

Prelim Bits 01-01-2023 & 02-01-2023 | UPSC Daily Current Affairs

Bhima-Koregaon Battle

The 205th anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle was observed at the Ranstambh (victory pillar) in Perne village in Pune.

- Lakhs of Ambedkarites paid floral tributes to the bravery of the Mahar soldiers who fought against the Peshwa forces in the Bhima-Koregaon battle.
- The Bhima-Koregaon battle was one of the last battles of the Third Anglo-Maratha War.
- The battle was fought between armies of Peshwa Bajirao II and British East India Company on January 1, 1818.
- Majority (about 500) of the British infantry was from the Mahar community.
- **Significance** The battle ended the Peshwa dominance and seen as a sa victory of the Dalits against the injustices.
- The Jaystambh (Ranstambh) is a victory pillar, erected by the British government in 1821 in memory of its soldiers who fought in Bhima-Koregaon battle.
- Babasaheb Ambedkar visited Jaystambh on January 1, 1927, against the ban on the recruitment of the then untouchables in the British Army.
- His visit revitalised the memory of the battle for the Dalit community and asserted pride in them.

The 200th anniversary of the Bhima-Koregaon battle was commemorated in 2018 and also saw <u>caste conflict in Bhima-Koregaon</u> and Wadhu Budruk.

References

- 1. The Hindu Bhima-Koregaon battle anniversary
- 2. Indian Express Bhima-Koregaon Battle Anniversary

Kole Bird Survey 2023

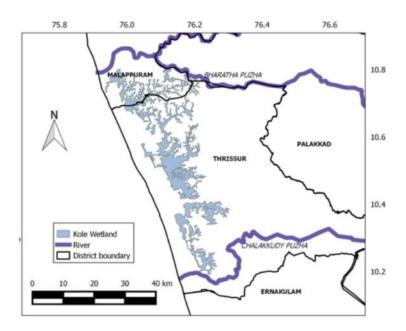
The 32nd Asian Water bird count at Kole Wetlands marks the lowest sighting in three decades.

- The water bird count at the Kole Wetlands was held as part of the annual Asian Water bird Count (AWC) 2023.
- The survey was jointly organised by the Kerala State Forest Department, Kerala Agricultural University & Kole Birders.
- A total of 9,904 birds of 90 wetland dependent species were counted this year which is

a decline from last year survey.

• The whole data on the AWC 2022 has been uploaded into the eBird website.

Kole Wetlands



- The Kole Wetlands is a Ramsar site and an Important Bird Area.
- It spread over Thrissur and Malappuram districts of Kerala between the banks of Chalakudy River in the south and Bharathapuzha River in the north.
- Kole wetlands lies below sea-level and get submerged in the monsoon.
- The cultivation is done after the monsoon when water levels are low and fresh rainwater seeps down as groundwater.

References

- 1. The Hindu Kole bird survey 2023
- 2. New Indian Express Water bird numbers drop in Kole wetlands

108th Indian Science Congress

The 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) will be held at Rashtrasant Tukadoji Maharaj Nagpur University in Maharashtra.

- The 108th Indian Science Congress (ISC) focuses on ways to increase the representation of women in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) fields.
- Also provide them with equal access to STEM education, research and economic participation.
- This year's theme: Science and Technology for Sustainable Development with Women Empowerment.

Other programmes to be organized alongside ISC

• A special programme to showcase the contribution of women in science and technology.

- **Children's Science Congress** To help stimulate scientific interest and temperament among children.
- **Farmer's Science Congress** To provide a platform to improve the bio-economy and attract youth to agriculture.
- **Tribal Science Congress** Acts as a platform for scientific display of indigenous ancient knowledge system and practice, along with focusing on the empowerment of tribal women.

Indian Science Congress Association

- The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) is a professional body under Department of science and technology, Ministry of Science and Technology.
- The Indian Science Congress Association (ISCA) organizes the annual Indian Science Congress.
- The Indian Science Congress was first held in 1914.
- The objectives of ISCA
 - 1. Advancing and promoting the cause of science in India.
 - 2. Holding an annual congress at a suitable place in India.
 - 3. Publishing proceedings, journals, transactions and other publications.
 - 4. Securing and managing funds and endowments for the promotion of science, among others.

References

- 1. The Hindu PM Modi to address 108th Indian Science Congress
- 2. Live Mint PM to address Indian Science Congress
- 3. The India Science Congress Association

Sarsa Rivulet

Sarsa rivulet associated with pivotal moment in Guru Gobind Singh's life is dying.

- The Sarsa originates in the Shivalik hills in Himachal Pradesh.
- It flows through Solan district that borders Punjab, enters Rupnagar district in Punjab and eventually flows into the Sutlej.

Issue

- The Baddi-Barotiwala-Nalagarh (BBN) industrial complex, one of India's largest manufacturing hubs, is located near the Sarsa.
- Pharmaceutical waste being discharged into the Sarsa from BBN industrial complex has affected the river's biota.
- It made the water unfit for human consumption and also causing the area to become prone to antimicrobial resistance.

Guru Gobind Singh and Sarsa

• On December 21, 1704, a battle took place on the banks of the Sarsa between the Khalsa and Mughal armies.

- **Guru Gobind Singh**'s mother and his two younger sons were separated from the main party consisting of the Guru.
- The Sarsa was where the Guru's family got separated in the winter of 1704, never got together again.
- Gurdwara Parivaar Vichhora Sahib stands on the spot where the battle of Sarsa took place and the family was separated.

References

1. <u>Down To Earth - Sarsa Rivulet is dying</u>

Moon Missions in 2023

Various Moon missions from national space agencies and private space companies lined to head in 2023.

Ispace's Hakuto R mission

- **Hakuto-R** is a lunar lander developed by ispace, a Japanese space technology.
- Though it was launched in December 2022, only expected to reach the Moon by April 2023.
- It was launched along with the Rashid Rover, the United Arab Emirates' first lunar rover, and NASA's Lunar Flashlight.
- NASA's Lunar Flashlight The mission's trajectory will take it far beyond the Moon, to understand the presence of water in the Moon's South Pole.
- Rashid Rover It was the UAE's first lunar rover, named after Dubai's royal family.

India's Chandrayaan-3

- The <u>Chandrayaan-3</u> mission is scheduled to launch aboard a Launch Vehicle Marks 3 (<u>LVM3</u>) in June 2023.
- It will be a follow up to the ISRO's Chandrayaan-2 mission which consists of a lunar lander and a lunar rover.
- The propulsion module behaves like a communications relay satellite for the spacecraft that land.

Russia's Luna 25 mission

- Russia's Roscosmos space agency plans to launch its Luna-25 mission to the Moon in July 2023.
- Luna-25 is a planned lunar lander mission, since the Soviet Union's Luna-24 mission in 1976.
- The Luna 25 mission is scheduled to land at the Moon's South Pole at a crater called Boguslavsky.

SpaceX's dearMoon

- The week-long lunar tourism mission is scheduled to happen in 2023.
- The mission will be launched on SpaceX's Starship launch vehicle.

References

1. Indian Express - Missions to the Moon in 2023

