



सत्यमेव जयते

F. No. 19-8/2014-TS.I (Sectt.)
Government of India
Ministry of Human Resource Development
Department of Higher Education

New Delhi, dated 24th August, 2015

To

1. Chief Secretaries of all State Governments
2. Secretaries Higher Education all State Governments
3. Chairman UGC
4. Chairman AICTE
5. Directors of all IITs, IISc, IIMs, NITs, IIITs, IISERs
6. VCs of all Central Universities

Subject: Unnat Bharat Abhiyan

Madam/Sir,

You are aware that Ministry of Human Resource Development has launched the **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** on 11th November, 2014, with a view to bring a transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India. The Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is conceptualized as a movement to connect institutes of higher education with local communities to address the development challenges of rural India through appropriate technological inventions. The details regarding the Unnat Bharat Abhiyan can be accessed at <http://unnat.iitd.ac.in>.

2. The progress so far achieved in the UBA has been assessed in the Ministry and the following decisions have been taken to ensure that concrete action is started:

- a) **Identification:** Every higher educational institution, which is funded by the Central/State Government, and all institutions which are under approval by the regulatory bodies, may adopt a cluster of backward Gram Panchayats (GPs) in their vicinity for the purpose of the UBA, in where the consultation with the District Collector of the district where the proposed GPs are located. Since the size of the GP varies across the country from just around 1,000 population to around 30,000, the cluster of GPs is expected to have a combined population of around 5,000 to 7,500 or a single GP if the population is higher. Preference may be given to backward GPs using indicators like MGNREGS households, SC population, ST population, Agricultural labourers, etc. Identification of these GPs may be completed **before 30th September 2015**.

- b) **Areas:** Specific emphasis may be given to the following areas:-
- i. Village sanitation
 - ii. Drinking water supply
 - iii. Energy, including renewable energy
 - iv. Agriculture and allied activities
 - v. Irrigation
 - vi. Improving technology of handicrafts and Artisans
 - vii. Affordable housing
 - viii. Improving educational standards
 - ix. Improving Health
 - x. Proper use of IT applications, especially the Panchayat Enterprise Suite for the governance of GPs covering a host of applications, NREGAssoft and so on. Conscious effort needs to be taken to bridge the digital divide.
- c) **Planning:** These institutions will consult the village community through the Gram Panchayat concerned to identify the pressing problems being faced by the rural communities, and find innovative solutions for their resolution. They are expected to provide intellectual capital for the specific issues faced by the rural communities so that there is a transformational change in the rural lives through the technological inputs. A **plan of action** may be prepared for each village covering these aspects by **end of November 2015**. The plan so prepared shall be sent to the District Collector concerned for dovetailing with the annual action plans of the stakeholder departments.
- d) **Coordination:** In order that these solutions are implemented, it is essential that these higher educational institutions work in close conjunction with Centre/State Government departments covering the areas of Rural Development, Panchayat Raj, Power, Drinking Water/Sanitation, Health, Textiles and Agriculture. They should also collaborate with individuals/organizations/Foundations/NGOs, who are working in the field of rural development.
- e) **Funding:** Normally, funds for implementation of the innovative solutions (suggested by the higher educational institutions) should be found within the overall plan funding already available with these Ministries/agencies. Almost all GPs in the country have significant resources under MGNREGS and Fourteenth Finance Commission grants, with the former focusing on livelihoods and the latter on basic services. The academic institutions may focus on proper utilization of these resources with support for participatory local level planning, use of appropriate technologies and proper extension to the households.
- f) **Nodal officer:** Each institution should designate one of the faculty member as the **Nodal Officer** who could be trained / oriented regarding the various aspects of the rural economy. She/he is expected to lead the UBA effort of the institution. This training would be organized by the Ministry of Panchayat Raj and Rural Development along with IIT Delhi. It is however expected that all the staff members and student participate in the UBA activities. While evaluating the performance of the staff members, suitable credit may be given for

their contributions under the UBA. The NSS units in these colleges may be necessarily involved in the UBA activities.


- g) **UBA cell:** Each participating institution may set up a UBA Cell functioning directly under the supervision of the Head of the Institution. This cell is expected to monitor the progress at the Institution level and would address the coordination issues.
- h) **State Governments:** The Secretaries in-charge of Higher Education/Technical Education in all State Governments may be requested to coordinate the effort at the State level by involving the Panchayati Raj and Rural Development, SC Development, ST Development, Drinking Water, Agriculture, Animal Husbandry, Power, IT and Science & Technology departments of the State and chalk out the plan of action for the State. Chief Secretaries may be requested to direct the District Collectors to call similar meetings to work out the plan of action at the district level.
- i) **Monitoring:** The progress in implementing these plans may be monitored at the Institution/District/State Government level once a quarter. This Ministry will monitor the progress in preparation of innovative solutions and their implementation regularly.

3. **IIT Delhi will coordinate** the efforts of all institutions in this regard. IIT Delhi will also **host an online portal** wherein all participating institutions can log-in and enter the details of the villages selected, action plans prepared and status of their implementation.

4. Minister for HRD will review with all the Institutions in the address entry and also the UGC/AICTE to take stock of progress in this regard in the 2nd week of September 2015.

5. You are requested to take immediate steps for starting the UBA activities as suggested above.

Yours faithfully,



(R. Subrahmanyam)
Additional Secretary (TE)

Copy to:

Secretaries of Department/Ministry of Rural Development, Panchayati Raj, Drinking Water & Sanitation, Agriculture, Power, MNRE, Textiles and Health

JS(CU) for following up with Vice-Chancellors of Central Universities