



A Report on the
Interaction Programme with
European Union Delegation on Opportunities of
Collaboration in Research & Innovation
(April 4, 2019)



Organised by
Internal Quality Assurance Cell
Rajiv Gandhi University

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Interaction Programme with
**European Union Delegation on Opportunities
of Collaboration in Research & Innovation**

April 4, 2019

Acknowledgements



Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh
Arunachal Pradesh

Organising Committee

CHIEF PATRON



Prof. Saket Kushwaha

Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University

PATRONS



Prof. Amitava Mitra

Director, IQAC
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Tomo Riba

Registrar
Rajiv Gandhi University

COORDINATOR



Dr. Rajesh Chakrabarty

Member, IQAC
Rajiv Gandhi University

PART 1: PREFACE

1.1 Background

In recent times, research and innovation have become one of the prime parameters for assessing the growth of a university in India. For a university to be termed as world class, the first and foremost criterion is the quality and excellence of its research and innovation. Cutting-edge research that constantly pushes the boundaries of knowledge contributes to the development of a knowledge society, but more critically it generates an interest for outstanding faculties and students to gravitate towards a career in research. This creates a virtuous spiral of ever-increasing quality and excellence ceaselessly pushing the University to strive towards even better research.

Research and innovation is critically dependent on the quantity of public funding to create the infrastructure, whereas quality education is needed to provide the pipeline of students to do cutting-edge research. The quality of research output and outcome also has a direct correlation with the funding a university can receive – privately sponsored and public funded research.

Rajiv Gandhi University, despite its geographical and infrastructural disadvantage, has been trying to mark its footprint on the field of research and innovation in diverse areas through its well-trained faculties. Our efforts have paid dividends in several frontier areas of research. The University is now at an inflection point and there are several enabling initiatives that can fuel and accelerate the growth of the university. To take the university to the next higher level, a sustained focus on research and innovation is of paramount importance. Furthermore, a balanced synergy between teaching and research has to be exploited to create an atmosphere that produces skilled and competent students for the knowledge manpower needs of the country. The interactive programme with the team European Union Delegates is organised to explore opportunities of collaboration in Research & Innovation.

1.2 Objectives

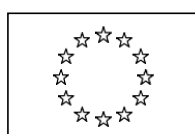
The interaction programme will be first of its kind to be organised by the Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of Rajiv Gandhi University. The overarching aim of the programme is to bring together the faculties, researchers, and other stakeholders to address to explore the way and means to collaborate in research and innovation with the European Union to strengthen the research and innovation in the university.

The specific objectives of the programme are to:

- bring together the faculties, research scholars, administrative officials and other stakeholders to explore opportunities of collaboration in Research & Innovation with European Union;
- understand how the University can improve the research and innovation output;

- increase the awareness and need for strengthening the research and innovation in the university;
- understand how to conduct innovative and socially relevant research leading to publications in high impact factor journals;
- Foster a dialogue between the various stakeholders with a view to establishing long term, sustainable goal for achieving quality and excellence in research and innovation








1.3 Resource Persons



EUROPEAN UNION

DELEGATION TO INDIA

Research & Innovation Section

Sl. No.	Name and Designation	Organisation
	Ms. Tania FRIEDERICHS First Counsellor and Head of Research & Innovation	Delegation of the European Union to India, New Delhi
	Dr. Vivek DHAM Advisor- Research & Innovation	Delegation of the European Union to India, New Delhi
	Dr. Srinivas KAVERI Director	CNRS Office in India
	Ms. Inger MIDTKANDAL Science and technology Counsellor	Royal Norwegian Embassy New Delhi 110021
	Mr. Alain Ghislain BAETENS First Secretary	Embassy of Belgium New Delhi
	Dr Massimo SPADONI Scientific Attaché	Embassy of Italy New Delhi
	Dr Jakob Williams OERBERG Counsellor for Research, Higher Education and Innovation	Royal Danish Embassy New Delhi

1.4 Budget

Name of the Outreach Programme	:	Outreach Programme on European Union Delegation Visit to RGU
Schedule Date	:	April 4, 2019
No of resource person (International)	:	7
Expected No of participants	:	120

Proposed budget

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (in ₹)
1.	Refreshment (@ 80 × 120)	9,600
2	Publicity (Banner, pamphlet printing etc.)	15,000
3.	Contingency (Felicitation materials for 7 resource person, Hall Decoration etc.)	30,000
TOTAL		54,600

(Rupees fifty-four thousand six hundred only)

Expenditure Statement

Sl. No.	Particulars	Amount (in ₹)
1.	Refreshment	25,000
5.	Publicity (Banner, File cover, Pen, note pad etc.)	3595
6.	Contingency (Felicitation & Miscellaneous)	17543
TOTAL		46,143

(Rupees forty-six thousand one hundred thirty-eight only)

PART 2: PROGRAMME DETAILS

2.1 Interactive Session

A delegation from the European Union (EU) on Thursday visited Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) here to explore opportunities of collaboration in areas of research and innovation. During an interaction programme with the delegation, organized by the university's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said, "RGU has been striving to serve its mandate of providing access to higher education as well as contributing to research in the border state of Arunachal Pradesh." Expressing his gratitude to the EU delegation for its initiative to reach out to RGU, Prof Kushwaha said the university and its entire fraternity were "enthused at the possibilities of affiliation and collaboration." He congratulated the university's departments for working together to formalize the presentations that were made by the university. Prof. Kushwaha also stressed that the presence of the entire RGU team, comprising of former Vice-Chancellor Prof Tamo Mibang, Registrar Prof. Tomo Riba, officers of the administration, all Deans, HoDs and the large number of faculty members, research scholars and PG students only reflects the tremendous interest that this visit has generated.

Kick-starting the series of presentations, IQAC Director Prof Amitav Mitra outlined the university's history and spoke about its mandate, which he said was "not only to educate and train manpower for the development of Arunachal Pradesh but also to pay special attention to the improvement of the social and economic conditions and welfare of the people of the state, their intellectual, academic and cultural development." Terming the visit of the EU delegation very significant, he expressed hope "for a new era of fruitful academic cooperation."

Marking the start of a series of presentations on 'EU MS/AC-India research-funding programme' by the visiting team, the delegation's head, Tania Friedrichs, said research and innovation cooperation are an integral part of the EU's relations with India, and urged the university to engage more with the instruments of research that the EU offers. Describing the visit as "the beginning of a long-term engagement," she said the EU has an implementing arrangement with India that includes scholar mobility programmes, individual fellowships, and bilateral and multilateral collaborations.

Other presenters of the delegation, from Belgium, France, Italy, Denmark and Norway, spoke about their respective country's perspective on the thrust areas of possible funding and collaborations. Concurring with RGU's mandate and its respect for biological and cultural diversity, besides the need for sustainable development and the idea that change elements must benefit all sections of society, the members of the delegation expressed their support towards "activating instruments to internationalize future research and innovation initiatives."

The members also emphasized on the need for a mix of stakeholders in the research initiatives, and suggested having a multidisciplinary approach in conceptualizing the proposals, where the focus could be on new technologies and also on how they impact society.

Earlier, RGU Life Sciences Dean Prof RK Singh made a presentation on the unique biodiversity of Arunachal. He also highlighted the university's potential as a major research partner that the EU could collaborate with. Prof Jumyir Basar from the Arunachal Institute of Tribal Studies in her presentation spoke about how RGU has been upholding its mandate to engage with the communities of the state and the issues confronting them. She also enumerated the research areas that the EU and RGU could collaborate on.

The EU delegation comprised Tania Friederichs (head of delegation), Dr Vivek Dham (member of delegation), Inger Midtkandal (Royal Norwegian Embassy), Dr Srinivas Kaveri (Director, CNRS, Paris), Alain Ghislain Baetens (Embassy of Belgium), Dr Massimo Spandoni (Embassy of Italy) and Dr Jakob Williams Oerberg (Royal Danish Embassy).

PART 3: OUTCOME OF THE PROGRAMME

3.1 Immediate Implications in the Context of Knowledge

The outcomes of this interaction programme include:

- Understanding the key issues and challenges associated with the implementation of research and innovation ideas in RGU.
- Learning practices and means to attract funding from various programmes launched by research and innovation section of European Union.
- Prospects and key initiatives to position RGU in coming days to enhance the research and innovation output.

3.2 Policy Implications

Although there is no such policy implication per se, it is our belief that the programme will help RGU to find and understand means to attract funding from various programmes launched by research and innovation section of European Union.

PART 4: ANNEXURES

Annexure I: Programme Schedule

Programme

Date: **April 4, 2019**

Venue: **AITS Conference Hall, RGU**

- 02:30 – 02:35 pm *Arrival of Chief Guest & other Dignitaries*
- 02:35 – 02:45 pm *Welcome Address*
Prof. Saket Kushwaha
Vice-Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University
- 02:45 – 02:50 pm *Felicitation of the Dignitaries*
- 02:50 – 03:15 pm *Brief Presentation about RGU initiatives in Research & Innovation*
Prof. R. K. Singh & Prof. Jumyir Basar
Rajiv Gandhi University
- 03:15 – 03:45 pm *Brief Presentation on EU MS/AC-India research Funding Programme*
- 03:45 – 04:00 pm *Discussions & Interaction*
- 04:00 – 04:05 pm *Vote of Thanks*
Prof. Amitava Mitra
Director, IQAC
Tea/Snacks

Annexure II: Photographs











Annexure III: Media Coverage

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Disagree: 10 Votes (7.63%)

RONO HILLS, Mar 4: A delegation from the European Union (EU) on Thursday visited Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) here to explore opportunities of collaboration in areas of research and innovation. During an interaction programme with the delegation, organized by the university's Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC), RGU Vice Chancellor Prof Saket Kushwaha said, "RGU has been striving to serve its mandate of providing access to higher education as well as contributing to research in the border state

<https://arunachaltimes.in/index.php/2019/04/05/eu-explores-areas-of-collaboration-with-rgu-nerist/>

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The Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) on Thursday hosted a delegation from the European Union for an interaction on areas of possible collaboration in research and innovation. The EU delegation comprised of Ms. Tania Friederichs (Head of EU delegation), Dr. Vivek Dham (Member, EU delegation), Ms. Inger Midtkandal (Royal Norwegian Embassy), Dr. Srinivas Kaveri (Director, CNRS, Paris), Mr. Alain Ghislain Baetens (Embassy of Belgium), Dr. Massimo Spandoni (Embassy of Italy) and Dr. Jakob Williams Oerberg (Royal Danish Embassy). The Internal Quality Assurance Cell (IQAC) of the University organized the interaction programme.

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<https://www.sentinelassam.com/north-east-india-news/arunachal-news/rajiv-gandhi-university-hosts-european-union-delegation/?nonamp=1/>

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EU delegation at RGU on Thursday.

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GUWAHATI: The Rajiv Gandhi University (RGU) in Arunachal Pradesh on Thursday hosted a delegation from the European Union for an interaction on areas of possible collaboration in research and innovation.

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