







Fostering Rural Transformation through UBA:



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#### उन्नत भारत अभियान

ग्रामीण विकास एवं प्रौद्योगिकी केन्द्र भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली हीज़ खास, नई दिल्ली-११००१६



UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN

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19-12-24

The Vice Chancellor The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU) Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu

Sir

Sub: UBA - Commendation for Outstanding Performance in UBA Programme - reg

An Assessment Committee was constituted to review and provide recommendations for strengthening the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) programme of the Ministry of Education, Government of India, for the period from October 2023 to August 2024. The Committee evaluated the performance of all the fifty Regional

Coordinating Institutes across the country.

I am delighted to share that the Regional Coordinating Institute, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, has secured the first rank among Regional Coordinating

On behalf of the UBA National Coordinating Team, I extend my heartfelt congratulations to Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA, Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu and his team for their exemplary efforts and invaluable contributions to the remarkable success of UBA.

Their dedication and commitment to rural development and community

engagement truly set a benchmark for all Regional Coordinating Institutes.

Best regards,

[National Coordinator] Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Ministry of Education, Government of India Indian Institute of Technology, Delhi

Copy to:

Prof.K.Ravichandran Regional Coordinator, UBA, GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram, Tamil Nadu





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# Vision and Mission in Action

Fostering rural transformation through active academic and community engagement lies at the heart of the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA). The Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) at Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Gandhigram, has played a pivotal role in advancing this mission across the southern region of Tamil Nadu. UBA aims to bridge the gap between rural and urban India by promoting participatory development, enhancing skill-building, and facilitating the application of appropriate technologies.

During 2024–25, RCI–UBA–GRI coordinated eighteen impactful programmes in collaboration with 164 Participating Institutions (PIs) across eleven districts in southern Tamil Nadu. These initiatives focused on capacity building, innovation, livelihood promotion, and sustainable rural development—key elements in driving rural transformation.

To recognize and encourage excellence in implementation, the best-performing Participating Institutions and UBA Coordinators were awarded for their outstanding contributions during the year. Their dedicated efforts have significantly advanced the objectives of UBA in the region, serving as exemplary models of impactful academic–community engagement.

The year was further enriched by the visits and blessings of eminent leaders, including Dr. V.K. Vijay, National Coordinator, UBA, and Dr. Vivek Kumar, SEG Coordinator, UBA, both from UBA, NCI, IIT Delhi; Dr. G. Ravi, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University, Karaikudi; and the continued encouragement and motivation of Dr. N. Panchanatham, Vice-Chancellor of the GRI, Gandhigram. Their presence, insights, and guidance at GRI served as a significant source of inspiration for the Participating Institutions, faculty members, and students actively engaged in UBA initiatives.

This Annual Report documents the collective efforts of Higher Education Institutions (HEIs) and rural communities under the UBA framework. It highlights the outcomes, key events, and the processes involved in stakeholder engagement that contributed to inclusive development during the reporting period from April 2024 to March 2025. Furthermore, the report reflects how academic institutions, through UBA, continue to catalyze sustainable transformation at the grassroots level.

Dr.K.Ravichandran Regional Coordinator, UBA-SEG Livelihood

### World Honey Bee Day Celebrations 2024: Empowering Rural Communities through Beekeeping and KVIC Initiatives - 20.05.2024

The World Honey Bee Day celebration programme was held from 10:00 AM to 1:30 PM on May 20, 2024, at the Conference Hall of Sarada Krishna Homeopathic Medical College (SKHM College), Kulasekharam. The event was organized by the Divisional Office, KVIC, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, Madurai, in collaboration with the RCI, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram, and the UBA Cell of SKHM College, Kulasekharam. The programme's objective was to raise awareness about the importance of bees as pollinators, the threats they face, and their contribution to sustainable rural development.

Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA, GRI, inaugurated the programme. He elaborated on the crucial role of honey bees in agricultural production and their contribution to rural employment, thereby improving the standard of living for the underprivileged. He encouraged participants to take advantage of the benefits available under KVIC schemes to promote rural enterprises. He also praised the KVIC officials and the SKHM College UBA team for organizing the event with a diverse group of participants, including school children, college students, faculty members, and the general public.



Dr. N.V. Sugathan, Principal and UBA Coordinator of SKHM College, welcomed the resource persons and participants. He highlighted that Kanyakumari District is known for honey production and that this sector provides employment opportunities for rural youth and women. Shri R.P. Asokan, Divisional Director, DO, KVIC, Madurai, presided over the inaugural function. He emphasized that KVIC has become the rural economy's backbone, facilitating youth and women entrepreneurship. He also commended the organizers for their efforts in celebrating World Honey Bee Day.

Shri S.J.R.K. Dhass, SBEC in-Charge, KVIC, Kuzhithurai, and Shri M. Lazer, Master Trainer SBEC. (Ex-ADO). Kuzhithurai, provided insightful discussions on various aspects of honey bees and the significance of the celebration. Shri S. Senthikumar, Assistant Director-II, KVIC. Madurai, Shri G. Simiyon, Assistant Director & HOO, Branch MSME, DFO, Madurai & Tirunelveli, and Shri K.L. Praveen Kumar, Lead District Manager, Indian Overseas Bank, Nagercoil, explained the procedures for availing loans from banks under Government schemes and the training opportunities available through rural self-employment training institutes. The event concluded with a vote of thanks.

- 1. A total of 104 participants, including students from schools and colleges, faculty members, and members of the public, attended the programme.
- 2. Competition on honey bees was conducted among school children, and all participants received certificates and medals.
- 3. As a result of the programme, all the participants gained awareness about the importance of honey bees and the features of the PMEGP and MSME schemes.

#### 01.06.2024





# Write Shop on Intellectual Property Rights in Homoeopathy

The UBA Cell and the Institution's Innovation Council of Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, organized a Write Shop on Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) in Homoeopathy at the Conference Hall at 10:00 AM on June 1, 2024.Dr. N.V. Sugathan, Principal and UBA Coordinator, welcomed the gathering and encouraged students, interns, and faculty members to seize opportunities to gain knowledge and skills, fostering new ideas in the field of homeopathy for potential patents.

Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram, presided over the programme and emphasized the importance of IPR among the participants. He sensitized students to the need for continuous exploration and innovation, urging them to understand the concept of patents and the process of filing applications.

During his inaugural address, Mr. G. Simiyon, Assistant Director, MSME-DFO, HOO, Tirunelveli and Madurai, elaborated on the schemes offered by the Ministry of MSME, Government of India, to promote innovation and incubate new ideas that support employment in the MSME sector. In her special address, Dr. N.N. Krishnaveni, UBA Coordinator, Holy Cross Home Science College, Thoothukudi, explained various aspects Intellectual Property Rights, including Copyrights, Patents, Designs, Trademarks, and Geographical Indications. She illustrated these concepts with field experiences and real-world examples, encouraging participants to enroll in the NPTEL course on IPR.

- 1. The programme witnessed the participation of 48 students, 12 faculty members, 4 scholars, 3 resource persons, and 2 interns.
- 2. The programme's key outcomes included motivating students to develop innovative ideas, file patent applications, and explore employment opportunities for UBA Gram Panchayat development.

#### 09.07.2024





# Field Visit to UBA Gram Panchayats of Alagappa Chettiyar Government College of Engineering & Technology, Karaikudi District -

Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, GRI, Gandhigram, visited the UBA Gram Panchayats of Alagappa Chettiyar Government College of Engineering and Technology to assess the impact of the Community Engagement Programmes and initiatives undertaken by the UBA Cell of the institution.





During the visit, he engaged in detailed discussions with villagers, the Principal, UBA team members, and student volunteers regarding the effectiveness of the Community Engagement Programmes through UBA. The stakeholders shared insights on various issues and challenges in village development, and potential solutions were identified in collaboration with the Regional Coordinator.

#### Outcome

1. As a key outcome of the visit, Mr. Loganathan K.T., UBA Coordinator, was requested to devise actionable development plans for the UBA villages to enhance their overall growth and sustainability.



## Orientation Workshop on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Award Ceremony for the Best Performing Participating Institutions - 07.08.2024

Since its inception, UBA has been a beacon of hope and progress for villages across the country. It is a unique initiative bridging the gap between urban and rural India, ensuring that academic and technological advancements are equitably shared with rural communities. The RCI, UBA, GRI has made pioneering efforts in recognizing the bestperforming institutions and fostering collaborations through Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with Participating Institutions. Apart from UBAfunded projects, the UBA team has also secured funding under Government schemes. In continuation this of trend. RCI-UBA-GRI organized an Orientation Workshop and Award Ceremony for the Best Performing Participating Institutions at GRI, Gandhigram, on 07.08.2024.

Prof. K. Ravichandran, RCI Coordinator, delivered the welcome address. He emphasized the pivotal role played by the 159 Participating Institutions in the region in driving the success of UBA. He highlighted that these institutions serve as catalysts of change, mobilizing knowledge, technology, and resources to implement locally relevant and sustainable solutions. Their dedication to fostering rural-urban linkages and innovative community engagement approaches was commendable.

Dr. N. Panchanatham, Vice-Chancellor, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram, inaugurated the programme. He acknowledged the achievements of UBA while emphasizing the challenges ahead, including socio-economic disparities, environmental concerns, and the need for technological adaptation in rural development. He encouraged institutions to foster partnerships, promote interdisciplinary research, and cultivate a culture of continuous learning and adaptation through UBA.

Prof. G. Ravi, Vice-Chancellor of Alagappa University, Karaikudi, delivered the Chief Guest address. He stated that community engagement is not merely a buzzword but a fundamental aspect of an educational institution's mission. He emphasized the importance of leveraging knowledge, resources, and skills to create a positive impact beyond classrooms and laboratories. Engaging with the community through UBA enables students and faculty to apply academic knowledge in real-world settings, address pressing social issues, and collaborate with diverse groups to co-create solutions. He further noted that such engagement enriches teaching and research, fosters social responsibility among students, and prepares them to be active, informed, and compassionate citizens.

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Prof. Vivek Kumar, Coordinator, UBA-SEG, served as the resource person. In his presentation, he elaborated on the role of UBA in rural development across the country. He urged UBA Institutions to actively participate in community development and emphasized the significance of Higher Education Institutions in these initiatives. Prof. Vivek Kumar further highlighted the recognition of the ten Best Performing Participating Institutions, acknowledging their outstanding contributions and setting a benchmark for others to follow. He encouraged institutions to develop innovative, inclusive, and sustainable solutions for rural development. He expressed his hope that more institutions would be recognized for their exemplary contributions in the coming years. In conclusion, Dr. S. Kavitha Maithily, UBA Coordinator, GRI, thanked the Participating Institutions for their commitment to signing MoUs with the Regional Coordinating Institute, UBA, GRI, and Gandhigram. She emphasized that the journey towards an inclusive and developed India is a collective effort, with every step taken bringing us closer to this shared goal.

#### **Round Table Discussions**

In the afternoon, Dr. S. Kavitha Maithily organized a Round Table Discussion to identify regional challenges in the development of UBA villages. Additionally, Prof. R. Mani, Professor & Head, Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, GRI, Gandhigram, led a discussion on promoting Gandhian and peace values among engineering students of Participating Institutions in the Southern Region of Tamil Nadu, in collaboration with UBA Coordinators.

#### **Outcome**

- 1. The workshop witnessed the participation of118 individuals from 88 ParticipatingInstitutions.
- 2. MoUs were signed between RCI and 108 Participating Institutions to further collaboration for rural development.
- 3. Ten Best Performing PIs were awarded with certificates.



# **Awards for the Best Performing Participating Institutions and Coordinators**



St.Mary's College Thoothukudi



Holy Cross Home Science College, Thoothukudi



Alagappa Chettiyar Government Engineering College, Sivagangai



Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kanyakumari



The Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College for Women, Virudhunagar



Sethu Institute of Technology, Virudhunagar



St.Xavier's College, PalayamKottai



Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi



Holy Cross College, Kanyakumari



St.Ignatius College of Education, Tirunelveli



# Orientation Workshop on UBA - 15.11. 2024

An Orientation Workshop on UBA was jointly organized by RCI, UBA, GRI Gandhigram, and Bharath Niketan Engineering College, Theni, on November 15, 2024. The workshop aimed to raise awareness among faculty members and students about UBA's vision, mission, and objectives, its role sustainable emphasizing in rural development and the active participation of higher educational institutions in addressing challenges through collaborative and participatory initiatives. The event commenced with a welcome address by Mr. C. Murugan, UBA Coordinator, Bharath Niketan Engineering College, Theni, who provided an overview of UBA and highlighted how educational institutions can contribute to village development through this initiative.



This was followed by the Presidential Address delivered by Dr. J. Jayakumar, Principal, Bharath Niketan Polytechnic College, Theni. He underscored the significance of sustainable rural development and the pivotal role of UBA in fostering meaningful change. He also emphasized the importance of collaboration between educational institutions, panchayats, self-help groups, and community-based organizations to drive impactful development.

The first technical session was conducted by Mrs. A. Kavitha, UBA Project Assistant, RCI, Gandhigram, who provided a comprehensive understanding of UBA's vision, mission, and objectives. She elaborated on the functioning of UBA and the role of the RCI, UBA, GRI. To inspire participants, she also shared success stories and best practices from previous UBA initiatives.

In the second technical session, Ms. Rithitha M.S.L, UBA-SEG Research Assistant, Gandhigram, shed light on the various Subject Expert Groups (SEGs) under UBA. She guided participants on proposal submission strategies and effective project drafting to align with the needs of rural communities. She also highlighted the interdisciplinary approach required for UBA initiatives, encouraging innovation in village development. The workshop concluded with a vote of thanks by Mr. S. Velrajan, Bharath Niketan Engineering College, Theni, who expressed his heartfelt gratitude to the speakers, organizers, and participants for their enthusiastic engagement and contributions to the event

# Participation in India International Science Festival -.12.2024

Dr. K. Ravichandran, UBA Regional Coordinator, Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI), participated in the India International Science Festival (IISF) 2024 at IIT Guwahati on December 1, 2024. He delivered lecture with Power Point presentation on "Student Volunteers Driven Gram Panchayat Development: Societal Interventions through UBA" during Technical Session II of the National Social Organizations and Institutions Meet, based on the experiences of RCI,UBA,GRI

#### Outcome

- 1.57 Selected PI Coordinators were informed about the key features of the programme.
- 2. All the Coordinators were advised to get prepared for participation in the next IISF to showcase their achievements in Gram Panchayat Development.



"Production of Seaweed-Based Plant Growth Promoters and Bio pesticides and Edible Coating Blends for Fruits and Vegetable Preservation for the Livelihood Development of Fisherfolk"

The UBA Team of GRI (DTBU) got the startup project under the PMMSY scheme with the funding support of Rs.50 lakh from NCDC, New Delhi. The primary objective of this startup project is to produce seaweed-based products to improve crops'growth and yield performance and enhance the shelf-life of fruits and vegetables.

- 1. This project was executed with the support of 16 PIs in this Region.
- 2.390 youth and women were trained on the production of seaweed based products.
- 3.A Startup unit has been established with required infrastructure facilities and technically qualified manpower to guide interested entrepreneurs to start seaweed based rural enterprises.







A National-Level Workshop on Innovative Technologies for Rural Development was jointly organized by Sethu Institute of Technology (SIT), Virudhunagar, and RCI, UBA, GRI, on December 17, 2024, at Sethu Institute of Technology, Virudhunagar.

Dr. G. D. Siva Kumar, Principal, SIT, who warmly welcomed the gathering, set an engaging tone for the workshop. This was followed by a session on "About the Workshop" by Dr. B. Karthikeyan, UBA Coordinator, SIT, who elaborated on the vision and mission of UBA, emphasizing the need, objectives, and expected outcomes of the workshop in the context of rural development.

The Presidential Address was delivered by Mr. S. Mohamed Jaleel, Founder and Chairman, SIT. He highlighted the institution's long-standing commitment to social service and rural development. Encouraging students to actively participate in rural upliftment, he praised UBA as an impactful initiative that aligns with SIT's mission of fostering societal change.







In the Inaugural Address, Dr. N. Panchanatham, Vice Chancellor, The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram, insisted the important role of students pursuing higher education in rural development UBA. He stressed the through importance of reinvesting education's benefits into rural development and urged students and faculty to actively contribute village upliftment. to Drawing inspiration from Dr. A. P. J. Abdul Kalam's PURA (Providing Urban Amenities in Rural Areas), he highlighted UBA as a transformative initiative that bridges the urban-rural divide, equipping participants with insights and innovative solutions for rural challenges.

A special address on "Rural Livelihood" was delivered by Prof. K. Ravichandran, Professor & Regional Coordinator, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram. He emphasized the significance of student participation in "TECH 4 Seva" initiatives, advocating for the integration of innovative technologies in rural development. He also urged the Chairman of SIT to modernize five UBAnetwork villages by encouraging active participation of UBA volunteer students, supporting NITI Aayog initiatives, and promoting the establishment of a Centre for Rural Technology at SIT. Furthermore, Ravichandran Prof. K. motivated Principal **Investigators** by stating that their effective participation could provide UBA Coordinators with opportunities to present at the IISF 2025. He encouraged faculty and students to take an active role in UBA initiatives, addressing rural challenges and fostering sustainable rural development.

Following the inaugural session, Technical Session-I commenced with a lead presentation by paper Chairperson, Dr. S. Kavitha Maithily, UBA Coordinator, GRI, Gandhigram, on "Innovative Technologies for Rural Development." The session continued with eight presentations from UBA Coordinators, moderated Coby S. Chairperson Dr. Ayyanar and Rapporteur Mrs. G. Girahalakshmi, SIT, Virudhunagar. Technical Session-II was chaired by Dr. N. Mahalakshmi, with Dr. M. Sivaramasundaram serving as the Co-chairperson and Ms. D. Julie Bersiya, from SIT, as the rapporteur. The session featured eight successful presentations.

Title of the Paper	Paper presented by
Vocational training for Spiritual Dhoop, Art from waste, Art and Craft	Dr.S.S.Jayabalakrishnan, Mannar Tirumalai Naicker College, Madurai
Augmented Reality and Virtual Reality to Enhance Learning in Adopted Primary Schools	Ms.R.Rohini St.Mary's College, Thoothukudi
Creating Women Entrepreneurs in the Production of Millet Based Healthy Food Products	Dr.Maria Sahaya Sharmila St.Mary's College, Thoothukudi
Women Entrepreneurship Development in rural areas using locally available resources	Dr.N.N.Krishnaveni, Holy Cross Home Science College, Thoothukudi
Veterinary Homoeopathy: A New insight into Livestock Diseases	Dr. Shimmal Chenthik Sarada Krishna Homoeopathy Medical College, Kanyakumari
Empowering Entrepreneurs through Palmyra Sprout Bakery Innovations	Dr.M.Vadivel, Mohamed Sathak Engineering College, Ramanathapuram
Portable Squeezer for Lemon Juice Extraction	Dr.T.Manimaran, Ramco Institute of Technology, Virudhunagar
Impact on Unnat Bharat Abhiyan on Learners of Higher Education Institutions in Community Engagement	Dr.N.Uma Sangari, The Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College for Women, Virudhunagar

Title of the Paper	Paper presented by	
Development of low-cost organic manure from food waste for the welfare of the farmers through effective natural process	Dr.B.Perumal, Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Higher Education, Virudhunagar	
Development of Economically Feasible Constructed Wetland Technology for Treating Grey Water in a Village		
Agriculture Embracing the IoT Smart Agri Drone	Dr.S.Suresh Raja, K.L.N. College of Engineering, Sivagangai	
Agro Room		
Efficient Solar Dryer for Farmers		
Design and Implementation of IOT Based Smart Bin for Organic Fertilizer Generation	Dr.G.Soundradevi, Sethu Institute of Technology	
Grey water Recycling System Design and Economical Analysis for Residences in Kariapatti Village	Mr. A.Nagaraj, Sethu Institute of Technology	





Dr. E. Somasundaram, UBA Regional Coordinator, Tamil Nadu Agricultural University, Coimbatore, delivered the Valedictory Address. He elaborated on the objectives of UBA, highlighted the challenges faced by rural communities, and shared examples of successful initiatives, such as mushroom cultivation and the "Nammalvar Shop." He also stressed the importance of entrepreneurship centers.

#### **Outcome**

- 1. The workshop saw active participation, of 182 students and 46 faculty members engaged in insightful discussions on rural development, challenges, and innovative solutions.
- 2.16 Field based / UBA Gram Panchayats development oriented papers were presented by UBA Coordinators / Faculty Members.
- 3. This collaborative effort reinforced the commitment of students and faculty towards sustainable development and impactful change in rural communities.



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The UBA Cell of Mangayarkarasi College of Arts & Science for Women, Madurai, in collaboration with KVIC. the Madurai, Waste Wood Craft Training organized Programme under the Gramodyog Vikas Yojana at Ramayanpatti Village. The training aimed to promote rural entrepreneurship and empower women through skill development handicrafts. The inaugural session on December 18, 2024, commenced with a welcome address by Mr. S. Senthil Kumar, Assistant Director, KVIC, Madurai, who introduced participants to KVIC's various training programmes. He emphasized the significance of the Waste Wood Craft Training Programme in creating livelihood opportunities for rural communities. The Inaugural Address was Baskar, Principal, delivered by Dr. Uma MCASW, Madurai, who highlighted the role of development in fostering skill economic independence for rural women. The Presidential Address by Mr. Senthilkumar Ramasamy, Divisional Director, KVIC. Madurai, importance underscored the of learning handicrafts and elaborated on Government schemes available to artisans.

Prof. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA. GRI. Gandhigram, in his Special Address, urged students and rural women to make use of the opportunity, envisioning Ramayanpatti as a model village for skill-based initiatives. Dr. C. Jestina Jeyakumari, Head & UBA Coordinator, MCASW, provided an overview of the 20-day training programme, mentioning that a skilled trainer from KVIC would conduct the sessions. The training would conclude exhibition with an of crafted woodwork. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Dr. A. Anitha, MCASW, acknowledging contributions of dignitaries, organizers, and participants.

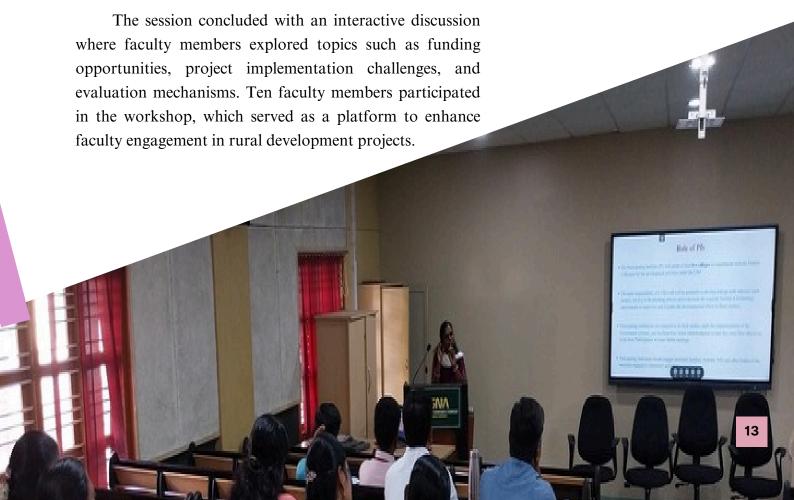
- 1.20 Rural women were trained on the production of craft items from waste wood.
- 2. Active collaboration has been established between PI,KVIC, and Gram Panchayat for Rural Development

### Orientation Workshop on UBA - 23.12.2024

An Orientation Workshop on UBA for faculty members was organized by P.S.N.A College of Engineering and Technology, Dindigul, in association with the RCI, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram, on 2312.2024.

Mr. M.S. Thanapal, from P.S.N.A College of Engineering and Technology, welcomed the gathering and provided an overview of UBA, emphasizing its role in addressing rural challenges through academic engagement and sustainable solutions.

The Technical Session, led by Mrs. A. Kavitha, UBA Project Assistant, GRI, Gandhigram, provided insights into the vision, mission, and objectives of UBA. She highlighted the role of the RCI, UBA, GRI, shared success stories, and discussed the impact of UBA initiatives on community development. The session also covered proposal drafting strategies, emphasizing community needs, budgeting, stakeholder involvement, and impact measurement.





### Visit of Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, National Coordinator, UBA - 26.12.2024

Prof. Virendra Kumar Vijay, National Coordinator, UBA, IIT Delhi, visited Gandhigram on December 26, 2024, for the presentation of the **Award for the Best Regional Coordinating Institution** under UBA to RCI, UBA, GRI. The event was attended by Dr. L. Radhakrishnan, Registrar (i/c), GRI, Gandhigram. During his visit, Prof. Vijay had detailed discussions on the programmes organized by RCI, UBA, GRI.

### **Empowering Tribal Women through Orchid Cultivation - 27.01.2025**

### -Ongoing Programme

A Workshop on Empowering Tribal Women through Orchid Cultivation and Value-Added Initiatives programme was organized by RCI, UBA, GRI and Tamil Nadu Adi Dravidar Housing Development Corporation Ltd., Chennai, on January 27, 2025. Dr. K. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, UBA, welcomed the gathering, emphasizing the programme's objective of equipping tribal communities with orchid cultivation and marketing skills. Dr. R. Ramsubbu, Principal Investigator of the Project, provided an overview, outlining the selection of four villages and the minimal maintenance required for orchid cultivation.

In his presidential address Prof. N. Panchanatham, Vice-Chancellor, GRI, commended RCI, UBA,GRI for their rural empowerment efforts, emphasizing

education and skill development for tribal communities. Dr. S. Senthil Kumar, Senior Scientist, ICAR-KVK, Dindigul, highlighted the economic potential of orchids due to their long shelf life. Following this, Prof. N. Panchanatham distributed orchid samplings to 40 members of the Paliyar community, Korankombu village, Dindigul. Dr. S. Kavitha Mythily, UBA Coordinator, GRI, concluded the event with a vote of thanks, describing it as a triangulation meeting connecting tribal communities, students, and academicians.

- 1.40 Tribal Women are trained on orchid cultivation.
- 2. All the trainees were given saplings to plant in their garden.
- 3. Technical team has been continuously providing hand holding support to the women for Orchid cultivation



# Entrepreneurship Cum Skill Development Programme (ESDP) in Aari and Embroidery - 28.01.2025



The Entrepreneurship Cum Skill Development Programme (ESDP) in Aari and Embroidery was organized on 28th January 2025 at Ramayanpatti Panchayat, Madurai. The event was conducted by the UBA Cell of Mangayarkarasi College of Arts and Science for Women, Madurai, in collaboration with the RCI, UBA, GRI, and the Ministry of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSME), Technology Development Centre, Madurai. The programme aimed to empower rural women by equipping them with practical skills in embroidery and textile embellishment. This sixweek hands-on training programme focused on enabling women to create high-quality, marketable textile products by incorporating design innovation, technical precision, and efficient material usage. The primary objective was to provide rural women with skill-based training in Aari work and embroidery, fostering self-employment opportunities.



Dr. Muthamil Selvi welcomed the gathering and emphasized the significance of the programme in fostering economic independence among rural women. She highlighted how skill development in embroidery could serve as a sustainable source of income. Following this, Mrs. A. Shanmugapriya, UBA Project Assistant, RCI, UBA, GRI, delivered a special address. She provided an insightful overview of the UBA initiative and motivated the women to actively participate. She elaborated on the growing market demand and economic potential of Aari work and embroidery, citing successful models where rural women have transformed their skills into profitable businesses.

Mrs. A. Kavitha, UBA Project Assistant, RCI, UBA, GRI, offered felicitations. She stressed the importance of forming Self-Help Groups (SHGs) to promote collective entrepreneurship and guided participants on availing benefits under Government schemes, facilities and microfinance options to expand their embroidery ventures.

- 1.20 Rural Women were trained on Aari Work and embroidery techniques, fabric selection, design patterns, stitching methods with specialised tools.
- 2. The Programme ensures a active participation of UBA PI in Gram Panchayat with the support of KVIC.
- 3. These Programmes are examples for convergence with Government Schemes.

### Orientation Workshop on UBA - 29.01.2025

- The Orientation Workshop on UBA was held on 29th January 2025 at Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College, Cumbum. The workshop was jointly organized by the RCI, UBA, GRI, and Sri Adi Chunchanagiri Women's College, Cumbum. Dr. R. Tamilselvi, UBA Coordinator, SACWC, Cumbum, delivered the welcome address, providing an overview of the UBA programme. Dr. G. Renuga, Principal, SACWC, Cumbum, delivered the felicitation address, emphasizing the importance of rural development for national growth and how UBA provides a valuable platform for addressing rural challenges.
- Mrs. A. Kavitha, UBA Project Assistant, led the first technical session. She provided a comprehensive understanding of the vision, mission, and objectives of UBA, detailing the programme's functioning and highlighting the role of the RCI, UBA, GRI. She also shared success stories and best practices from UBA initiatives, emphasizing the importance of Sustainable Development Goals and their localization in rural development.
- The second technical session was delivered by Ms. Rithitha M.S.L, UBA-SEG Research Assistant. She elaborated on the various Subject Expert Groups (SEGs) within UBA, focusing on strategies for proposal submission and guiding participants on drafting effective project proposals aligned with rural community needs. She emphasized the interdisciplinary required for approach **UBA** initiatives to develop innovative solutions for village development. A total of 100 students and four faculty members participated in the workshop. The event concluded with a vote of thanks by Mrs. M. Bobby, UBA Member, SACWC, Cumbum.





Capacity Building of PI Coordinators at NIRDPR



The National Institute of Rural Development & Panchayat Raj, Hyderabad, organized a workshop on Nurturing Grassroots Innovations through Action Research under UBA on January 30th and 31th, 2025. In this workshop, Coordinators from five PIs from GRI-RCI Region participated.

- 1. Continuous training gives exposure to UBA Coordinators on Government Schemes and Programmes for Rural Development.
- 2. Training serves as an important motivating factor for the success of in this region.





# **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on 12.02.2025**

An Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP-SC) was organized by the **MSME** Development and Facilitation Office, Tirunelveli, Ministry of MSME, Government of India, in collaboration with St. Xavier's College. Palayamkottai, the Regional Coordinating Institute, UBA GRI, Gandhigram, and the Block Development Office (Nanguneri Aspirational Block), Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Government of Tamil Nadu on 12.02.2025. The primary objectives of the programme were to (1) raise awareness about entrepreneurship and its role in economic development, (2) educate participants government schemes supporting micro, small, and medium enterprises (MSMEs), (3) provide guidance on financial literacy and banking support, (4) introduce schemes from THADCO, KVIC, and EDII for business growth, (5) encourage the use of digital marketing for rural products, (6) share success stories entrepreneurs who have leveraged government support.

#### Outcome

• The programme was attended by 66 rural women and successfully provided valuable insights into Government initiatives and business strategies, fostering a spirit of entrepreneurship among local communities.





# **Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on 13.02.2025**

A second Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme (EAP-SC) was conducted by the MSME Development and Facilitation Office, Tirunelveli, in collaboration with Sarada Krishna Homoeopathic Medical College, Kulasekharam, and RCI, UBA, GRI on 13.02.2025. This programme aimed at empowering SC community members by raising awareness on (1) various government schemes supporting MSMEs, (2) financial literacy and banking facilities, (3) business expansion strategies, (4) the role of digital marketing in entrepreneurship.

#### **Outcome**

• A total of 86 SC community members participated in the event, which successfully promoted entrepreneurship by providing essential knowledge on government initiatives and business growth opportunities.

# One-Day State-Level Seminar on "IoT Applications for Rural Development: Empowering UBA Gram Panchayats" - 15.02.2025



- The one-day State-level Seminar was jointly organized by Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Virudhunagar (KARE), and RCI, UBA, GRI on 15th February 2025 at Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Education, Virudhunagar. Dr. B. Perumal, UBA Coordinator, welcomed the gathering, elaborating on the vision and mission of UBA. He highlighted the need, objectives, and expected outcomes of the seminar, emphasizing its relevance to rural development. The Presidential Address was delivered by Dr. A. Samson Nesaraj, Director (Student Affairs), and Dr. P. Sivakumar, Dean, SEET, KARE. The Inaugural Address was delivered by Dr. J. Charles Pravin, Head of the Department of ECE, KARE.
- Prof. K. Ravichandran, Senior Professor and Regional Coordinator, RCI, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram, delivered a special address on the significance and impact of UBA in fostering rural development. He emphasized the role of UBA in bridging the gap between higher educational institutions and rural communities by promoting participatory development and sustainable solutions. He also highlighted the need for active student engagement, community involvement, and collaboration with Gram Panchayats to achieve the SDGs.
  - Mr. G. Simiyon, Assistant Director, Branch MSME, DFO, Government of India, Tirunelveli, offered felicitations on the critical role of MSMEs in driving economic growth and rural entrepreneurship. He emphasized the skill development initiatives offered by the Ministry of MSME to support aspiring entrepreneurs, particularly in rural areas. Dr. B. Perumal, UBA Coordinator at KARE, delivered the vote of thanks for the inaugural session, expressing gratitude to all distinguished speakers, participants, and organizers for their valuable contributions. Following the inaugural address, Technical Session-I commenced, focusing on "IoT Applications for Rural Development: Empowering UBA Gram Panchayats." The session featured presentations from coordinators, with a total of five presentations successfully delivered during the session.



Title of the Paper	Paper presented by		
IoT for Smart Agriculture	Dr.D.Ganesha Perumal, KARE, Virudhunagar		
<b>Mushroom and Cucumber Cultivation</b>	Dr.V.Ramachandran & Dr.S.Vigneswaran, Mannar Thirumalai Naicker College, Madurai		
IoT in STEM Education & Rural Empowerment	Mr. B. Ganapathy Ram, National Engineering College, Kovilpatti		
Development of economically feasible constructed wetland technology using Locally available plants for treating grey water in village	Dr. S. Vanitha, KARE, Virudhunagar		
Smart IoT based mushroom cultivation and edibility prediction	Dr.R.Murugeswari, KARE, Virudhunagar		

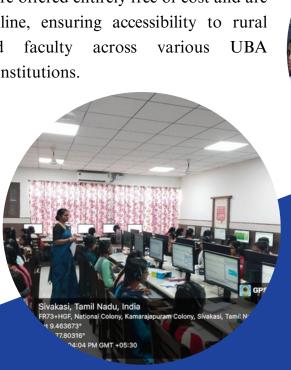
Technical Session 2 provided a comprehensive insight into MSME initiatives and innovation-driven solutions, commencing with a visit to the Atal Innovation Lab for UBA Coordinators. This visit allowed coordinators to witness first hand cutting-edge research and entrepreneurial projects designed to support rural development. Following the lab visit, Mr. B. Pradeep Raja from KARE, engaged session on the applications of the Internet of Things (IoT) in rural development. The session was succeeded by a Project Expo organized by KARE, where coordinators interacted with students and researchers showcasing innovative solutions to rural challenges.

- 1. A total of 37 UBA Coordinators from various Participating Institutions attended the seminar.
- 2. Five Field based papers were presented in the seminar for wider discussion among the participants.

Skilling Programme by Cognizant - 17.02.2025 to 15.03.2025

The RCI, UBA, GRI in collaboration with the CSR team of Cognizant, Coimbatore, organized a capacity-building initiative aimed at enhancing the skills and knowledge of students from UBA Participating Institutions. This partnership plays a crucial role in equipping students from rural and semi-urban backgrounds with skills in emerging technologies and professional development, preparing them for the evolving job market.

The initiative consists of two key components: the Advancement Career Programme and the Technology Advancement Programme. Career Advancement Programme: Focuses on soft skills development, covering leadership, adaptability, teamwork, and decision-making. It also includes an interview clinic offering hands-on guidance in resume building, interview preparation, AMCAT test orientation, LinkedIn profile development, and mock interview sessions to enhance employability. Technology Advancement Programme: Aims to equip students and faculty with technical skills through training in MS Suite (basic and advanced Excel, and advanced PowerPoint) and foundational technologies. knowledge in emerging These programmes are offered entirely free of cost and are conducted online, ensuring accessibility to rural faculty **UBA** students and across various Participating Institutions.













These programmes align with Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 4 – Quality Education, SDG 5 – Gender Equality, and SDG 8 – Decent Work and Economic Growth), ensuring a holistic approach to capacity building.

Name of PI	Date	No.of Beneficiaries	Venue
The Gandhigram Rural Institute, Gandhigram	17.02.2025 to 22.02.2025	45 Students	GRI, Gandhigram
Mangayarkarasi Arts & Science College for Women, Madurai	04.03.2025 to 12.03.2025	120 Students	PI Campus
Madurai Sivakasi Nadar Pioneer Meenakshi Women College, Sivagangai	13.03.2025 to 14.03.2025	59 Students	PI Campus
The Standard Fireworks Rajaratnam College for Women, Sivakasi	04.03.2025 to 15.03.2025	45 Students	PI Campus

- 1. The training sessions have been successfully implemented in four UBA-Participating Institutions, with subject-matter experts from Cognizant, Coimbatore.
- 2. Officially launched in February 2025 at GRI, Gandhigram, this initiative continues to make a significant impact by bridging skill gaps, boosting student confidence, and preparing young minds for future employment opportunities.



K. Prof. Ravichandran, Regional Coordinator, GRI. Gandhigram, participated as a Resource Person at the National Conference on Viksit Bharat: Revitalizing & **Transforming** Rural Livelihood through Interdisciplinary Innovation, held on 11th March 2025 at Arul Anandar College, Karumathur. He delivered an insightful talk on "Unnat Bharat Abhiyan: Transformation Catalyst for Rural through Innovation and Inclusive Development."During his address. emphasized UBA's pivotal role in bridging higher educational institutions with rural communities, fostering participatory development, and contributing localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

He elaborated on how UBA facilitates innovative solutions to rural challenges by encouraging the active engagement of students, faculty, and local stakeholders. His talk showcased notable success stories where collaborative efforts under UBA have led to significant improvements in livelihoods. Additionally, he highlighted continuous how capacity-building initiatives and community-driven approaches under UBA have empowered rural populations and contributed to inclusive The conference growth. witnessed active participation from 150 students, reflecting the enthusiasm and commitment toward rural development and innovation-driven transformation.

Key Dutcomes of All Programmes



The various initiatives undertaken by RCI-UBA-GRI in 2024-25 yielded significant outcomes:

Over 500 individuals received hands-on training in skill-based and knowledge-enhancing programmes.

Women empowerment initiatives successfully trained rural women in beekeeping, woodcraft, and embroidery, orchid cultivation providing them with additional opportunities for better livelihood.

Technological interventions, such as IoT applications in agriculture and clean energy solutions, were introduced to rural communities, and knowledge was shared among UBA Coordinators.

Institutional engagement was strengthened, with 108 MoUs signed between RCI-UBA-GRI and Participating Institutions.



### Participation in Gram Sabha

UBA Participating Institutions in this Region actively participated in the Gram Sabha meetings held at the UBA network villages.



























Policy Options

Based on the Annual Report of RCI, UBA, GRI, Gandhigram (2024-25), the UBA Institutions can consider the following policy options to strengthen and scale up the impact of UBA:

### 01. Strengthening Rural Livelihood

- Expand skill training programmes in rural livelihood opportunities (e.g., honeybee farming, waste wood craft, palmyra sprout bakery, and embroidery).
- Encourage collaborations with MSME and KVIC to provide financial and technical support to rural enterprises.
- Facilitate market linkages for products developed under UBA initiatives through digital and offline platforms.

# O2. Enhancing Technological Interventions for Rural Development

- Promote IoT and Smart Agriculture solutions for small and marginal farmers.
- 03. Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building
  - Increase the number of HEI partnerships to reach more villages, taking inspiration from the 108 MoUs signed by RCI-UBA-GRI.
  - Develop structured capacity-building programmes for faculty and students to enhance their role in UBA initiatives.
  - Promote interdisciplinary research in rural technology and social innovation.

# 04. Encouraging Women and Tribal Empowerment Initiatives

- Expand self employment training for the members of rural women Self-help Groups (SHGs).
- Promote tribal empowerment through targeted agricultural initiatives, such as the orchid cultivation project for tribal women in Tamil Nadu.
- Provide micro-financing support and policy incentives to encourage women-led rural businesses.



### **05.** Digital Transformation and Outreach

- Develop an online knowledge-sharing platform to document and disseminate best practices from different regions.
- Enhance digital literacy among rural communities to improve access to Government schemes, training programmes, and entrepreneurship opportunities.
- Leverage AI and data analytics to map village needs and match them with available solutions and expertise.

### 06. Strengthening HEI-Community Engagement Model

- Encourage hands-on student engagement through community service projects under UBA.
- Institutionalize long-term village adoption models, ensuring continuous support beyond one-time interventions.
- Integrate UBA into the academic curriculum, promoting field-based learning and problem-solving among students.

### **Expanding CSR and Industry Collaboration**

- Encourage corporate partnerships like the Cognizant-supported skilling programme.
- Develop rural technology incubation centers with CSR funding to support innovation-driven entrepreneurship.
- Incentivize industry-led rural development projects through policy frameworks

By implementing these policy options, UBA can scale up the impact, drive sustainable rural development, and foster innovation-led community transformation across India.



07





Conclusion

The year 2024-25 has been a remarkable period for RCI-UBA-GRI, with significant strides made in community engagement, skill-building, and technological interventions for rural development. The success of these programmes underscores the importance of HEIs' involvement in grassroots-level transformation. Moving **RCI-UBA-GRI** forward, remains committed to expanding its initiatives, deepening institutional partnerships, and promoting sustainable rural development across southern part of Tamil Nadu.



# GRI-RCI-Workshop -Media Highlights





லத்தலைவர் ஜிபி, மாவட்ட ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் ராஜேஷ் ஆகியோர் பேசினர். முடிவில் தொழில் முனைவோர் வளர்ச் சிக் குழுவின் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் பிந்து சரண் நன்றி கூறி னார். நிகழ்ச்சியில் பட்டியல் சமூகத்தினர் உள்பட ஏராளமா

#### 'உன்னத் பாரத் அபியான்' திட்டத்தில் காந்தி கிராம பல்கலை.க்கு முதலிடம்

னோர் கலந்து கொண்டனர்.

கழகம் முதலிடம் பிடித்துள்ளது. உள்ளத் பாரத் அபியாள் (யுபிஏ) என்பது மத்திய (யுப்ஏ) என்பது மத்தய அரசின் கல்வி அமைச்சகத்தின் முதன்மைத் நிட்டமாகும். இதில் அனைத்து உயர் கல்வி நிறுவனங்களும் குறைத்தபட்சம் 5 திராமங்களின் வளர்ச்சியை தேர்ந்தெடுத்து வேலை செய்ய வேண்டும்.

<sup>கவண்டும்.</sup> இந்திய தொழில் நுட்பக் கழகம் (ஐஐடி) தேசிய ஒருங்கிணைப்பு நிறுவனமாகச் செயல்படுகிறது. திண்டுக்கல் காந்திகிராம பல்கலைக்கழகம் னந்தன்றாம் பல்லைக்கழன் பீராந்திய ஒருங்கிணைப்பு நிறுவனங்களில் ஒன்றாகச் செயல்படுகிறது. இந்த ஒத்துழைப்பை முறைப்படுத்தும்

வகையில் காந்திகிராம பல் கலைக்கழகம் மற்றும் ஐ.ஐ.டி. இடையே புரிந்துணர்வு ஒப்பந்தம் கைபெழுத்தானது. இந்திலையில் யுபிஏ

இந்நிலையில் யுபிஏ திட்டங்களை வலுப்படுத்து வதற்கான பரிந்துரைகளை மதிப்பாய்வு செய்ய சமீபத்தில் ஒரு மதிப்பீட்டுக் குழு அமைக்கப் பட்டது. இந்த ஆய்வில் காந்தி திராம பல்கலைக்கழக பிராந்திய ஒருக்கிணைப்பு நிறுவனம், நாடு முழுவதும் உள்ள அனைத்து பிராந்திய மையங்களிலும் முதல் இடத்தை பெற்றுள்ளது. பல்கலைக்கழகப் பதிவாளர் (பொ) எல்.ராதாகிருஷ்ணனிடம், மண்டல ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் கே.ரவிச்சந்திரன் முன்னிலை யில், தேசிய ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் பேராசிரியர் வி.கே.விஐய் பாராட்டுக் கடிதத்தை நேற்று



பள்ளா நட்டத்தல் அழப்பாக பண்பாற்றப் 10 நிறுவனங் களுக்கு விகுதன் வழங்கப்பட்டது. பெலும் புடுதாக 105 நிறுவனங்களுடன் புரிந்துவர்வு ஒப்பந்தங்கள் கைபெழுத் நிடப்பட்டது. முன்னதாக நிட்டத்தின் மண்டல ஒருங்கி கைப்பாளர் ரவிச்சந்திரன் வரவேற்றார். முடிவில் நிட்டத் நின் பங்கலைக்கும் ஒருங்கிணைப்பாளர் கவிதா மைநிலி தன்றி கூறினார்.

கினகான்



சேது பொறியியல் கல்லூரியில்

### ஊரக வளர்ச்சி பயிற்சி பட்டறை



சேது போறியியல் கல்லூரி உள்ளத் பாரத் அபியான் அமைப்பின் சார்பாக நடத்தப் பட்ட தொழில்றுட்பம் மற்றும் ஊரக வளர்ச்சி பயிற்சி பட்டறையில் காந்தி கிராமிய மக்கமைக்கும் துணைவேறுத்த பஞ்சுநாகத்திற்கு கல்லூரி நிறுவனர் மற்றும் தலைவர் முகமது ஐவில் நினைவுட்பறிக வழங்கினார். உடன் காந்திகிராம கிராமிய பல்கலைக்க நக ஒருங்கினைப்பானர் நன்ச்சத்திரன், கல்றூரி முதல்வர் சிவக்குமார், அகாடமிக் டீன் ஷாநவாஸ், நிகழ்ச்சி ஒருங்கினைப்பானர் கார்த்திகேயன்.

ஷாதுவால், திவழ்ச்சி ஒருங்கிணைப்பானர் காந்த்ரியேன்.
அருகே கள்ள சேது பொற் கல்லூரி முதல்வர் சிவக்கு
இருக்கு தாற்றுக்கும் மேற் விலக்கல்லூரிவின் கள்ளத் மார் வரிவேற்றார். சிறப்பு பார்த் அறோன் சார்பாக அழைப்பானராக கார் தொழில்லுட்பம் மற்றும் திரோம நொமிய பல்க ஊரக வளர்ச்சி பயீற்சி பர்டக அரைப்பானராக கார் பட்ட பேரா சிறிவர் கள் பட்ட நூல்கு கல்லூரி திராம் நூல்கள் தமிழக கண்ணத் கோண்டனர். திகழ் விற்கு கல்லூரி பளரத் அரிவான் தமிழக கண்ணப்பானர்கள் முகமது ஐவில் தலையை மண்டல ஒருங்கிணைப் முகமது ஐவில் தலையை மண்டல ஒருங்கிணைப் முகமது ஐவில் தலையை மண்டல ஒருங்கிணைப் முகாத தொரிகள் சினி காந்தி நொமிய பல்க வாக அடுகாரிகள் சினி காந்தி நொமிய பல்க வாக அடுகாரிகள் சினி காந்தி நொமிய பல்க முகை தின் சினி முகமது ஹகை தின் சினி முகமது அவிவார், நிலோபர் பாத் மானர் ரவிச் சந்தி ரன் இரை, நாகியா பாத்திமா



### **UBA Programmes of Participating Institutions during 2024-25**



Annai Vailankanni College of Engineering, Kanyakumari (C-27088)UBA volunteers cleaned the village under Swachatha Pakwada at Punnai Nagar.



Arul Anandar College, Madurai (C-36571) conducted a Tree Plantation programme at UBA Village - Girampatti.



Kamaraj College, Thoothukudi (C-41209) conducted free Medical Camp at UBA village- Athimarapatti.



Kalasalingam Academy of Research and Higher Education, Virudhunagar (U-0458)onducted a Tree Plantation programme at UBA Village - Valayapatti.



Holy Cross College, Kanyakumari (C-41177) inaugurated a Tailoring Centre at Annai Nagar.



Holy Cross Home Science College, Thoothukudi (C-41174) conducted free Medical Camp at UBA village- Sindalakarai.



Thassim Beevi Abdul Kader College for Women, Ramanathapuram (C-28515) conducted a village survey at Mayakulam Gram Panchayat.



Lady Doak College, Madurai (C-36578) Organized a street play and healthy food exhibition at Velichanatham village.



Mepco Schlenk Engineering College, Virudhunagar (C-27058) conducted a Fire Safety Campaign.



Ramco Institute of Technology, Virudhunagar (C-49144) conducted a Awareness Programme on Electrical Energy Conservation in Home Appliances at Thulukankulam village.



PSN College of Engineering & Technology, Tirunelveli (C-27041) conducted Election Awareness Campagain at Mavadi village.



Velumanoharan Arts and Science College for Women, Ramanathapuram (C-61520) inaugurated fifteen days skill development training programme at Palangulam village.