Significant Initiatives and Milestones in Gandhigram Rural Institute during the Academic Year 2014-2015

This report deals with significant academic activities carried out in Gandhigram Rural Institute-Deemed University (GRI) during the academic year 2014-2015. The report is divided into various segments and described accordingly as hereunder.

1. New Academic Programmes

The Institute has established Community College supported by the University Grants Commission (UGC) with a funding of Rs.53 lakhs. This Community College has formulated skill based vocational courses namely *Two Wheeler Mechanism* in collaboration with Yamaha Motors. New academic programme namely *M.Phil. in Computer Science* was introduced. The curriculum of existing B.Ed. and the proposed M.Ed. programmes has been pruned as per the National Council for Teacher Education (Recognition Norms and Procedure) Regulations, 2014. Approval has been granted for the reintroduction of *Post Graduate Programme in Economics* which includes a course on Gandhian Economics. The UGC has sanctioned two Career Oriented Programmes namely *Diploma in Renewable Energy* and a *Certificate Programme in Merchandising* with a budget support of Rs.15.30 lakhs. Feasibility studies have been completed for introducing *M.Sc. Fashion Technology* and *M.Tech* (Civil Engineering / Habitat) and the same was approved by Academic Council. Similarly, *Dip. in Yoga Education* has been introduced from the academic year 2015-2016.

2. Admissions

The details of students / scholars admitted in the Institute are furnished below for the period mentioned against each.

3. Admission for UG / PG Programmes

Year	Male	Female	Courses					Total
			Diploma	PG Diploma	UG	PG	M.Phil	
2014-2015	556	746	95	105	447	552	103	1302
2015-2016 (as on 20.07.2015)	428	782	63	85	479	481	102	1210

4. Admission for Ph.D. Programmes

Sl.No.	Sessions	Science	Arts	Total
1.	August 2014	28	29	57
2.	January 2015	22	24	46

5. Research Degrees Awarded (June 2014- June 2015)

Programme	Sciences	Arts/Humanities	Total
Ph.D	26	34	60
M.Phil	15	56	71

6. Candidates admitted under National Institute of Open School (NIOS) during 2014-2015

Year	Admitted				Total	Passed out				Total
	Secondary		Sr. Secondary			Secondary		Sr. Secretary		
	Male	Female	Male	Female		Male	Female	Male	Female	
2014-2015 **Block –I** (Mar-Aug)	35	21	56	33	145	14	10	19	19	62
2014-2015 **Block –II** (Sept-Feb)	92	14	18	10	134	-	-	-	-	-

7. On-line Admission and Saving of Resources

The Institute has introduced on-line admission procedure for the admission made from the year 2015-16 for the first time in the history of its existence. Now the admission process is made paperless slowly paving way for digital campus in due course. Through on-line process, 21225 aspirants have registered and 13938 of them remitted fees. The on-line process was user friendly, enabled the University to avoid repetitive paper work and postal expenses. Due to this, the institute was able to save manpower, avoid expenditure on advertisement, printing and postal charges approximately to the tune of Rs.15 lakhs. The details of online registration are given below as on the last date ie., 30.05.2015.

Total Number of Students								
Registered	**Made final submission**	**Completed Appln. payment**	**Received paid appln.**	**Received appln. on free of cost (SC/ST)**	**In UG Prog.**	**In PG Prog.**	**In M.Phil**	**In Post Dip. Prog**
21225	13894	13938	10085	3850	11410	2281	172	30

8. CBCS Restructuring

A core committee for restructuring of Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) was formed involving the stakeholders in the Institute in order to implement the guidelines of the UGC. In this regard, the Vice-Chancellor has attended workshop organized by the UGC and hosted by Pondicherry Central University on 20th March 2015. Based on the inputs availed from the workshop held at Pondicherry, the Institute has organized a series of meetings/workshops to evolve new framework for CBCS. As a result, new guidelines for CBCS was prepared, approved for implementation from the academic year 2015-2016 and the same is being followed for all 61 programmes. Each programme consists of core courses, allied courses, major electives, non-major electives, modular courses, skill based courses and dissertation, besides making yoga a mandatory for all students. In addition, courses

specific to GRI namely *Gandhian Principles, Extension Education* and *Village Placement programme* are also included in the curriculum.

9. Examination Reforms

The Choice Based Credit system (CBCS), existing in the Institute since 1996, has been revamped in accordance with UGC's directives. Unique subject code, compulsory elective courses, foundation courses, combination of internal and external evaluation, creation of lecture schedules, incorporation of time schedule are the major characteristics of the revamped system. The meeting of Boards of Studies of the Departments/Centres has been convened for the first time on a common day i.e., on 6th June, 2015.

Another important initiative was conduct of End Semester Examinations for PG programmes at the faculty level under the direct supervision and control of faculty Deans. This new experimentation has enabled decentralized administration of examinations which has worked well in the even semester of 2015.

10. Research and Development

The Institute has formulated and approved the guidelines for introduction of Doctor of Science (D.Sc) and Doctor of Literature (D.Lit). The UGC has selected two Departments namely Tamil and Computer Science and Applications from GRI under Special Assistance Programme (SAP) with a financial sanction Rs.111 lakhs. The already existing SAP departments namely Mathematics, Chemistry and Political Science have been upgraded to the next phase (DRS/DSA) with a financial outlay of Rs.242.85 lakhs. Further, Mathematics Department was identified under FIST scheme (Level-II) of the Department of Science and Technology, Government of India with the funding support of Rs. 45 lakhs for strengthening research in the area of Mathematical Modeling.

The Institute has been selected with financial outlay of Rs.1.25 crores by the UGC for research support under INDO-US 21st Century Knowledge Initiative (4th Cycle) to collaborate with University of North Florida, USA. The Ministry of Science and

Technology, Government of India sanctioned Rs. 1.65 Crores to strengthen the research facilities in the Department of Chemistry under FIST programme. Similarly, two vocational based skill programmes on *Farm Equipment Operation and Maintenance and Footwear and Accessories Design* with financial outlay of Rs.3.70 Crores have been sanctioned under *DDU Kaushal Kendra* programme by UGC.

11. Research Publications

The faculty members of GRI have broughtout good number of research publications during the academic year 2014-2015 and the details are as follows:

Type of Publications	No. of Publications
Scopus Index Publications	138
Refereed Journal Articles	87
Books	36
Chapter in Books	25

In addition to publications, four teachers won awards for their outstanding contributions to research and development and 10 students received academic awards including fellowships of different fields.

12. E-learning Resources in the Library

The General Library was facilitated to extend the access of online resources to the whole campus which was hitherto confined to four walls of library itself. It was provided with 25 new computers with high configuration (8 GB RAM) which enabled effective access to online journals/database, etc. In addition, 150 Ph.D theses were digitized and uploaded in the online through "Shodhganga Project". Browsing of e-journal facilities was found limited in the library complex due to technical snag and hence access could not be provided to departments as well as students hostel for over a period of 3 years. The problem was solved within a week's time in July 2014 and the students and faculties now have facilities for browsing e-journals in library

and their staff rooms. Books worth of Rs.28.55 lakhs were purchased for use in the Library.

13. Establishment of IPR Cell

A separate cell for Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) was established in the Institute in order to enable the faculty members to articulate the future course of action especially for acquiring Patents and to fulfill the criteria laid down by the NAAC.

14. Extension and Outreach activities

Extension and outreach activities, being an important dimension for the Institute, Village Placement Programme (VPP) have been carried out in two spells covering 29 villages in Dindigul District. A *Manual for VPP* incorporating all the relevant details has been prepared and approved and this will take the stakeholders to a focused point leading to better outcome. GRI has been recognized as National Level Monitor (NLM) by Ministry of Rural Development, Govt. of India for monitoring and evaluating rural development projects undertaken by different institutions in other states.

15. Programmes conducted and participated by the faculties

During the Academic year 2014-2015, 43 seminars were organized by the faculties of GRI. The seminars were sponsored by UGC under unassigned grant and other funding agencies. As many as eight training programmes were organized for different stakeholders of the state.

16. Administration and Governance

The Institute has filled the posts of Registrar and Finance Officer. Besides, 10 faculty members were recruited for various cadres namely, Assistant Professor, Associate Professor and Professor. All the above recruitments have been done in accordance with UGC/MHRD regulations.

The position of 7 Deans including Dean Students' Welfare and 14 HoDs were appointed in different faculties and departments by following the routine procedure as per UGC norms.

New Recruitment Rules (RR) for non teaching staff framed by the Institute was approved by the BoM and adopted accordingly. *Administrative Manual for Finance* and revised Roster consisting of 200 points for implementation of reservations in appointments and promotions have been prepared besides preparing *Manuals for Hostel and Guest House Administration*. A separate committee called Hostel Management Committee was formed to run the students' hostels effectively.

The Institute has created positions such as Directors for Admissions and similarly for Research and Development with the approval of competent bodies of authorities for the purpose of decentralizing the administration. Three staff members have been nominated as Officers on Special Duty to assist the administration in technical matters, documentation and public relations under the direct control of the Vice-Chancellor.

In accordance with UGC (Institutions Deemed to be Universities) Regulations 2014 & 2015, a proposal has been submitted to the MHRD, Government of India and the University Grants Commission for amending the MoA/Rules of the Institute. Duties and responsibilities of non-teaching staff were finalized and hosted in the website.

17. Administrative Audit

The IQAC has been reconstituted with new members as per the guidelines of NAAC. In order the strengthen the academic administration of the Institute, an Academic Audit was conducted under the auspices of IQAC on 15th April, 2015 involving external experts which enabled to bring out strength, weaknesses, opportunities and challenges in administration. Three external experts namely Prof.V.Alagappan, former Registrar of M.K.University, Prof.P.Thirumalvalavan, Professor of Management Studies and Former Registrar of Bharathiar University, Coimbatore and Shri. N.Gridharan, Assistant Registrar from Pondicherry University in the field academic as well as administration were invited to conduct the programme and they

audited all the administrative offices functioning in the administrative block including Controller of Examinations and Estate Office.

18. Grants Received from the UGC (for the period 2014-15 and 2015-16)

The Institute has been funded by the UGC/MHRD, Government of India since its inception. The Institute received 100 percent financial support from the above sources as mentioned below.

Type of Grants	Amount in Lakhs
Non-Plan/Maintenance Grants (2014-2015)	Rs. 4349.41
XII-Plan/Development Grants	Rs. 1149.00

Further, the Institute has requested the MHRD, Government of India to sanction Rs. 62.25 crores for the purpose of strengthening the infrastructure as it has not received seed money at the time acquiring the status of Deemed to be a University.

19. Campus Development and Infrastructure

The Institute has entrusted the following civil works to CPWD and the same have been executed in order to augment the infrastructure facilities on the campus.

1. Second Floor in the Ladies Hostel.
2. Second Floor in the Boys Hostel.
3. Additional toilets for inmates of girls' hostel
4. Compound wall for girls' hostel.

In addition, building maintenance work worth about Rs.75 lakhs have been sanctioned and executed by the Estate Office of the Institute. The major capital works was undertaken by CPWD and the Estate Office with the budget estimate of Rs.4.85 and Rs.1.66 Crores respectively.

GRI has outsourced sanitation and security services from the agencies of M/s Neat and Clean, Madurai and M/s U.K.Security, Chennai to maintain cleanliness and security throughout the campus.

20. Digitization of Land Records

The university has an area of 207 acres and land records are found to be old and hence all the land records available with institute were digitized.

An area of 50 cent land which was purchased for the university to provide a link road from the national highways to the campus was subjected to litigation in 2005. Now the case was finalized through the court of law by negotiation with the private party. In this regard, the institute has secured favorable judgment from the Hon'ble Court enabling the university to lay the new road linking the service road on the side of national highway.

21. Management of water supply

The campus faced water deficit during last summer and the crisis like situation arisen in July 2014 immediately after the reopening of the institute. The Vice-Chancellor constituted a committee with officials from TWAD, District Collectorate and staff of GRI. The Committee made out a study regarding the status of bore wells, water distribution channels and water requirements. As a remedy, 3 new bore wells were dug in three locations viz., ladies hostel, C-Farm and KVK. Further, seven bore wells were fitted with *Dry Run Preventer Kit* to avoid complications. IN view of quick and remedial measures undertaken as above, uninterrupted water supply was ensured on the campus.

22. Power connections to Tagore Complex and Rewiring in library

The Institute secured three phase electricity service in July 2014 with Service No. 586 with the capacity of 8.4 KW under 2B1 tariff plan for its newly constructed Tagore class room complex which was pending for more than one year. Rewiring at a cost of Rs.14 lakhs has been executed in the general library replacing the aluminum wire with copper cable with an aim of providing safety and durability.

23. Network facilities enhancement

The Institute has successfully installed Wi-Fi devices numbering 22 midrange and about 15 short-range devices across the campus mainly covering hostels and departments. The Institutes' website has been enhanced with a capacity of 20GB from that of 2 GB. The new website is more informative incorporating items such as student's corner, alumni, tenders, day to day events, circulars, careers etc and thereby benefiting the stakeholders.

24. Disposal of Condemned articles

The Institute constituted a committee to take steps to prepare the items of obsolete/condemned articles such as computers, printers, electronic items namely AC and Xerox machines, steal and wooden furniture duly following the provisions of GFR 2005. After listing the articles by the said Committee, the Institute has gone for tender process. Through the sale of condemned articles, the Institute realized Rs.8.71 lakhs as additional income from waste.

25. Initiatives in Campus Safety and Security

The Institute has given open tenders for calling Security and Sanitation for availing outsource services on the campus. These initiatives were carried out during the month of November 2014. On the basis of scrutiny of tenders submitted by various agencies, U.K Security Service, Chennai, and Neat and Clean Services, Madurai were given work orders and the agencies concerned performing the respective job from April 2015 onwards. Further, the whole campus is covered under CCTV surveillance.

26. Dignitaries Visit to the Institute

The Institute has attracted people from different walks of life over a period of time. Many important dignitaries have paid visit to GRI during the past one year on various occasions and details are appended.

27. Staff Promotions and welfare

Departmental Promotion Committee (DPC) to consider the promotion of non-teaching staff to various cadres was convened thrice on 07.06.2014, 05.06.2015 and 14.07.2015. So far 32 ministerial staff members have been promoted to various cadres and few more promotions are on the pipeline. Similarly, 37 teaching staff members have been promoted to various cadres under the Career Advancement Scheme (CAS) of UGC. The selection committee meeting was convened between 14th and 16th of February 2015.

28. Grievance Redressal Mechanism

Grievances submitted by the staff members concerning their service conditions were placed before the meeting of Grievance Redressal Committee held on 28.02.2015. Further, a number of recommendations of the report submitted by three member committee headed by Dr.M.A.Sudhir have been finalized and implemented in majority of the cases with the approval of Finance Committee and Board of Management.

Another committee was constituted on the advice of BoM to look into the grievances concerning the inclusion of past services rendered in GRI for terminal benefits. The said Committee met on 27.08.2014 and recommendations were implemented. Besides, One Man Committee constituted with the Finance Committee Member Shri.Thiruneelakandan had a meeting on 20-21 March, 2015 scrutinized the pay fixation recommended by the Grievance Redressal Committee and the recommendations have been implemented.

29. Students' welfare

The Institute has set up Career Guidance and Counseling Cell and provided necessary support to it in the form of infrastructure and finance. The Cell has initiated campus recruitment activities through Tata Consultancy Service (TCS), Wipro, Vernalis and Hand in Hand India (NGO). Hostel inmates were imparted training and counseling particularly in the area of life skills. The outgoing students

from few departments were imparted with trainings on Coping Skills (Finishing School). To enhance security for students in the campus, the Institute has installed 36 CCTV cameras as per the UGC Guidelines on Safety of Students on and off Campuses of Higher Educational Institutions. In addition, 24 numbers of Wi-Fi connectivity have been provided covering hostels and departments. Help-Desk has been introduced in the Computer Centre enabling candidates approaching for admission to submit online applications and payment of fees. Besides, transportation facilities arranged at free of cost for transporting of those aspirants who sought admission in the Institute through online facility created by the Institute. The UGC has approved Rs.60 lakhs towards construction of Outdoor Stadium under the Scheme of Development of Sports Infrastructure and Equipments in Universities (Plan Scheme).

30. Higher Education for Persons with Special Needs (HEPSN)

HEPSN provided a series of need based counseling for the physically challenged students of GRI by getting scholarship from various funding agencies besides enabling the students solving their personal problems and securing placements. The institute has waived the fees like tuition fee, hostel room rent and establishment charges for the physically challenged students from the academic year 2014-2015. The HEPSN unit has proposed to establish National Centre of Excellence for differently abled persons, and for which a proposal has been submitted to the Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment, Government of India. At this moment, the HEPSN is working for submitting the proposal to UGC to create a new Department for Disability Studies with the prime focus of starting "*Degree Programme on Indian Sign Language Interpretation".*

31. Equivalence Certificates obtained by GRI

The Institute has taken serious steps and as a result it has obtained equivalence certificates for 2 Degree programmes from the Government of Tamil Nadu as mentioned hereunder.

Sl.No.	Name of the Degree offered in GRI	Equivalence to	Approved Dept. by Govt. of Tamil Nadu	Name of the Department offered in GRI
1.	M.A. Development Administration (5 year integrated)	M.A. Public Administration	Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O.(Ms.) No.228 Dt. 04.11.2013	Dept. of Political Science & Development Administration
2.	M.Sc. Applied Geology & Geomatics	M.Sc. Geology	Department of Higher Education, Government of Tamil Nadu vide G.O.(Ms.)No.212, Dt. 17.12.2014	Centre for Applied Geology

32. Hostel Management Committee

In order to look after the hostels effectively, the institute has formed Hostel Management Committee so as to strengthen care taking, boarding and lodging facilities. Hostel Manual was prepared with operational guidelines enabling the better hostel management.

33. Students' Group Insurance

The Institute has enabled the parents of diseased student from B.Tech progrmme namely Mr. Munusamy, S/o. Mr.Govindan to claim death insurance for an amount of Rs.2 lakhs from New India Assurance Company. Similarly the parents of another diseased student namely Mr.S.Karthikeyn of Department of Home Science was enabled to claim the pending fellowship amount Rs.2.08 lakhs for a period of 13 months (18.11.2011 to 06.11.2012) from the UGC.

34. Students Grievance Redressal Committee

The Institute has appointed Nodal Officer and Chairman for Students Grievance Redressal committee in accordance with the directions issued by the UGC. The Committee against Sexual Harassment of Women (CASH) of the Institute has been entrusted with the responsibility to evolve modalities to create a web portal enabling

girls/women staff to launch complaints, if any. Besides, a Register has been created in the office of the Registrar to lodge complaints regarding sexual harassment, if any for speedy action against the perpetrator. No complaints were received from the women so far regarding harassment of women. Further, eight meetings were convened for students in order to create awareness and empowerment.

35. Scholarships

The students of the Institute numbering 1754 were enabled to obtain scholarships from various sources worth Rs.1.33 crores. This includes National Handicapped Finance & Development Corporation Scholarship, Haryana; Tamil Nadu Education Trust Scholarship, BC/MBC/DNC Scholarship, SC-ST/SCC Scholarship, Higher Education Special Scholarship , Minority Scholarship and Chief Minister Award.

36. Staff / Students Foreign Exchange Programme

Under Students and Staff Exchange programme three students and two faculty members visited abroad under Erasmus Mundus exchange programme.

Sl.No.	Name of the Staff / Scholar	Faculty / Department	Visited Institution	Period
1.	Dr.A.Joseph Dorairaj, Professor of English	English	KU, Leuven, Belgium	40 days
2.	Dr.T.Ananath Vijayah, Asst. Professor of English	English	Univ. College Dubling, Ireland	1 month
3.	Ms.Deena Joseph, Ph.D. Scholar	CSSEIP	University College Dubling, Ireland	9 months
4.	Mr.N.Gopinath, M.Tech. Student	Rural Energy Centre	Upsala University, Sweden	12 months
5.	Mr.Sriraque Gopi, Ph.D. Scholar	Chemistry	Maribor University, Slovenia	12 months

Foreign visits were made by nearly fourteen teachers on various other occasions during 2014-2015.

37. New Ideas and Innovations

The Institute has taken very firm initiatives in introducing online payment of fees by students, issuing of research degree certificate through Tatkal scheme, launching of new Website for the Institute, online admission process, campus surveillance through CCT Cameras and an Academy for coaching of students for All India Services. Most importantly, the land records of the Institute dating back from 1956 were digitized. E-journal and e-news letter were launched and hosted in the university website from January 2015 which gives details of academic, research and extension activities of the university along with students curricular and extra curricular benefiting the stakeholders and to bring better visibility for the University. Further, the Institute has introduced new degree certificates incorporating security features and certificates in the nature of withstanding the natural hazards, if any.

The following scholars have received their degree certificates under Tatkal Scheme

Sl.No.	Name of the Scholar	Degree	Date	Purpose
1.	Dr.T.Jebakumar Immanuel Edition	Ph.D. in Chemistry	27.10.2014	PDF at Yeungnam University, South Korea
2.	Dr.P.Muthukumar	Ph.D. in Chemistry	21.11.2014	PDF at Chungnam University, South Korea
3.	Dr.A.Chandrasekharan	Ph.D. in Lifelong Learning	09.01.2015	Appointed as Asst. Professor at EUGENE University, Lusaka, Zambia
4	Dr.R.Vetrichelvan	Ph.D in Applied Research	12.05.2015	Appointed as Lecturer on Contract basis for 48 months at DMI-St.Eugene University, Zambia

38. Green Audit

Green audit was done in the campus. It was found that there were 75 types of trees, 67 shrubs and more than 175 herbs in the campus. Power Audit has been implemented in order to save energy as also to provide power supply with solar and bio-energy resources.

39. MoUs signed by the Institute

The Institute has signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with University of IOWA, USA; Leuven University College, Belgium; Leibniz University Hannover, Germany; Tata Consultancy Services, Chennai; Lund University, Sweden; Koviloor Madalayam Educational Institutions, Karaikudi; ASME India-France; NLC, Neyveli; Yamaha Motors India and Carborundum Universal Limited, Murugappa Group, Chennai. The above MoUs were signed in the areas of agriculture, life-long learning, special education, training, recruitment, etc.

40. Constitution of Development Committees

In order to augment the human resources existing in GRI and to assign certain tasks, the Vice-Chancellor has constituted various committees namely Green Audit Committee, Technical Committee on Power Sector Reforms, Integrated Water Management Committee, MIS Committee, Website Management Advisory Committee, Website Management Technical Team, Space Committee, Students' Amenities Committee, Land/Building Reallocation Committee, Health Care Committee, Hostel Management Committee, Sanitation Committee, Legal Committee etc. All the above committees have met frequently and their recommendations were implemented wherever feasible and necessary.

Besides, two other committees were constituted for preparing Vision Document and upgrading of GRI into a Central University.

41. Important Events

The Institute has celebrated the following important days as per the directions of MHRD/UGC.

Sl.No.	Name of Programme	Organised Depts.	Date
1.	Teachers Day	Education	05.09.2015
2.	Swacch Bharath Abiyan launched	GRI	02.10.2014
3.	Sardar Patel Birth Anniversary	Tamil	31.10.2014
4.	National Education Day	Education	11.11.2014
5.	International Students Day on "Shikshit Bharat, Saksham Bharat"	GRI	17.11.2014
6.	Good Governance Day (25.12.2014)	Political Science	23.12.2014
7.	Dengue Awareness Programmes	10 Teams of NSS Volunteer ofGRI	18.02.2015
8.	Matribhasha Diwas (Mother Tongue Day - 21.02.2015)	Tamil	20.02.2015
9.	National Science Day (28.02.2015)	Faculty of Rural Oriented Sciences	23.02.2015
10.	Cycle Rally for Dengue by FRHS – For Swacch Bharath	FRHS	25.02.2015
11.	International Yoga Day	Yoga Centre, GRI	21.06.2015
12	Weeklong Cleanliness Drive on Swacch Bharath Abhiyan	All Departments of GRI	22-26.06.2015

42. GRI's 31st Convocation

31st Convocation of the institute was conducted on 22nd January, 2015. Kalviko Dr.G.Viswanathan, Chancellor VIT has attended as Chief Guest and delivered the convocation address. Smt.Ranana Jhabvala, Chancellor of our university has presided over the function and delivered the Chancellor's address. Prof.S.Natarajan, Vice-Chancellor of GRI has delivered welcome address and presented progress report of the institute. The best extension worker award was given to Shri S.Narasimhan, Field Assistant of this institute. Degrees and Diplomas were awarded to 1057 students besides awarding 7 medals to meritorious students.

43. AG Audit

Out of 23 pending audit paras since 2009-2010, the following 6 pending audit paras have been dropped by providing suitable replies and also rectifying the defects pointed out by the AG Audit parties during the period between June 2014 and June 2015. The details of audit paras are as follows:

(i) 28-95/2009-2010 - II B-3

(ii) 28-107/2012-2013 - II A-1

(iii) 28-107/2012-2013 - II B-8(b)

(iv) 28-90/2013-2014 - II B-6

(v) 28-90/2013-2014 - II B-9

(vi) 28-90/2013-2014 - II B-10

44. Meetings of Statutory Bodies

The Institute has conducted meetings of statutory bodies as per the MoA/Rules and as given below.

Board of Management	GRI Society	Academic Council	Planning and Monitoring Board	Finance Committee	Building Committee Meeting	Research Advisory Committee
132nd meeting 24.06.2014 **133**rd meeting 31.08.2014 **134**th meeting 21.01.2015 **135**th meeting 24.03.2015	**48**th meeting 29.09.2014 **49**th meeting 25.05.2015	**42**nd meeting 30.06.2014 **43**rd meeting 15.10.2014 **44**th meeting 23.12.2014 **45**th meeting 04.06.2015	**2**ndmeeting 02.03.2015	**46**thmeeting 14.08.2014 **47**thmeeting 15.03.2015	27.10.2014 19.12.2014 07.01.2015	08.10.2014 06.01.2015

As the meetings of statutory bodies were convened frequently, it enabled the administration to carry out fruitful development activities in the institute.

45. Round Table Conference of Heads of Gandhian Institutions

The Institute organized Round Table Conference of Heads of Gandhian Institutions in India on 23rd January, 2015 involving Gandhigram Trust, Gandhi Museum, Madurai; National University of Educational Planning and Administration, New Delhi; Gujarat Vidyapeeth, Ahmadabad; Shanthi Asram, Coimbatore; Mindflash, California (USA), Mahatma Gandhi University, Kottayam; Anugraha Foundation, Chennai and Dr.T.Karunakaran, Wardha. This was an attempt to recapitulate *Nai Talim* system of education as envisaged by Mahatma Gandhi. The following recommendations were made on the occasion:

1. Vice-Chancellors of Gandhigram Rural Institute and Gujarat Vidyapith will address to accrediting agencies like NAAC, to evolve special evaluation criteria by qualifying their extension/outreach activities, validating the special nature of the Institutes.
2. Activities to be adopted in Gandhian Institutions:
    - Dialogue with policy makers in Education Sector on the importance of rural extension
    - Skill building and *Nai Talim* in higher Education
    - Documentation of best practices and exchange in curriculum development among Gandhian institutions.

46. Reflections in the Media

Visibility of the activities of the university was enhanced through media support. So far 225 paper clippings have been documented covering prominent and significant activities of the institute during the year 2014 – 2015.

47. Vision Document

A committee has been formed to prepare "Vision 2022" document for GRI. The Committee has engaged itself in gathering relevant information/data from various offices of the Institute and had a few sittings. The vision document is likely to be released before the forthcoming NAAC re-accreditation exercise.

48. Constructive ideas for the University

The Vice-Chancellor proposed 32 constructive ideas for holistic and sustainable development of the University and the same has been concurred by the bodies of authorities.

1. Earmarking of lands belonging to the University and updating all revenue records pertinent to the university property.
2. Digitization of records and land use plan for agriculture, buildings, sports, water harvesting, etc.
3. Assessing structural stability of existing buildings and appropriate measures to strengthen them.
4. Construction of hostel buildings for boys and girls with XI and XII Plan funds.
5. Government/UGC assistance for new buildings (Hostels, Laboratories, Class rooms, Quarters, etc.)
6. New Sports Complex with Indoor Stadium.
7. New Cultural Complex with Rural Arts.
8. Upgrading Gandhi Museum.
9. New Roads to all Departments and Farm areas.
10. Regulated water supply to offices, departments and hostels.
11. Development of Greenway over the campus.
12. Power auditing and lighting with low cost / economical solutions.
13. E-governance with MIS
14. Enhancement of campus security with CCTV cameras for surveillance.
15. Raising compound walls around the University premises.
16. Clearing of all Court cases / Renewal of MoUs.
17. Sanitation with proper supervising mechanism.
18. New Centres on IPR, Biotechnology, Nano-Technology, Environmental Sciences.
19. Strengthening of Students Counseling and Career Guidance.
20. Creation of GRI – Model Villages.
21. Improving receipts of the University.

22. Infrastructure – Convocation and Seminar Halls, Video Conferencing, Smart Class rooms.
23. Modernization of Library.
24. Modernization of Hostel Kitchens.
25. Nationally Accredited labs, Food Testing, Soil & Water & Plant Clinic Centres.
26. Centre for Vocational Studies and Skill Development.
27. Reorganization of faculties to meet to the educational and employment requirements of students.
28. Linkage of Institutions involved in Gandhian Principles and Rural Development.
29. Reforms in Curriculum and Evaluation Methods.
30. Promoting Heritage sites of GRI.
31. Appropriate training programmes for teaching and non-teaching staff.
32. Measures to enthusing teachers and supporting staff.

49. Future Plans

- Vision Document
- Master Plan for the campus
- Development of corpus fund
- Preservation of Heritage sites
- Establishment of Power Station in the university campus
- Solar Power Plant to augment power supply
- GRI Model Village Development

WATER CRISIS MANAGEMENT AT GRI

Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed University) is situated in Dindigul district of Tamil Nadu state. It is fully funded by MHRD through UGC. The university is a nationally and internationally recognized institute for its contribution to rural development based on the Gandhian values and principles. The Institute has at present 3500 students, 165 teaching, and 230 non-teaching staff members. I joined as Vice-Chancellor in the university on 23rd May, 2014, with great hopes for improvement in academic, research and extension activities of the university. But a set back to me occurred in the form of severe water crisis in the campus immediately after the university was reopened on 1st July, 2014 after summer vacation. Neither my predecessors nor the people concerned in the campus development caution me on this problem after my joining in the university. With great difficulty, the classes were conducted for 15 days from the date of reopening of the university, i.e. upto 15th July, 2014. The classes were then suspended upto 30th July, 2014 in order to make necessary arrangements to find out the problems related to the water crisis and to take suitable management measures.

I swung into action immediately after this unpredictable situation. A crisis management committee was formed with faculty Deans and Estate Officer: Action plans were contemplated and implemented with full dedication.

i) Mapping of bore-wells: Existing bore-wells in the campus were located on a map along with distribution line. It was found there are 29 bore-wells, out of which, 10 bore-wells were found to give some water yields. Even among the water yielding wells, only two wells were found to give water yield of over 30,000 liters per day. All bore-wells are connected to supply water to an overhead tank from which water is taken to hostels, staff quarters and departments. The distribution lines were not orderly laid out, and as a result regular water supply to the hostels, quarters and departments was impaired. It was then decided by the committee that additional bore-wells and streamlining the water distribution system are essential.

ii) Location of additional bore-wells: I along with my colleagues made a reconnaissance survey of 200 acres of the camps for locating new bore-wells points in addition to the existing ones. As I can do water divining, we located six points for new bore-wells. I requested the Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage Board officials to confirm the new bore-well points in GRI campus, survey and suggest measures for streamlining the water

distribution in the university. Based on their advice, we opened three new bore-wells to augment water supply and reorganized the water distribution system through our Estate Officer.

iii) Regulation of water supply from common pool: Based on the strength of inmates in the hostels, family members of staff residing in the quarters and department use, the quantum of water required was computed at the rate of 70 liters per head and water supply was regulated with different time schedule. It was monitored for a week and small changes were effected based on the feed back from the students and staff. Now the water supply from the existing and new bore-wells and reorganizing distribution system has been made perfect.

iv) Role of State Government: I must complement the help rendered by the District Collector, Dindigul and the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, Tamil Nadu Water and Drainage (TWAD) Board, Chennai for helping us in the crisis situation. One of the three bore-wells was dug through the local Panchayat under the direction of the District Collector. Engineers from TWAD Board helped us in locating new bore-well points and technical opinion on laying new supply lines.

Further, the Chairman-cum-Managing Director, TWAD Board agreed to water supply 4 to 5 lakh liters of per day from the second phase of Cauvery River Integrated Drinking Water Scheme, of which, it may take another one and half years.

Sudden occurrence of water crisis even though was of a great concern in an academic institute like ours, it taught a lesson as how to meet challenges and overcome them scientifically with great confidence. It was a great experience for me.

We further plan for rainwater harvesting and recycling of wastewater in the campus.