National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA)

Prelims: *Current events of national importance | Art and Culture*

Why in News?

The National Mission on Monuments and Antiquities (NMMA) has successfully documented 1.84 lakh monuments (Built Heritage & Sites) and 17.20 lakh antiquities across India.

- **Aim -** To prepare two national registers for documentation and digitization of ***unprotected monuments (Built Heritage & Sites) and antiquities*** across India.
- To ensure standardized, accurate, and accessible records of India's cultural heritage.
- **Established in –2007** under the 11th Five-Year Plan.
- **Nodal Ministry** – Ministry of Culture.
- **Implementing Agency –** Archaeological Survey of India.
- **Core Objectives -** Documentation of unprotected monuments and antiquities.
- Digitization of records for public access.
- Establishment of uniform formats (20 parameters for monuments, 21 for antiquities).
- Capacity building through workshops and training programs for universities, colleges, NGOs, and other organizations.
- Awareness generation about heritage conservation and documentation.
- Using documentation as a landmark step against the illicit trafficking of Indian antiquities.
- **Categorization of Documented Antiquities**
- The database includes a wide array of man-made materials, such as
    - **Ancient Tools-** Palaeoliths, microliths, and neoliths.
    - **Artistic Objects-** Sculptures, terracotta, paintings, and textiles.
    - **Historical Records-** Inscriptions, seals, sealings, coins, and coin moulds.
    - **Diverse Materials-** Items made of metal, stone, glass, wood, ivory,

and bone.

- **Progress and Achievements -** Documented **1.84 lakh monuments (Built Heritage & Sites)**.
- Documented **17.20 lakh antiquities**.
- **Related Initiatives - Indian Heritage Mobile App –** Launched in September 2023 this serves as a single access platform for high-resolution images and geo-tagged locations of protected national monuments.
- **Adopt A Heritage (AAH) 2.0** –Launched in 2026 to engage private and public sector companies to provide non conservational amenities like cleaning drinking water and signage at protected sites.
- **Retrieval of Antiquities –** As of late 2025 the ASI has successfully retrieved 655 antiquities from foreign countries since 1976.
- **Aligns with -** India's obligations under ***UNESCO conventions*** on cultural heritage.

References

1. PIB | NMMA
2. NMMA | NMMA

