# 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 as a 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 caste conflict in Bhima-Koregaon 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. Down To Earth - Sarsa Rivulet is dying


## 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 **Chandrayaan-3** mission is scheduled to launch aboard a Launch Vehicle Marks 3 (**LVM3**) 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



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