Art and Culture

Stalin Announces $1-Million Prize for Decoding Indus Valley Script

Context: Tamil Nadu Chief Minister M.K. Stalin has announced a $1-million prize for the successful decipherment of the ancient Indus Valley script.

❖ The initiative aims to unravel one of the most significant mysteries in archaeological history, aligning with Tamil Nadu's focus on promoting Dravidian heritage and cultural identity.

Key Highlights:

Significance of the Indus Valley Civilization:

❖ Flourished around 2600–1900 BCE in regions now in India and Pakistan.

❖ Known for its advanced urban planning, trade networks, and undeciphered script.

❖ Thousands of inscriptions discovered on seals, pottery, and other artifacts.

Challenges in Decipherment:

❖ Inscriptions are typically short, with fewer than 30 symbols.

❖ No consensus on linguistic structure or affiliation.

Potential Linguistic Links:

❖ Many researchers hypothesize links between the Indus script and the Dravidian language family, making the initiative culturally significant for Tamil Nadu.

Polity and Governance

Draft Digital Personal Data Protection Rules: A Step Towards Safeguarding Digital Rights

❖ **Why in News** : The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology recently released the draft DPDP Rules, 2023, for public consultation. This marks a significant step in implementing the DPDP Act, 2023, which aims to establish a comprehensive framework for digital personal data protection. Stakeholders and citizens have been invited to provide feedback by February 18, 2025, through the MyGov platform.

Key Features

❖ **Citizen-Centric Framework**: Clear guidelines for Data Fiduciaries ensure informed consent, data erasure rights, and accessible grievance redressal mechanisms.

❖ **Parental Control**: Parents and guardians are empowered to ensure children's online safety.

PSC Wallah

- ❖ **Balance Between Innovation and Regulation** The rules foster a unique balance between protecting personal data and promoting innovation. Lesser compliance burdens for startups and MSMEs ensure smooth transitions while enabling economic growth.
- ❖ **Digital-First Philosophy** The rules adopt a "digital by design" approach, featuring:
- ❖ Consent mechanisms and grievance redressal optimized for speed and transparency.
- ❖ A digital platform for the Data Protection Board to ensure ease of living and business.

Economy

Income Inequality in India: Trends and Insights

Why in News Recent data analysis has revealed significant trends in income inequality in India, particularly during and after the pandemic. The insights highlight the changing dynamics of wealth distribution, with the top 10% and top 1% seeing fluctuations in their income shares.

Key Trends

- ❖ **Top 10 Per Cent**: Despite a slight decrease to 30.6% in 2022-23, the top 10% of earners continue to hold a substantial share of the national income, indicating entrenched wealth concentration.
- ❖ **Bottom 10 Per Cent**: The pandemic exacerbated vulnerabilities, with their share of income plummeting to 1.1% in 2020-21, the lowest recorded in the dataset. However, a modest recovery to 2.4% in 2022-23 offers hope for gradual improvement.
- ❖ **Top 1 Per Cent**: This group experienced significant growth in income share during the pandemic, peaking at 9.0% in 2020-21, before a slight decline to 7.3% in 2022-23.

Madhya Pradesh Special

Empowering Healthcare: CM Dr. Mohan Yadav Flags Off 66 Mobile Medical Units

Why in news : On 6 january, the Madhya Pradesh government, under the *PM Janman Abhiyan*, launched 66 Mobile Medical Units (MMUs) to provide essential healthcare services in remote and underserved regions.

- ❖ The program aims to cover 1,268 villages across 87 development blocks in 21 districts, benefiting approximately 3.12 lakh people.

PSC Wallah

Healthcare Empowerment: A Top Priority

❖ Chief Minister Dr. Yadav emphasized that strengthening healthcare infrastructure is the state government's highest priority.

❖ The recruitment of over 46,000 healthcare personnel has already been approved, with directions to expedite the process.

Districts Covered Under the Initiative

❖ The campaign will benefit districts including Anuppur, Ashoknagar, Balaghat, Chhindwara, Datia, Dindori, Guna, Gwalior, Katni, Mandla, Morena, Narsinghpur, Satna, Shahdol, Sheopur, Sidhi, Shivpuri, Jabalpur, Raisen, Umaria, and Vidisha.

31st National Children's Science Congress Concludes: A Platform for Future Innovators

❖ The 31st National Children's Science Congress (NCSC) concluded with great enthusiasm at Ravindra Bhavan, Bhopal, on January 6, 2025.

Key Points:

❖ The four-day event, centered around the theme *"Understanding Ecosystems for Health and Well-being"*, provided a platform for students to showcase their scientific innovations.

❖ Over 640 students participated, presenting 194 projects, including 10 international innovations.

❖ The congress recognized the best 20 national and 6 international projects, awarded students for their creativity, and encouraged their practical applications.

Important Daily Current Affairs Question

1. Which Indian state announced a $1-million prize for decoding the Indus Valley script?
   A. Kerala
   B. Tamil Nadu
   C. Karnataka
   D. Andhra Pradesh

   Answer-B

2. What was the main theme of the 31st National Children's Science Congress (NCSC)?
   A. Innovation in Science and Technology
   B. Understanding Ecosystems for Health and Well-being
   C. Digital Transformation in Education
   D. Climate Change and Energy Conservation

   Answer- B