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Daily News Analysis

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1. Sirpur Archaeological Site

- **Prelims** - Sirpur Archaeological Site
- **Mains** - GS 1 - Ancient and Medieval

Why in the news?

- The Chhattisgarh government is preparing the 5th-century Sirpur archaeological site in Mahasamund district for a UNESCO World Heritage nomination, introducing digital exhibits, and battery-operated transport.

Sirpur Archaeological Site

- **What is it?**: Sirpur is a 5th–12th century multi-religious archaeological city known for its extraordinary concentration of Hindu temples, Buddhist viharas and Jain monuments, revealing the cultural and political vibrancy of Dakshina Kosala.
- **Location**: Located on the banks of the Mahanadi River in Mahasamund district, Chhattisgarh.
- **Discovery**: First identified in 1882 by Alexander Cunningham
- **Associated Dynasty**: Served as the capital of Dakshina Kosala under the Panduvanshi and later Somavamshi kings (6th–8th century).
- **Associated Travellers**: Chinese traveler Hiuen Tsang (Xuanzang) visited Sirpur (640 CE) and described it as a booming center of Buddhism with numerous monasteries.
- **Major Archaeological Findings**

→ Lakshmana Temple

- ★ The oldest brick temple in India (7th century CE).
- ★ Dedicated to Vishnu.
- ★ Excellent example of early Nagara architecture.

→ Buddha Viharas (Monastic Complexes)

- ★ More than 20 Viharas excavated.
- ★ The most famous: Anand Prabhu Kutir Vihara.
- ★ Massive brick structures, prayer halls, meditation cells.
- ★ Statues of Buddha, Avalokiteshvara, Tara, etc.

→ Surang Tila Temple Complex

- ★ A massive temple built on a terraced stone platform.



>> Kozhikode

>> Ernakulam

>> Thiruvananthapuram

★ Dedicated to Shiva.

★ Known for its high plinth, multiple shrines, and stepped approach.

→ **Jain Monuments**

★ Remains of Jain Basadis and sculptures of Tirthankaras found.

→ **Residential & Civil Structures**

★ Ruins of a palatial complex, granaries, and ancient marketplace.

★ Evidence of planned urban settlement.



2. National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- **Prelims** - National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Science and Technology

Why in the news?

- The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) may strengthen its public health security systems by tapping into social media posts, which could enhance its predictive model for disease pattern detection and outbreak surveillance.

National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC)

- **Ministry:** Ministry of Health and Family Welfare
- **Headquarters:** New Delhi
- **History**
 - The National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC), formerly the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD)
 - Its origin was the Central Malaria Bureau, established at Kasauli (Himachal Pradesh) in 1909, and following expansion was renamed in 1927 as the Malaria Survey of India.
 - The organization was shifted to Delhi in 1938 and called the Malaria Institute of India (MII).
 - Thus in 1963, the erstwhile MII was renamed the National Institute of Communicable Diseases (NICD) to shoulder these additional responsibilities.
 - In the year 2009, NICD transformed into the National Centre for Disease Control (NCDC) with a larger mandate of controlling emerging and re-emerging diseases.
- **Functions**
 - It functions as the nodal agency in the country for disease surveillance facilitating prevention and control of communicable diseases.
 - In coordination with the State Governments, NCDC has the capacity and capability for disease surveillance, outbreak investigation, and rapid response to contain and combat outbreaks.
 - It also deals with antimicrobial resistance (AMR), an emerging area of concern with far-reaching consequences.
 - It also provides referral diagnostic support, capacity building, and technical support to States/UTs in the country.



3. Circular Economy

- **Prelims** - Circular Economy
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- At a time when India is slated to host the World Circular Economy Forum next year (2026), Finland plans to hold road shows across major cities in India to highlight circular economy and the opportunities it will generate.

Circular Economy

- **Definition**: A Circular Economy (CE) is an economic system that aims to eliminate waste and promote resource efficiency by ensuring that materials are reused, repaired, refurbished, or recycled.
- **Key Principles of a Circular Economy**:
 - Reduce waste and pollution by designing sustainable products.
 - Extend product life cycles through reuse, repair, and refurbishment.
 - Recycle materials and convert waste into resources.
 - Use renewable energy to minimize environmental impact.
 - Promote sustainable consumption and production.
- **Importance of Circular Economy for India**
 - **Economic Benefits**: Reduces raw material dependency, creates jobs, and lowers production costs.
 - **Environmental Benefits**: Reduces pollution, carbon footprint, and waste generation.
 - **Social Benefits**: Supports waste workers, promotes sustainability, and improves public health.
- **Government Initiatives**
 - **Waste Management Rules (2016)**: Covers e-waste, plastic waste, and bio-medical waste.
 - **Extended Producer Responsibility (EPR)**: Companies must manage post-consumer waste.
 - **National Resource Efficiency Policy (NREP) 2019**: Promotes efficient resource use.



- **Swachh Bharat Mission:** Focuses on waste segregation and recycling.
- **Vehicle Scrappage Policy (2021):** Encourages recycling of old vehicles.
- **Plastic Waste Management Rules (2022):** Phases out single-use plastics.
- **Challenges in India**
 - **Lack of Awareness:** Limited understanding of circular economy benefits.
 - **Weak Infrastructure:** Poor recycling and waste management facilities.
 - **High Initial Costs:** Businesses find it expensive to switch.
 - **Informal Sector Issue:** Many waste workers lack formal support.
 - **Policy Gaps:** Weak enforcement of existing regulations.



4. PM Internship Scheme

- **Prelims** - PM Internship Scheme
- **Mains** - GS 3 - Economy

Why in the news?

- While the PM Internship Scheme's pilot project has exceeded its target of providing 1.25 lakh internship opportunities in a year, it has found few takers among India's youth, data presented to Parliament show.

PM Internship Scheme

- **Aim:** Aim to provide 1.25 lakh internship opportunities during the fiscal year 2024-25.
- The scheme will involve the participation of the top 500 companies in India.
- **First announced in the Budget 2024-25.**
- The pilot phase has already generated significant interest with over 1,000 internships offered by leading companies like Mahindra & Mahindra, Max Life, and Alembic Pharma.
- **Eligibility:**
 - Open to Indian nationals aged 21-24, who are not employed full-time or pursuing full-time education.
 - Graduates and diploma holders (BA, B.Sc, B.Com, BCA, BBA, B.Pharma, etc.) are eligible.
 - Top graduates from institutions like IITs, IIMs, and holders of MBA, CA, CMA, MBBS, etc. are ineligible.
- **Internship Details:**
 - 12-month internships focused on real-world job environments.
 - At least 50% of the time dedicated to hands-on work.
 - Monthly stipend of ₹5,000: ₹4,500 from the government and ₹500 from companies.
 - A one-time grant of ₹6,000 for incidental expenses provided by MCA.
- **Company Participation:**
 - Involvement of companies based on their Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) expenditure.



- Companies can collaborate with suppliers, customers, or value-chain partners to offer internships if they cannot host interns themselves.
- The scheme is voluntary for companies.
- **Insurance and Support:**
 - Interns will be insured under schemes like PM Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana and PM Suraksha Bima Yojana.
 - Additional accidental insurance may be offered by partner companies.
 - A grievance redressal mechanism and a multilingual helpline (1800-116-090) have been established to support applicants.



5. Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)

- Prelims - Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code, 2016 (IBC)
- Mains - GS 3 - Economy

What is it?

- The Parliamentary Standing Committee on Finance reviewed the Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016 and highlighted the achievements of the code.

Insolvency and Bankruptcy Code 2016

- **Aim:** *It was enacted to modernize India's business distress resolution process and to unify previously existing regulations into a comprehensive time-bound mechanism.*
- **Features**
 - The Code strives to encourage entrepreneurship, increase credit availability, and balance the interests of all stakeholders. When the IBC declares insolvency, there are two options: resolution or liquidation.
 - Under the IBC, companies must complete the full insolvency process within 180 days. If creditors do not object to the extension, the deadline may be extended.
 - Smaller enterprises, including startups, with yearly sales of Rs 1 crore must complete the insolvency process within 90 days.
- **Associated Challenges**
 - **Implementation Challenges:**
 - ★ Overburdened National Company Law Tribunal (NCLT) and National Company Law Appellate Tribunal (NCLAT), which also handle Companies Act cases.
 - ★ Average time for insolvency resolutions increased to 716 days in FY 2023-24.
 - **Structural Issues:**
 - ★ NCLT's design reflects outdated economic realities and lacks adequate members (63 sanctioned positions).
 - ★ Delays due to part-time operation of benches and bureaucratic inefficiencies in urgent case listings.



→ **Need for Expertise:**

- ★ Appointed members often lack domain-specific knowledge, as highlighted in the Jet Airways case by the Supreme Court.
- ★ This lack of expertise hampers resolution of complex cases.

→ **Procedural Inefficiencies:**

- ★ Mandatory hearings for all applications, including progress reports, contribute to delays.
- ★ Limited adoption of alternative dispute resolution mechanisms further strains the system.

→ **Judicial Oversight Concerns:**

- ★ Instances of NCLT/NCLAT members ignoring or defying Supreme Court directives threaten judicial hierarchy and institutional integrity.

● **Proposed Reforms:**

- Implement mandatory mediation before filing insolvency applications.
- Establish specialized benches for specific case types to enhance efficiency.
- Ensure infrastructure development, including adequate courtrooms and permanent support staff.



6. Exercise EKUVERIN - 2025

- **Prelims** - Exercise EKUVERIN - 2025
- **Mains** - GS 2 - International Relations

Why in the news?

- The 14th edition of Exercise EKUVERIN commenced.

Exercise EKUVERIN - 2025

- **What is it?**: It is the biennial joint military exercise between the Indian Army and Maldives National Defence Force (MNDF).
- **Host**: Thiruvananthapuram, Kerala, India
- **Participants**: It involves platoons of about 45 personnel from each side.
- **Objectives**
 - The exercise enhances interoperability for counter-insurgency and counter-terrorism (CI/CT) operations across semi-urban, jungle, and coastal terrains.
 - It promotes sharing of best practices and integration of niche defence technologies to boost regional peace and security.
 - Additional goals include effective coordination for humanitarian assistance and disaster relief.
- **Significance**: Strengthens defence ties under India's Neighbourhood First policy in Indian Ocean Region.