2: Still image during the debate competition



Image 3: Speech by Keynote Speaker



Image 4: Still from plenary sessions



Image 5: Participants during the sessions