

PREPERATORY TEST – 3

Held on 7th July, 2024 KAS- 2024 ANSWER KEY AND SYNOPSIS NAMMAKPSC

Note: We have taken all effort to ensure correct answer keys. In case of any mistakes, please refer to the detailed synopsis. Please mail us at nammakpsc@gmail.com or call us for any assistance. Thank you

1. Ans: B

- The phrase 'Directive Principles of State Policy' denotes the ideals that the State should keep in mind while formulating policies and enacting laws.
- These are the constitutional instructions or recommendations to the State in legislative, executive and administrative matters. The Directive Principles constitute a very comprehensive economic, social and political programme for a modern democratic State.
- They show certain **rights that individuals should enjoy apart from the Fundamental Rights.** They aim at realising the high ideals of justice, liberty, equality and fraternity as outlined in the Preamble to the Constitution.
- These are not instructions to society thus not objective to the society to follow

2. Ans : C

- A democratic polity refers to a system of government where the people have the authority to choose their leaders and participate in decision-making processes.
- "Supreme power rests with the people" reflects a fundamental aspect of democracy, where the ultimate authority lies with the citizens who participate in the electoral process and contribute to shaping policies through their representatives

3. Ans: D

- Fundamental Duties, as enshrined in Part IV-A of the Indian Constitution, were added by the 42nd Amendment Act, 1976.
- However, none of the fundamental duties explicitly mention India's secular nature.
 These duties primarily focus on the responsibilities of citizens towards the nation, society, and fellow citizens, but they do not address the secular character of the state
- While all other 3 have provision which aims to establish secular state.

4. Ans: A

 The right to information is encompassed within Article 21 of the Indian Constitution, which safeguards individuals from being deprived of their life or personal liberty except in accordance with established legal procedures. This entitlement extends to both



- citizens and non-citizens and constitutes a justiciable right under the Indian Constitution.
- The directives laid out in Articles 39A and 42, which aim to promote equal justice, provide free legal aid to the impoverished, and ensure just and humane working conditions including maternity relief, fall under the Directive Principles of State Policy.
- 5. Ans: B (2 only is the incorrect statement)
 - Article 3 empowers Parliament to:
 - Create a new state by separating territory from any state, uniting two or more states or parts of states, or uniting any territory with a part of any state.
 - Expand the area of any state.
 - Reduce the area of any state.
 - Modify the boundaries of any state.
 - Article 3 outlines two conditions: firstly, a bill can only be introduced in Parliament
 with the prior recommendation of the President; and secondly, before making such a
 recommendation, the President must refer the bill to the concerned state legislature
 to express its views within a specified period.
 - However the views of the state are not binding on the parliament. Hence incorrect

6. Ans: C

Andhra Pradesh	1953	Orissa	195
Arunachal Pradesh	1987	Punjab	196
Assam	1950	Rajasthan	195
Bihar	1950	Sikkim	197
Chhattisgarh	2000	Tamil Nadu	195
Goa	1987	Telangana	201
Gujarat	1960	Tripura	197
Haryana	1966	Uttar Pradesh	195
Himachal Pradesh	1971	Uttarakhand	200
Jammu & Kashmir	1950	West Bengal	195
Jharkhand	2000	Delhi	199
Karnataka	1956		
Kerala	1956	Pondicherry	195
Madhya Pradesh	1956	UTs YEAR OF FORM	
Maharashtra	1960	A&N Islands	195
Manipur	1972	Chandigarh	196
Meghalaya	1972	Dadra and Nagar Haveli	196
Mizoram	1987	Daman and Diu	198
Nagaland	1963	Lakshadweep	195

- The movement to create states based on language gained momentum in the early 1950s starting with the demand for a separate state for Telugu speaking people
- In 1952, freedom fighter and Gandhian Potti Sriramulu started his fast demanding the creation of Andhra Pradesh consisting of the Telugu speaking districts of Madras
- Bombay was split into Maharashtra and Gujarat in 1960; Nagaland was carved out of Assam in 1963, and Haryana and Himachal Pradesh from Punjab in 1966



7. Ans: D

- In India both a citizen by birth as well as a naturalised citizen is eligible for the office of President while in USA, only a citizen by birth and not a naturalised citizen is eligible for the office of President.
- The citizens also owe certain duties towards the Indian State. Foreigners are not bound by the Fundamental Duties outlined in the Indian Constitution. These duties are obligations imposed solely on Indian citizens and do not extend to individuals who are not citizens of India.

8. Ans: B

Article 15 of the Indian Constitution stipulates that the State must not discriminate against any citizen based solely on factors such as religion, race, caste, sex, or place of birth. However, there are three exceptions to this principle of non-discrimination:

- The State is allowed to enact special provisions for the benefit of women and children. For instance, this may include reserving seats for women in local governing bodies or providing free education for children.
- The State is permitted to introduce special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, as well as for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes. This may involve measures such as reservation of seats or concessions in fees at public educational institutions.
- 3. The State is empowered to enact special provisions for the advancement of socially and educationally backward classes of citizens, as well as for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes, regarding their admission to educational institutions, including private educational institutions, whether aided or unaided by the State, with the exception of minority educational institutions.

The Parliament (under Article 16) can prescribe residence within a state or union territory as a condition for certain employments – hence statement 3 is incorrect

9. Ans: C

The third schedule of the Indian constitution contains the prescribed forms of oaths or affirmations for:

- Union ministers
- Candidates for election to the Parliament
- Members of Parliament
- Judges of the Supreme Court
- Comptroller and Auditor-General of India
- State ministers
- Candidates for election to the state legislature
- Members of the state legislature
- Judges of the High Courts



10. Ans : C

11. Ans: C

Equal with Assembly:

- Introduction and passage of ordinary bills: The council holds similar powers and status to the assembly in this regard. However, if there is a disagreement between the two houses, the assembly's decision prevails over that of the council.
- Approval of ordinances issued by the governor.
- **Selection of ministers**, including the chief minister: Ministers, including the chief minister, can be members of either house of the state legislature according to the Constitution. Nevertheless, regardless of their membership, they are accountable solely to the assembly.
- Consideration of reports from constitutional bodies such as the State Finance Commission, State Public Service Commission, and Comptroller and Auditor General of India.
- Expansion of the jurisdiction of the state public service commission.

President election - only legislative assembly is involved

12. Ans: B

- Zonal Councils are statutory bodies established by the State Reorganisation Act of 1956.
- This legislation divides the country into five zones: East, West, North, South, and Central. Each council is presided over by the Home Minister of the Central Government.
- The primary objective of these councils is to foster cooperation and coordination among states and Union Territories within their respective zones.
- However, it's important to note that Zonal Councils serve solely as deliberative and advisory bodies.

13. Ans: D

- The Supreme Court ruled in the I.R. Coelho case that the **Speaker's decision under the anti- defection law is subject to judicial review.**
- The anti-defection law applies to all members of Parliament, including both elected and nominated members.
- If a nominated members joints the political party after six months of becoming a MP, the defection laws applicable to political party members applies to him/her also.

14. Ans: C

Persons under this category **cannot vote in elections**:

- Individuals in police custody and those serving a sentence of imprisonment after conviction are ineligible to vote.
- Undertrial prisoners cannot vote in elections, but their names are included in the electoral rolls.



- Individuals under preventive detention cannot cast their vote directly but may vote through postal ballots.
- Non-citizens of India are not entitled to vote. (Ex: OCI)
- Anyone declared disqualified or incapable of voting according to the provisions of the Constitution and parliamentary laws cannot vote.

15. Ans: B

The provision limiting the size of the Council of Ministers to not exceed 15% of the total number
of members in the House of the People (Lok Sabha) was introduced through the 91st
Constitutional Amendment Act of 2003. This amendment aimed to prevent the formation of
large and unwieldy ministries, promoting efficiency and accountability in governance.

16. Ans: D

Terms of a subsidiary alliance:

- An Indian ruler engaging in a subsidiary alliance with the British would agree to accommodate British forces within his territory and bear the expenses for their upkeep.
- The ruler would consent to the presence of a British official (resident) in his state.
- The ruler, upon entering into a subsidiary alliance, would abstain from forming alliances with any other power or initiating hostilities against any power without the British's consent.
- The ruler would dismiss any non-British Europeans and refrain from hiring new ones.
- The ruler would permit the British to arbitrate in any conflicts with other states.
- The ruler would recognize the East India Company as the paramount power in India.
- The ruler would have the Company protect his state from external threats and internal unrest.
- Failure to meet the required payments stipulated by the alliance would result in the forfeiture of part of the ruler's territory as a penalty.

In exchange for these terms, the British would pledge to defend the ruler against adversaries and uphold a policy of non-interference in the internal affairs of the allied state.

17. Ans: A

- M.G. Ranade and Raghunath Rao, both prominent Indian figures, founded the **Indian** Social Conference.
- The Indian Social Conference convened annually from its inaugural session in Madras in 1887, coinciding with the timing and location of the Indian National Congress.
- This conference directed its focus towards significant social issues and could be regarded as the social reform arm of the Indian National Congress.
- Advocating for inter-caste marriages and denouncing practices like polygamy and kulinism were among the key initiatives of the conference.
- Additionally, it initiated the 'Pledge Movement,' encouraging individuals to pledge against the practice of child marriage.

18. Ans: C

The Vellore mutiny, occurring on 10 July 1806, stands as the initial instance of a large-scale and violent rebellion by Indian sepoys against the East India Company, predating the Indian Rebellion of 1857 by fifty years.

• Situated in the South Indian city of Vellore, the uprising endured for a full day, during which mutineers seized control of the Vellore Fort, resulting in the death or injury of 200 British troops.

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• The mutiny was quelled by cavalry and artillery from Arcot. Approximately 350 mutineers lost their lives, with around 100 subjected to summary executions during the suppression of the revolt, followed by formal court-martial proceedings for smaller groups.

The primary causes for the Vellore mutiny are outlined below:

- Disregard by the English towards the religious sentiments of Hindu and Muslim Indian sepoys.
- Sir John Craddock, the Commander-in-Chief of the Madras Army, issued directives forbidding soldiers from adorning religious marks on their foreheads and mandating the trimming of moustaches and shaving of beards. This measure offended both Hindu and Muslim soldiers.
- Additionally, they were instructed to wear new round hats instead of their traditional headgear, sparking suspicions among the sepoys that they were being coerced into converting to Christianity.

19. Ans: C

- In 1946, the Cabinet Mission was dispatched to India with the aim of finding a mutually acceptable solution to the Indian issue. Holding discussions with leaders from all major political parties, the Mission proposed a plan for the establishment of a unified India.
- The Cabinet Mission comprised notable figures such as Lord Pethick Lawrence, the Secretary of State for India, Sir Stafford Cripps, and A. V. Alexander.
- The Cabinet Mission advocated for a united India and dismissed the Muslim League's call for a separate Pakistan.
- The proposal outlined by the Cabinet Mission involved organizing the existing provincial assemblies into three sections.
- The plan stipulated that the central government in Delhi would be endowed with authority over defense, foreign affairs, and communications, while the provinces would retain control over other matters. Hence statement 3 is incorrect

20. Ans: A

- The Congress session of 1906 was held at Calcutta under the presidentship of Dadabhai Naoroji.
- He was chosen as president in order to avoid the split of Congress into two groups i-e Moderates and Extremists.

21. Ans : A

- Indian National Army (INA) was an armed force formed by Indian Nationalists in 1942, through the patronage of the Imperial Japanese Army.
- The idea of INA was first **conceived in Malaya by Mohan Singh.** The outbreak of the Quit India movement gave a fillip to INA.
- Bose set up the Provisional Government of free India on 21 October 1943 and set up two INA headquarters. Statement 2 is incorrect



22. Ans: A

- **Kumbalathuparambu Ayyappan**, better known as Sahodaran Ayyappan, was a multifaceted figure encompassing roles as a social reformer, philosopher, rationalist, journalist, and politician hailing from Kerala, India.
- An outspoken advocate of Sree Narayana Guru's teachings, he played a significant role in various initiatives associated with the Kerala reformation movement. Notably, he organized the Misra Bojana event in Cherai in 1917. Ayyappan established the Sahodara Sangam and launched the journal Sahodaran, while also serving as the founder-editor of the magazine Yukthivadhi.
- He espoused the ideology of "No religion, No caste, and No God for mankind," vehemently opposing the caste system

23. Ans: B

- During the reign of King Bhagabhadra from the Shunga dynasty, an inscription known as the Besanagar inscription (also called Garuda dvija) was established in collaboration with the Indo-Greek ambassador Heliodores.
- This inscription stands as the earliest epigraphical evidence of Bhagavadism or Bhagavata worship, which venerates the ten avatars of Vishnu.

24. Ans: A

- **Buddhism asserted the right for Nibbana to women** and did not exclude women from realizing nibbana.
- Jain literature is composed of Agam literature. Agam literature or Agama sutras were compiled in Ardhamagadhi language and was finally compiled in the second Jain council at Vallabhi
- Meander was famous for his philosophical debate with Buddhist saint Nagasena. The
 question asked by Milinda and Nagasena's answers, made him convert to Buddhism. Indo
 Greeks introduced the practice of military governorship called strategos in his period.

25. Ans: D

- The Ashokan stone pillars, typically crafted from Chunar sandstone, consist of four primary components and have polished surface
- The base comprises a long, **tapering shaft** constructed **from a single piece of stone**, known as a monolith.
- Atop the shaft sits the capital, which may feature either a lotus or bell-shaped design. The
 bell-shaped capitals, along with the lustrous finish of the pillars, draw influence from
 Iranian architectural styles.
- Above the capital lies a circular or rectangular abacus, upon which an animal figure is often placed. These pillars are significant elements within Mauryan art.
- The Achaemenid pillars were generally part of some larger architectural scheme, and bit complex and complicated, while the **Ashokan pillars were simple and independent freestanding monuments.**

26. Ans: B

• The **Forward Policy of Lord Lytton in Afghanistan** during the late 19th century aimed to assert British influence in the region, particularly in response to perceived Russian expansionism.



- Lytton, the Viceroy of India, sought to establish a buffer zone between British India and the Russian Empire, viewing Afghanistan as strategically significant.
- This policy involved the installation of British-friendly rulers and the imposition of treaties aimed
 at securing British interests. However, the Forward Policy faced significant challenges, including
 Afghan resistance to foreign intervention and internal divisions within Afghanistan. Ultimately,
 this approach contributed to growing tensions between Britain and Afghanistan, culminating in
 the Second Anglo-Afghan War.
- The Forward Policy underscored the complexities of imperial ambitions in Central Asia and the intricate geopolitical landscape of the Great Game between colonial powers in the region.

27. Ans: D

Question is asking incorrect statement. All statements are correct. Hence answer is D

- The Wood's Dispatch of 1854 stands as a landmark document in the history of Indian education, outlining a comprehensive vision for the modernization and expansion of the educational system during British colonial rule.
- At its core, the Dispatch aimed to impart Western knowledge and culture to the Indian populace, viewing education as a means to both enlighten and govern.
- One of its key recommendations was the establishment of universities in major cities such as Calcutta, Bombay, and Madras, modeled after the University of London.
- These institutions were envisioned as centers of higher learning, tasked with conferring degrees in various disciplines and promoting intellectual inquiry.
- Additionally, the Dispatch emphasized the importance of primary education as the foundation
 of the educational pyramid, advocating for its widespread availability and quality
 improvement.
- Higher education was proposed in English Language.
- Furthermore, the Dispatch introduced the grant-in-aid system to support both public and private educational institutions, ensuring access to education across different segments of society.
- Overall, the Wood's Dispatch of 1854 laid the groundwork for the modern educational system in India, shaping its trajectory for decades to come.

28. Ans: B





29. Ans: C

- The Cairns Group is an interest group of 19 agricultural exporting countries
- Why in news? The Cairns Group have claimed that India's public stockholding (PSH) programme is highly subsidised and the farm support that India gives is "distorting" global food prices and "hurting" food security of other countries.
- Members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, Chile, Colombia, Costa Rica, Guatemala, Indonesia, Malaysia, New Zealand, Pakistan, Paraguay, Peru, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Uruguay, Vietnam. Not USA.

30. Ans: D

- The Indian government announced the Vibrant Villages Programme in 2022 to develop its border villages into modern villages with all amenities and as tourist attractions. The programme builds on the existing Border Area Development Programme (BADP) under the Union Ministry of Home Affairs.
- India intends to transform 663 border villages into modern villages as part of the program's first phase. At least 17 such border villages along China's borders in Ladakh, Himachal Pradesh, Uttarakhand, Sikkim, and Arunachal Pradesh have been selected for development as a pilot project.
- Zemithang, Taksing, Chayang Tajo, Tuting, and Kibithu are villages in **Arunachal Pradesh's** east and Tawang region.

31. Ans: A

Kampala : Uganda
 Pohnpei: Micronesia
 Zanzibar: Tanzania

32. Ans: D

Greece becomes 1st Orthodox Christian country to allow same-sex marriages. Greece legalizes same-sex marriage, equal parental rights, civil partnerships, and adoption. The law was supported by centre-left and leftist opposition parties. Prime Minister Kyriakos Mitsotakis hailed the vote as a milestone for human rights.

33. Ans: A

- The government launched the PMFBY from kharif 2016. In 2020, the government revamped
 the scheme's operational guidelines, and the revised guidelines came into effect from kharif
 2020.
- Initially, the scheme was **compulsory for loanee farmers**, who possess a crop loan account/Kisan Credit Card (KCC) account to whom credit limit is sanctioned/renewed for the notified crop during the crop season. **However, from Kharif 2020, it was made voluntarily**.
- Under the PMFBY, farmers have to pay premium at the rate of 2 per cent of sum insured or actuarial rate whichever is less for kharif food and oilseeds crops (all cereals, millets, and oilseeds, pulses), 1.5 per cent for rabi food and oilseeds crops (all cereals, millets, and oilseeds, pulses), and 5 per cent for kharif and rabi annual commercial/annual horticultural crops.



• In several states, including Assam, Andhra Pradesh, Odisha, Maharashtra, and Tripura, the state governments are paying farmers' premiums, providing insurance for free.

34. Ans: A

- The windfall tax is levied in the form of cess under the central excise department.
- The windfall tax on petrol and aviation turbine fuel (ATF) continues to be zero.
- It is revised every fortnight based on global crude oil prices.

35. Ans: D

- Ukraine contributes significantly to UN food aid programmes and is one of the world's largest
 exporters of food grains such as wheat and maize. Russia's invasion of the country and blockade
 of its ports prompted food prices to skyrocket, raising concerns about food security in the
 world's poorest nations. For example, wheat prices in Pakistan have risen to crisis levels.
- The UN and Turkey got Russia to agree to the Black Sea Grain Initiative, under which cargo ships would be allowed to travel from and to three **Ukrainian ports of Odesa**, **Chornomorsk and Pivdennyi (Yuzhny)**, after inspection that they weren't carrying arms.

36. Ans: A

Dotted lands are disputed lands for which there are no clear ownership documents.
 Typically, one or more individuals as well as the government's Revenue Department lay claim over the land.

- These lands came to be known as "dotted lands" because when, during the British era, land ownership surveys and resettlement of land records were taken up, local revenue officials who were tasked with identifying government-owned and privately-owned lands put dots in the ownership column if more than one person claimed ownership, or if ownership could not be clearly established.
- These lands were also noted as disputed lands in the resettlement register or land records register. The dots on the land documents indicated their disputed status.

37. Ans: B

 The System of Rice Intensification (SRI) was first developed in Madagascar in the 1980s and since then several countries in the world have been practicing it,



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including India.

- It promises to save 15 to 20 per cent of groundwater.
- It improves rice productivity, and it gives equal or more produce than conventional rice cultivation, with less water, less seed and fewer chemicals.
- The net effect is a **substantial reduction in the investments in external inputs**. This method is beneficial for the soil, environment, and farmers.

38. Ans : B



The Black Sea is bounded by Ukraine, Russia, Georgia, Turkey, Bulgaria, and Romania.

39. Ans: B

- The Global Gateway is the EU's contribution to narrowing the global investment gap worldwide.
- The scheme, Global Gateway, is to strengthen Europe's supply chains, boost EU trade, and help fight climate change, focusing on digitalisation, health, climate, and energy and transport sectors, as well as education and research.
- This will allow EU's partners to develop their societies and economies but also create
 opportunities for the EU Member States' private sector to invest and remain
 competitive, whilst ensuring the highest environmental and labour standards and
 sound financial management.
- The Global Gateway is also fully aligned with the UN's Agenda 2030 and its Sustainable Development Goals, as well as the Paris Agreement.

40. Ans: B

- G-secs, or government securities or government bonds, are instruments that governments
 use to borrow money.
- G-secs are different from everyday lending between two private individuals or entities:
- G-secs carry the **lowest risk of all investments**. After all, the chances of the government not paying back your money are almost zero. It is thus the safest investment one can make.
- G-Secs are different in the manner in which they are structured, and how their effective interest rates are calculated.
- Calculation of G-sec yields

G-sec yields change over time, often several times during a single day. This happens because of the manner in which G-secs are structured. Every G-sec has a face value, coupon payment, and price. The price of the bond may or may not be equal to the face value of the bond.

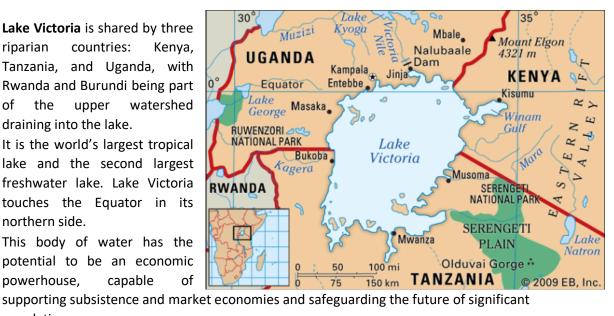
41. Ans: B

- The Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers has decided to implement One Nation One Fertiliser by introducing a "Single Brand for Fertilisers and Logo" under the fertilizers subsidy scheme named "Pradhanmantri Bhartiya Janurvarak Pariyojna" (PMBJP).
- The single brand name for UREA, DAP, MOP, and NPK would be BHARAT UREA, BHARAT DAP, BHARAT MOP, and BHARAT NPK respectively.
- Under the new "One Nation One Fertiliser" scheme, companies are allowed to display their name, brand, logo, and other relevant product information only on one-third space of their bags.
- The "Bharat" brand and Pradhanmantri Bharatiya Jan Urvarak Pariyojana logo will have to be shown on the remaining two-thirds space.

42. Ans: A

- Lake Victoria is shared by three riparian countries: Kenya, Tanzania, and Uganda, with Rwanda and Burundi being part the upper watershed draining into the lake.
- It is the world's largest tropical lake and the second largest freshwater lake. Lake Victoria touches the Equator in its northern side.
- This body of water has the potential to be an economic powerhouse, capable

population



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43. Ans: D

MISHTI (Mangrove Initiative for Shoreline Habitats and Tangible Incomes)

- This new program will facilitate mangrove plantations along India's coastline and on salt pan lands.
- The programme will operate through "convergence between MGNREGS, Campa Fund and other sources
- This new programme will aim at the intensive afforestation of coastal mangrove forests



44. Ans: C

External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar and Sri Lankan President Ranil Wickremesinghe inaugurated the Maritime Rescue Coordination Centre (MRCC) in Sri Lanka.

CONSTRUCTION AND FUNDING

Builder: Bharat Electronics Ltd (BEL)

• Funding: \$6 million grant from India

Location: Headquarters of the Lankan Navy in Colombo

Sub-centre: Hambantota

 Linked Units: Galle, Arugam Bay, Batticaloa, Trincomalee, Kallarawa, Point Pedro, Mullikulam

STRATEGIC IMPORTANCE

- Indian Navy Ship: INS Kamorta arrived at Trincomalee Harbour during Jaishankar's visit.
- Regional Power Projection: Enhances India's influence in the Indian Ocean amid China's increasing presence.
- Security Concerns: Hambantota port, built by and leased to China, raises security issues for India.

COOPERATION AND FUTURE PROSPECTS

- Discussion Areas:
 - Power
 - Energy
 - Connectivity
 - Port Infrastructure
 - Aviation
 - Digital Technologies
 - o Health
 - Food Security
 - Education
 - o Tourism

OPERATIONAL ROLE

- Coordination: The MRCC will coordinate operations of the Lankan Navy and Coast Guard.
- Coverage Area: Vast Search and Rescue Region of Sri Lanka, strategically located along busy sea lanes in the Indian Ocean.

45. Ans : A

- India Post Payments Bank (IPPB), a 100 per cent government-owned entity under the Department of Posts (DoP) announced the launch of Fincluvation— a joint initiative to collaborate with Fintech Startup community to co-create and innovate solutions for financial inclusion.
- It is the first initiative to create a powerful platform to mobilize the start-up community towards building meaningful financial products aimed at financial inclusion.
- Fincluvation will be a permanent platform of IPPB to co-create inclusive financial solutions with participating start-ups.



• Fincluvation invites startups to Participate, Ideate, Develop and Market intuitive and tailored products and services that can be taken to the customers.

46. Ans : A

PRAVAAH PORTAL

- Pravaah (Platform for Regulatory Application, Validation, and AutHorisation) is a secure, centralized web-based portal by the RBI.
- Enables individuals or entities to seek authorizations, licenses, or regulatory approvals from the

Key Features:

- Online Submission: Submit applications online through the portal.
- Status Tracking: Track and monitor the status of applications/references.
- Query Response: Respond to clarifications or queries from the RBI.
- Time-bound Decisions: Receive decisions from the RBI in a timely manner.

47. Ans : A 48. Ans : C

Crops covered by MSPs include:

- 7 types of cereals (paddy, wheat, maize, bajra, jowar, ragi and barley).
- 5 types of pulses (chana, arhar/tur, urad, moong and masur).
- 7 oilseeds (rapeseed-mustard, groundnut, soyabean, sunflower, sesamum, safflower, nigerseed).
- 4 commercial crops (cotton, sugarcane, copra, raw jute).
- Coffee is not covered

49. Ans: B



50. Ans: C

 NFTs are defined as anything which can be converted into digital forms like your drawings, photos, videos, GIFs, music, in-game items, selfies, and even a tweet that can be turned into an NFT, which can then be traded online using cryptocurrency.



- The unique feature of NFTs is that they are backed by blockchain technology. Terra Nulius was the first NFT on Ethereum Blockchain.
- NFTs are gaining massive popularity now because they are becoming an increasingly popular way to showcase and sell your digital artwork.
- NFT works on blockchain as it gives users complete ownership of a digital asset.
- An NFT is thus created, or as crypto enthusiasts say, it is "minted", to get exclusive ownership rights. NFTs can have only one owner at a time.

51. Ans: B

- **Cyclone** Midhili, which crossed the Bangladesh coast weakened from a 'deep depression' into a 'depression'.
- Cyclone Midhili is the second cyclonic formation to hit the Bangladesh coast in quick succession after cyclone Hamoon.
- The name 'Midhili' was given by the Maldives. Countries affected by the Arabian Sea and Bay of Bengal cyclones rotationally give names of cyclones in a sequence.

52. Ans: D

- The **repo rate is the rate at which RBI lends money to banks** to meet their short-term funding needs.
- The interest rate that the RBI pays commercial banks when they park their excess cash with the central bank is called the reverse repo rate.
- The RBI sets the tone for all other interest rates in the banking system, and thus in the broader economy, by using these two rates. For example, when the RBI wants to stimulate economic activity, it lowers reportates.
- It enables commercial banks like the SBI to lower the interest rates they charge on loans as well as the interest rates they pay on deposits

53. Ans: D

- The Reserve Bank of India had constructed a composite Financial Inclusion Index (FIIndex) to capture the extent of financial inclusion across the country, in consultation with the concerned stakeholders including the Government and published it in August 2021 for the FY ending March 2021.
- The index comprises of three parameters including access, usage and quality. The FIIndex is responsive to ease of access, availability and usage of services and quality of services, consisting of 97 indicators.
- The index has been constructed without any base year and reflects cumulative efforts of all stakeholders over the years towards financial inclusion..

54. Ans : B

Tista River is a tributary of the Jamuna River (Brahmaputra River), flowing through India and Bangladesh. It rises in the Himalayas near Chunthang in Sikkim, flows to the south, cutting a deep gorge through the Siwalik Hills east of Darjiling (in



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- West Bengal), and turns southeast to run through the Sivok Khola pass onto the plains of West Bengal.
- Originally, the river continued southward to empty directly into the upper Padma River (Ganges River). About 1787, however, the river changed its course to flow eastward, crossing the Rangpur region of Bangladesh to join the Jamuna River near Chilmari.

55. Ans: A

- The Union cabinet approved a tribal university for **Telangana**. The institution would be named after Sammakka-Sarakka, a mother-daughter combo venerated among the local tribal people.
- Sammakka was said to have married Pagididda Raju, a feudal lord of the Kakatiyas (a Deccan dynasty) who dominated the Warangal region.
- Sarakka or Saralamma, Nagulamma, and Mulugu holds a biennial festival the Sammakka Saralamma Jatara which is considered among the largest gatherings of tribal people in the world. The festival recalls the 13th-century mother daughter duo's struggle against local rulers in protest of the imposition of taxes on the Koya people.
- The Jatara (yatra, or pilgrimage) begins at Medaram, and the rituals are conducted by the Koya priests, in accordance with their customs and traditions.

56. Ans : A

- "Chokuwa rice of Assam" is a unique gift of nature.
- This class of rice is not known in any other parts of the world. It is a special class of semi
 glutinous winter rice (Sali rice in vernacular) of Assam which is in cultivation from time
 immemorial. This group of rice is characterized by low amylose content (12-17 per cent)
 of the grains.
- Assam has received a Geographical Indication (GI) tag for Chokuwa Rice under Subsection (1) of Section 13 of Geographical Indications of Goods (Registration and Protection) Act, 1999.

57. Ans: D

- Tidal energy refers to energy produced from the movement of ocean tides. The Standing Committee on Energy submitted its report on the subject "Tidal Power Development in India".
- The Committee noted that there are three main types of ocean energy:
 - o wave
 - o tidal
 - ocean-thermal
- Tidal energy is not included in the 2022 renewable energy target (175 gigawatts) of India
- However, the Committee noted the submission by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy that all renewable sources of energy will be eligible for the 2030 target.
- The potential areas with low/medium tidal wave strength are in the Gulf of Khambat, Gulf of Kutch & southern regions in Gujarat, Palk Bay- Mannar Channel in Tamil Nadu, and Hoogly river, South Haldia & Sunderbans in West Bengal.

58. Ans: B

• The United States is working on the "Chip 4" alliance project with three major semiconductor manufacturers: Taiwan, Japan, and South Korea.



59. Ans : A

- Italy and war-torn Libya resumed commercial flights for the first time in a decade.
- Italy and other Western nations have barred flights from Libya, which has descended into anarchy after a NATO-backed rebellion ousted and murdered longtime ruler Moammar Gadhafi in 2011.

60. Ans: A

- S3WaaS is a cloud service developed for government entities to generate Secure, Scalable, and Sugamya (Accessible) websites.
- It enables government entities to choose from various themes for generating websites as well as customizing and managing the content easily, thus empowering them to maintain their online presence.
- Government entities requiring websites that are primarily informational can use the S3WaaS framework to generate and host the website under GOV.IN or NIC.IN domain.

61. Ans: D

- According to India's telecom appellate panel, Over-the-top (OTT) streaming platforms do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Telecom Regulatory Authority of India (TRAI) and are governed under the Information Technology Rules, 2021.
- The Telecom Disputes Settlement and Appellate Tribunal (TDSAT) said **OTT platforms such** as **Disney+Hotstar** are outside the purview of the TRAI Act since they do not require any permission or a licence from the Union government.
- The DoT had released a draft telecom Bill under which it wanted to classify OTT platforms as telecommunication services and regulate them like telecom operators.

62. Ans: B

 As part of its endeavour to transition to green energy, the **Danish government authorised** a plan to develop an artificial island in the North Sea.

63. Ans: A

64. Ans: D

- Core inflation is a measure of inflation calculated by removing the prices of food and fuel because the prices of food and fuel prices fluctuate massively.
- Super core inflation is calculated by removing gold and silver price inflation from core inflation.

65. Ans: A





- Capital expenditure (subject to depreciation) is recorded in the balance sheet.
- It benefits more than one accounting year.
- It is incurred to acquire fixed assets for the operation of the business.
- It increases earning capacity of the business. It is non-recurring.

66. Ans: B

- Adi Shankara, who is believed to have lived between 788 and 820 AD, was born in Kerela's Kaladi, situated on the bank of the Periyar River.
- He studied under his guru Govinda Bhagavatpada and soon became a proponent of Advaita Vedanta, challenging prevailing philosophical traditions – including Buddhism and Jainism.
- In his lifespan of 32 years, he is said to have visited all the important spiritual centres of the time from Kanchi (Kancheepuram in Tamil Nadu) to Kamrup (Assam), and Kashmir and the Kedar and Badri dhams, as well as Sringeri, Ujjain, Kashi, Puri, and Joshimath.
- He is said to have authored 116 works. The most notable among them are the commentaries on the 10 Upanishads, the Brahmasutra and the Gita.

67. Ans: A

- Lunar eclipses occur when the Earth is positioned almost exactly between the Moon and the Sun, causing the shadow of our planet to fall on the Moon's surface.
- During a partial eclipse, part of the Moon appears darkened, while during a total eclipse, the Moon sometimes turns a red colour.

68. Ans: A

- The Act provides 33 per cent reservation to women in the Lok Sabha and state legislative Assemblies.
- It became the first Bill to be passed in the new Parliament building.
- The seats already reserved for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes will also come within the purview of women's reservation.

69. Ans: A

Points on the Moon	Remarks	
Shiv Shakti Point	The point where the Chandrayaan-3 lander	
	touched down on the lunar surface.	
Tiranga Point	The point where Chandrayaan-2 crashed in 2019.	
Jawahar Point	The point where the Probe strikes the lunar	
	surface during India's first lunar orbiter mission	
	Chandrayaan-1.	



70. Ans: C

Indicators and their weights



71. Ans: B

- Cloud seeding is a kind of weather modification technology to create artificial rainfall.
- It works only when there are enough pre-existing clouds in the atmosphere.
- The seeds of rain can be the **iodides of silver or potassium**, dry ice (solid carbon dioxide), or liquid propane. The seeds can be delivered by plane or simply by spraying from the ground.

72. Ans: D

- Since the beginning of the Buddhist epoch, Guntur stood foremost in matters of education. Buddhists established universities in ancient times at Dhanyakataka (Amaravathi) and Nagarjunakonda.
- At present, with many educational institutions, Guntur leads the other Andhra Districts in matters of education.
- Some places of historical importance in Guntur District are Amaravathi, Nagarjunakonda, Bhattiprolu, the Undavalli caves and the archeological museum in Guntur.

73. Ans: C

NEWS – INDIAN ARMY RECEIVES FIRST HYDROGEN BUS

 The Indian Army has taken a significant step towards green and sustainable transport solutions by collaborating with Indian Oil Corporation Limited (IOCL) for Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus technology trials.



- Chief of the Army Staff (COAS) and Indian Oil had signed a MoU for the same
- The MoU highlights the commitment to innovation and sustainable transport solutions.

Hydrogen Fuel Cell Bus Technology

- **Hydrogen Fuel Cell technology** converts Hydrogen gas into electricity through an electrochemical process.
- It produces water vapour as the only byproduct, ensuring zero emissions.
- The bus has a seating capacity of 37 passengers and a mileage of 250-300 km on a full 30 kg onboard tank of Hydrogen fuel.

Previous Initiatives

- On 21st March 2023, the Indian Army signed an MoU with National Thermal Power Corporation Renewable Energy Limited for Green Hydrogen-based Microgrid Power Plants.
- A pilot project at Chushul provides 24x7 clean electricity to troops in inhospitable terrain.

74. Ans: B

- The **Bosporus or Bosphorus Strait** is a natural strait and an internationally significant waterway located in Istanbul in northwestern Turkey that **connects the Black Sea to the Sea of Marmara**.
- The Kerch Strait is a strait in Eastern Europe. It connects the Black Sea and the Sea of Azov, separating the Kerch Peninsula of Crimea in the west from the Taman Peninsula of Russia's Krasnodar Krai in the east.







75. Ans: C

- Personality rights or their protection are not expressly mentioned in a statute in India but are traced to fall under the right to privacy.
- The name, voice, signature, images or any other feature easily identified by the public are markers of a celebrity's personality and are referred loosely as "personality rights."

76. Ans: C

• Innovation Handshake was launched to support the **US-India Initiative on Critical and Emerging Technology (iCET)**, the US-India Commercial Dialogue will launch a new "Innovation Handshake" to connect the startup ecosystems of the two countries.

77. Ans: B

- Headline inflation has been above the 4 per cent mark since 2019-20. It is **calculated using the Consumer Price Index.** This index had different categories with varying weights.
- There are three main categories, **food items account for 46 per cent**, fuel and light for 7 per cent and all other items makeup 47 per cent.

78. Ans: A

- There are international regulations governing space debris, which include junk falling back on the earth. Most space-faring countries are signatories to the Convention on International Liability for Damage Caused by Space Objects.
- This convention is one of the several international agreements that complement the Outer Space Treaty, the overarching framework guiding the behavior of countries in space.
- The Liability Convention deals mainly with damage caused by space objects to other space assets, but it also applies to damage caused by falling objects on earth.
- The Convention makes the launching country "absolutely liable" to pay compensation for any damage caused by its space object on the earth or to a flight in air.

79. Ans: D

- Nominal GDP is nothing but the total market value of all the goods and services produced in India in a financial year. The real GDP is "derived" from the nominal GDP by removing the effect of inflation.
- For analysing the economy, one often uses the "real" GDP but for preparing the budget, the nominal GDP matters.
- Once the government knows the nominal GDP of the current financial year, it uses this number to project the likely nominal GDP in the next financial year.

80. Ans : A

• Current Account Deficit and Fiscal Deficit (also known as "budget deficit" is a situation when a nation's expenditure exceeds its revenues) are together known as twin deficits and both often reinforce each other, i.e., a high fiscal deficit leads to higher CAD and vice versa.

81. Ans: C

- The Special Marriage Act (SM(A), 1954 is an Indian law that provides a legal framework for the marriage of people belonging to different religions or castes.
- It governs a civil marriage where the state sanctions the marriage rather than the religion or personal laws.

 The applicability of the Act extends to the people of all faiths, including Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Sikhs, Jains, and Buddhists, across India. Recognition of Marriage:

Mission Vijaya

- The Act provides for the registration of marriages, which gives legal recognition to the marriage and provides a number of legal benefits and protections to the couple, such as inheritance rights, succession rights, and social security benefits.
- It forbids polygamy and declares a marriage null and void if either party had a spouse living at the time of the marriage or if either of them is incapable of giving a valid consent to the marriage due to unsoundness of mind.

82. Ans: A

- The T+1 settlement cycle means that traderelated settlements must be done within a day, or 24 hours, of the completion of a transaction.
- For example, under T+1, if a customer bought shares on Wednesday, they would be credited to the customer's demat account on Thursday.
- The shorter trade settlement cycle that is set to be implemented augurs well for the Indian equity markets from a liquidity perspective.
- This will also help investors in reducing the overall capital requirements with the margins getting released on T+1 day, and in getting the funds in the bank account within 24 hours of the sale of shares.
- The shift will boost operational efficiency as the rolling of funds and stocks will be faster.

83. Ans : C

- In Gupta Empire, the king was directed in his administration by a community and group consisting of a chief minister and a Senapati.
- There were various names of the Empire "Rajya", Rashtra", "Desha", "Mandala", "Prithvi", and "Avani".
- The Empire was divided into provinces called Bhukti, Bhoga, and Pradesh. Provinces further divided into "Vishayas" and came under the control of persons called "Vishaya Patis". "Vishaya" further divided into "Nagaras" and "Nagares" were divided into villages.
- "Vithi" was a part of "Vishaya". A group or collection of villages was called "Pethaka" and "Santaka".
- Smaller units of a village were "Agrahara" and "Patta". A Sandivigraha was the minister for foreign affairs. They were mentioned in the Gupta inscriptions.
- Bhuktis was the name of Provinces in the Gupta Empire.
- Uparikas was the name of provincial governors.
- The king maintained deep contact with the provincial administration. By a group of officials called Kumaramatyas and Ayuktas

84. Ans : B

Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD) unveils the National Curriculum for Early Childhood Care and Education 2024 titled 'Aadharshila'.

• Curriculum Details:

- 'Aadharshila' is a 48-week curriculum aligned with the National Education Policy
 2020 and the National Curriculum Framework.
- Designed for learning in the age group of three to six years within anganwadis.



Purpose and Importance:

- Aims to address concerns about children progressing through the education system without fundamental skills like reading and writing, potentially hindering their overall learning abilities.
- Based on longitudinal research indicating the benefits of early childhood education, including academic and psychosocial development.

Curriculum Structure:

- Weekly play calendar featuring initiation activities, exploration, free play, conversations, creation, appreciation, and reflection.
- Activities include storytelling, rhymes, arts, crafts, and of children's observation performance.

Developmental Focus:

- Focuses on key areas such as listening skills, vocabulary building, imagination, following instructions, social development, and esteem.
- Aims to facilitate а smooth transition into Grade 1 by equipping children with foundational skills and confidence

85. Ans: B

- Denotified tribes (DNTs) are communities that were 'notified' as being 'born criminals' during the British regime under a series of laws starting with the Criminal Tribes Act of 1871.
- Nomadic and semi-nomadic communities are defined as those who move from one place to another rather than living in one place all the time.
- A National Commission for De-notified, Nomadic, and Semi-Nomadic Tribes (NCDNT) was constituted in 2006 by the then government. It was headed by Balkrishna.
- De-notified tribes are are today one of the most vulnerable and deprived.

86. Ans :A

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- The MIDH is a comprehensive Centrally Sponsored Scheme aimed at fostering growth across the entire horticulture sector. It encompasses a wide range of crops including fruits, vegetables, root and tuber crops, mushrooms, spices, flowers, aromatic plants, coconut, cashew, cocoa, and bamboo.
- The Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare has been overseeing the implementation of MIDH since 2014-15.



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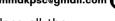
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BRANCHES:

Vijaynagar Chandralayout



- MIDH operates under the broader Green Revolution Krishonnati Yojana initiative.
- For most states, the financial responsibility is shared between the central and state governments:
 - The Government of India (GoI) provides 60% of the total funding.
 - State governments contribute the remaining 40%.
- A special provision exists for North Eastern and Himalayan states:
- In these regions, the Gol's contribution increases to 90% of the total outlay

87. Ans: B

- TReDS is an electronic platform for facilitating the financing/discounting of trade receivables of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) through multiple financiers.
- These receivables can be due from corporates and other buyers, including Government Departments and Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs). Sellers, buyers and financiers are the participants on a TReDS platform.
- Seller: Only MSMEs can participate as sellers in TReDS. Buyer: Corporates, Government Departments, PSUs, MSMEs and any other entity can participate as buyers in TReDS.
- Financiers: Banks, NBFC Factors and other financial institutions as permitted by the Reserve Bank of India (RBI), can participate as financiers in TReDS.

88. Ans: A

- El Nino conditions, which have developed for the first time in seven years, are partly responsible for triggering extreme heat, continents like North America, Africa, Asia, and
- Europe have been battered by scorching heat waves, caused, in most cases, by either formation of heat domes or the arrival of anticyclones.
- A heat dome occurs when an area of high-pressure stays over a region for days and weeks. It traps warm air, just like a lid on a pot, for an extended period.
- A heat wave is a condition of air temperature which becomes fatal to the human body when exposed.
- A heat wave is considered if the maximum temperature of a station reaches at least 40 degrees Celsius or more for Plains and at least 30 degrees Celsius or more for Hilly regions.

89. Ans : A

- A digital banking unit is a specialised fixed point business unit or hub, housing a certain minimum digital infrastructure for delivering digital banking products and services as well as servicing existing financial products and services digitally in self-service mode at any time.
- Commercial banks (other than regional rural banks, payment banks and local area banks) with past digital banking experience are permitted to open DBUs, unless otherwise specifically restricted, without having the need to take permission from the RBI in each case.
- The services include saving bank accounts under various schemes, current accounts, fixed deposit and recurring deposit accounts, digital kits for customers, mobile banking,



Internet banking, debit cards, credit cards, and mass transit system cards, digital kits for merchants, UPI QR codes, BHIM Aadhaar and point of sale (PoS).

90. Ans: A

- The Gandhi Peace Prize was instituted by the government in 1995 to mark the 125th birth anniversary of Mahatma Gandhi.
- The annual Gandhi Peace Prize carries prize money of Rs 1 crore, a citation, a plaque and a traditional handicraft/handloom item.
- The award shall be given for social, economic and political transformation through Nonviolence and other Gandhian methods. The awards may be divided between two people who are considered by the Jury to be equally deserving of recognition in a given year.

91. Ans : C

- Current Account is the trade record in goods and services and transfer payments.
 - Trade in goods: It includes exports and imports of goods.
 - o **Trade in services**: It includes factor income and non-factor income transactions.
 - Transfer payments: These are the receipts that the residents of a country get for 'free', without having to provide any goods or services in return. They consist of gifts, remittances and grants. They could be given by the government or by private citizens living abroad.

92. Ans: D

- A supermassive black hole is tearing apart a distant star that is now faced with a fiery and dramatic death.
- The scientists who discovered it have affectionately named the black hole "Scary Barbie," after a beloved children's character.
- The supermassive black hole ripping apart the star is one of the most energetic, luminous, and transient celestial events that has been discovered, and yet, it is not exactly blazing bright in the night sky.
- Instead, astronomers had to unearth evidence of the star's dying moments from a mass of telescope data where it had been hiding undetected for years

93. Ans: A

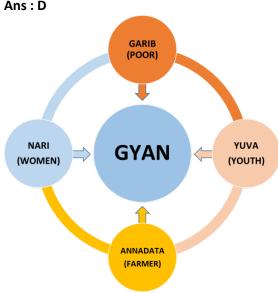
- PM-SVANidhi (Prime Minister Street Vendor's AtmaNirbhar Nidhi) is a micro-credit scheme launched to provide affordable working capital loans to street vendors affected by the COVID-19 pandemic.
- The scheme offers collateral-free working capital loans of up to Rs. 10,000 initially, with subsequent loans of up to Rs. 20,000 and Rs. 50,000 in the second and third tranches respectively.
- It provides a 7% interest subsidy on timely repayment and offers cashback incentives for digital transactions.
- Implemented through an online portal and involving Urban Local Bodies, the scheme aims to formalize street vendors into the urban economy, promote financial inclusion, and encourage digital transactions.



94. Ans : A

- The 1970s witnessed a devaluation of the Indian rupee by a sharp 57 per cent. The decade was also characterised by severe political instability and curtailing of civil liberties, including the imposition of Emergency in 1975.
- All of these developments resulted in a sharp downfall in the decadal average growth rate in the 1970s to 2.9 per cent.

95. Ans: D



96. Ans: C

- Wayanad has become the first district in the country to be declared ODF (open defecation-free) Plus.
- ODF ensures no open defecation, ODF+ adds well-maintained public toilets and fecal management, while Water+ further includes safe wastewater treatment and reuse, representing progressive levels of sanitation and water management under the Swachh Bharat Mission.

97. Ans: C

Operation Kaveri (2023)

To evacuate Indian nationals from Sudan during the Sudanese armed conflict

• Operation Ganga (2022)

To evacuate Indian nationals from Ukraine during the Russian invasion

Operation Devi Shakti (2021)

To evacuate Indian citizens and Afghan partners from Afghanistan following the Taliban takeover

Vande Bharat Mission (2020-2022)

To repatriate Indian citizens stranded abroad due to the COVID-19 pandemic

98. Ans: A

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ARRIERS TO ORIF

The Porcupine Doctrine, often associated with Taiwan, is a defensive strategy aimed at deterring potential Chinese invasion. Taiwan implements this by investing in asymmetric warfare capabilities, including mobile anti-ship and anti-air missiles, sea mines, and cyber defenses. The goal is to make an invasion so costly and difficult that China would be dissuaded from attempting it, much like a porcupine's quills deter predators. This approach allows Taiwan to maintain a credible defense posture against a much larger adversary without engaging in an unwinnable arms race or appearing overly provocative.

99. Ans: C

- Article 51A of the Constitution stipulates that it shall be the duty of every citizen of India "to value and preserve the rich heritage of our composite culture."
- In accordance with these constitutional provisions, the Ancient Monuments and Archaeological Sites and Remains Act, 1958 (AMASR Act, 1958) was enacted to preserve the historical and archaeological wealth of the country.
- This Act provides for the preservation of ancient and historical monuments and archaeological sites and remains which have been declared to be of 'national importance' under the law.
- It was amended once in 2010. As of August 2022, India had 3695 Monuments of National Importance (MNI) under the AMASR Act, 1958.
- The list includes temples, churches, mosques, stupas, forts, caves, palaces, colonial monuments/sites, water systems (tanks and baolis), pre-historic sites, archaeological sites, and archaeological remains among others..

100. Ans : C

According to National Family Health Survey-5 (NFHS-5)

- Child Nutrition is a concern because at allIndia level.
- 36% of children suffer from stunting. (1/3)
- 19 % of children suffer from wasting.
- 32% of children are underweight.
- Institutional births have increased substantially from 79% to 89% at all-India Level
- The Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nourishment (POSHAN) Abhiyaan which was launched in April, 2018 under the Ministry of Women and Child Development (MWCD).



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