

REPORT

REPORT ON THE IMPLEMENTATION OF THE **ACADEMIC BANK OF CREDITS (ABC)** AND **NATIONAL ACADEMIC DEPOSITORY (NAD)** INTEGRATION IN KERALA



**KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL
APRIL 2026**

THE KERALA STATE HIGHER EDUCATION COUNCIL

**Report on the Implementation of the
Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and
National Academic Depository (NAD)
Integration in Kerala**

Documentation Division
April 2026



Published by **The Kerala State Higher Education Council**
Science and Technology Museum Campus, Vikas Bhavan P.O.,
Thiruvananthapuram-695033, Kerala State, India

Preface

The transformation of higher education in India is increasingly guided by the principles of flexibility, mobility, and digital integration, as envisioned in recent national policy frameworks. Within this broader context, the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the National Academic Depository (NAD) represents a significant step towards building a learner-centric and technology-enabled academic ecosystem. These initiatives collectively aim to facilitate seamless credit accumulation and transfer, ensure the authenticity and accessibility of academic credentials, and support student choice of various pathways in their academic pursuit.

This report documents the progress, processes, and outcomes associated with the implementation of ABC and NAD integration in higher education institutions in the State of Kerala. It captures the coordinated efforts undertaken by the Kerala State Higher Education Council and various other stakeholders, including universities, autonomous colleges, stand-alone institutions, national agencies, and the Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala, in operationalising these transformative initiatives.

A defining feature of Kerala's approach has been the establishment of a structured and collaborative implementation framework under the leadership of the Kerala State Higher Education Council. Entrusted by the Government as the State-Level Nodal Agency for ABC and NAD coordination, KSHEC has played a pivotal role in steering the implementation process across the State. The Council has functioned as the principal coordinating body linking national agencies such as UGC, MeitY, and the ABC–NAD implementation teams with universities and higher educational institutions in Kerala.

In its capacity as the nodal agency, KSHEC has undertaken a wide range of responsibilities, including facilitating institutional onboarding, organising state-level workshops and technical training programmes, coordinating review meetings, monitoring implementation progress, and addressing operational and technical challenges faced by institutions. It has also played a crucial role in enabling ERP integration, supporting credit mapping processes, and strengthening the adoption of DigiLocker and NAD-based academic services. Through these sustained interventions, KSHEC has ensured that the implementation process remains both systematic and inclusive.

The report highlights key milestones such as state-level consultations, workshops, review mechanisms, and institutional progress in areas like credit uploading, academic record digitisation, and digital credential management. It also presents a statistical overview of implementation status, reflecting the scale and depth of institutional participation across Kerala.

At the same time, the report does not overlook the challenges encountered during implementation, including issues related to ERP integration, historical data migration, and standardisation of

workflows. By documenting these challenges alongside the achievements, the report seeks to provide a realistic and constructive assessment of the current status of ABC–NAD integration in the State.

Overall, this document serves not only as a record of progress but also as a guiding reference for future action. The continued leadership of KSHEC, combined with sustained institutional collaboration and national support, is expected to further strengthen Kerala’s digital academic infrastructure and advance the goals of academic mobility, transparency, and learner-centric education.

April 2026

Member Secretary

Thiruvananthapuram

1. Introduction

The implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and the National Academic Depository (NAD) constitutes an important component of the ongoing higher education reforms aimed at enabling academic mobility, flexible learning pathways, multiple entry–exit options, multidisciplinary education, and digitally verifiable academic credentials. The ABC system enables students to digitally accumulate, store, transfer, and redeem academic credits earned from recognised higher educational institutions. Integrated with APAAR ID, DigiLocker, and NAD systems, the initiative supports learner-centric higher education and facilitates credit mobility across institutions and programmes.

In Kerala, the Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) have played a major coordinating role in facilitating the implementation of ABC and NAD across State Universities, Autonomous Colleges, and other Higher Educational Institutions (HEIs). A coordinated implementation strategy involving universities, autonomous institutions, UGC, MeitY, and national ABC–NAD implementation teams has been adopted to strengthen the digital academic credit ecosystem in the State.

2. Initial Coordination and State-Level Implementation Framework

2.1 UGC–NAD/ABC Virtual Meeting with Kerala Universities

A virtual meeting was conducted by the UGC–NAD/ABC team with Controllers of Examinations, Registrars, and nodal officers of universities in Kerala on 30 April 2024 to discuss and mentor the operationalisation of the Academic Bank of Credits system in the State. The meeting focused on institutional preparedness for ABC implementation, APAAR ID generation, credit registration and migration, ERP integration, and operational challenges relating to credit mapping and validation. The meeting also highlighted the necessity for a coordinated implementation mechanism at the State level to ensure smooth operationalisation of ABC-related activities.

2.2 State-Level Physical Workshop Organised by KSHEC

In continuation of the above initiative, and as directed by the Government of Kerala, the Kerala State Higher Education Council organised a State-level physical workshop on ABC implementation on 15 May 2024 at the University of Kerala. The workshop was attended by officials from UGC, ABC–NAD implementation teams, university authorities, Controllers of Examinations, Registrars, and institutional nodal officers from across the State.

The workshop discussed the operational requirements for ABC implementation, integration with university examination systems, credit transfer workflows, and student onboarding mechanisms. During the discussions, it was strongly recommended that a State-level nodal mechanism should be established for coordinating ABC implementation activities between UGC, ABC–NAD national teams, universities, autonomous institutions, and other stakeholders.

3. Designation of KSHEC as State-Level Nodal Agency

The ABC–NAD implementation framework at the national level includes a National Coordinator appointed by the ABC–NAD team, a State Coordinator, and institutional nodal officers in universities and autonomous institutions. In order to facilitate effective coordination among these entities and streamline the implementation process in Kerala, the Government entrusted the Kerala State Higher Education Council (KSHEC) with the responsibility of functioning as the State-Level Nodal Agency for ABC implementation.

Accordingly, a State Nodal Officer for ABC implementation was designated by KSHEC as per G.O. (Rt) No. 888/2024/HEDN dated 19-07-2024. KSHEC was entrusted with responsibilities including coordination between universities and national ABC authorities, monitoring implementation progress, organising workshops and review meetings, facilitating ERP integration, resolving operational issues, and supporting institutions in APAAR ID generation, credit mapping, NAD integration, and DigiLocker-based academic services.

4. Review Meetings and Monitoring Mechanism

Following the establishment of the State-level coordination framework, periodic online review meetings were conducted jointly by UGC officials, ABC–NAD implementation teams, KSHEC, universities, and institutional nodal officers. These meetings reviewed progress relating to APAAR ID generation, credit uploading, ERP integration, institutional compliance, and operational challenges. The review mechanism significantly strengthened communication and coordination between institutions and national implementation agencies.

5. Online Review Meeting on ABC Implementation – 03 June 2025

5.1 Meeting Details

An important online review meeting on the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) in Kerala was held on 03 June 2025 under the chairmanship of Dr. Rajan Varughese, Member Secretary, KSHEC. The meeting was inaugurated by Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph IAS, Principal Secretary, Department of Higher Education, Government of Kerala.

The meeting was attended by Dr. Avichal Kapoor, Joint Secretary, UGC; Ms. Beena Menon, Deputy Secretary, UGC; Mr. Prakash Pandey, National Coordinator, ABC; Mr. Varun Kumar Khudania, State Coordinator, ABC; Dr. Sudheendran K, Coordinator for ABC Implementation, KSHEC; and nodal officers from Universities, Autonomous Colleges, and Stand-Alone Institutions across Kerala.

5.2 Major Discussions

5.2.1 Deadline for Credit Uploading

The UGC informed the institutions that all credits mapped with students' APAAR IDs for examinations conducted between January 2024 and December 2024 must be uploaded by 30 June 2025. However, it was observed during the meeting that many institutions had not completed the credit uploading process. Dr. Sharmila Mary Joseph directed all institutions to positively complete the uploading process by 20 June 2025.

5.2.2 Pending Credit Transfers and Institutional Concerns

Several universities raised operational and technical concerns regarding the transfer of credits to the ABC portal. These included issues relating to post-examination modifications in mark lists due to revaluation, grace marks, and improvement examinations; lack of clarity regarding uploading of historical data up to 2023; absence of ABC IDs for older student batches; and technical challenges relating to ERP integration and data validation. Institutions requested policy clarification and technical guidance from the ABC authorities on these matters.

5.2.3 Institutional Progress Status

The meeting reviewed the implementation progress of various universities and institutions. It was noted that Mahatma Gandhi University had made significant progress in credit mapping activities, whereas the University of Calicut and the University of Kerala had not sufficiently advanced in the uploading process. Kerala Technological University (KTU) had successfully created ABC IDs for all students; however, the credit mapping process was yet to be completed.

5.3 Decisions Taken

The meeting decided that all institutions should complete the uploading of credits for the 2024 calendar year by 20 June 2025. It was also decided to initiate the integration of the State ERP system (K-REAP) with the ABC portal to facilitate seamless credit uploading. Institutions were directed to submit detailed reasons for delays in uploading credits and to verify communications with ABC officials for clarification on technical issues. Separate meetings were proposed with universities requiring additional support, particularly Calicut University and MG University. KTU was instructed to proceed with standard credit uploading procedures without waiting for API integration. Institutions facing technical integration difficulties were advised to report them to the KSHEC ABC implementation unit. The meeting further resolved that monthly review meetings involving KSHEC and ABC officials would continue to monitor implementation progress.

6. KSHEC Workshops on ABC Implementation – November 2025

6.1 Introduction

As part of strengthening institutional preparedness and technical capacity for ABC implementation, the Kerala State Higher Education Council organised two consecutive workshops on Academic Bank of Credits implementation on 06 and 07 November 2025 at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences. The workshops focused on operational and technical aspects of ABC, NAD, DigiLocker integration, ERP coordination, credit migration, and institutional compliance mechanisms.

7. Workshop for Nodal Officers of Autonomous Colleges

7.1 Programme Details

The workshop for nodal officers of autonomous colleges was conducted on 06 November 2025 at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and was attended by 69 nodal officers representing autonomous colleges across Kerala.

7.2 Major Highlights

The programme was inaugurated by the Member Secretary, KSHEC, who emphasised the significance of ABC in promoting academic mobility, multiple entry–exit systems, credit transfer mechanisms, and learner-centric curricular structures under FYUGP. Technical sessions were handled by State and National Coordinators of ABC, NAD, and DigiLocker, along with officials from the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY).

Detailed presentations were made regarding the operational workflow of ABC for autonomous colleges, student onboarding procedures, credit registration and verification systems, ERP integration mechanisms, and the use of DigiLocker and NAD for secure academic credential management. Interactive sessions enabled nodal officers to seek clarification regarding implementation challenges, data migration, credit mapping, and technical integration issues.

7.3 Conclusion

The workshop concluded at 4:00 PM with the formulation of institution-level action plans aimed at strengthening ABC compliance, streamlining credit uploading workflows, and improving institutional preparedness for ABC operationalisation.

8. Workshop for Universities and Stand-Alone Institutions

8.1 Programme Details

The second workshop was conducted on 07 November 2025 at Rajagiri College of Social Sciences and was attended by 47 nodal officers representing State Universities, the Central University of Kerala, IIT, NIT, and various stand-alone institutions.

8.2 Major Discussions

The workshop focused on university-level coordination, regulatory responsibilities, large-scale ERP integration, credit issuance protocols, and quality assurance mechanisms in academic credit transactions. National resource persons from MeitY conducted detailed technical demonstrations on the architecture of the ABC–NAD–DigiLocker ecosystem, programme-wise and course-wise credit structuring, institutional validation standards, and university-level credit issuance workflows.

Participating institutions shared their experiences and challenges relating to ERP integration, multiple entry–exit pathways, credit accumulation workflows, and management of historical academic data. The discussions also focused on the need for standardisation and interoperability among institutional systems.

8.3 Conclusion

The workshop concluded at 4:00 PM with a collective commitment from participating institutions to expedite ABC compliance activities and strengthen the digital academic credit ecosystem in Kerala.

9. Overall Outcomes of the ABC Implementation Initiatives

The coordinated implementation initiatives undertaken in Kerala resulted in substantial progress in institutional awareness, digital academic infrastructure, and inter-institutional coordination. The workshops and review meetings significantly enhanced awareness among nodal officers and institutional administrators regarding the operational and technical requirements of ABC implementation.

The initiatives strengthened coordination between KSHEC, the Government of Kerala, UGC, MeitY, universities, autonomous colleges, stand-alone institutions, and the national ABC–NAD implementation teams. Considerable progress was achieved in APAAR ID generation, credit mapping, ERP integration, DigiLocker-enabled credential systems, and digital migration of academic records.

The implementation process also facilitated the development of a State-level action framework for academic credit registration, verification, transfer, migration, and monitoring. The framework supports academic mobility, multiple entry–exit pathways, and learner-centric higher education reforms under FYUGP.

10. Challenges Identified

Despite substantial progress, several operational and technical challenges were identified during the implementation process. These included delays in ERP integration across universities, inconsistencies in historical academic data, post-publication changes in examination results, absence of ABC IDs for older student batches, lack of standardised institutional workflows, and technical issues relating to API integration and data validation. Capacity limitations in some institutions also affected the pace of implementation.

11. Future Directions

To strengthen the implementation of ABC and NAD systems in Kerala, it is proposed to complete the full integration of the K-REAP ERP system with the ABC portal and establish standardised workflows for credit uploading and validation across institutions. Periodic workshops and technical training programmes for nodal officers should continue to be organised. Institutional implementation manuals and technical support systems may also be developed to facilitate uniformity and operational efficiency.

Further strengthening of API-based automation, digital academic infrastructure, and monitoring mechanisms under KSHEC will support seamless academic credit mobility and learner-centric higher education reforms in Kerala.

12. Conclusion

Kerala has adopted a coordinated and systematic approach towards the implementation of the Academic Bank of Credits (ABC) and National Academic Depository (NAD) systems. Through the leadership of the Government of Kerala and the Kerala State Higher Education Council, significant progress has been achieved in institutional awareness creation, ERP integration, digital academic infrastructure development, credit mapping, and statewide coordination.

The workshops, review meetings, technical consultations, and institutional support initiatives conducted during 2024 and 2025 substantially strengthened the preparedness of universities and higher educational institutions for full-scale ABC operationalisation. Continued collaboration among KSHEC, universities, UGC, MeitY, institutional nodal officers, and national implementation agencies will further strengthen Kerala's higher education ecosystem and support learner-centric academic reforms through efficient digital academic credit management systems.

Brief Statistical Report on ABC–NAD Implementation Status in Kerala

(Based on the Kerala State NAD Report dated 30 October 2025)

1. Overall Institutional Coverage

As per the Kerala State NAD Report dated 30 October 2025, a total of 89 Higher Educational Institutions in Kerala were included in the ABC–NAD implementation and monitoring framework. These institutions comprise State Universities, Autonomous Colleges, Central Institutions, Deemed Universities, Stand-Alone Institutions, IIT, NIT, IIM, IISER, IIIT, and other specialised institutions.

Among the participating institutions, Autonomous Colleges constituted the largest category with 46 institutions, followed by 15 State Universities and 13 Stand-Alone Institutions. The report also included participation from nationally important institutions such as Indian Institute of Technology Palakkad, National Institute of Technology Calicut, Indian Institute of Management Kozhikode, and Indian Institute of Science Education and Research Thiruvananthapuram.

2. DigiLocker and NAD Integration Status

The report indicates that 59 institutions had already become live on DigiLocker and NAD platforms by October 2025. This demonstrates substantial progress in the adoption of digital academic credential systems in Kerala. The integration enables institutions to securely issue and store digital academic certificates, marksheets, and related records through the NAD–DigiLocker ecosystem.

Several universities and autonomous colleges have operationalised digital academic document services, while some institutions are still in various stages of technical integration and approval processes.

3. APAAR ID Generation and Institutional Mapping

The institutions in Kerala collectively generated and mapped approximately **21.55 lakh APAAR-linked student records** with their respective awarding institutions. This reflects significant progress in student onboarding and digital identity integration within the ABC ecosystem.

The large-scale generation of APAAR IDs demonstrates institutional preparedness for implementing credit mobility, academic credit accumulation, and learner-centric higher education reforms under FYUGP and related academic restructuring initiatives.

4. Credit Record Uploading and ABC Mapping

The report shows that institutions in Kerala collectively mapped approximately **10.72 lakh credit records** with APAAR IDs through the ABC portal. The credit mapping process covered examination

years from 2021 to 2025 and included programme-wise and course-wise academic credits uploaded by universities and colleges.

The year-wise distribution of credit records uploaded to the ABC portal is as follows:

- **2021** – approximately 17,965 credit records
- **2022** – approximately 1,10,669 credit records
- **2023** – approximately 3,33,276 credit records
- **2024** – approximately 4,33,135 credit records
- **2025** – approximately 1,77,400 credit records

The data indicates a major increase in credit uploading activities during 2023 and 2024, reflecting accelerated institutional participation and improved operational coordination after the establishment of the State-level implementation framework.

5. Academic Record Digitisation

The participating institutions collectively digitised and uploaded more than **41.18 lakh academic records** to the NAD ecosystem. These records include marksheets, degrees, provisional certificates, transcripts, and related academic credentials.

The majority of uploaded documents consisted of digital marksheets and degree certificates, thereby significantly strengthening the digital academic repository infrastructure in Kerala.

6. Institutional Progress and Leading Contributors

The report indicates that several universities and institutions have made significant progress in ABC credit mapping and NAD integration activities.

Among the institutions, Mahatma Gandhi University recorded the highest number of credit records mapped with APAAR IDs, with approximately 3.79 lakh mapped records. Kannur University also demonstrated substantial progress with approximately 1.79 lakh mapped credit records.

Other major contributors include:

- University of Calicut
- University of Kerala
- National Institute of Technology Calicut
- Sreenarayanaguru Open University

- St. Joseph's College Devagiri
- St. Berchmans College
- Christ College Irinjalakuda

These institutions demonstrated significant progress in credit registration, APAAR mapping, and digital academic record integration.

7. Major Observations

The statistical data indicates that Kerala has made substantial progress in implementing the Academic Bank of Credits and National Academic Depository systems within a relatively short period. The coordinated interventions undertaken by KSHEC, universities, and national ABC–NAD implementation agencies significantly accelerated institutional preparedness and operational integration.

The rapid increase in credit mapping during 2023 and 2024 reflects the positive impact of State-level workshops, review meetings, technical mentoring, and ERP integration initiatives coordinated through KSHEC. However, the report also suggests that some institutions still require additional support for full-scale ERP integration, historical data migration, and standardisation of credit uploading workflows.

8. Conclusion

The Kerala State NAD Report dated 30 October 2025 demonstrates that Kerala has achieved significant progress in establishing a statewide digital academic credit ecosystem through ABC, NAD, APAAR, and DigiLocker integration. The large-scale generation of APAAR IDs, substantial credit mapping activities, and digitisation of academic records indicate strong institutional participation and growing readiness for learner-centric academic reforms, academic mobility, and digital credential management in higher education.



The Kerala State Higher Education Council
Science and Technology Museum Campus,
Vikas Bhavan P.O., Thiruvananthapuram-695033,
Kerala State, India
www.kshcec.kerala.gov.in