



National Conference on “Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Advancing Community Engagement in Higher Education towards SDGs 2030 and Viksit Bharat @ 2047”

Date: 11.11.2025 (Online Mode)

Organized by:

Regional Coordinating Institute,
Unnat Bharat Abhiyan
The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU),
Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan - Foundation Day Celebrations

1 Background and Rationale

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), the flagship initiative of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, aims to bring transformational change in rural development by harnessing the knowledge and resources of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs). It envisions HEIs as catalysts for sustainable community development through research, innovation, and participatory engagement.

The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI), rooted in the ideals of Mahatma Gandhi, has always emphasized education that blends knowledge with social responsibility and productive work. Its mission of integrating learning with community life strongly aligns with the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020, which underscores experiential learning, social outreach, and holistic education.

The conference will celebrate the achievements of UBA, explore its contributions to NEP 2020, and deliberate on strategies to strengthen the community engagement role of HEIs in India's development landscape.

2 Purpose of the Conference

The primary purpose of the Online National Conference is to celebrate the Foundation Day of UBA by highlighting its remarkable contributions in bridging higher education and community development. The conference seeks to provide a reflective platform to review UBA's achievements and to deliberate on how HEIs can play a transformative role in promoting participatory development, social innovation, and rural empowerment.

It aims to unearth the key factors that influence or condition effective community engagement by HEIs and to explore the evolving role of UBA as a national framework connecting academia with rural realities. The deliberations will emphasize how UBA can collaborate with Gram Panchayats, leverage Government schemes, and promote innovation-driven livelihoods in rural areas. In alignment with the NEP 2020, the conference will also focus on how community engagement can be systematically integrated into academic, research, and governance structures of HEIs, thereby redefining education as an instrument of social transformation and inclusive growth.



3 Conference Methodology

The conference will be conducted entirely in online mode to enable wide participation from across India and abroad.

Format: The programme will include an inaugural session, seven expert-led thematic sessions, and a consolidation and reflection session at the end of the day.

Speakers: Selected experts from rural development, higher education, and public policy will deliver 30 - minute online lectures on the designated themes

Participation: The conference will be open to UBA Coordinators, academicians, researchers, Panchayat representatives, NGOs, and students from across the globe.

Interaction: Participants may post their questions and observations in the chat box, which will be compiled and addressed by speakers during or after each session.

Consolidation Session: The concluding session will focus on synthesizing key insights from all thematic discussions and drafting a brief **Consolidated Note** that captures recommendations, best practices, and future directions for strengthening UBA and community engagement.

Access: The conference proceedings will be streamed live through institutional and UBA platforms to ensure maximum outreach and visibility.

4 Proposed Themes and Notes

Theme 1: Leveraging Government Schemes for creating Smart Villages under the UBA (Leveraging Government schemes under the UBA can accelerate the development of Smart Villages by integrating digital infrastructure, and livelihood initiatives. This convergence ensures holistic rural transformation through technology-enabled governance and inclusive growth towards Viksit Bharat@2047)

Theme 2: Integrating Community Engagement with Academic, Research, and Governance Systems of HEIs (Discusses strategies for UBA cells to collaborate effectively with Gram Panchayats to ensure mutual benefits — including evidence-based planning, participatory governance, and community capacity building)

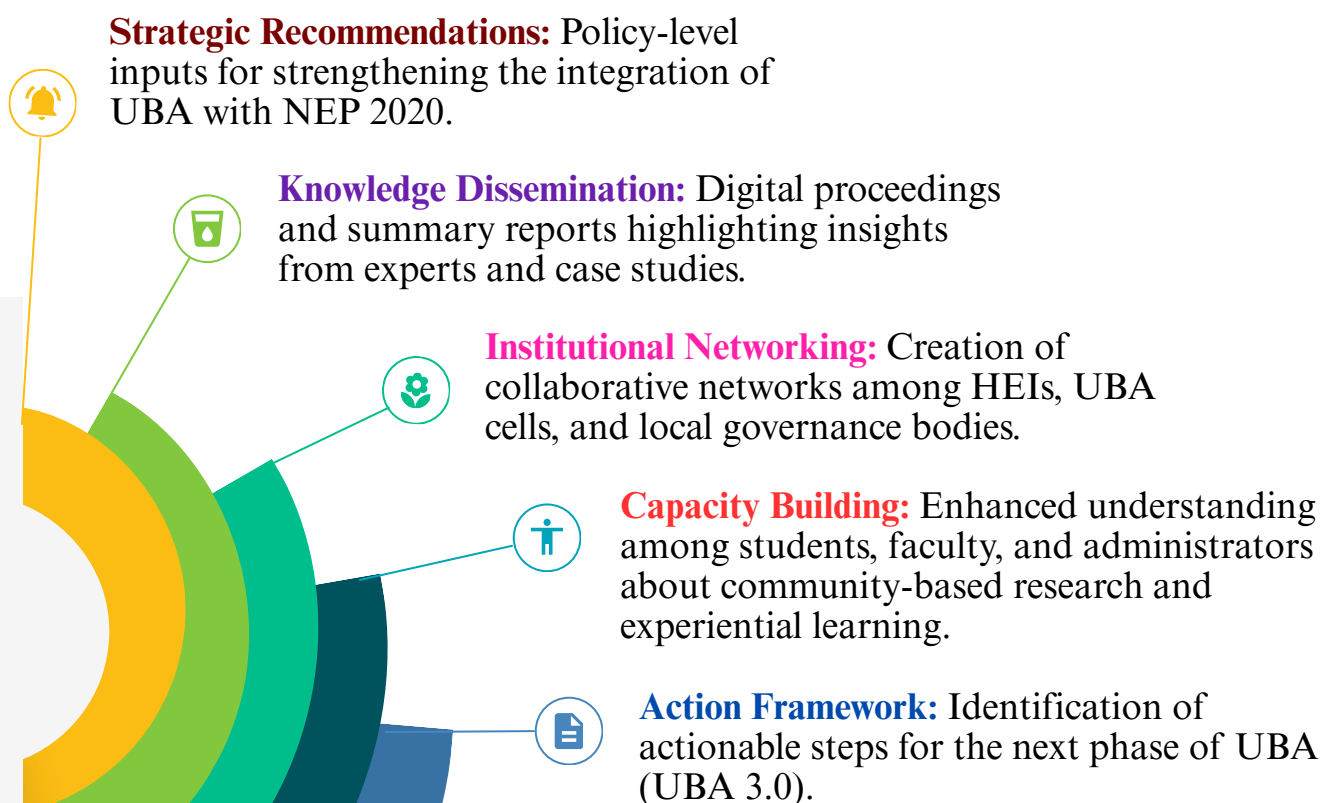
Theme 3: Fostering Innovation and Entrepreneurship for Sustainable Rural Livelihoods through UBA (Examines how HEIs, through UBA, can act as facilitators to enhance awareness, accessibility, and implementation of Government welfare and development schemes at the grassroots level)

Theme 4: Strengthening Panchayat–HEIs Partnerships through UBA (Highlights UBA’s role in promoting rural entrepreneurship, social innovation, and technology adoption that enhance livelihoods and self-reliance among rural communities)

Theme 5: UBA and NEP 2020 — Designing Strategies for the Future – SDG 2030 / Viksit Bharat @ 2047 (Focuses on aligning UBA’s objectives with NEP 2020’s emphasis on experiential learning, institutional social responsibility, and local innovation ecosystems)

Theme 6: Reinterpreting Mahatma Gandhi @2047: Ideology, Ethics, and Education for a Developed India and UBA (India stands at the confluence of three transformative visions viz., UBA, SDGs and Viksit Bharat @ 2047. Reinterpreting Mahatma Gandhi @2047, this session deliberate on these issues.)

5 Expected Outcomes



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Relevance to the Ministry of Education's, Government of India Community Engagement Agenda

As integral components of India's higher education ecosystem, UBA and GRI reaffirm their commitment to advancing the objectives of the NEP 2020 by institutionalizing community engagement across teaching, research, and governance. The Online National Conference exemplifies this commitment by highlighting how HEIs, through UBA, can collaborate with Gram Panchayats, facilitate effective outreach of Government schemes, and promote innovation-driven rural livelihoods. The deliberations and the Consolidated Note emerging from the sessions will provide actionable directions for embedding experiential learning, institutional social responsibility, and local problem-solving within higher education systems. In doing so, the conference contributes meaningfully to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) 2030 and advancing the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, thereby positioning higher education as a key driver of inclusive and participatory development.

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Institutional Commitment and Coordination

The Online National Conference, organized by the RCI, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu, commemorates the Foundation Day of UBA. The event aims to celebrate UBA's achievements, review its progress, and chart future directions in line with NEP 2020, SDGs 2030, and Viksit Bharat @ 2047. By bringing together experts, policymakers, and UBA Coordinators, the Conference will strengthen the role of HEIs as catalysts for inclusive rural development.

All are requested to register to participate in the conference. Upon registration, you will be directed to either a Zoom link or a YouTube link to join the sessions. At the end of the conference, please submit the feedback form to download your certificate.

For details: Dr. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA-RCI, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram – 624 302, Tamil Nadu.
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 **Registration form Link** - <https://forms.gle/uwfJ7VyG371bYCv49>

“E-Certificate will be provided to all the Participants”