



General Studies- 2

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0

Why in News?

The Government has successfully launched Unnat Bharat Abhiyan 2.0.

About UBA 2.0

Unnat Bharat Abhiyan is a flagship programme of the Ministry of HRD, it aims to link the Higher Education Institutions with set of atleast (5) villages, so that these institutions can contribute to the economic and social betterment of these village communities using their knowledge base.

It is a significant initiative where all Higher Learning Institutes have been involved for participation in development activities, particularly in rural areas.

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.

Aims and Objectives:

It also aims to create a virtuous cycle between the society and an inclusive university system, with the latter providing knowledge base; practices for emerging livelihoods and to upgrade the capabilities of both the public and private sectors.

Objective of the scheme are:

- (i) To engage the faculty and students of Higher Educational Institutions in understanding rural realities;
- (ii) Identify and select existing innovative technologies, enable customization of technologies, or devise implementation methods for innovative solutions, as required by people;

and (iii) To allow Higher Educational Institutions to contribute to devising systems for smooth implementation of various Government Programs.



National Resource Centres (NRCs)

Why in News?

The Government has identified 75 institutions to act as National Resource Centres (NRCs) to prepare online training material for Massive Open Online Courses (MOOCs) with focus on latest developments in the discipline, new & emerging trends, pedagogical improvements and methodologies for transacting revised curriculum.

Under this initiative, all in-service teachers, irrespective of their subject and seniority have an enabling opportunity to keep abreast of the latest developments in their disciplines through the technology based online refresher course, through SWAYAM, India's own MOOCs platform.

About SWAYAM:

Under **SWAYAM** or **Study Webs of Active –Learning for Young Aspiring Minds** programme of [Ministry of Human Resource Development, Government of India](#), professors and faculties of centrally funded institutions like [IITs](#), [IIMs](#), central universities will offer online courses to citizens of [India](#).

SWAYAM is an **instrument for self-actualisation** providing opportunities for a life-long learning.

Here learner can choose from hundreds of courses , virtually every course that is taught at the university / college / school level and these shall be offered by best of the teachers in India and elsewhere.

If a student is studying in any college, he/she can transfer the credits earned by taking these courses into their academic record. If you are, working or not working, in school or out of school, SWAYAM presents a unique educational opportunity to expand the horizons of knowledge



General Studies- 3

Seva Bhoj Yojna

Why in News?

The proposed total budget outlay of the scheme for the financial year 2018-19 and 2019-20 is Rs. 150.00 crores and Rs. 175.00 crores respectively.

About the Yojana:

The 'SevaBhojYojna' is a Central Sector Scheme under which Central Goods and Services Tax (CGST) and Central Government's share of Integrated Goods and Services Tax (IGST) paid by Charitable Religious Institutions like Temples, Gurudwara, Dharmik Ashram, Mosques, Dargah, Church, Matth, Monastries etc. on purchase of specific raw food items shall be reimbursed to them as financial assistance by the Government of India.

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Nutrient Based Subsidy and City Compost Scheme These Charitable Religious Institutions should have been distributing free food in the form of 'prasad', 'langar'/bhandara (community kitchen) to at least 5000 persons in a calendar month for at least past 3 years

Why in News?

Government has decided to continue Nutrient Based Subsidy and City Compost Scheme till 2019-20.

About NBS:

Under the policy, a fixed amount of subsidy, decided on annual basis, is provided on subsidised P&K fertilizers depending on their nutrient content. Under this policy, MRP is fixed by fertilizer companies as per market dynamics at reasonable level which is monitored by the Government.



Objectives of NBS Scheme are as under:

- i. To promote balanced use of fertilizers.
- ii. To reduce subsidy burden on the Government.
- iii. To improve availability of fertilizers to farmers.
- iv. To encourage competition among fertilizer companies

Objectives of City Compost Schemes are as under:

- i. To support SWACHH BHARAT MISSION.
- ii. To provide City Compost at subsidized rates to farmers.

Progress made in Artificial Embryo:

An international team of scientists has moved closer to creating artificial embryos after using mouse stem cells to make structures capable of taking a crucial step in the development of life.

Implications of Research:

Experts said the results suggested human embryos could be created in a similar way in future — a step that would allow scientists to use artificial embryos rather than real ones to research the very earliest stages of human development.

The study will help in understanding how the three stem cell types interact to enable embryo development.

And by experimentally altering biological pathways in one cell type, they should be able to see how this affects the behaviour of the other cell types.

The early stages of embryo development are when a large proportion of pregnancies are lost and yet it is a stage that we know very little about.