

**REPORT ON THE VIRTUAL MEETING OF
NCI-UBA IIT DELHI WITH ALL RCI
COORDINATORS
HELD ON 20 NOVEMBER 2025**

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan



Ministry of Education
Government of India



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A virtual review and strategy meeting was convened on **20 November 2025** by the **National Coordinating Institute (NCI), Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA), IIT Delhi**, with the participation of all Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) coordinators across India. The meeting was graced by the presence of the **National Coordinator, UBA IIT Delhi**, and the **National Co-Coordinator, Dr. Praveen Kumar**.

At the outset, **Prof. V. K. Vijay** extended a warm welcome to all RCI coordinators and highlighted the significance of the upcoming **Foundation Day celebration of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan**. He emphasized that if an institution like the **Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Tamil Nadu** can successfully organize a national-level webinar with limited resources, then national-level institutions such as IITs and NITs—functioning as RCIs—can and must take the lead in organizing high-impact events.

Prof. Vijay further stressed that having completed **11 successful years of UBA**, the mission must now shift toward transforming the educational ecosystem, especially with the launch of **UBA 3.0 scheduled from April 2026**. He urged all RCIs to take proactive steps to expand the number of Participating Institutions (PIs), as UBA 3.0 will bring a significant leap in scale, outreach, and implementation.

After his address, Prof. Vijay invited suggestions, strategic inputs, and implementation pathways from RCIs for ensuring more effective outcomes of UBA in the coming phase.

During the discussion, **Dr. Akshay Satsangi**, one of the RCI Coordinators, put forth several constructive suggestions to strengthen the visibility and impact of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan. He proposed that UBA should publish a **regular magazine or newsletter every 3 to 6 months**, which would not only highlight the ongoing initiatives but also enhance nationwide and global awareness of the programme.

He further emphasized the need for **regular incentives and recognition mechanisms** to encourage the Participating Institutions (PIs). Dr. Satsangi suggested instituting an **annual award ceremony** to acknowledge the top-performing RCIs—such as the best three or best five—so that institutions feel motivated to excel. He also pointed out that although a large number of PIs have joined UBA, consistent functionality and engagement decline over time due to the absence of a structured evaluation system.

According to him, categorizing PIs as *excellent*, *good*, *average*, or *needs improvement* could help maintain active participation. Additionally, he recommended introducing recognitions such as **Best Coordinator, Best Program Officer**, and similar titles to appreciate individual contributions. Establishing a well-designed **evaluation and incentive framework** would ensure accountability and sustained enthusiasm.

Responding to these suggestions, **Prof. V. K. Vijay**, National Coordinator UBA, clarified that UBA activities are now being acknowledged by major national bodies, including the **UGC and the Government of India**, particularly in **NAAC accreditation** and **NIRF rankings**. He informed that UGC has formally communicated with all Directors and Vice-Chancellors to strengthen UBA implementation and expand PI participation.

Prof. Vijay stressed that all PIs must strive to remain **healthy, active, and high-performing**, as they serve as the true ambassadors of the mission. On the subject of certifications, he affirmed that RCIs should issue **formal certificates** to student volunteers from their own institutes, as well as to PI coordinators and participating students, as a mark of recognition for their involvement in UBA.

During the discussion on providing financial incentives to all Participating Institutions (PIs), **Prof. V. K. Vijay** clarified that many private institutions already collect substantial student fees, and therefore, they are capable of utilizing part of these resources to support UBA activities. He emphasized that contributing to UBA is a collective responsibility as the overarching goal is to make India a model of sustainable development. In response, several RCIs requested IIT Delhi to formally issue a communication to all PIs regarding this matter, to which Prof. Vijay agreed.

MNIT Jaipur shared their successful strategy of involving **five to six faculty members** in UBA activities and conducting regular village visits. They also appointed one faculty member as an RCI District Coordinator and designated one PI as a District Coordinating PI to strengthen outreach and ensure effective on-ground implementation. Prof. Vijay appreciated their proactive efforts and encouraged other RCIs to adopt similar models.

Prof. Anand from IIT Jodhpur explained that they collaborate with NGOs to bridge funding gaps. He stated that they actively motivate PIs to submit development proposals, allowing well-performing institutions to also receive benefits. **RCI NIT Jamshedpur** highlighted their efforts in increasing PI participation through state universities and shared that they regularly issue certificates to associated PI institutions and volunteers. They also proposed creating a **dedicated UBA office** for streamlined functioning.

A noteworthy concern was raised regarding frequent changes in faculty coordinators, which often disrupt program continuity; hence, it was suggested that coordinator changes should be minimized. **Dr. Om Ji Shukla from NIT Patna** recommended that national- and state-level meetings should be conducted at regular intervals to maintain consistent communication and shared learning.

Dr. Varun Gupta, RCI Coordinator from NIT Sikkim, raised a query regarding the **certification mechanism** for PI coordinators and participating students, emphasizing the importance of formally acknowledging their contributions and motivating sustained involvement in UBA activities.

He also highlighted the need for an **annual fund provision for PIs** to support field surveys, village visits, and outreach programmes—particularly in geographically remote regions such as Sikkim, where even short-distance travel requires dedicated transportation arrangements.

Prof. V. K. Vijay addressed these concerns, clarified all doubts, and advised all RCIs to **send their queries formally via email** for further action.

Prof. Vijay then encouraged all RCIs to onboard **at least 10 new institutions by March 2026**, in alignment with the upcoming launch of **UBA 3.0**. Towards the end of the meeting, a special guest, **Shri Varun Vidhyarthi**, former member of the Planning Commission and current Director of the NGO Manvodaya, was introduced. He provided valuable insights into UBA's vision and operational framework, and additional detailed information shared by him is attached herewith.

The virtual meeting concluded with a formal **vote of thanks** delivered by the team at **NCI, IIT Delhi**.

Report on the Virtual Review and Strategy Meeting

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA) – National Coordinating Institute, IIT Delhi
20 November 2025

A virtual review and strategy meeting of **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)** was convened on **20 November 2025** by the **National Coordinating Institute (NCI), IIT Delhi**, with participation from all **Regional Coordinating Institute (RCI) coordinators** across India. The meeting was chaired by **Prof. V. K. Vijay**, National Coordinator, UBA, IIT Delhi, and attended by **Dr. Praveen Kumar**, National Co-Coordinator.

1. Opening Remarks

In his welcome address, **Prof. V. K. Vijay** extended greetings to all RCI coordinators and underscored the significance of the upcoming **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan Foundation Day**. Referring to the efforts of the **Gandhigram Rural Institute (Deemed to be University), Tamil Nadu**, he noted that impactful national events can be organized even with limited resources. Hence, premier institutions such as IITs, NITs, and other RCIs are expected to take the lead in driving high-quality UBA activities.

Prof. Vijay also highlighted that UBA's outreach and relevance are being increasingly recognized by national bodies such as the **UGC** and the **Government of India**, particularly in the context of **NAAC** accreditation and **NIRF** rankings. He informed that UGC has formally reached out to Directors and Vice-Chancellors across the country, urging them to strengthen UBA implementation and expand PI participation.

2. Strengthening PI Engagement and Certification Mechanisms

Prof. Vijay reiterated that **Participating Institutions (PIs)** must remain active, productive, and committed, as they are the true ambassadors of the mission. He affirmed that RCIs should issue **formal certificates** to:

- Student volunteers of their own institutes,
- PI coordinators, and
- Participating students,

to duly recognize their contributions to UBA.

Input from NIT Sikkim

Dr. Varun Gupta, RCI Coordinator from **NIT Sikkim**, sought clarification regarding the certification framework for PI coordinators and student volunteers. He emphasized that formal recognition is essential to encourage continued engagement in UBA activities.

He also highlighted the unique challenges faced by PIs in geographically remote regions like **Sikkim**, where even short-distance travel requires dedicated transportation arrangements. Therefore, he stressed the need for an **annual fund provision** for PIs to support field surveys, village visits, and outreach initiatives.

Prof. Vijay addressed these concerns, clarified the certification process, and advised all RCIs to **submit their queries formally via email** for further action.

3. Financial Support and Resource Optimization

Responding to queries related to financial incentives for PIs, Prof. Vijay explained that many private institutions collect substantial student fees and possess sufficient resources to support UBA activities. He emphasized that contributing to UBA is a **shared national responsibility**, aligned with India's aspiration to emerge as a model of sustainable development.

Several RCIs requested NCI IIT Delhi to issue an official communication to all PIs regarding resource utilization, to which Prof. Vijay agreed.

4. Best Practices Shared by RCIs

MNIT Jaipur

- Involvement of **5–6 faculty members** in UBA implementation
- Regular **village visits** for monitoring and outreach
- Appointment of an **RCI District Coordinator** and a **District Coordinating PI**

Prof. Vijay appreciated their comprehensive model and encouraged other RCIs to adopt similar approaches.

IIT Jodhpur

Prof. Anand shared that their RCI:

- Collaborates with **NGOs** to bridge funding gaps

- Encourages PIs to submit **development proposals**
- Ensures well-performing institutions receive adequate support

NIT Jamshedpur

The RCI highlighted:

- Enhanced PI participation through coordination with **state universities**
 - Regular issuance of **certificates** to PIs and student volunteers
 - A proposal to establish a **dedicated UBA office** for improved operations
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5. Challenges Identified

A recurring concern expressed during the meeting was the **frequent change of PI coordinators**, which often disrupts programme continuity. Participants emphasized the need to minimize such changes to preserve institutional memory and ensure sustained implementation.

Dr. Om Ji Shukla (NIT Patna) recommended holding **regular national- and state-level meetings** to promote communication, knowledge exchange, and collective problem-solving.

6. Roadmap Towards UBA 3.0

Looking ahead, Prof. Vijay urged RCIs to **onboard at least 10 new institutions by March 2026**, to align with the launch of **UBA 3.0** in **April 2026**. Having completed **11 successful years**, UBA is now poised to enter a transformative phase focused on reshaping the educational ecosystem with greater scale, impact, and institutional engagement.

7. Strategic Recommendations from RCIs

Suggestions by Dr. Akshay Satsangi

Dr. Akshay Satsangi proposed several key initiatives to strengthen the visibility and impact of UBA:

- Publishing a **biannual or quarterly magazine/newsletter** to highlight activities and success stories
- Instituting **annual awards** for the top-performing RCIs (best three or five)
- Introducing a **grading system for PIs** (Excellent, Good, Average, Needs Improvement)
- Recognizing individual excellence through awards such as:
 - *Best Coordinator*
 - *Best Programme Officer*
 - Other merit-based titles

He emphasized that a structured evaluation and incentive framework is essential to ensure accountability, sustained participation, and excellence.

8. Special Address

The meeting also featured a special address by **Shri Varun Vidhyarthi**, former member of the **Planning Commission** and Director of the NGO **Manvoday**. He shared valuable insights into UBA's vision, long-term scope, and operational models. Detailed notes from his session were appended to the meeting documentation.

9. Conclusion

The meeting concluded with a formal **Vote of Thanks** by the NCI team at **IIT Delhi**, acknowledging the active participation of all RCIs and reaffirming collective commitment to scaling the reach and impact of **Unnat Bharat Abhiyan** in the forthcoming phase.
