BENEVOLENT IAS ACADEMY
COIMBATORE (HOPES)

In News:

The **Ministry of Education's Unnat Bharat Abhiyan (UBA)** completes a decade, redefining the role of higher education in rural development.

Exam Point of View: GS Paper III (mains) - Governemnt Policies and Intervention

About **"Unnat Bharat Abhiyan"** a flagship program of Ministry of Education,

The conceptualization of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan originated from the endeavours of a dedicated group of faculty members at the Indian Institute of Technology (IIT) Delhi, possessing expertise in rural development and appropriate technology. The program received formal inauguration by the Ministry of Education (MoE) (formerly Ministry of Human Resource Development (MHRD)), with the President of India presiding, on November 11, 2014.

'Hind Swaraj,' by Mahatma Gandhi ji

Envisioned by Mahatma Gandhi in his seminal work, 'Hind Swaraj,' the Western developmental paradigm, grounded in centralized technologies and urbanization, has engendered pressing challenges such as burgeoning inequality and climate change due to rapid ecological degradation.

This comprehensive vision for village development is paramount. **Currently, 70% of India's population resides in rural areas, predominantly engaged in an agrarian economy. Despite agriculture and allied sectors employing 51% of the total workforce, their contribution to the country's GDP is a mere 17%**. Profound developmental disparities persist between rural and urban sectors, spanning health, education, incomes, basic amenities, and employment opportunities, precipitating widespread discontent and substantial migration to urban centers.

Vision

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is inspired by the vision of transformational change in rural development processes by leveraging knowledge institutions to help build the architecture of an Inclusive India and to have a paradigm shift in academic and research programs of the country.
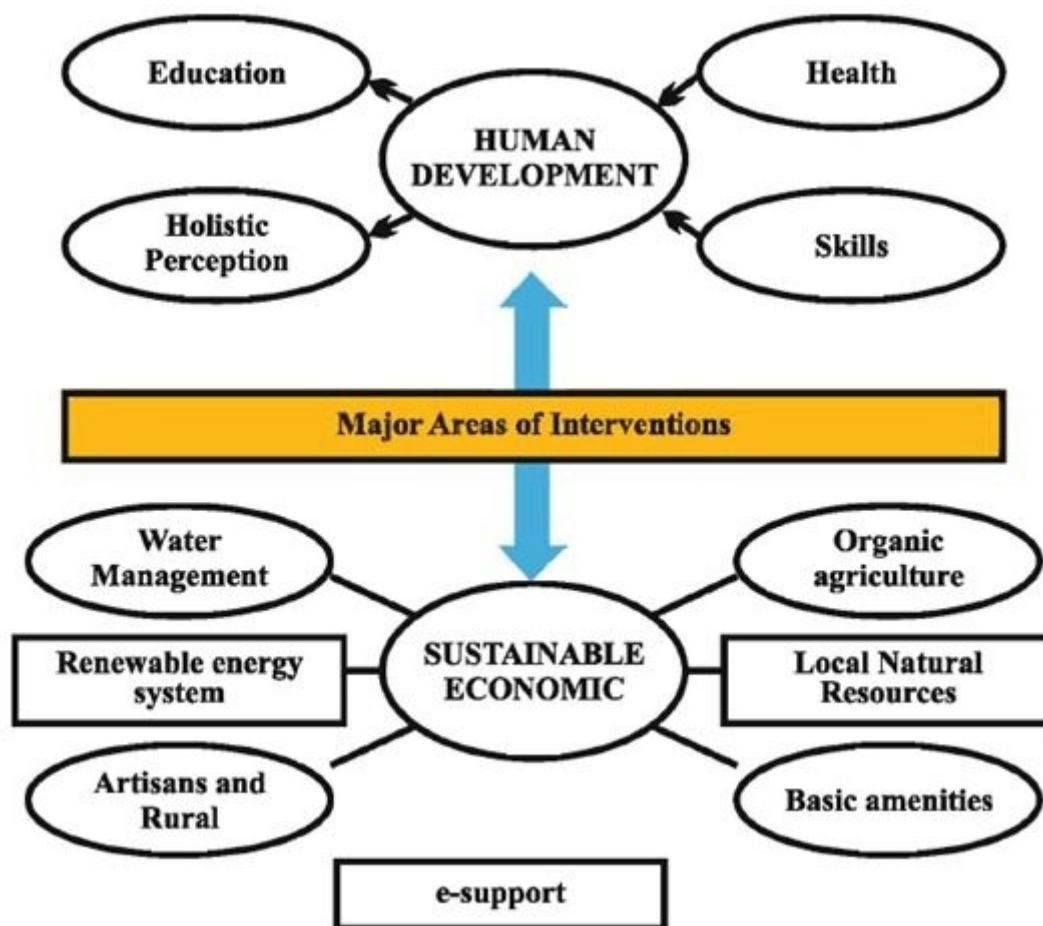
Mission

1. Develop the necessary mechanism and proper coordination among educational institutions, implementation agencies (District administration / Panchayati Raj Institutions) and the grassroots level stakeholders to enable effective intervention at the field level.

2. Select suitable rural clusters and effectively participate in the holistic development of these clusters using eco-friendly sustainable technologies and local resources creating sufficient employment opportunities in the process, harnessing multifarious government schemes, customised use of existing technologies and use of knowledge as per the local needs.

3. Reorienting the academic curricula and research programs in higher educational institutions to make them more responsive to the needs of the time and to bring in holistic development and enrich knowledge of students about issues of villages/society.

STRATEGY OF UNNAT BHARAT ABHIYAN 2.0

1. Capacity enhancement of Higher Education Institutions in research and training activities relevant to national needs, especially those of rural India.

2. Village Adhyan with Situation Analysis, Need Assessment of the adopted village with objective to study, assess and identify area of intervention / initiatives on different subjects broadly categorized.

3. To create a virtuous cycle benefitting the society, government, and higher education system.

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0:

● It is the upgraded version of **UBA 1.0.** It was **launched in 2018.**

● **UBA 1.0** or UBA Phase-1 was the **Invitation Mode** in which Participating Institutions were invited to be a part of UBA.

● Whereas **UBA 2.0 is the Challenge Mode** of Unnat Bharat Abhiyan programme where all HEIs are required to willingly adopt at least 5 villages. Currently, UBA 2.0 Mode is going on.

MQ.   What is the aim of the programme 'Unnat Bharat Abhiyan'?

[A] Achieving 100% literacy by promoting collaboration between voluntary organizations and government's education system and local communities.
[B] Connecting institutions of higher education with local communities to address development challenges through appropriate technologies.
[C] Strengthening India's scientific research institutions in order to make India a scientific and technological power
[D] Developing human capital by allocating special funds for health care and education of rural and urban poor, and organizing skill development programmes and vocational training for them**.**