



Report on Evolving Administrative Paradigms in Post-COVID India

(BEGINS)

Six Women Vice Chancellors of India shares their Administrative Experiences in dealing with the Pandemic and their further vision

The sudden eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has been chaotic and hostile to every visage of human life. Orchestrating a Post-COVID world is the quagmire the whole world at large faces. As it shared over the media that countries led by Women leaders were coping with the crisis better. This has shifted the focus to administrative style of women leaders, and what they do differently. In educator sector too, the impact of COVID 19 has been overwhelming. The sector came to a complete halt. Countries all over are trying to find the perfect balance. And India is no different. We are still trying to figure out how to complete the current academic session and start the 2020-2021 session. This has led to evolution of various approaches of educational leadership. Of these leaders are the women vice chancellors who are leading the universities from the forefront.

With this background on 20th July 2020, the **Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh** in collaboration with the **Association of Indian Universities** organized a panel discussion on the theme **Evolving Administrative Paradigms in Post-COVID India** conducted by **Institute of Distance Education & Women Studies and Research Centre**, Rajiv Gandhi University.

The eminent Vice-Chancellors from six Universities were invited to speak on the topic. Prof. Saket Kushwaha, Vice Chancellor, RGU chaired the inaugural session and Dr. (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal, the Secretary General, Association of Indian Universities (AIU) delivered the keynote address. She shared the 7 steps for a university to make them their best versions. She also shared many programs such as AIU's initiative of 'Best 5' and self-paced online course for teachers introduced in collaboration with QASPIR.

Prof. A Mitra, the Pro-Vice-Chancellor of Rajiv Gandhi University in his welcome address, highlighted the importance of administrators during and after pandemic situation. Ms. Niharika Rai, Secretary Education, Govt. of Arunachal Pradesh was also shared her views on the occasion. She shared how the lack of connectivity has paralysed the education sector in the state and hoped that the panelists will, at the end of the discussion come up with workable plan for a geographically challenged are as Arunachal. Prof. Ashan Riddi, Director, IDE, RGU introduced the keynote speaker and in his remarks he opined that Open and Distance learning can be the only medium of learning during the pandemic situation.

Vice-Chancellor, RGU, Prof Saket Kushwaha in his address to the panelists and the participants stated that; everywhere there is a problem and every problem has its solution. So, as an administrator, we should find a permanent solution for a pandemic like COVID-19 situation. Prof Saket Kushwaha also highlighted the problems regarding examination during the pandemic situation. Moyir Riba, faculty at IDE, RGU and coordinator of the program, conducted the session.

The first panel discussion was moderated by Prof. Elizabeth Hangsing, Director, WS&RC, RGU. Prof. Rajasree MS, the Vice-Chancellor, APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University, Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, the first panelist stated that digitalization of institutions is utmost necessary. "As we have digitalized university, we have not faced many problems in governance during the COVI-19."She also shared that in colleges that are not fully digitalized, they developed content to mitigate the needs of the students.

Prof. Sushma Yadav, Vice-Chancellor, Bhagat Phool Sing (BPS) Mahila Vishwavidyalaya, Khanpur Kalan, Harayana, her deliberations were mainly focused on the problems faced by the State Government run Universities. In her address to the participants stated that the administration is suffering from many lacunae. Specially in the State Government run university. She also highlighted that; directly switching from the traditional method of teaching to online is not conducive as we are still facing issues related to connectivity, internet access, electricity and devices. Prof. Sonajharia Minz, Vice-Chancellor, Sido Kanhu Murmu University, Dumka, Jharkhand supplement the previous two speakers and said that

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the University should follow the HRD guideline but it should ensure equity, justice and dignity to the staffs and students. She was the final panellist for Panel I.

Prof. Jumyir Basar from AITS, RGU, moderated the second session. The first panelist Prof. Neelima Gupta, Vice-Chancellor, Chhatrapati Ahahu Ji Maharaj University, Kanpur, Utter Pradesh shared her views on the leadership roles of Women. She shared data regarding distribution of professors by gender at universities in European countries and percentage of women professors and Vice-Chancellors in Common Wealth Countries. She stated that; whether it is European or the Common Wealth countries the ration of women is less except in Australia. She stated that, though the ratio of women leaders is very low but they have played as game changers in combating the COVID-19 by citing the name of prominent woman leaders of the world.

Prof. Shashikala Vanjari, Vice-Chancellor, Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey Women University, Mumbai, Maharashtra, stated that she does not believe in regionalism but in the region. Thus, trust and collective sense are important to achieve a common goal. She stated that digitalization is important but there shall be scope for one to one and person-to-person interaction platform that is the traditional way of teaching.

Final speaker of the panel, Prof. Ami Upadhyay, Vice-Chancellor, Babasaheb Ambedkar Open University, Ahemdabad, Gujarat discuss the problems faces by the women administrator. She said that; the common notion of the peoples is that "woman administrators need extra attention to deliver her duty efficiently". However, they forgot that a woman has a multitasking personality, which is indeed her strength. The woman is more sensitive than a man as they are by born a mother. While sharing her experiences, she said; in every debate and discussion, the panelists vote for the techno-centric. However, she opined for the students-centric.

The vice chancellor joined the concluding ceremony where all the speakers answered various questions being posted by participants from across the country. While discussing, each speaker shared many personal administrative experiences which could be replicated in other educational institutions, it was decided that the two sessions will be transcribed a document may be released to be further shared with institutions,

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Background Note

The sudden eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has been chaotic and hostile to every visage of human life. Orchestrating a Post-COVID world is the quagmire the whole world at large faces. A plethora of changes in the way we had functioned before the pandemic hit us; have to be accounted for, if we yearn to arrive to a new normal in the post pandemic world. Challenges come with their own set of problems but embedded with them are opportunities, which become the precursor to drastic changes in the social set up. The consequences of this pandemic will be both immediate and long-term. This pandemic will have a series of biological, social, economic, political, demographic and religious upheavals, which will have profound effects on the course of world history. We will have to draft a well carved out pathway in order to minimize the negative impact of this pandemic. In order to do that we need a proper blueprint of the dos and don'ts in this regard. As India is rapidly emerging as one the chief global powers in the global dynamics, the administrative sector of all the institutions will play a key role in chalking out plans that stabilizes our vulnerable future.

With the above in consideration, this panel discussion will specifically try to have an engaging discussion on what this scenario means for the women leaders in this country and how they have been dealing with the crisis. Forbes heralded on April 13, about a month after the first lockdown orders hit the US state "Countries led by women have fared better against corona virus." New Zealand, led by 39-year-old prime minister Jacinda Ardern and Taiwan led by 39-year-old prime minister Tsai Ing-wen has been praised by others around the world for her strong response to the crisis, and for the low infection rate in their countries. In Germany, Chancellor Angela Merkel's Covid-19 response has won her high approval ratings. This shows the remarkable capacity of women leaders to understand the problem better and to develop and execute effective solutions.

Today women are leading various sectors of the society and education is no different. There are universities that are led by Women Vice Chancellors and they are among the top Universities of the nation. Even in the times of the pandemic, these educational leaders of our country faced the crisis and drew upon various measures to resolve the issue as with their counterparts across the world.

Through the panel discussion, seven women educational leaders will share their experiences and have open discussion on the lessons learnt and creative means adopted to face the crisis with a goal to create a dialogue on development of cohesive plans and ideas to deal with the pandemic.

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LIST OF PARTICIPANTS

Sl. No.	Email address	Name in Full (as to be in the e-certificate)	Designation	Institutional Address	State
1	1aranjanmedmphil@gmail.com	DR.AKASH RANJAN	Assistant Professor	RONO Hills,Doimikh,Itanagar,Arunachal PRADESH,PIN-791112	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
2	aashishdivakar01031997@gmail.com	MR.AASHISH DIVAKAR	Student	Darbhanga	Bihar
3	aastha799@gmail.com	MS.ASTHA UMANG	Student	Varanasi Uttar Pradesh	Uttar Pradesh India
4	adilhakeemkhan24@gmail.com	MR.ADIL HAKEEM KHAN	Director	In front of head post office new colony ward no	Madhya Pradesh
5	ahaago@gmail.com	MR.A. H. GOPAL	Assistant professor	BGS COLLEGE OF EDUCATION. ADICHUNCHANA GIRI UNIVERSITY. B G NAGAR. MANDYA DISTRICT. KARNATAKA	Karnataka
6	ak.smile83@gmail.com	MR.ASHISH KUMAR	Research Scholar	Khandari, Agra	Uttar pradesh
7	akashpandey141092@gmail.com	MR.AKASH PANDEY	Student	BAREILLY UTTER PARDESH	UTTER PARDESH
8	akm175@rediffmail.com	DR.DR. ARUN KUMAR MANDAL	Assistant Professor in Education	107 Netaji Road, P.O . Berhampore, Dist . Murshidabad	West Bengal
9	akshathamk2211@gmail.com	MRS.AKSHATHA MK	Assistant Teacher	Neheru Nagar 2nd Cross Anavatti	Karnataka
10	anitabaki1234@gmail.com	MS.ANITA BAKI	Student	Rajiv gandhi university, rono hills, Doimukh, Arunachal pradesh, pin:791112	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
11	anitatanaja63@yahoo.com	MS.ANITA TANEJA	Assistant Professor of	Government College for Women, Hisar	Haryana

more

			Commerce		
12	anujamopari@gmail.com	MS.ANUJA M MOPARI	Assistant professor	Shri Shivaji College of Art's Commerce and Science Akola	Maharashtra
13	anuradha941@gmail.com	DR.DR. ANURADHA SHARMA	FACULTY, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION (PMMMNTT-MHRD)	Dayalbagh Educational institute,agra	UTTAR PRADESH
14	archana.kasaudhan786@gmail.com	MS.ARCHANA KASAUDHAN	Assistant professor	Sultanpur	Up
15	archanaapatki@yahoo.co.in	MRS.ARCHANA PATKI	Vice Principal & HOD	338, R.A. Kidwai Road. Matunga. Mumbai	Maharashtra
16	arpi.3952@gmail.com	MS.ARPITA P DANDIN	S.Y M. Ed. Student	GVMs Dr Dada Vaidya College of Education, Ponda-Goa	Goa
17	arti6945@gmail.com	MS.AARTI SHARMA	Ph-D scholar	Scholar hostel girls, tripura university, suryamaninagar, Agartala, 799022	Tripura
18	arungupta86398@gmail.com	PROF.ASHU JOLLY	Assistant Professor	GDC Kathua, J& K ,India	JAMMU & KASHMIR
19	assambabu879@gmail.com	MS.DEBAJANI KAKATY	Student	Nagaon	Assam
20	ayushiagrhari@gmail.com	MS.AYUSHI GUPTA	STUDENT OF M.A. ECONOMICS	VARANASI	UTTAR PRADESH
21	bakhalemanasi@gmail.com	MRS.MANASI	Student	GVM's College Of Education, Ponda-Goa	GOA
22	bamharbom@gmail.com	MS.HARBOM BAM	Student	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
23	Bhabaninirola.1711@gmail.com	MR.BHABANI NIROLA	Research Scholar	Doimukh	Assam

more

24	bhaskarbjd@yahoo.com	MR.BHASKAR JYOTI DAS	PhD student	Gangtok, Sikkim	Sikkim
25	bhubanbasnet123@gmail.com	MR.BHUBAN SING BASNET	Student	Tezpur, Assam, 784112	ASSAM
26	bigawe@caepune.sndt.ac.in	DR.DR BHASKAR VISHNU IGAWE	Assistant Professor	Dept of Lifelong Learning and Extension Pune Sub-centre	Maharashtra
27	biswalashutosh5@gmail.com	MR.ASHUTOSH BISWAL	PhD Research Scholar	Doimukh, Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
28	borahpriyanka037@gmail.com	MS.PRIYANKA BORAH	Research Scholar	Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh, India	Assam
29	borgohainjahnabi@gmail.com	MS.JAHNOBI BORGOHAIN	M.Phil Scholar, D	Rajiv Gandhi University	Arunachal Pradesh
30	bp.anish2012@gmail.com	DR.DR.BHABESH PRAMANIK	Principal	At.-Amlat, P.O.-Sutahata, Dist.-Purba Medinipur. W.B.721635	West Bengal
31	brahmajeuti@gmail.com	MS.JEUTI BRAHMA	Student	University road, papum pare, Arunachal Pradesh	Assam
32	chairinkiolu@yahoo.in	DR.RINKIOLU CHAI	Assistant professor	JTGMD College, Lower Dibang Valley, Roing, Arunachal Pradesh, Pin Code - 792110	Arunachal Pradesh
33	chathiam1979@gmail.com	MRS.CHATHIAM LOWANG	Assistant professor	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
34	cilianingombam17@gmail.com	MS.NINGOMBAM CILIA DEVI.	Student	IMPHAL, MANIPUR.	Manipur
35	dammopo@gmail.com	MR.DODUM NATUNG	M.A(Social Work) 2nd Semester Student	Department of Social Work, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh
36	deepakhazarika16@gmail.com	MR.DEEPAK HAZARIKA	Student	Doimukh Arunachal Pradesh	Assam
37	deepali.mittal20@gmail.com	MS.DEEPALI	Assistant professor	P.I.G. GCW , jind	Haryana

more

38	devakichangappa@gmail.com	MRS.DEVAKI. T. C.	Research Scholar	Jnana Bharathi Campus, Bangalore	Karnataka
39	devendranathtripathi55@gmail.com	MR.DEVENDRA NATH TRIPATHI	Assistant Teacher	Jharkhand	Jharkhand
40	devilking810@gmail.com	MR.PITABASH PATRA	LECTURER	RIMULI COLLEGE, RIMULI , KEONJHAR	ODISHA
41	dewdrop.drbbharti@gmail.com	DR.DR. BHARTI SHAH	Coordinator , post graduate department of Food science and nutrition SNDTWU Juhu Mumbai	Post graduate department of Food science and Nutrition, SNDTWU Juhu Mumbai	Maharashtra
42	dhani.2310@gmail.com	PROF.NIKITA SURESH AURANGE	Assisntent Profeser	PVDT college of education, Charchgat Mumbai	MAHARASHTRA
43	dhudait@gmail.com	MR.DURLAV HUDAIT	Student	palpara, Purba Medinipur, West Bengal	West Bengal
44	dilipbhise76537611@gmail.com	MR.DILIP M. BHISE	Teacher	G D GOENKA INTERNATIONAL SCHOOL	GUJARAT
45	diptimayeebehera.db@gmail.com	DR.DR. DIPTIMAYEE BEHERA GHOSH	Assistant Professor	P.O. - Jidaru, P.S.- Kotshila, Dist- Purulia, West Bengal, India	West Bengal
46	dr.pschavan@gmail.com	DR.DR.PRABHAKAR SAHEBRAO CHAVAN	Associate Professor	Mumbai-20	Maharashtra
47	dramkhan714@gmail.com	DR.DR ALIMUDDIN KHAN	SECRETARY	37 old lawyer's chamber, supreme court of India NEW DELHI	NEW DELHI
48	drkk.iase@gmail.com	DR.DR P B KAVYAKISHORE	Research Supervisor	Research center in Education, P G Dept of Education, IASE, R.V.Teachers College Bengaluru 560011	Karnataka

more

49	drpatilasha@gmail.com	PROF.PROF. ASHA PATIL	Director	Dept of Lifelong Learning and Extension SNDT Women's University Mumbai	Maharashtra
50	etedongam@gmail.com	MS.DONGAM ETE	Post Graduate Teacher(Pol.Sc)	GHSS,Arunodaya,Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
51	facedrhm52@gmail.com	DR.HARSHA RAJEN MERCHANT	Principal	JJHospital compound gate number 14.Byculla Mumbai 400008	Maharashtra
52	gaurdeepti2012@gmail.com	DR.DEEPTI GAUR	MADHYMIK SHIKSHAK	Baradari chauraha, morar, Gwalior, Madhya Pradesh pin-474006	Madhya Pradesh
53	gayatrisinghisdc18018@gmail.com	DR.GAYATREE SINGH	Asst Professor	Salori, Prayagraj-211002	Uttar Pradesh
54	Geetadevijakhar83@gmail.com	DR.GEETA DEVI	Assistant Professor	Govt college for women hisar	HARYANA
55	gmohinder1971@gmail.com	DR.DR.MOHINDER SINGH	Assistant Professor of History	Government College for Women,Hisar-125001	Haryana
56	halenijagaljk1965@gmail.com	DR.DR.JAGADEE SHKUMAR	Assistant professor	B.H.Road, Tumkur-572102	Karnataka
57	hasmukhp13@gmail.com	DR.HASMUKH R. PANCHAL	Assistant Professor	Dep. Of Sociology & Social Anthropology, Gujarat Vidyapith Gandhinagar	GUJARAT
58	hemamalinihc@ignou.ac.in	DR.HEMAMALINI HC	Asst.Regional Director	IGNOU Regional Centre,Bangalore	Karnataka
59	hemlatavns@rediffmail.com	MS.HEMLATA PAL	Research Scholar	Gaya Prasad Smarak Government Girl Degree College , Ambari , Azamgarh.	Uttar Pradesh
60	hillangnyari5@gmail.com	MRS.HILLANG NYARI	Teacher	Government Higher Secondary School, Nyapin, Arunachal Pradesh	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
61	himadri.dt@gmail.com	MS.HIMADRI DUTTA	Assistant Professor	Yeggo, Aalo, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh

more

62	hsangita24@gmail.com	MS.SANGITA HALDER	Student	Kalyani	West Bengal
63	hslowang@gmail.com	MRS.HETNGOI SUYANG	Assistant Professor	Indira Gandhi Government College	Arunachal Pradesh
64	indudubey238@gmail.com	DR.INDUMATI DUBEY	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR (DEPARTMENT OF HINDI)	SHREE AGRASEN MAHILA P.G COLLEGE, AZAMGARH, U.P	UTTAR PRADESH
65	jagadeesha67@gmail.com	MR.JAGADEESH AN	Assistant Professor	Vidya vikas bed college Nadanahalli Mysore Bannur Road Mysore-570028	Karnataka
66	jaysheelamanohar@gmail.com	DR.DR. JAYSHEELA BASWANTRAO MANOHAR	Assistant professor	Ratnapuri 3,sangram Nagar ,Akluj, ta.malshiras,dist.solapur	Maharashtra
67	jbsaha.asm@gmail.com	MR.JYOTI BHUSAN SAHA	PhD Scholar	Yupi-791112, Naharlagun, arunachal Pradesh	Assam
68	jhoneytechitara@gmail.com	DR.DR. JOHNNY TECHI	Assistant professor	Govt. College Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh
69	jubrajkhamari@gmail.com	PROF.PROF JUBRAJ KHAMARI	Professor	Department of Education Sambalpur University Jyoti Vihar 768019 Sambalpur Odisha	Odisha
70	kabori.pathak1@gmail.com	MS.KABORI PATHAK	STUDENT	TEZPUR	ASSAM
71	kalpanalangote.3.7@gmail.com	DR.DR. KALPANA SURESH AURANGE	Assisntent Profeser	SVB's Saraswarhi College of Education and Research Dombivali East	Maharashtra
72	kankanadevi99@gmail.com	MS.KANKANA DEVI	Lecturer	Barpeta B.T College	Assam
73	kasturipesala@ignou.ac.in	DR.DR.KASTURIS PESALA	Assistant Regional Director	Indira Gandhi National Open University	Karnataka

more

74	kechesundru@gmail.com	MR.SUNDRU KECHE	Assistant Professor	Donyi Polo B.Ed College ,Itanagar, Arunachal Pradesh	ARUNACHAL PRADESH
75	kijusmartul@gmail.com	MS.TUNUNG TABING	Assistant professor	Institute or Distance Education	Arunachal Pradesh
76	kk36singh@gmail.com	MS.ADVOCATE KARUNA KUMARI	Advocate	Patna High Court	Bihar
77	kombongdarang@gmail.com	MR.KOMBONG DARANG	PhD Scholar	Rono Hills Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh
78	konitabasumatary@gmail.com	DR.KONITA BASUMATARY	Assistant professor	Bodoland university, dept. Of Economics, Deborgaon, p.o- rangalikhata	Assam
79	kumar.pramod.jrf@gmail.com	DR.PRAMOD KUMAR	Assistant Professor	L.N.M.S College Birpur	Bihar
80	kumardev100@gmail.com	MR.CHANDAN KUMAR	Research Scholar	BIHAR	Bihar
81	lalitmogha@yahoo.co.in	MR.LALIT KUMAR MOGHA	Guest Lecturer	Raebareli Road, Luvknow	UP
82	lavkush.iis83@gmail.com	MR.SURYAKANT TRIPATHI	Director(R)	Varanasi, UP	UP
83	lepchamdm@gmail.com	MS.FATIMA LEPCHA	Assistant Professor	Mrinalini Datta Mahavidyapith	West Bengal
84	lingappank15685@gmail.com	DR.DR K LINGAPPAN	Assistant professor of History	Same	Tamil Nadu
85	lipungmupg17@gmail.com	MR.LIPUN SAHOO	RESEARC H SCHOLAR	RNIASE, CUTTACK	ODISHA
86	lodmebin@gmail.com	MRS.LOD MEBIN	Assistant professor	Government College Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh
87	m.jayanti27@gmail.com	MRS.JAYANTI MISHRA	Research scholar	Ranchi Jharkhand	Jharkhand
88	m.rasida.28@gmail.com	DR.DR. RASIDA BEGUM	Lecturer	DIET, KARIMGANJ	Assam
89	mahadevivs2009@gmail.com	DR.SUNGARE MAHADEVI VISHWANATH	Lecturer	Govt PU College for girls vijyapura	Karnataka

more

90	mamatha2017mls@gmail.com	MRS.MAMATHA B M	Librarian	THE OXFORD COLLEGE OF EDUCATION	Karnataka
91	manashkalita.mc@gmail.com	MR.MANASH KALITA	ASSISTANT PROFESSOR	P.O.- MAZBAT, PIN- 784507, DIST- UDALGURI, STATE- ASSAM.	ASSAM
92	manjucheda@rediffmail.com	DR.MANJULA D CHHEDA	Associate professor	SPNDOSHI Women's College,Mumbai	Maharashtra
93	manmayurigoswami@gmail.com	MRS.MANMAYURI GOSWAMI	Teacher Educator	Govt. College of Teacher Education (CTE), Tezpur	Assam
94	manoramasrc@gmail.com	MS.MANORAMA PRADHAN	PUPIL TEACHER	DISTRICT INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION AND TRAINING JAJPUR DOLIPUR NAGUAN	ODISHA
95	minu.lakra@gmail.com	DR.MINU LAKRA	Assistant Professor.	DAV PG College, Ausanganj, Naraharpura, Varanasi 221001	Uttar Pradesh.
96	mksinha@pgdav.du.ac.in	DR.MANOJ KUMAR SINHA	Assistant Professor	Nehru Nagar, Ring Road, Delhi-110065	Delhi
97	mohan.rita04@gmail.com	MS.RITA MOHAN	Student	Guwahati	Assam
98	monalikalaskar@gmail.com	DR.DR MONALI M MHASAL	Assistant professor	Shivaji park, Akola	MAHARASHTRA
99	moyongrumi@gmail.com	MS.RUMI MOYONG	Asst. Prof	Gumin nagar 2 mile	Arunachal pradesh
100	mpuspa1998@gmail.com	MRS.MAIBAM PUSPA DEVI	Maibam Puspa Devi	Imphal	Manipur
101	mrunalinisanskrit@gmail.com	DR.DR.MRUNALI NI ABASAHEB SHINDE	Asst.Professor	Venutai Chavan College,Karad	Maharashtra
102	mummida2011@gmail.com	MS.MUM MIDA	Student	Rajiv Gandhi University,Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal pradesh
103	mumnypanor@gmail.com	MS.MUMNY PANOR	Research scholar	Rono Hills, Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh

more

104	murarieflu@gmail.com	MR.RADHA RANJAN	Student	Bangalore Pin Code 560072	Bihar
105	muskanchawla0108@gmail.com	MS.MUSKAN CHAWLA	Student	Rudrapur, U.S.Nagar, Uttarakhand	Uttarakhand
106	nanda_jayashree@rediffmail.com	DR.DR.JAYASHREE NANDA	Lecturer in Education	Barang, Khordha, Odisha	Odisha
107	nandan.shiprabhu@gmail.com	MS.SHIPRA NANDAN	Assistant Professor (Guest)	Department Of History, Patna University, Patna	Bihar
108	nandinivinay1213@gmail.com	DR.DR. NANDINI N.	Assistant Professor	Jayanagar Bangalore	Karnataka
109	nazminsultana9@gmail.com	MS.NAZMIN SULTANA	Assistant Professor	Basic tinali, gadadhar nagar, joysagar, PIN 785665, Sivasagar, Assam	ASSAM
110	ndhakal25@gmail.com	DR.NANDA LAL SHARMA	Lecturer	DIET-Namchi, Sikkim	Sikkim
111	neetu.malhotra@satyamfashion.ac.in	DR.DR NEETU MALHOTRA	HOD	C 56 A 14/15 Satyam Fashion Institute ,Noida	Uttar Pradesh
112	nehu00vishwajit@gmail.com	DR.VISHWAJEET KUMAR MISHRA	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh,	Arunachal Pradesh
113	nikhilkumarbhardwaj001@gmail.com	MR.NIKHIL KUMAR BHARDWAJ	M.Ed STUDENT	DUBHAL,GAYA	BIHAR
114	nnlruthneo@gmail.com	MS.RUTH NENGNEILHING	NA	New Delhi	New Delhi
115	nuki.k.gam@gmail.com	MRS.NUKI GAMMENG	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
116	nyarikgeyi@gmail.com	DR.DR. NYARIK GEYI	Guest Assistant Professor	RonoHills, Doimukh, Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
117	oriental.taggu@rgu.ac.in	MS.ORIENTAL TAGGU	Assistant Registrar	Rono Hill, Doumukh, Papumpare	Arunachal Pradesh

more

118	pattanayakpr@gmail.com	DR.DR. PRADEEPTA RANJAN PATTANAYAK	Assistant Professor of Sociology	Cuttack	Odisha
119	pempabhutia3344@gmail.com	MS.PEMPA PHUTI BHUTIA	GT(Teacher)	N.T.L Vok Senior Secondary School South Sikkim	Sikkim
120	pinkydevi.mu88@gmail.com	MS.PINKY DEVI	Teacher	Bongaigaon	Assam
121	pkumar.kumar682@gmail.com	MR.PAWAN KUMAR MAURYA	Research Scholar	Mariahu, Jaunpur, U.P.	Uttar Pradesh
122	poonam.kumari0804@gmail.com	MRS.POONAM KUMARI	Research scholar	Shahid chowk kachhari road ranchi	Jharkhand
123	prabal5agrawal@gmail.com	MR.PRABAL AGARWAL	STUDENT OF M.A. ECONOMICS	AYODHYA	UTTAR PRADESH
124	prakashzkumar123@gmail.com	MR.PRAKASH KUMAR HAJAM	RESEARCH SCHOLAR	RANCHI	JHARKHAND
125	pranay.acharjya@gmail.com	MS.KANCHAN DEVI	Student	Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
126	ritupornadutta4@gmail.com	MS.RITUPORNA DUTTA	PhD Research Scholar	Department of Economics, Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills, Doimukh, Arunachal Pradesh	Assam
127	rohit.meena.rock@gmail.com	MR.ROHITASH KUMAR	Research scholar	Motihari Bihar	Rajasthan
128	rudraradhyar@gmail.com	DR.RUDRARADHYA R	Principal	Sree Siddaganga College of Education Tumakuru 2	Karnataka
129	rupahazowary@gmail.com	DR.DR. RUPASHREE HAZOWARY	Assistant Professor	Bbodoland University, Rangulikhata, Debwrgaon, Kokrajhar pin-783370	Assam
130	rutuja.madnoorkar98@gmail.com	MS.RUTUJA GIRISH MADNOORKAR	SNDT, pune campus	Karve road, hinjewadi, pune	Maharashtra

more

131	sajadmalik762@gmail.com	MR.SAJAD AHMAD MALIK	STUDENT	SRINAGER	JAMMU and kashmir
132	samikshya.gohain@gmail.com	DR.SAMIKSHYA GOHAIN	Assistant Professor	Panbazar,Guwahati	Assam
133	samruddhichepe@gmail.com	PROF.SAMRUDDHI CHEPE	Assistant Professor	Ashoka Education Foundation, Wadala, Ashoka Marg, Nashik	Maharashtra
134	santwana21@gmail.com	DR.SANTWANA G MISHRA	Assistant Professor	Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar Marathwada University, Aurangabad	Maharashtra
135	satishsingla2008@gmail.com	MR.SATISH KUMAR	Associate Professor	Govt.College For Women Hisar	Haryana
136	sauravmitroo@gmail.com	MR.SAURAV MITRA	Assistant Professor	Rajiv Gandhi University	Arunachal Pradesh
137	shakuntlagoswami88@gmail.com	DR.DR.SHAKUNTALA GOSWAMI	Extension Lecturer in History	Government College-Nagina(NUH)	Haryana
138	shellyango@gmail.com	MRS.SHELLY ANGO	Assistant Professor	SFS College,Aalo,West Siang district, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
139	shilpi88760b@gmail.com	MS.SHILPI MAHANTA	Student	Napaam, tezpur	Assam
140	shivangineha91@gmail.com	MS.SHIVANGI SHARMA	Research scholar	Banasthali Vidyapith, Rajasthan	U.P.
141	shiwprakashdas@gmail.com	MR.SHIW PRAKASH DAS	Research Scholar	Burdwan, West Bengal	West Bengal
142	singhshiba1993@gmail.com	MS.SHIBA SINGH	Research Scholar	Central University of South Bihar Gaya panchanpur road village karhara SH-7 Fatehpur Gaya Bihar 823246	Uttar Pradesh
143	sobhalakshmihazarika@gmail.com	MS.SOBHA LAKSHMI HAZARIKA	Teacher Educator	Joysagar. Sivasagar. Assam. 785665	Assam

more

144	sonishasyiem307@gmail.com	MRS.SONISHA RIMAI SYIEM	Assistant Professor	Saint Claret College, Ziro, Post Box 22, Lower Subansiri District, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
145	sonydupak@gmail.com	DR.DR SONY DUPAK	Assistant Professor	Jawaharlal Nehru College, Pasighat, Arunachal Pradesh, District East Siang, pin-791102	Arunachal Pradesh
146	ssantosh407@gmail.com	DR.SANTOSH KUMAR SHARMA, ASSOCIATE PROFESSOR	Associate Professor	Kishnpur Near rcp college Dehradun-Delhi road, Roorkee Haridwar	UTTARAKHAND
147	subhash.ranshoor@gmail.com	MR.MR. SUBHASH RAMJI RANSHOOR	Assistant Professor	Department of Commerce, PGSR, SNDT Women's University, Karve Road, Pune - 411038.	Maharashtra
148	subhashrpatil1971@gmail.com	PROF.SUBHASH RAJDHAR PATIL	Professor and Head	Maharshi Karve Vidya Vihar, Karve Road, Pune 411038	Maharashtra
149	sum99saikia@gmail.com	MS.SANGITA SAIKIA	Assistant Professor	Dhakuakhana, Lakhimpur, Assam	Assam
150	sumati.rk6@gmail.com	DR.DR. SUMATI RAJKUMARI	Assistant Professor	Jail Road Imphal West Manipur Pin 795001	Manipur
151	sumit151179@gmail.com	DR.SUMIT KUMAR MANDAN	F.M	Pusa samastipur bihar	Bihar
152	surmal.narve89@gmail.com	MR.SURMAL NARVE	ASSISTENT PROFESSOR	Vidhya Vihar Vill .Borawan Khargone M.P.451228	Madhya Pradesh
153	swatantra.kr007@gmail.com	MR.MR. SWATANTRA KUMAR	Research Fellow	Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh, Pin-273009	Uttar Pradesh
154	tageyama@gmail.com	DR.DR.TAGE YAMA	Assistant Professor	Indira Gandhi Govt College, Tezu, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
155	tapasidutta22@gmail.com	MS.TAPASI DUTTA	Student	Guwahati, Assam	Assam

more

156	taramya@dngc.ac.in	MR.TAME RAMYA	Assistant Professor	Vivek Vihar, Itanagar	Arunachal Pradesh
157	tarhjulie1@gmail.com	MS.TARH JULIE	PhD scholar	Rajiv Gandhi University, Rono Hills Doimukh	Arunachal Pradesh
158	tatamama1116@gmail.com	MS.DILIMA SIGA	Research Scholar	Rajiv Gandhi University Rono Hills Doimukh Arunachal Pradesh pin 791112	Arunachal Pradesh
159	telimomu@gmail.com	MR.TELI MOMU	Assistant Professor	Donyi-Polo Govt. College, Kamki	Arunachal Pradesh
160	tessalyngdoh@gmail.com	MRS.THERESA LYNGDOH	Assistant professor	Kiang Nangbah Government college	Meghalaya
161	tsetanwangmuluvdnk@gmail.com	MS.TSETAN WANGMU	Assistant Professor	Dorjee Khandu Government College Tawang	Arunachal Pradesh
162	tshcho986@gmail.com	MRS.TSHERING CHODEN BHUTIA	Assistant Professor	Namchi Government College	Sikkim
163	umeshuniversity@gmail.com	DR.UMESH DAS	Assistant Professor of Assamese	Golakganj, Dhubri, Assam, 783334	Assam
164	utpaldeka007@gmail.com	DR.UTPAL DEKA	Assistant Professor	Resham Nagar, Khanapara,Guwahati	Assam
165	uvmasc@gmail.com	MR.YUVARAJ S	Resource Person	Maraimalainagar, Chengalpattu	Tamilnadu
166	varsha.jain@pvp.sndt.ac.in	MS.VARSHA JAIN	Department Head	Juhu Road, Santacruz -West, Mumbai 400049	Maharashtra
167	vijay.beni76@gmail.com	DR.VIJENDER SINGH BENIWAL	Assistant Professor	Hisar - 125001	Haryana
168	vijay.blm@gmail.com	MR.MR. VIJAY GANDER	LECTURE R	SOOR SAGAR ROAD, KAMLA NEHRU NAGAR, JODHPUR	RAJASTHAN
169	vijaysinghlohdhivs1988@gmail.com	MR.VIJAY SINGH LODHI	Research Scholar	Mangalayatan University, Aligarh	Uttar Pradesh
170	vikaschandra415@gmail.com	MR.VIKAS CHANDRA MAURYA	Research Scholar	MG Road, Tagore town ,Allahabad	Uttar Pradesh

more

171	vinod.yadav@pvp.sndt.ac.in	MR.VINOD HIRAMAN YADAV	Lecturer Selection Grade	Premlila Vithaldas Polytechnic SNTD WU Juhu Santacruz Mumbai 400049	Maharashtra
172	vivekgolumishra41296@gmail.com	MR.VIVEK MISHRA	Postgraduate	Lucknow, U.P.	U. P.
173	weripulu886@gmail.com	MS.WERI PULU	M. Phil Research Scholar, Department of English	Rono Hills, Papumpare distt, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal pradesh
174	yanpolumimsangma@gmail.com	MS.YANPOLUMI M SANGMA	PhD in English	Annamalai Nagar	West Garo Hills Meghalaya
175	yatertato@gmail.com	DR.YATER TATO	Assistant Professor	Tezu-792001, District Lohit, Arunachal Pradesh	Arunachal Pradesh
176	zoe12.bu@gmail.com	DR.ZOTHANCHH INGI KHIANGTE	Assistant Professor	Kokrajhar	Assam
177	anvhie2004@gmail.com	ANVHIE YADAV			
178	artidbest14@gmail.com	ARTI KUMARI			
179	ashok.barman@rgu.ac	ASHOK BARMAN			
180	biradar.rajkumar79@gmail.com	MR. BIRADAR RAJKUMAR ARJUNRAO			
181	dipakresearch@gmail.com	DR. DIPAK KUMAR SINGH			
182	drnisha1386@gmail.com	DR.NISHA KUMARI			
183	ishtiaque84@gmail.com	DR. MD. ISTHAQUE AHMED			
184	jayadeba.sahoo@rgu.ac.in	PROF. (DR.) JAYADEBA SAHOO			
185	jyotsnadwivedi62@gmail.com	JYOTSNA DWIVEDI			

more

186	kimvalte92@gmail.com	CHINGNGAIHKIM			
187	kingfready123@gmail.com	PRAKASH KUMAR			
188	kk7804146@gmail.com	KANHAIYA KUMAR ROY			
189	kotekallu9@gmail.com	MR KOTEKALLU PRAKASHA			
190	manorama34@gmail.com	PARESH KUMAR PRADHAN			
191	mercydims@gmail.com	MERCY LAMNEICHONG LHUNGDIM			
192	mohancrj28@gmail.com	CHANDRA MOHAN PRASAD			
193	monojit.garai@gmail.com	MONOJIT GARAI			
194	muraree.meena@gmail.com	DR MURAREE LAL MEENA			
195	nanda_jayashree@rediffmail.com Dr.Jayashree	DR JAYASHREE NANDA			
196	patil.mukta38@gmail.com	SANGITA N PATIL			
197	prasantabarik77@gmail.com	DR.PRASANTA KUMAR BARIK			
198	Pratimaashishgupta@gmail.com	MRS.PRATIMA GUPTA			
199	prerana2@gmail.com	PRERANA CHAKRABORTY			
200	priyankapriky3@gmail.com	PRIYANKA DAS			
201	pss.ssce@gmail.com	P SHAMBULINGAS WAMY			
202	pujapaullanka@gmail.com	PUJA PAUL			

more

203	punam.shintre121@gmail.com	PUNAM ANIL SHINTRE			
204	raghuwellwisher@gmail.com	RAGHAVENDRA NAIK S B			
205	rajesh.kumar.pramanik@gmail.com	DR. RAJESH KUMAR PRAMANIK			
206	rajitchangmai@gmail.com	MR. RAJIT CHANGMAI			
207	rajumajhilaw@gmail.com	DR. RAJU MAJHI			
208	ranjancusb@gmail.com	RANJAN KUMAR SINGH			
209	ranjantimsina@gmail.com	RANJAN TIMSINA			
210	ratna.roy103@gmail.com	DR RATNA ROY			
211	ratnakashyap1506@gmail.com	RATNA KASHYAP			
212	ravimihi@gmail.com	RAVI MIHU			
213	reenatok77@gmail.com	BOA REENA TOK			
214	rheafernandes2019@det.sndt.ac.in	RHEA FERNANDES			
215	richamonijrt2015@gmail.com	RICHAMONI BORA			
216	rinkibabin1@gmail.com	RINKI BABIN			
217	sanjoydas1981@gmail.com	SANJOY DAS			
218	sarah.hilaly@rgu.ac.in	SARAH HILALY			
219	shahinaayaan726@gmail.com	SHAHINA MATEEN			
220	shubhrabharati21@gmail.com	SHUBHRA BHARATI			

more

221	singhtaruna996@gmail.com	TARUNA SINGH			
222	sujatahota1965@gmail.com	DR SUJATA HOTA			
223	tarikaziz2604@gmail.com	SK TARIK AZIZ			
224	vikasmishra533440@gmail.com	VIKAS MISHRA			
225	vismaya164@gmail.com	VISMAYA V			
226	vjaglan@gmail.com	DR. VANDANA JAGLAN			
227	dr.nibeditaguru@gmail.com	DR.NIBEDITA GURU			
228	arun.cool.com@gmail.com	ARUN			

SCREEN SHOT OF THE SESSION



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State News

VCs discuss administrative experiences in dealing with Covid-19

July 22, 2020



RONO HILLS, Jul 21: Rajiv Gandhi University [RGU], in collaboration with the Association of Indian Universities [AIU] organized a panel discussion on the theme 'Evolving administrative paradigms in post-Covid India', which was conducted by RGU's Institute of Distance Education [IDE] and Women Studies & Research Centre (WS&RC).

Six eminent vice chancellors [VC] from six universities, who were invited to speak on the topic, shared their administrative experiences in dealing with the pandemic.

RGU VC Prof Saket Kushwaha, who chaired the inaugural session, said: "Everywhere there is a problem and every problem has its solution. As an administrator, we should find a permanent solution for a pandemic like Covid-19 situation."

Prof Kushwaha highlighted the problems regarding examination during the pandemic situation.



Rajiv Gandhi University

in collaboration with



**Association of
Indian Universities**

organizes a panel discussion
on

Evolving Administrative Paradigms in Post-Covid India

Voice of Women Educational Leaders

Monday, 20th July 2020

Conducted by



Institute of Distance Education
RGU, Rono Hills, Arunachal Pradesh

and

Women Studies & Research Centre,
Rajiv Gandhi University

Background Note



The sudden eruption of the COVID-19 pandemic has been chaotic and hostile to every visage of human life. Orchestrating a Post-COVID world is the quagmire the whole world at large faces. A plethora of changes in the way we had functioned before the pandemic hit us; have to be accounted for, if we yearn to arrive to a new normal in the post pandemic world. Challenges come with their own set of problems but embedded with them are opportunities, which become the precursor to drastic changes in the social set up. The consequences of this pandemic will be both immediate and long-term. This pandemic will have a series of biological, social, economic, political, demographic and religious upheavals, which will have profound effects on the course of world history. We will have to draft a well carved out pathway in order to minimize the negative impact of this pandemic. In order to do that we need a proper blueprint of the dos and don'ts in this regard. As India is rapidly emerging as one the chief global powers in the global dynamics, the administrative sector of all the institutions will play a key role in chalking out plans that stabilizes our vulnerable future.

With the above in consideration, this panel discussion will specifically try to have an engaging discussion on what this scenario means for the women leaders in this country and how they have been dealing with the crisis. Forbes heralded on April 13, about a month after the first lockdown orders hit the US state "Countries led by women have fared better against coronavirus.". New Zealand, led by 39-year-old prime minister Jacinda Ardern and Taiwan led by president Tsai Ing-wen has been praised by others around the world for her strong response to the crisis, and for the low infection rate in their countries. In Germany, chancellor Angela Merkel's Covid-19 response has won her high approval ratings. This shows the remarkable capacity of women leaders to understand the problem better and to develop and execute effective solutions.

Today women are leading various sectors of the society and education is no different. There are universities that are led by Women Vice Chancellors and they are among the top universities of the nation. Even in the times of the pandemic, these educational leaders of our country faced the crisis and drew upon various measures to resolve the issue as with their counterparts across the world.

Through the panel discussion, seven women educational leaders will share their experiences and have open discussion on the lessons learnt and creative means adopted to face the crisis with a goal to create a dialogue on development of cohesive plans and ideas to deal with the pandemic.



Specific Objectives

- To create a platform for dialogue between the leaders of education for knowledge sharing.
- To document the experiences and administrative actions of lady Vice Chancellors in fighting the Pandemic.
- To seek ideas and suggestions for the 'Unlock' phase of the lock down from the perspective of the lady administrators.

Expected Learning Outcomes

- Documentation of experiences of the administrators.
- Interactions and knowledge sharing amidst the experts.
- Develop a road map for 'Unlock' of education through the experiences of the speakers.
- Post Covid Administrative framework suggestions to be compiled.

Who Can Participate?

- Administrative Officers
- Educational Managers
- Faculty members of Higher Education
- Research scholars
- Members of Educational institutes



KEY NOTE SPEAKER



Dr. (Mrs) Pankaj Mittal

Secretary General

Association of Indian Universities (AIU)

SPEAKERS | PANEL-I



Prof. Rajashree MS

Vice Chancellor
APJ Abdul Kalam Technological University,
Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala



Prof. Sushma Yadav

Vice-Chancellor
Bhagat Phool Singh (BPS) Mahila Vishwavidyalaya,
Khanpur Kalan, Haryana



Prof. Sonajharia Minz

Vice Chancellor
Sido Kanhu Murmu University,
Dumka, Jharkhand

MODERATOR

Prof. Elizabeth Hangsing,

Director, WS&RC,
Rajiv Gandhi University



SPEAKERS | PANEL-II



Prof. Neelima Gupta

Vice Chancellor
Chhatrapati Shahu Ji Maharaj University,
Kanpur, Uttar Pradesh



Prof. Shashikala Vanjari

Vice Chancellor
Shreemati Nathibai Damodar Thackersey
Women's University, Mumbai, Maharashtra



Prof. Ami Upadhya

Vice Chancellor
Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar
Open University, Ahmedabad, Gujarat

MODERATOR

Prof. Jummyr Basar

AITs, Rajiv Gandhi University



WORKSHOP FORMAT

zoom

Platform
(Zoom)

250

Participation
Limit

04

Total
Sessions

02

Technical
Sessions

03

speakers in technical session I

03

speakers in technical session II

Two sessions of two hours each

Each speaker to speak for

30 mins

Open floor discussion for

30 mins

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ORGANISING TEAM

CHIEF PATRON



**Prof.
Saket Kushwaha**

Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University



**Dr. (Mrs)
Pankaj Mittal**

Secretary General,
Association of Indian
Universities (AIU)

PATRONS



Prof. Amitava Mitra

Pro Vice Chancellor
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Tomo Riba

Registrar
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Ashan Riddi

Director, IDE
Rajiv Gandhi University



Prof. Elizabeth Hangsing

Director, WS & RC
Rajiv Gandhi University

COORDINATOR



Moyir Riba,

Assistant Professor, IDE
Rajiv Gandhi University



ADVISORY COMMITTEE



Dr. David Pertin

Joint Registrar
(Academics & Conference) RGU



Dr. Nani Tamang Jose

Joint Registrar
(Examination) RGU

TECHNICAL COMMITTEE



Mr. Tsering D. Megeji

Joint Director
(Computer Centre) RGU



Mr. Solung Sonam

System Analyst
(Computer Centre) RGU



Mr. Gyan Rai

Technical Assistant
(Computer Centre) RGU



ABOUT THE INSTITUTES

ASSOCIATION OF INDIAN UNIVERSITIES

The formation of the Inter-University Board (IUB) of India as an Apex Inter-University Organization on March 23, 1925, in a meeting of Vice Chancellors/their representatives at Bombay University was the culmination of the need to bring together all the universities in India on a common platform through a coordinating body, to protect the interest of the students as well as the universities. The objective was to promote university activities, especially by way of sharing information and increasing co-operation in the field of education, culture, sports and allied areas. Prior to this, having such an organization in India was recommended by the Sadler Commission in 1919 followed by a resolution, made in the Conference of Vice Chancellors of the Indian Universities convened at Shimla in 1924.

The Inter-University Board acquired a legal status with its registration as a Society under the Societies Registration Act, 1860, on September 29, 1967 and was renamed as Association of Indian Universities (AIU) in 1973. Since its inception AIU is actively engaged in the growth and development of Higher Education. The membership of AIU includes all types of universities e.g. Conventional Universities, Open Universities, Deemed to be Universities, State Universities, Central Universities, Private Universities and Institutes of National Importance. In addition to Indian Universities, 13 Universities/Institutes from Bangladesh, Bhutan, Republic of Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mauritius, Nepal, Thailand, United Arab Emirates and United Kingdom are its Associate Members.

WOMEN STUDIES & RESEARCH CENTRE

The Women Studies & Research Centre, Rajiv Gandhi University was established on 5th September, 2009, under UGC Eleventh Five- Year Plan. The center was established as an independent multi-disciplinary center. It has been functioning with the Director as the Head with supporting staffs sanctioned by UGC under the XI plan. It conducts research, workshops and training programs regularly.

The cell has been very active in working towards women and aims at empowering and orienting them to recognize their true potential and to help them attain their own stand in a competing world. The Centre helps in creating awareness about important issues related to women and provides a forum for discussion and deliberation on a range of issues from empowerment to environment. Also, the center also aims at providing personal guidance, legal awareness on specific issues concerning women.

RAJIV GANDHI UNIVERSITY

Rajiv Gandhi University (formerly Arunachal University) is the premier institution for higher education in the state of Arunachal Pradesh and has completed thirty six years of its existence. Late Smt. Indira Gandhi, the then Prime Minister of India, laid the foundation stone of the university on 4th February 1984 at Rono Hills, where the present campus is located. Ever since its inception, the university has been trying to achieve excellence and fulfill the objectives as envisaged in the University Act. The University got academic recognition under section 2(f) from the University Grants Commission on 28th March, 1985 and started functioning from 1st April, 1985. It got financial recognition under section 12-B of the UGC on 25th March, 1994. Since then Rajiv Gandhi University then Arunachal University has carved a niche for itself in the educational scenario of the country following its selection as a University with potential for excellence by a high level expert committee of University Grants Commission from among universities in India.

The University was converted into a Central University with effect from 9th April 2007 as per notification of Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India.

INSTITUTE OF DISTANT EDUCATION

Institute of Distant Education is affiliated to Rajiv Gandhi University. The institute aims is to provide higher education opportunities to those who are unable to join regular academic and vocational education programmes in the affiliated colleges of the University and make higher education reach to the doorsteps in rural and geographically remote areas of Arunachal Pradesh in particular and North-eastern part of India in general.

The education through distance mode is an alternative mode of imparting instruction to overcome the problems of access, infrastructure and socio-economic barriers. The institute offers Masters degree, Bachelor degree and Certificate programmes in the field of social science and language.

UPCOMING EVENTS

8 Day National Web Series **22nd July to 29th July, 2020**

Faculty Development Programme **28th June to 1st Aug, 2020**

Define the New Academic Normal:
Chancellors Lecture Series **3rd August, 2020**

**International Online Seminar-
New paradigms of Open and Distance Learning
(ODL) System in India**

13th & 14th August, 2020

Last Date for submission of Abstract: 27th July, 2020

Last date for submission of full paper: 7th Aug, 2020



Rajiv Gandhi University

Rono Hills

Arunachal Pradesh

(A central university- recognised by the UGC as university with Potential for Excellence)

Mail us at: ide.rgu2005@gmail.com



@ide.rgu



@ide_rgu

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