

## **About the Institute**

The Gandhigram Rural Institute (GRI), founded by two dedicated disciples and contemporaries of Mahatma Gandhi, Dr.G.Ramachandran and Dr.T.S.Soundram, has its foundation in Mahatma Gandhi's revolutionary philosophy of Nai Talim, which effectively bridges the cognitive and practical dimensions, and focuses on the holistic development of learners, with an emphasis on skill development through value-based education, rooted in indigenous cultures and traditions. Since its establishment in 1956, GRI has been unstintingly contributing to higher education and has successfully pioneered rural higher education.

Along with Gandhiji's Nai Talim, the ideals envisioned by Dr. Radhakrishnan Education Commission (1948-49), and National Council for Rural Higher Education headed by Dr. K.Shrimali, the then Deputy Minister, Ministry of Education, and three other proven world models listed below contributed to the establishment of GRI in 1956, namely

1. Folks Hoschkole system of Denmark by N.F.S.Gruntvig (1844)
2. Land grant University system of USA (1862) and
3. Sriniketan Experiment of Shantiniketan by Tagore (1922)

The Institute which is administrated by the Ministry of Education, Government of India and fully funded through the UGC, New Delhi has developed academic programs in rural development, rural economics and extension education, rural oriented sciences, co-operation, development administration, rural sociology, English, Tamil and Indian languages. The institute runs B.Tech in civil engineering with focus on habitat development and M.Tech. in revewable energy. The institute also offers B.Sc Agriculture program.

The GRI is quite active on both campus and rural areas in the vicinity, benefitting and enriching one another. Besides, its contributions to teaching from diploma, degree and all the way to post-doctorate levels, the Institute applies the learnings from both scientific and social research to solve contemporary rural problems. The curriculum is a combination of theoretical, practical and extension experiments. Further, the Institute has become home to many pioneering models of rural development programmes. The students and scholars who emerge from its portals tend to meet the personnel needs of rural development programmes under various governmental and non-governmental organizations.

The three dimensional approach of education namely teaching, research and extension has become a highly celebrated model, earning global and nationwide appreciation. Started in a small way, the Institute has evolved into a reasonably large and expansive educational complex comprising of 8 Schools, 16 Departments and 12 Centres offering a whopping 126 academic programmes, ranging from certificate courses to Graduate programmes, Doctoral, Post-Doctoral Programmes. At present the Institute has around 4000 students, including Ph.D. Scholars, with 185 teaching and 234 non-teaching staff.

### **Department of Economics**

The Department of Economics was established in the year 1956, and has the vision of Excellence in Education, Research and Extension towards integrated and prosperous rural economy. The Department offers programmes and courses in Economics and its branches, conducts need based rural economic research surveys and studies, organizes seminars and workshops and undertakes outreach and consultancy activities in economics. The thrust areas include Rural Finance and Banking; Energy Economics; Environmental Economics; Resource Economics; Development Economics; International Economics; Agricultural Economics; Health Economics; Gender Economics and Demographic Studies. Currently, the Department offers in B.A., M.A. and Ph.D., Economics programmes.

### **About the Webinar:**

Dr. Bhimrao Ramji Ambedkar played a vital role as the father of the Indian Constitution which is the guiding force of the Democracy, Polity and Governance in India. He is the king maker of modern India whose role as the Chairman of Drafting Committee of Indian Constitution and first Law Minister of Independent India. Dr. Ambedkar was an Indian legal scholar, market analyst, legislator and social reformer who roused the modern Buddhist Movement and battles against social oppression and untouchables, women and work. As an Economist, Professor and Lawyer he brought out utilized religions of never all Indian socio economic system. His work is always remembered in the annals of the history of this great nation. An erudite scholar, a great humanist, person with rare gigantic versatile eminence, had remedies for the fundamental problems that India is confronting even today and his views and

thoughts about Indian society were emanated through deeper understanding of the Indian Society, Polity, Culture and Economic system on the whole. Dr. Ambedkar was among the first set of Indians who were trained in economics systematically and practiced it professionally. The major economic publications of Dr. Ambedkar are, The Problem of the Rupee: Its origin and Its Solution, The Evolution of Provincial Finance in British India – A Study in the Provincial Decentralization of Imperial Finance and Small Holdings in India and Their Remedies in Journal of the Indian Economic Society. Besides these, his unpublished M.A. report, entitled, Administration and Finance of the East India Company received attention from the larger audience. His views on Economics, Castes, Dalits, Untouchability, Women, Religion and Social structure have incredible impact on socio-economic, political and religious systems of the country are still relevant today. His discourses and writings were drawn the attention of Planners, Social thinkers, Policy makers and Academicians to a larger extent. Such thoughts do have relevance even today. Hence, this National webinar aims to contemplate on the relevance of Dr.Ambedkar thoughts on contemporary India from academic, economic, social, political dimensions in safeguarding the rights of marginalized people of India in an egalitarian society which would uphold the dignified human lives.



**Department of Economics**  
**The Gandhigram Rural Institute – Deemed to be University**  
**Gandhigram – 624 302.**



In Commemoration of **130<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary of Bharat Ratna Babasaheb, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar** the Department of Economics Organize a One Day National Webinar, on **“Dr.B.R. Ambedkar Thoughts on Economic Growth and its Contemporary Relevance”** to be held on **4<sup>th</sup> May 2021 at 11.00 am through Microsoft Team.**

Registration Link:

**<https://bit.ly/3sWa4NY>**

E. certificates will be issued to all the participants.

**No Registration Fee**

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*All are Cordially Invited*