



**UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN**  
**The Gandhigram Rural Institute**  
**(Deemed to be University)**  
**Gandhigram - 624 302, Tamilnadu.**  
**AISHE -U- 0453**



**ANNUAL REPORT**  
**2023 - 2024**





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**Submitted by**

**Dr. S. KAVITHA MAITHILY**  
**COORDINATOR, UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN**  
**THE GANDHIGRAM RURAL INSTITUTE**  
**(DEEMED TO BE UNIVERSITY)**  
**GANDHIGRAM**  
**TAMIL NADU**



## UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN (2023 – 2024)

*“If we have to build the nation, we have to start from the village”*

*- Hon'ble P.M. Sri. Narendra Modi*

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Ministry of Education with the intention to enrich rural India. The programme was formally launched by the Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD) in the presence of President of India on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 2014. Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0 was launched by Shri Prakash Javadekar on 25<sup>th</sup> April 2018. The Vision and Mission of UBA are :

### Vision

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India.

### Mission

The Mission of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is to enable higher educational institutions to work with the people of rural India in identifying development challenges and evolving appropriate solutions for accelerating sustainable growth. It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between society and an inclusive academic system by providing knowledge and practices for emerging professions and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and the private sectors in responding to the development needs of rural India.

The Gandhigram Rural Institute formally submitted its application as one of the participating institutes under UBA in March 2018. Initially nine hamlets where GRI crèches are functioning were mentioned as adopted villages of UBA. In order to have a cluster approach and for easy accessibility, five panchayats in athoor block surrounding Gandhigram were selected as UBA adopted villages from January 2023. All the UBA programmes were planned and organized in these panchayats.

### Service Villages

S. No	Name of the Village	Taluk	District
1.	Chettiyapatti	Athoor	Dindigul
2.	Kalikampatti	Athoor	
3.	Gandhigram	Athoor	
4.	Thoppampatti	Athoor	
5.	Alamarathupatti	Athoor	



To execute the UBA programmes more systematically, a multidisciplinary team from various departments was constituted. Dr.S. Kavitha Maithily, Associate Professor, Department of Home Science serves as the Coordinator of UBA, GRI.

### EXECUTIVE MEMBERS OF UBA, GRI

Sl. No	Name and Designation	Department
1.	Dr.K. Manikandan, Asst. Professor	Economics
2.	Dr. P S Sreedevi, Asst. Professor	Education
3.	Dr. K Devan, Asst. Professor	Cooperation
4.	Dr. A Thahirabanu, Asst. Professor	Home Science
5.	Dr. R Rama Subbu, Asst. Professor	Biology
6.	Er. B Sangeethavani, Asst. Professor	Center for Rural Technology
7.	Dr. T Kalaiselvi, Asst. Professor	Computer Science and Applications
8.	Dr. M Arunachalam, Asst. Professor	Chemistry
9.	Dr. M Muthukumar, Asst. Professor & Director i/c	Centre for Geoinformatics
10.	Ms. K Srikumari, Subject specialist	Krishi Vigyan Kendra



## UBA PROGRAMMES ORGANISED - 2023 – 2024

S. No	Date	Name of the programme	Place
1	09.08.23	Social Forestry – Mass Tree Plantation Programme	Chettiyapatti
2	15.08.23	Participation in Gram Sabha meeting	
3	23.08.23	Lecture on Our food Our responsibility to UBA Volunteers	GRI
4	29.08.23	Interaction with Villagers and MSME Officials	Kottaipatti
5	28.09.23	Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme	Kottaipatti
6	02.10.23	Participation in Gram Sabha meeting	Chettiyapatti
7	05.10.23	Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme	GRI
8	06.10.23 - 07.10.23	Two-days Workshop on Customizing Arduino Based Science Experiments for Rural Schools	Amaiyanayakanur
9	12.10.23	Career Guidance Programme to Higher Secondary School Students	Thennampatti
10	1.11.23 - 08.12.23	Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme on Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector	Centre for Rural Energy sector
11	12.12.23	Interaction with Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries	Block office, Sempatti
12	26.12.23 - 30.12.23	Winter camp for Bala Shanti Sena Volunteers	GRI
13	26.01.24	Participation of UBA team in Gram Sabha	
14	22.02.24	Training Program for Sanitary Workers towards Sustainable Solid Waste Management	Kallikampatti
15	23.02.24	Lecture on Inculcating the Spirit of Science and Research	Chettiyapatti , Gov. school
16	03.03.24	Orientation Programme on Biodiversity Field Survey	Thoppampatti
17	06.03.24	Women's Day Celebration	GRI
18	09.03.24	Inauguration of the Solar Dryer installed at Valayapatti, under UBA- SEG project	Valayapatti





## 1. Social Forestry – Mass Tree Plantation Programme

On 09.08.23, Unnat Bharat Abhiyan unit of Gandhigram Rural Institute in collaboration with NSS and NYK carried out a mass tree plantation project in its service village Chettiyapatti. UBA RCI Coordinator Dr.K.Ravichandran, officials from NYK and forest department, NSS Programme officer Dr.Nagamani, Panchayat President Mr.Raja, UBA team members and students participated in the programme.



In Chettiyapatti village panchayat, located in the Athoor Block of Dindigul district, Tamil Nadu, India, a remarkable initiative was undertaken by the Panchayat President, Mr. T. Raja. Utilizing 9 acres of panchayat wasteland, Mr. Raja spearheaded the creation of a social forest. This ambitious project saw the successful planting of 1000 saplings, all of which are thriving to date.

Among these saplings, a diverse range of fruit and tree species were planted to enrich the ecosystem. Specifically, the distribution included 250 Naaval fruit trees, 250 Mango fruit trees, 100 Jackfruit trees, 150 Guava trees, 100 Kumil trees, and 150 Maha kani trees. The concerted efforts of

the community were pivotal in the success of this endeavor.

The plantation work was carried out collaboratively, with significant contributions from both MGNREGA workers from the village and student volunteers from the Gandhigram Rural



Institute. The support extended beyond mere labour, with various stakeholders generously donating saplings for the cause.

The Gandhigram Rural Institute provided the Naaval tree saplings, while neighboring farmers contributed Mango tree saplings. Additionally, Mr. Muthuswamy, a wood seller from Valayapatti hamlet within the same village, donated 150 Goa saplings. Furthermore, faculties from the institute contributed 100 jackfruit saplings, while the panchayat itself planted 100 Kumil tree saplings and 150 Mahakani saplings.

This collaborative effort not only rejuvenated the wasteland but also fostered a sense of community ownership and environmental stewardship among the villagers. The social forest stands as a testament to the power of collective action in promoting sustainability and biodiversity conservation in rural areas.



SIRD Official visited the Social Forest area in Chettiyapatti Village Panchayat along with Gram Panchayat President Mr.T.Raja, UBA team of the Gandhigram Rural Institute Dr.K.Ravichandran, Dr.S. Kavitha Maithily and Dr.M.Muthukumar





## 2. Participation in Gram Sabha Meeting



Dr. M.Muthukumar, Executive member, UBA participated in the gram sabha meeting held at Chettiyappatti Gram panchayat on 15.08.23 and appreciated the efforts and support of panchayat president in mass tree plantation programme. He also suggested to establish herbal garden .

## 3. Lecture on ‘Our Food Our Responsibility’ to UBA Volunteers

In order to promote natural farming and to create an awareness among the UBA volunteers, a lecture on ‘Our Food Our Responsibility’ was organized on 23.08.24 in collaboration with Department of Home Science at Gandhigram Rural Institute. One hundred UBA Volunteers attended the programme. Mrs.V.Priya Rajnarayanan from Seed Island Tirupur explained about the importance of kitchen gardening and how to grow vegetables , control pests, harvesting methods etc. Students had an interaction with her and clarified their doubts. Students were motivated towards natural farming and enlightened the need for preserving the country seed varieties.







Mrs.V.Priya also asked the UBA volunteers to spread this awareness among rural areas especially among the rural women and children. She also showed the various country seed varieties she collected and preserved. She had collected more than 100 varieties of seeds.

#### 4. Interaction with Villagers and MSME Officials



On 29<sup>th</sup> August ,2023 Unnat Bharat Abhiyan team along with officials from MSME Mr.G. Simiyon, Assistant Director & HOO and Mrs. Uma Chandrika, Assistant Director, visited Kalikkampatti panchayat . UBA, GRI created this platform for the farmers to interact with the MSME officials at Kottaipatti. The women from Kottaipatti village kalikkampatti panchayat

planned for the sales of off-season vegetables as vathal or vadagam to increase of availability of seasonal vegetables. They are in need of solar dryer and other packaging machines. So this interaction was held with the women, Panchayat president, UBA team and MSME officials.

#### 5. Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme

As an outcome of the discussion held at Kottaipatti on 29.08.23, an one day entrepreneurship awareness programme was arranged for villagers and students. Entrepreneurship Awareness programme was held at the Primary school of Kottaipatti on 29.09.23. This programme was jointly organized by Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, GRI and MSME, Madurai. It's a quadrangular meet arranged with MSME, Bank Officials, Panchayat and University. 50 Villagers and 50 Students participated in the meeting. Along with the Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme, Udayam Registration Campaign was also arranged on the same day.





## 6. Participation in Gram Sabha Meeting



Dr.S. Kavitha Maithily , Coordinator UBA, Dr.M.Muthukumar and Dr. R. Ramasubbu, Executive members, UBA, participated in the gram sabha meeting at Chettiyappati along with UBA volunteers on 02.10.23. They discussed about social forestry and bee keeping. The villagers said, most of them don't have bee hives. If provided, they are ready to keep it in their farms. UBA team said they will discuss with KVIC officials and will do the needful.

## 7. Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme



**Khadi & Village Industries Commission**  
(Ministry of MSME, Government of India),  
Divisional Office, Madurai  
&  
**Unnat Bharat Abhiyan & Shanti Sena,**  
**The Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU), Gandhigram, Dindigul**  
Cordially Invites you for the Celebration of  
**Khadi Mahotsav**  
(2<sup>nd</sup> October to 31<sup>st</sup> October 2023)  
**Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on Khadi & Village Industries**

Date: 05.10.2023

Time: 11.00 AM

Place: Silver Jubilee Hall, Gandhigram Rural Institute (DTBU)

Prayer	Student volunteers
Welcome Address	<b>Prof.K.Ravichandran</b> Regional Coordinator, UBA GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram
Presidential Address	<b>Prof.L.Rathakrishnan</b> Registrar i/c GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram
Key Note Address	<b>Shri.R.P.Asokan</b> Divisional Director, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), (Ministry of MSME, Government of India), Madurai
Special Address on KVIC Schemes	<b>Shri.S.Senthil kumar,</b> Assistant Director, Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), (Ministry of MSME, Government of India), Madurai
Special Address on Honey Mission	<b>Shri.M.Kalibur Rahman</b> Jr. Executive, Honey Mission i/c Khadi & Village Industries Commission (KVIC), (Ministry of MSME, Government of India), Madurai
Interaction with participants and Successful Entrepreneur	Coordinated by <b>Prof.R.Mani,</b> Chief Organizer, Shanti Sena Professor & Head, Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science, GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram
Vote of Thanks	<b>Dr.S.Kavitha Maithily</b> Associate Professor, Department of Home Science UBA Coordinator, GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram.
Programme Coordinator	<b>Dr.M.Muthukumar</b> Director i/c., Centre for Geoinformatics & Executive Committee Member, UBA, GRI (DTBU), Gandhigram

**National Anthem**

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Shanti Sena jointly organised one day Entrepreneurship Awareness Programme on 05.10 2023 at Silver Jubilee Hall of Gandhigram Rural Institute in collaboration with Khadi and Village Industries Commission, Madurai. One hundred final year students from various disciplines participated in the programme. KVIC. Various programme under KVIC was explained to the participants by Shri. P. Ashokan, Division Director, KVIC. The Assistant Director Mr.S.Senthil Kumar motivated the students to take up entrepreneurial activities. Students clarified their doubts. Many case studies were presented to motivate the students.



## 8. Two-days Workshop on Customizing Arduino Based Science Experiments for Rural Schools



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, GRI in collaboration with Department of Education organized two day's workshop on "Customizing Arduino-Based Science Experiments for Rural Schools at Government Higher Secondary School, Ammaiyanakanur on 06.10.23 and 07.10.23. Sixty students were benefitted by this programme. It helps the students to do the science experiments if they don't have any lab facilities in their schools.

## 9. Career Guidance Programme to Higher Secondary School Students



Dr.T.Kalaichelvi and Er.B.Sangeeta Vani organized career guidance programme at the Government Higher Secondary School, Thennampatti on 12.10.23. They highlighted about various courses, National Institutes, entrance examinations and their preparation. Based on the request from the school headmaster this programme was organized. 120 students were benefitted by this programme.





10.

## 10. Entrepreneurship Skill Development Programme on Entrepreneurship Opportunities in Renewable Energy Sector

The Entrepreneurship Skill Development Program on Entrepreneurship Opportunities in the Renewable Energy Sector was conducted over 30 days, from November 1<sup>st</sup> 2023 to December 8<sup>th</sup>, 2023. The program is a collaborative effort involving the Branch MSME Development and Facilitation Office (under the Ministry of MSME, Government of India), the Madurai Unnat Bharat Abhiyan, and the Centre for Rural Energy at the Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Dindigul. The program aimed to equip participants with essential knowledge and skills to explore entrepreneurial ventures in the renewable energy sector. With 37 enrolled participants, including students, entrepreneurs, homemakers, and ex-servicemen, the program covered a wide range of topics such as solar PV, wind energy, E-vehicles, and entrepreneurship characteristics.



## 11. Interaction with Panchayat Presidents and Secretaries

As part of Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan Scheme, State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai was willing to provide a handholding support to higher education institutions in preparation of low cost and no cost activities in attaining Localized Sustainable Development Goals in selected panchayats and in preparation of activities for GPDP. To initiate this project, a meeting was organized at Block Development Office, Sempatti with the UBA team, block officials, panchayat presidents and panchayat secretaries on 12.12.23.

Block Development Officer, Zonal officers, Panchayat presidents and secretaries from 22 panchayats of Athoor block, Dindigul District participated in the meeting. Dr.S.Kavitha Maithily, Coordinator UBA, Dr.K.Manikandan, Dr.M.Muthukumar Executive members UBA explained about the purpose of the meeting and asked their willingness to work with UBA team of Gandhigram. Eleven panchayats namely Alamarathupatti, Ayyankottai, Chettiyapatti, Gandhigram, Kalikkampatti, Munnilaikottai, N.Panjampatti, Palayankottai, Pillayarnatham, Pithalaipatti and Thoppampatti expressed their willingness. Through the implementation of the



carefully designed GramPanchayat Development Plan, communities within Athoor Block were set to become examples of environmentally conscious and prosperous villages, paving the way for a vibrant and sustainable future.



To execute this project more systematically UBA team has assigned roles for its members. Dr.K.Manikandan will serve as the advisor, Dr.M.Muthukumar and Dr.K.Dhevan will serve as Coordinator and co-coordinator of the project respectively.

## 12. Winter camp for Bala Shanti Sena Volunteers

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan and Shanti Sena jointly organised the 'Winter camp for Bala Shanti sena volunteers' from 26.12.2023 to 30.12.2023 at Department of Gandhian Thought and Peace Science. Forty four Balashanti sena volunteers from Valayapatti and Thoppampatti and six UBA volunteers from university participated in this camp. Keithan Sathya Trust from ottamchatram sponsored the programme.

It is an orientation camp on Gandhian ideals for children. Role play, exposure visits, hands on training, group discussions, group songs were the various teaching methods used in this training programme. Dr.L.Rathakrishnan, Registrar i/c inaugurated the programme. Padma Bhusan Mrs.Krishnammal Jaganathan delivered the valedictory address and distributed certificates to the children.







### 13.Participation of UBA team in Gram Sabha

In regard with the GPDP project of SIRD, the coordinator and the executive members of UBA are aligned with each panchayat in planning and executing the low cost and no cost activities based on the need of the panchayat. All the executive members participated in the gram sabha meeting held at 26.01.24 at eleven selected panchayats along with UBA volunteers. Prior to that they had a discussion with the panchayat members to understand the needs and issues in each panchayat.

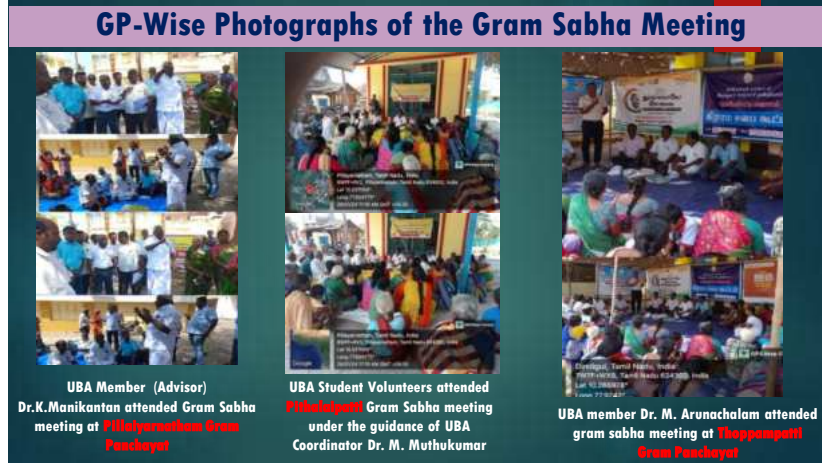
**GP-Wise Photographs of the Gram Sabha Meeting**

<p><b>UBA Member Dr.S. Kavitha Mythily attended Gram Sabha meeting at Alamarathpetti Gram Panchayat.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA Member Dr.R. Ramasubbu attended Gram Sabha meeting at Ayyankattel Gram Panchayat.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA Student Volunteer Mr.Lokesh attended Gram Sabha meeting at Coethiyapatti Gram Panchayat under the guidance of UBA Coordinator Dr.M.Muthukumar.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA Member Dr. A. ThahiraBanu attended Gram Sabha meeting at Gandhigram Gram Panchayat.</b></p>
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**GP-Wise Photographs of the Gram Sabha Meeting**

<p><b>UBA Co - Coordinator Dr.K.Dhevan attended Gram Sabha meeting at Kallikampatti Gram Panchayat.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA Student Volunteers attended Gram Sabha meeting at Pappanadai Gram Panchayat under the guidance of UBA Member Er.B. Sangaathayani.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA Student Volunteers attended Gram Sabha meeting at Palayankattel Gram Panchayat under the guidance of UBA Co-Coordinator Dr.K.Dhevan.</b></p>	<p><b>UBA student volunteers attended Gram Sabha meeting at M. Rajarampetti Gram Panchayat under the guidance of UBA member Dr. S. Sreedevi</b></p>
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### 14. Training Programme for Sanitary Workers towards Sustainable Solid Waste Management

In Connection with National Science Day Celebration 2024, an one day training programme was arranged at Kalikkampatti panchayat for the Sanitary workers on 22.02.24. This programme is arranged based on the request from the Panchayat president. Twenty Sanitary workers attended the programme. Er.K.Rousseau, Assistant Engineer and Er.B.Sangeethavani, Executive member, UBA explained about the collection, transportation and disposal of solid wastes. Hands on training on portable type of composting were imparted to them. Panchayat President Mrs.Gomathy agreed to take up the initiatives of segregating the waste and adopt composting techniques in their village.





## 15. Lecture on Inculcating the Spirit of Science and Research

In order to inculcate scientific spirit and to encourage the rural students to study science courses, a lecture on 'Inculcating the Spirit of Science and Research' was arranged for High School Students of Government Higher Secondary School at Chettiyatpatti on 23.02.24 in the eve of Science Day Celebrations. Women Scientist, Dr.S.Meenakshi delivered the lecture to the students. The students were inspired her lecture



## 16. Orientation Programme on Biodiversity Field Survey



UBA Executive members had an interaction with the panchayat presidents of Thoppampatti and Chettiyapatti panchayat and explained them the importance of preparation of Biodiversity Register for their panchayat. In this regard, on 03.03.24 an awareness programme on People's Diversity Register was organized for UBA Volunteers at Thoppampatti Panchayat. Dr.R.Ramasubbu, Executive member UBA trained the students. Dr.M.Arunachalam and Dr. M.Seenivasaperumal organized this programme as part of Low cost and No cost activities proposed in GPPD of Thoppampatti Panchayat. Followed by the programme, the volunteers also conducted a field survey.







## 17. Women’s Day Celebration



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Celebrated the Women’s Day in collaboration with the Ladies Hostel, GRI on 06.03.24. Competitions for students were conducted. Dr.S.Meenakshi, Director, Research and Development presided over the function and delivered the presidential address. Dr.S. Kavitha Maithily, Coordinator, UBA delivered the special address. Dr. T.Kalaichelvi, Dr.A.Thahira Banu, Er.B.Sangeethavani, and Dr.N.Devaki participated in the programme and encouraged the students.

## 18. Inauguration of the Solar Dryer installed at Valayapatti, under UBA- SEG project



Unnat Bharat Abhiyan under SEG Project had installed a solar dryer at Valayapatti to dry the herbs collected from Sirumalai Foot hills. Value addition products will be produced from the herbs dried and will promote livelihood opportunities for women. Our Vice Chancellor Dr.V.Kamakoti (Additional Charge) inaugurated, Dr.K.Ravichandran, Coordinator RCI UBA felicitated. Dr.V.Kirubakaran, Director i/c Centre for Rural Energy and Principa Investigator of the project explain its functions. Dr.S.Kavitha Maithily, Coordinator

UBA, Executive members of UBA, Mr.Raja Chettiypatti panchayat presidents and students of GRI attended the programme at GRI Creche on 09.03.24 at 10:00 am







## On going Projects under UBA

S.No	Name of the Principal Investigator	Title of the Project	Name of the Funding Agency	Amount (Rs)
1	Dr.A. Thahira Banu	Production of Seaweed-based Plant Growth Promoters, Biopesticide and Edible Coating Blends for Fruits/Vegetable Preservation for the Livelihood Development of Fisherfolk.	National Cooperative Development Corporation (NCDC), Government of India, under the scheme Pradhan Mantri Matsya Sampada Yojana (PMMSY)	Rs. 50 Lakh
2	Dr.C. Pitchai	Ease of doing Business through Primary Agricultural Cooperative Credit Societies: Services at the Doorsteps	NCI - UBA	1 Lakh
3	Dr.R.Mani	Promoting Gandhian and Peace Values among Engineering Students of Participating Institutions in the Southern Region of Tamil Nadu	NCI - UBA	1 Lakh
4	UBA , GRI	Providing Handholding Support for Preparation of Low Cost and No Cost Activities in GPDP and its implementation in GramPanchayats under Revamped Rashtriya Gram Swaraj Abhiyan	State Institute of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Chennai	Rs.1,10,000/-



## Participation of UBA Executive Members in the Programmes Organized by RCI – GRI

S.No	Name of the Programme	Date
1.	Orientation Workshop on UBA and Convergence Possibilities under PMMSY	29.8.23
2	CSIR-CIMAP Meeting	13.9.23
3	Workshop on Localization of Sustainable Development Goals and Panchayat Development Index	4.12 .23 – 5.12.23
4	Empowering UBA Institution coordinators: Workshop to identify Low Cost/ No Cost strategies for Sustainable Gram Panchayat Development	15.2.24

**"If the village perishes,  
India will perish too.  
The soul of India lives  
in its villages."  
-Mahatma Gandhi**

