

Dholavira in Gujarat on UNESCO World Heritage list

Reference News

The Harappan city of Dholavira, in present-day Gujarat, was on Tuesday named the **40th Indian site on UNESCO's World Heritage list.**



The ongoing 44th session of the World Heritage Committee of the UNESCO has already given India a new world heritage site in the form of the Rudreswara/ Ramappa Temple in Telangana.

Next Analysis-

“The ancient city of Dholavira is one of the most remarkable and well-preserved urban settlements in South Asia dating from the **3rd to mid-2nd millennium BCE (Before Common Era)**. Discovered in **1968**, the site is set apart by its unique characteristics, such as its water management system, multi-layered defensive mechanisms, extensive use of stone in construction and special burial structures,” UNESCO said.

A range of artefacts of copper, shell, stone, jewellery, terracotta and ivory had been found at the site. **“The two newly inscribed World Heritage Sites offer great insight into the knowledge and ways of life of earlier societies, customs, and communities,”** UNESCO said.

Located in the Kutch district, Dholavira is the larger of the two most remarkable excavations of the Indus Valley Civilisation dating back to about 4,500 years ago. The site had been on UNESCO's tentative list since 2014 and India had submitted its dossier in January 2020, a Culture Ministry statement said.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy code Amendment Bill 2021

Reference News-

The President promulgated the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021 on 4th April 2021. The Cabinet had approved on 31st March 2021 the proposal to make amendments in the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (Code)**, through the **Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code (Amendment) Ordinance, 2021.**

Next analysis-

What is Insolvency and Bankruptcy code Amendment Bill-

- It is a reform enacted in 2016. It amalgamates various laws relating to the insolvency resolution of business firms.
- It lays down clear-cut and faster insolvency proceedings to help creditors, such as banks, recover dues and prevent bad loans, a key drag on the economy.

Key Words

- **Insolvency:** It is a situation where individuals or companies are unable to repay their outstanding debt.
- **Bankruptcy:** It is a situation whereby a court of competent jurisdiction has declared a person or other entity insolvent, having passed appropriate orders to resolve it and protect the rights of the creditors. It is a legal declaration of one's inability to pay off debts.

The amendments aims to provide an efficient alternative insolvency resolution framework for corporate persons classified as micro, small and medium enterprises (MSMEs) under the Code, for ensuring quicker, cost-effective and value maximising outcomes for all the stakeholders, in a manner which is least disruptive to the continuity of MSMEs businesses and which preserves jobs. The initiative is based on a trust model and the amendments honour the honest MSME owners by trying to ensure that the resolution happens and the company remains with them.

Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK)

Reference News

The Ministry of Minority Affairs is implementing the Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakaram (PMJVK), in the identified Minority Concentration Areas (MCAs) of the country.

Next analysis-

What is PMJVK:

The erstwhile Multi-sectoral Development Programme (MsDP) has been restructured and renamed as Pradhan Mantri Jan Vikas Karyakram for effective implementation since 2018.

It seeks to provide better **socio-economic infrastructure facilities** to the minority communities.

Special focus by earmarking funds:

- 80% of the resources under the PMJVK would be earmarked for projects related to education, health and skill development.
- 33 to 40% of resources under the PMJVK would be specifically allocated for women centric projects.

Beneficiaries of PMJVK:

- As far as PMJVK is concerned, the communities notified as minority communities under Section 2 (c) of the National Commission for Minorities Act, 1992 would be taken as Minority Communities.

- At present 6 (six) communities namely Muslims, Sikhs, Christians, Buddhists, Zoroastrians (Parsis) and Jains have been notified as Minority Communities.

Emigration Bill 2021

Reference News

Ministry of External Affairs shall table the proposed **Emigration Bill, 2021** in Parliament in the current monsoon session.

- The proposed legislation that will replace the extant **Emigration Act of 1983** will be crucial for **Non-Resident Indians (NRIs)**, especially those from Kerala as the provisions cover labour migration and exploitation, remittances, student mobility and human trafficking.

Next analysis-

Key features of the Draft Bill?

- It seeks to provide a regulatory mechanism to govern overseas employment of Indian nationals, and protect and promote the welfare of Indian emigrants.
- It defines emigrants as Indian citizens who seek to or have departed out of India for employment.
- **Authorities:** The draft Bill seeks to create two authorities: (i) the **Bureau of Emigration Policy and Planning (BEPP)**, and (ii) the **Bureau of Emigration Administration (BEA)**.
 - The functions of BEPP will consist of preparing policies on matters related to welfare of emigrants; negotiating labour and social security agreements with destination countries.
 - The functions of BEA will consist of maintaining a database of Indian emigrants, and implementing measures and programmes for welfare of emigrants.
- Nodal committees in states and union territories (UTs): Their functions include: (i) initiating action to prosecute entities involved in trafficking of persons, and (ii) undertaking pre-departure orientation programmes and skill upgradation programmes for prospective emigrants.
- Human resources agencies: These are agencies engaged in recruitment for an employer. These agencies must be registered by a competent authority. The certificate of registration will be valid for five years and may be cancelled on various grounds. Appeal against decisions of the competent authority with regard to registration of these agencies will lie with the central government.
- Accreditation of employers: Any employer who intends to recruit an emigrant must apply for accreditation with the competent authority. Such accreditation will be valid for a period of five years.
- **Need for the Bill:**
 - Labour migration is governed by the Emigration Act, 1983 which sets up a mechanism for hiring through government-certified recruiting agents- individuals or public or private agencies.
 - It outlines obligations for agents to conduct due diligence of prospective employers, sets up a cap on service fees, and establishes a government review

of worker travel and employment documents (known as emigration clearances).

- **The Emigration Act, 1983** enacted in the specific context of large-scale emigration to the Gulf, falls short in addressing the wide geo-economic, geo-political and geo-strategic impact that emigration has today.
- For years, independent investigations into migrant worker conditions have underlined serious exploitative practices which include:
 - Large recruitment charges,
 - Contract substitution,
 - Deception,
 - Retention of passports,
 - Non-payment or underpayment of wages,
 - Poor living conditions,
 - Discrimination and other forms of ill-treatment.
- For instance, in recent months, media reports have highlighted how the majority of migrant worker deaths in the Arab Gulf States/West Asia are attributed to heart attacks and respiratory failures, whose causes are unexplained and poorly understood.

Conclusion-

- India needs to formulate migration centric policies, strategies, and institutional mechanisms in order to ensure inclusive growth and development and reduce distress induced migration.
- This will increase India's prospects for poverty reduction and achieving Sustainable Development Goals.

National Education Policy (NEP) 2020

Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will address policy makers in the domain of education and skill development, students, teachers, across the country on 29th July 2021, via video conferencing, to mark the completion of one year of reforms under the National Education Policy 2020. He will also launch multiple initiatives in the education sector.

Next Analysis-

Prime Minister will launch the Academic Bank of Credit that will provide multiple entry and exit options for students in Higher education; 1st Year Engineering Programmes in Regional Languages and Guidelines for Internationalization of Higher Education.

The initiatives to be launched also include **Vidya Pravesh**, a three month play based school preparation module for Grade 1 students; **Indian Sign Language** as a Subject at secondary level; **NISHTHA 2.0**, an integrated programme of teacher training designed by **NCERT**; **SAFAL** (Structured Assessment For Analyzing Learning Levels), a competency based assessment framework for Grades 3, 5 and 8 in CBSE schools; and a website dedicated to **Artificial Intelligence**.

Further, the event will witness the launch of **National Digital Education Architecture (NDEAR) and National Education Technology Forum (NETF)**.

These initiatives will mark a significant step towards realization of the goals of NEP 2020 and will make the education sector more vibrant and accessible.

The NEP, 2020 is the guiding philosophy for changing the learning landscape, making education holistic and for building strong foundations for an Atmanirbhar Bharat.

This is the first education policy of the 21st century and replaces the thirty-four year old **National Policy on Education (NPE), 1986**. Built on the foundational pillars of Access, Equity, Quality, Affordability and Accountability, this policy is aligned to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and aims to transform India into a vibrant knowledge society and global knowledge superpower by making both school and college education more holistic, flexible, multidisciplinary, suited to 21st century needs and aimed at bringing out the unique capabilities of each student.

Chandrayaan-3

Chandrayaan-3 is likely to be launched during third quarter of 2022.

Union Minister of State (Independent Charge) Science & Technology; Minister of State (Independent Charge) Earth Sciences; MoS PMO, Personnel, Public Grievances, Pensions, Atomic Energy and Space, **Dr Jitendra Singh** said that Chandrayaan-3 is likely to be launched during third quarter of 2022 assuming normal work flow henceforth. In a written reply to a question in the Lok Sabha today, he said, realization of Chandrayaan-3 is in progress.

The realization of Chandrayaan-3 involves various process including finalization of configuration, subsystems realization, integration, spacecraft level detailed testing and a number of special tests to evaluate the system performance on earth. The realization progress was hampered due to COVID-19 pandemic. However, all works that were possible in work from home mode were taken up even during lockdown periods. Chandrayaan-3 realization resumed after commencement of unlock period and is in matured stage of realization.

22nd Kargil Vijay Diwas

The 22nd anniversary of Kargil Vijay Diwas was observed on the 26th of July 2021. The day is dedicated to the martyred soldiers of the Kargil war.

Next Analysis-

Background facts-

After the Indo-Pak war of 1971, there had been many military conflicts. Both the countries conducted nuclear tests in 1998 which further escalated tensions and finally the Kargil War in 1999. Kargil War, also known as the Kargil conflict, was fought between May-July of 1999 in the Kargil (now a district in the UT of Ladakh) district of Jammu and Kashmir along the Line of Control (LoC) in which India got the victory.

Operation Vijay:

- In the year 1999, India and Pakistan signed the Lahore Agreement to mutually resolve the Kashmir issue in a peaceful manner.
- However, the Pakistani troops began infiltrating toward Indian side of the Line of Control (LoC) under Operation Badr, hoping to cut off Indian Troops in Siachen. Indian Army responded by launching Operation Vijay.
- On 3rd May 1999, Pakistan started this war when it had infiltrated into the high altitudes in the rocky mountainous region of Kargil with around 5000 soldiers and captured it.
- When the Indian Government got the information about it, 'Operation Vijay' was launched by the Indian army to throw back the intruders who had treacherously occupied Indian Territory.

Monkeypox

Reference News-

Recently, the **US started surveillance on people travelling from Nigeria**, who may have had contact with the individuals infected with Monkeypox. It is a viral **zoonotic disease (transmission from animals to humans)** and is identified as a pox-like disease among monkeys hence it is named Monkeypox. It is an endemic to Nigeria. It is caused by **monkeypox virus**, a member of the **Orthopoxvirus genus** in the family **Poxviridae**.



The natural host of the virus remains undefined. But the disease has been reported in many animals. Animals known to be sources of Monkeypox virus include monkeys and apes, a variety of rodents (including rats, mice, squirrels and prairie dogs) and rabbits.

It was first reported in **1958**, in monkeys in the **Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC)** and in humans in 1970, also in the DRC. In 2017, Nigeria experienced the largest documented outbreak, 40 years after the last confirmed case. Subsequently, the disease has been reported in many West and Central African countries.

Symptoms:

- Infected people break out in a rash that looks a lot like chicken pox. But the fever, malaise, and headache from Monkeypox are usually more severe than in chicken pox infection.
- In the early stage of the disease, Monkeypox can be distinguished from smallpox because the lymph gland gets enlarged.

Treatment and Vaccine:

There is no specific treatment or vaccine available for Monkeypox infection. In the past, the anti-smallpox vaccine was shown to be 85% effective in preventing Monkeypox. **But the world was declared free of smallpox in 1980**. So, the vaccine isn't widely available anymore. Currently, there is no global system in place to manage the spread of Monkeypox, with each country struggling to contain any outbreak whenever it occurs.