







Daily CURRENT AFFAIRS

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Offline Centre Location:

基 SCO 173-174, Sector 17C, Chandigarh





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Raghuji Bhosale I (GS1,2)

Recently, the Maharashtra government successfully reclaimed Raghuji Bhosale I's historic sword at a Sotheby's auction in London. The 18th-century piece was auctioned with an estimated value of approximately Rs 47.15 lakh after additional costs.



About Raghuji Bhosale I

- Raghuji Bhosale I (1695–February 14, 1755) was the founder of the Bhosale family of Nagpur and an important commander in the Maratha army during the reign of Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj.
- Chhatrapati Shahu Maharaj had bestowed the title of 'Senasahibsubha' on Raghujiraje for his bravery and war strategy.
- Raghujiraje Bhosale I led military campaigns against the Nawab of Bengal in 1745 and 1755 and expanded the Maratha empire to Bengal and Odisha.
- He also defeated the Nawabs of Cuddapah and Kurnool and established his military and political dominance in South India.

- The family was one of the royal or Kshatriya clans of the Marathas, and considered itself as the descendants of Udaipur's Sisodia Rajputs.
- The Bhonsles of Nagpur were known as Hinganikar as one of their ancestors, who was probably a contemporary of Maloji, the grandfather of Chhatrapati Shivaji Maharaj, rehabilitated the village Beradi near Hingani in the present district of Pune.

The Nagpur Bhosales ruled over a which were skillfully used to craft both everyday items and formidable weapons.

About Nagpur Bhonsles

 He expanded Maratha influence in central and eastern India, including parts of present-day Madhya Pradesh, Chhattisgarh, Jharkhand, and Odisha.







Which of the following statements accurately reflects the historical and strategic importance of Raghuji Bhosale I and the Nagpur Bhonsles in the 18th-century Maratha expansion?

- 1. Raghuji Bhosale I's campaigns into Bengal and Odisha in 1745 and 1755 were carried out independently, without the sanction or support of the central Maratha authority under Shahu Maharaj.
- 2. The title Senasahibsubha granted to Raghuji Bhosale I was not hereditary and was later withdrawn due to internal Maratha factionalism.
- 3. The Bhonsles of Nagpur emerged as key stakeholders in the Maratha Confederacy by leveraging the mineral wealth of their region to support sustained military campaigns.
- 4. Raghuji Bhosale I's victory over the Nawabs of Cuddapah and Kurnool weakened the Nizam of Hyderabad's control in South India and increased Maratha influence in the Deccan.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- A) 1 and 2 only
- B) 2 and 4 only
- C) 3 and 4 only
- D) 1, 3, and 4 only

Correct Answer: C) 3 and 4 only Explanation:

- Statement 1 is incorrect: Raghuji
 Bhosale acted with the consent of
 Shahu Maharaj and operated
 within the Maratha.
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The title Senasahibsubha was conferred in recognition of military service and was not formally revoked.
- Statement 3 is correct: The mineral wealth of Nagpur contributed to the Bhosale military-industrial base.
- Statement 4 is correct: His campaigns in the South challenged the Nizam and reinforced Maratha influence.

Mains Practice Question:

Q). Analyze the role of the Bhosale family's cultural and historical legacy in shaping their regional dominance in central and eastern India, and their eventual rise as a major political force in the Maratha Empire. (10 marks 150 words)





S8 Tension cosmologists can't agree on how clumpy the universe is(GS3)

Recently, research in cosmology suggests that understanding the clumpiness of the universe could unveil its fundamental nature.

Why is it in the news?

Recently, the Subaru Telescope in Hawaii, using the Hyper Suprime-Cam, conducted a deep sky survey from the University of Tokyo, reported an S8 value of 0.747, consistent with prior lensing estimates.

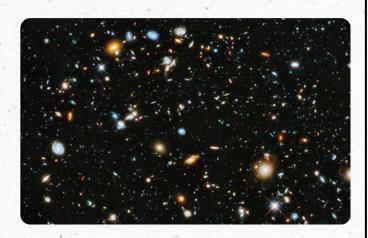
The S8 Tension

The S8 tension refers to the mismatch in the value of S8 as obtained by:

- CMB measurements (higher value).
- Cosmic shear/lensing surveys (lower value).

Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB)

- The CMB is the radiation left over from the **Big Bang**, providing a smooth glow across the sky.
- Initial uniformity with minor density variations (one part in 100,000) was observed when the universe was 380,000 years old.



- Cosmologists have estimated space to be expanding at around 68 kilometres per second per megaparsec (km/s/Mpc). That is, an object one megaparsec (3.26 million lightyears) away is moving at 68 km/s/Mpc.
- The current lumpy structure of the universe results from gravitational forces pulling different matter chunks together, including dark matter.

Lambda Cold Dark Matter (ACDM) Model

- This model suggests that dark matter and dark energy comprise about 95% of the universe.
- These components influence the evolution of primordial fluctuations into large-scale structures.

Challenges and Future Prospects

 One significant challenge is understanding galaxies' recession speeds, quantified by redshift, which remains uncertain due to faint galaxy spectra.



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- The Rubin Legacy Survey of Space and Time (LSST) from the Vera C. Rubin Observatory will provide deeper insights, potentially requiring updates to the ΛCDM model.
- Mains Practice Question:-Explain the concept of S8
 Tension and its implications for our understanding of the universe. How does this tension challenge the Lambda Cold Dark Matter (ΛCDM) model, and what are the prospects for resolving this issue?

UPSC Prelims Question (GS3)

Q1. Consider the following statements regarding the S8 Tension in cosmology:

- 1. The S8 Tension refers to the discrepancy between the clumpiness of the universe as measured by Cosmic Microwave Background (CMB) radiation and cosmic shear/lensing surveys.
- CMB measurements provide a lower S8 value compared to lensing surveys.
- 3.The Lambda Cold Dark Matter (ACDM) model is based on the assumption that dark matter and dark energy together make up approximately 95% of the universe.
- 4.The Subaru Telescope in Hawaii recently reported an S8 value of 0.747, consistent with prior CMB estimates.

Which of the above statements is/are correct?

A) 1, 3, and 4 only

B) 2 and 4 only

C) 1 and 3 only

D) 1, 2, 3, and 4

Answer Key:

A) 1, 3, and 4 only Explanation:

- Statement 1 is correct: The S8
 Tension refers to the discrepancy between S8 values derived from different methods—CMB (higher value) and lensing surveys (lower value).
- Statement 2 is incorrect: The CMB measurements provide a higher S8 value compared to lensing surveys.
- Statement 3 is correct: The ΛCDM model does suggest that dark matter and dark energy together make up about 95% of the universe.
- Statement 4 is correct: The Subaru Telescope's Hyper Suprime-Cam survey recently reported an S8 value of 0.747, which aligns with the value observed in cosmic shear/lensing surveys.





Digital access is a part of the fundamental right to life and liberty: Supreme Court

- Recently, the Supreme Court of India has ruled that digital access is an intrinsic part of the fundamental right to life and liberty under Article 21 of the Constitution.
- This pronouncement reinforces the constitutional obligation of the State to bridge the digital divide (marked by lack of infrastructure, skills, and accessible content) and ensure inclusive digital infrastructure.



Highlights of the Judgment:

- Focus on KYC Processes: It issued 20 directions to make digital KYC processes more accessible for acid attack survivors and the visually impaired.
- Digital Divide: It recognised the digital divide as a constitutional issue, emphasising the need for equal access to digital platforms for essential services and opportunities.



About Article 21

- Article 21 reads: "No person shall be deprived of his life or personal liberty except according to procedure established by law."
- Initially focused on protecting life from arbitrary state action, it has been expanded to include living with dignity.

Judicial Expansions:

- Maneka Gandhi vs. Union of India (1978): Right to live with dignity, requiring a fair, just, and reasonable procedure.
- Sunil Batra vs. Delhi
 Administration (1978): Right to
 live a healthy life and preserve
 cultural heritage.
- Bandhua Mukti Morcha vs.
 Union of India (1984): Linking
 Article 21 with the Directive
 Principles of State Policy,
 ensuring abolition of forced
 labour.
- Subramaniam Swamy vs. Union of India (2016): Recognized right to reputation as part of Article 21.
- Aruna Shanbaug case (2011):
 Recognized the right to die with dignity as part of Article 21.
- K.S. Puttaswamy vs. Union of India (2017): Right to privacy recognized as an essential part of Article 21.





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Mains Practice Question:- Discuss the implications of the Supreme Court's recognition of digital access as part of the fundamental right to life and liberty under Article 21. How does this judgment strengthen digital inclusion and constitutional governance in India?

[UPSC 2024] Under which of the following Articles of the Constitution of India has the Supreme Court of India placed the Right to Privacy?

Options:

- (a) Article 15
- (b) Article 16
- (c) Article 19
- (d) Article 21

Answer d
Explanation: K.S. Puttaswamy vs.
Union of India (2017): Right to
privacy recognized as an essential
part of Article 21





Gundaram inscriptions in Telangana's Peddapalli shed light on the Satavahana era

 Recently Archaeological Survey of India (ASI) uncovered eleven inscriptions in Telangana's Gundaram Reserve Forest, offering key insights into the region's ancient history, particularly during the Satavahana period.



About the Satavahana Dynasty:

- The Satavahana dynasty emerged after the fall of the Mauryan Empire around 60 BCE, ruling over Andhra Pradesh, Maharashtra, Karnataka, and Madhya Pradesh.
- Simuka, the founding king, reigned from 60 BC to 37 BC and was succeeded by his brother Kanha.

Rulers:

- Satakarni I (70–60 BC) conquered western Malwa from the Shungas.
- Gautamiputra Satakarni (106–130 AD) expanded the empire and patronized Brahmanism and Buddhism.
- Vashishtaputra Pulamayi (130–154
 AD) extended his reign to the mouth of the Krishna River.
- Yajna Sri Satakarni (165–194 AD)
 was the last great ruler, expanding
 the empire to Kokan and Malwa.

Economic and Administrative Contributions:

- The Satavahanas fostered trade with the Romans, promoted agriculture, and implemented a mixed revenue system.
- They also introduced tax-free villages for Brahmins and Buddhist monks.

Religious and Social Structure:

 The Satavahanas promoted Brahmanism and Vedic sacrifices and supported Buddhism. The Varna system governed social structure.

Decline of the Satavahana Dynasty:

 The empire weakened due to weak rulers after Yajna Sri Satakarni and was eventually fragmented by feudatories and invasions from the Shakas.



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Centre hikes Fair and Remunerative Price for Sugarcane

The Cabinet Committee on Economic Affairs (CCEA) has approved a hike of ₹15/quintal in the fair and remunerative price (FRP) of sugarcane to ₹355/quintal, for the next sugar season beginning October 2025-26.

About Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP):

- The FRP for sugarcane is set under the Sugarcane Control Order, 1966.
- It replaced the Statutory Minimum Price (SMP) in 2009-10 to better align with economic conditions and improve farmers' welfare.
- It represents the minimum price sugar mills must pay to farmers for sugarcane.
- It is determined by the central government based on Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (CACP) recommendations, with discussions involving state authorities and sugar industry associations.



Sugarcane Cultivation in India:

- Sugarcane is India's highest production-value crop, key for producing sugar, jaggery, and khan sari.
- Major states: Uttar Pradesh (contributes 50% of total production), Maharashtra, Karnataka, Tamil Nadu, and Andhra Pradesh.
- Sugarcane thrives in a tropical climate (21°C 27°C), with
 75%-150% rainfall. It needs well-drained soil and a cool, dry winter for ripening.
- India has the largest global sugarcane cultivation area after Brazil.
- The ratooning method reduces costs by allowing a second crop from the same roots.

Mains Practice Question:-: Discuss the significance of the Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) mechanism in the context of sugarcane farming in India. How does the recent hike in FRP impact farmers, the sugar industry, and the overall economy? (10 marks, 150 words)





[UPSC 2015]

Question: The Fair and Remunerative Price (FRP) of sugarcane is approved by the:

Options:

(a) Cabinet Committee on Economic **Affairs**

(b) Commission for Agricultural Costs and Prices (c)

Directorate of Marketing and Inspection, Ministry of Agriculture (d) Agricultural Produce Market Committee

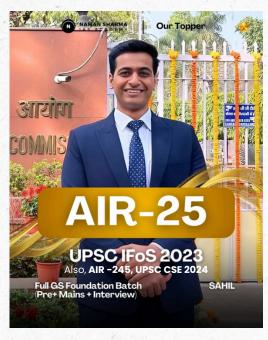
Answer A



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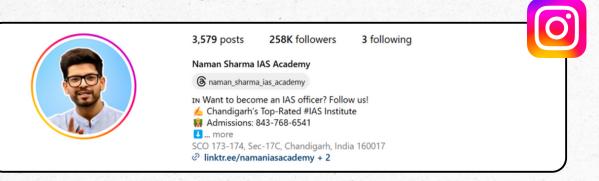
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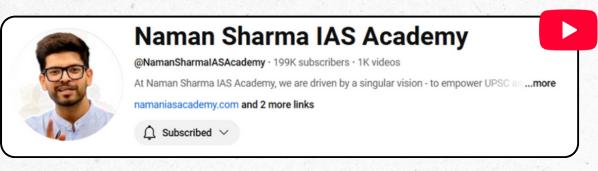






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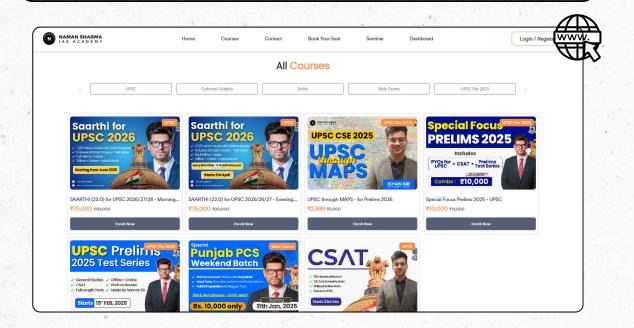






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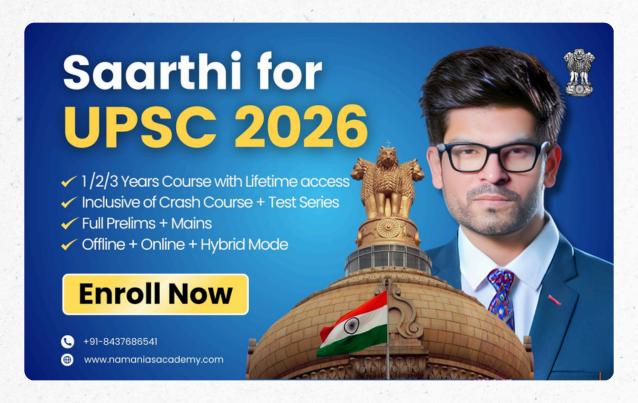
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