

07-06-2022

National Achievement Survey

Why in Newspapers?

Recently, the latest National Achievement Survey (NAS) results were released by the Department of School Education and Literacy, Ministry of Education. The first edition of the National Achievement Survey (NAS) was conducted in 2001.

Quick Issue?

- It is a periodic nationwide survey conducted roughly every other year to monitor the health of the country's school education system.
- The 'National Achievement Survey' has been designed by the Ministry of Education in collaboration with the National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT).
- Objective: To provide an immediate picture of learning outcomes in key subjects at the end of Classes 3, 5, 8 and 10. These classes are generally seen as marking important stages in the development of a child's cognitive abilities.

Historical Background?

- Compared to the year 2017, the national average marks of students in all subjects have declined by 47 marks.
- In class 3, there is a decline in the average marks of students in language, maths and environmental science.
- In class 5, there has been a decline in the marks of Language, Mathematics and Environmental Studies.
- There has been a decline in the national average marks of language, maths, science and social science in class 8.
- In class 10, there has been a decline in the marks of maths, science, social science and modern Indian language.
- Barring Punjab and Rajasthan, the performance of almost all the states has declined as compared to the 2017 level.

Other Key Facts?

Status of Education in India:

Constitutional Provisions:

- Article 45 and Article 39 (F) of the Directive Principles of State Policy (DPSP), Part IV of the Indian Constitution, provide for equitable and accessible education along with being financed by the state.
- In the year 1976, the 42nd amendment of the Constitution transferred education from the state to the concurrent list.
- In the year 2002, the 86th amendment made education an enforceable right under Article 21-A.

Related Laws:

- The Right to Education (RTE) Act, 2009 aims to provide primary education to all children in the age group of 6 to 14 years and to implement education as a fundamental right.
- It also mandates 25% reservation for the deprived sections of the society.



- There was no significant difference between the scores of boys and girls.
- However, the performance of students belonging to SC/ST/OBC categories was lower than that of general category students.
- The findings of the National Achievement Survey once again illustrate the need for urgent interventions to improve the level of basic learning.
- This survey will help address the problem of learning gaps and support State/UT Governments in developing long-term, medium-term and short-term interventions to improve learning levels.
- Findings of NAS will help in capacity building for teachers, officers involved in spreading education.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Consider the following statements -

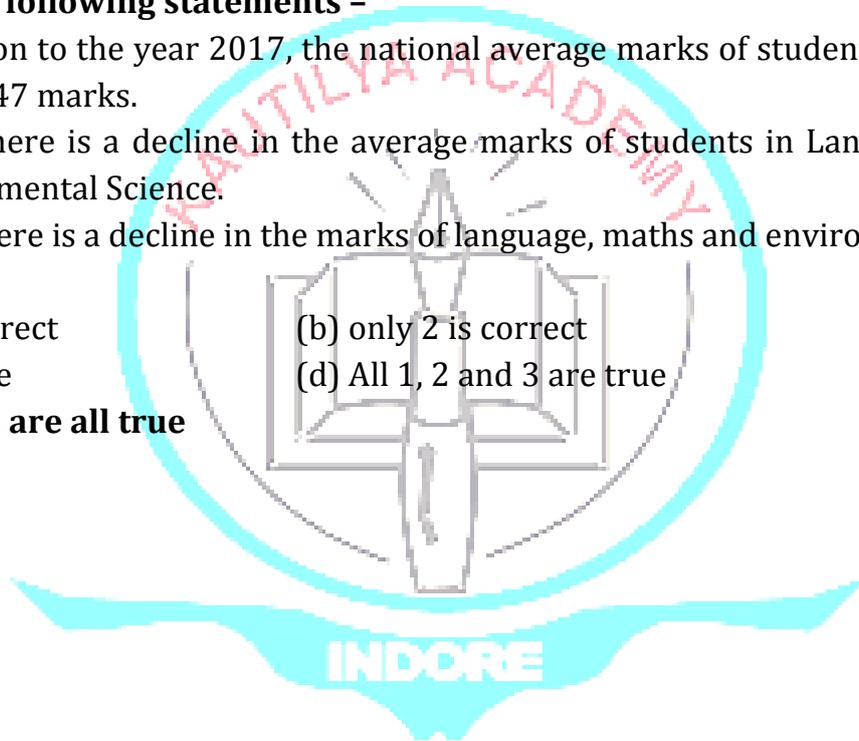
1. In comparison to the year 2017, the national average marks of students in all subjects has declined by 47 marks.
2. In class 3, there is a decline in the average marks of students in Language, Mathematics and Environmental Science.
3. In class 5, there is a decline in the marks of language, maths and environmental studies.

Code:

- (a) Only 1 is correct
(c) Only 3 is true

- (b) only 2 is correct
(d) All 1, 2 and 3 are true

Ans. (d) 1, 2 and 3 are all true



SHRESTHA Scheme

Why in Newspapers?

Recently SHRESTHA Yojana (Scheme for Residential Education for Students in High Schools in Targeted Areas) was launched by the Union Minister of Social Justice and Empowerment Dr. Virendra Kumar on June 3, 2022.

Quick Issue?

- This scheme will provide an equal opportunity to poor and meritorious scheduled caste students.
- It has been started with the aim of providing quality education and opportunities to 3,000 students belonging to the Scheduled Caste category.
- This scheme has been started for the Scheduled Castes.
- The scheme envisions high quality free residential education for meritorious students of scheduled caste communities from class 9th to class 12th for meritorious scheduled caste students.

Historical Background?

- The scheme will cover those students whose parents' annual income is up to Rs 2.5 lakh per annum.
- Around 3000 students will be selected for SHRESTHA (NETS) through National Entrance Test.
- Admission will be given in best private residential-CBSE affiliated school in class 9th and 11th to complete education till 12th.
- The best performing private residential-CBSE affiliated schools will be selected on the basis of specific parameters.
- The entire cost of the school fee and hostel fee as well as the food fee will be borne by the government.
- The ceilings prescribed to cover all these expenses are:
 - o 9th class: Rs 1,00,000 per student

Other Key Facts?

Single National Scholarship Scheme

- The Ministry of Social Justice and Empowerment has been entrusted with the task of implementing the scheme by conducting the qualifying examination.
- Beneficiaries: Students belonging to Scheduled Castes, Other Backward Classes (OBC), Denotified, Nomadic and Nomadic Tribes and Economically Backward Castes (EBC) categories will be able to take advantage of the National Scholarship.

Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawas Yojana (BJRCY)

- The Social Justice and Empowerment Department is the nodal agency for the implementation of this scheme.
- Centrally Sponsored Scheme for construction of new hostels, namely Babu Jagjivan Ram Chhatrawass Yojana (BJRCY) under the implementing agencies in the private sector, i.e. State Governments/UT Administrations/Central State Universities/Non-Government Organizations/Deemed Universities/Scheduled Central assistance is provided for expansion of existing hostel facilities for caste students.



- o Class 10th: Rs 1,10,000 per student
- o Class 11: Rs 1,25,000 per student and
- o Class 12: Rs 1,35,000 per year per student
- Another feature of this scheme is “Provision for Bridge Course”. This will help the students to adapt to the new school environment. This course will be provided to the students of the state schools and rural areas for 3 months.
- With this scheme (Shreshta) high quality education system will be provided for meritorious but poor scheduled caste students in reputed CBSE affiliated schools across the country.

Likely Question Asked In Preliminary Exam

Que. Which of the following is true about the National Achievement Survey (NAS)?

- (a) NAS is a transparent and reliable exercise carried out under third party verification.
- (b) It was conducted for classes 3, 5 and 8 in government and government aided schools.
- (c) Both a and b
- (d) None of the above

Ans. (c) both a and b

