

राजीव गांधी विश्वविद्यालय

Rajiv Gandhi University



GREEN AUDIT

A Policy for Rajiv Gandhi University



Rajiv Gandhi University
Rono Hills, Doimukh – 791 112,
Arunachal Pradesh, India

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ABOUT RGU

The foundation stone of the Rajiv Gandhi University formerly known as Arunachal University was laid on 04th February 1984 by the then Prime Minister of India Smt. Indira Gandhi as a State University. However, in the year 2007, the University attained the status of a Central University and was renamed Rajiv Gandhi University, the nomenclature was done in the name of the former Prime Minister of India Shri Rajiv Gandhi. The University is on the hilltop of Rono Hills, Doimukh, Itanagar in the State of Arunachal Pradesh. The Rajiv Gandhi University is one of the oldest premier institutions for higher education in the state. Since its inception, the teaching and research programs of the University is focused on teaching, learning, and research. The research programs are designed with a view to playing a positive role in the socio-economic and cultural development of the State and the Nation. Despite infrastructural constraints and remote location, the University has been able to maintain its academic excellence. At present, the University has 43 departments under 12 faculties that offer various courses like Post Graduation, Diploma, Post Graduation Diploma, Certificate Courses, BFA, and Ph.D. with approximately 3200 students including research scholars. There are more than 30 colleges and institutions affiliated to the Rajiv Gandhi University which are in various locations of the State.

DESCRIPTION

Rajiv Gandhi University (RU), formerly Arunachal University nestled atop Rono Hills on a picturesque tableland of 302 acres is a premier institution of higher education in Arunachal Pradesh and has completed nearly four decades of its existence (since 1984). With increasing developments in campus due to building of infrastructure for educative purposes, the campus has seen as a dip in number of trees and vegetation. However, plantation drives have been taken up from time to time. Taking into consideration the importance of plant life and sustainable development. The university seeks to improve the biodiversity of the campus through a distinct policy. The university is committed to protect biodiversity and have already has emphasised on the sustainable utilization of bio-resources though paper-recycling, green farming, bamboo cultivation and enrichment of botanical garden for commercial purposes.

The term “Green Audit” refers to a process of methodically identifying, quantifying, recording, reporting, and analysing elements of an area's natural diversity, in this case the institute. It intends to examine environmental practises both inside and outside the institute, which will

affect the environment's friendliness. Any institution can benefit from doing a green audit to identify the areas and processes where the most energy, water, or other resources are being used. The institute can then think about how to implement changes and save energy footprint and also save money. It can spread environmental awareness, ethical standards, and a sense of environmental responsibility. It provides staff and students better understanding of Green impact on campus. As self-enquiry is a natural and necessary a necessary process to grown and improve oneself, thus, it is imperative that the institute evaluates its own contributions toward a sustainable future. As environmental sustainability is becoming an increasingly important issue for the nation, the role of higher educational institutions in relation to environmental sustainability is more prevalent. The rapid urbanization and economic development at local, regional and global level has led to several environmental and ecological crises. On this background it becomes essential to adopt the system of the Green Campus for the institutes which will lead for sustainable development and at the same time reduce a sizable amount of atmospheric CO₂ from the environment. All higher education institutions are required to submit an annual Green Audit Report to the National Assessment and Accreditation Council, New Delhi (NAAC). However, it is part of the higher education institutions' corporate social responsibility to make sure that they are taking steps to reduce their energy, water and carbon footprint in turn to safeguard biodiversity.

POLICY INTENT

To establish a reference framework for integrating the protection, promotion and sustainable use of biodiversity resources in Rajiv Gandhi University and compliance with The Biological Diversity Act, 2002 enacted by Parliament of India.

OBJECTIVES

- Regulation of access to biological resources of the campus
- Assessing, Conservation and sustainability of biological diversity
- Protecting the knowledge of local communities regarding biodiversity
- Protection and rehabilitation of threatened species
- Provide training and biodiversity maintenance activities .

PRIORITY AREAS TO ADDRESS

- Energy

- Water
- Carbon Footprint
- Waste Management
- Infrastructure
- Transport
- Sustainable Resource Acquisition
- Environment Protection
- General Awareness and Dissemination

MAIN PRINCIPLES OF CONDUCT

- Integrating biodiversity in internal strategic and decision-making processes of the university, as well as in the analysis, management, and reporting of long-term risks;
- Identifying, quantifying and assessing, on an ongoing basis and throughout the life cycle of the campus facilities, the impacts and dependencies of the university activities on natural capital, including biodiversity;
- Applying the principle of mitigation hierarchy i.e., avoid, minimise, restore, and compensate as a last resort in all the phases of infrastructure projects;
- Avoid locating new infrastructure projects in spaces that are protected due to their ecological, biological, cultural and/or landscape value or areas catalogued as having high value for biodiversity;
- Developing plans for monitoring flora and fauna, especially protected or vulnerable species, so that the interaction of infrastructure with the environment can be continuously assessed;
- Avoiding or reducing deforestation or compensation associated with campus activities
- Identifying and establishing management plans for invasive species that pose a risk to ecosystems and species at the campus;
- Participation in carrying out research, preservation, education and sensitisation projects, cooperating with government agencies, non-governmental organisations, local communities and other Stakeholders on biodiversity issues;
- Promotion of biodiversity awareness and training for the stakeholders of the university.

- Assessment of energy, carbon, and water footprint of the campus and make necessary recommendation to improve on them.

DEVELOPMENTS

- To prepare an audit report on the trees of the campus. It is decided to assess the trees by dividing the campus area into various sectors through an assessment committee. The committee will be entrusted with the responsibility to identify and document all the trees of the campus. Additionally, classify the trees according to their girth. Also, the assessment committee will also put forward suggestion for future conservation of biodiversity.
- The university is also contributor in documenting orchids of Arunachal Pradesh and carries out research on orchids. The university will develop an online orchid database of Arunachal Pradesh by pooling orchid recourses available from shelf and elsewhere. It is also proposed that the university shall provide training on propagation, cultivation of orchids which are quite prevalent in Arunachal Pradesh.
- The university the dwindling bird population in the state and thus, seeks to establish an aviary for providing safe and natural environment for birds and also make university stakeholders and visitors aware and sensitize importance of birds in the biodiversity.
- The university already has a Museum of Fish established in 2002, wherein holotype and paratypes of the new species of fishes are deposited and preserved. The Museum actively pursues documentation and identification of new fish species of Arunachal Pradesh.
- The university advocates plantation drive on various occasions and purports that there should be commitment of people towards nature and inculcate the same in new generation.
- The university motivates the stakeholders to adopt plants and take care till they are in campus and may pass on the same culture of care to new stakeholders.
- Demarcation of areas wherein conservation of biodiversity will be carried wherein, campus dwellers and visitors will be allowed to visit just for spending time with the biodiversity.
- Reduction of dependencies on non-renewable sources of energy and search for alternative energy option and implementation. The University seeks to reduce its energy

consumption by deploying solar panels in various departments to bring down energy costs.

IMPLEMENTATION

- Establishment of a green audit committee constituting of academic and administrative staff and students;
- Budgetary provisions for smooth implementation of the policy;
- Development of recommended programs and performance indicators through expert and action groups;
- Carrying out appropriate audits time-to time;
- Undertaking awareness and training programmes to disseminate knowledge among the community;
- Seek fund from environmental agencies;
- Periodical review of the university policies and procedures to ensure consistency with the existing policies.
- Address complaints and suggestions from campus residents and other stakeholders.

REVIEW AND REVISION

This Green Audit policy will be reviewed periodically to ensure its effectiveness, relevance, and alignment with legal requirements. The University will engage relevant stakeholders, including student and employee representative bodies, in the review process. Necessary revisions will be made to address emerging issues, changes in legal requirements, or feedback from the Rajiv Gandhi University community.



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