



CURRENT AFFAIRS 9th May 2023

National News

1. Asteroid 2023 HG1 Hurling Through Space towards Earth at 7200 Kmp/h



- Details have been released by NASA's Jet Propulsion Laboratory about five asteroids that will approach Earth closely in May.
- Asteroid 2023 HG1 is currently travelling towards Earth at a speed of 7200 KMPH (2 KMPH) and is estimated to be the size of a house.
- On May 9, 2023, it is expected to pass within 2,590,000 miles (4,160,000 km) of Earth, with a diameter of 60 feet (18 metres).
- NASA explains that asteroids are remnants from the formation of our solar system approximately 4.6 billion years ago.
- The formation process involved the collapse of a large cloud of gas and dust, with most of the material accumulating at the centre to form the sun.

- According to NASA, planets formed from some of the dust that condensed in the cloud, while the objects in the asteroid belt are remnants from that era.
- Asteroids vary in size and shape since they develop in different regions and distances from the sun, making them distinct from one another.
- They do not exist in the same manner as planets and have uneven, rough outlines. Some asteroids range from several hundred miles in diameter to pebble-sized.

2. New Lithium deposits discovered in Rajasthan after J&K



- Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana following the recent discovery in Jammu and Kashmir's Reasi.
- The newly discovered reserves in Degana are believed to be larger than those found in Jammu and Kashmir and officials claim that they could meet up to 80% of India's demand for lithium.
- This is the first time that lithium reserves have been found in Degana.
- Previously, only a minor lithium reserve had been discovered in Karnataka, making this the first significant mineral discovery of its kind in India.
- The discovery has been attributed to the mines ministry's renewed focus on rare earth metals, as lithium is a crucial component of batteries used in electric vehicles.
- The government is actively searching for rare metal reserves both domestically and internationally.
- The Geological Survey of India (GSI) is not the only organization involved in this effort.

- A consortium of three Public-sector Undertaking companies, including National Aluminium Company, Hindustan Copper, and Mineral Exploration Corp, is also involved in research and development of lithium-ion batteries through recycling, acquisition, and joint manufacturing efforts.
- The majority of the world's lithium reserves are concentrated in the "lithium triangle" of Argentina, Bolivia, and Chile, with half of the deposits located in these regions.

3. India leads as top source market for Sri Lanka's tourism for April 2023



- India led as the top source market for Sri Lanka's tourism sector for the month of April 2023. India regained the top spot after six months as almost 20,000 Indian tourists arrived in the island nation last month.
- Sri Lanka's Tourism Authority figures showed that 19,915 Indians had visited the island in April over 14,656 Russian tourist arrivals.
- Russians remained the top inbound market from October 2022 to March this year.
- Tourist arrivals from India in 2022 stood at 1.23 lakhs with a share of 17.1 per cent.
- In April, the arrivals topped 100,000 for the fourth consecutive time since in the island taking the total arrivals in the first four months to over 4.4 lakhs.
- Sri Lanka has achieved nearly 7.2 lakh tourist arrivals in 2022.

- Chairman of the SLTDA Priantha Fernando had said last month that the target for tourist arrivals in Sri Lanka will be revised to 20 lakhs from the initial estimates of 15 lakhs.
- Sri Lanka has two official languages: Sinhala and Tamil.
- The country has a total land area of approximately 65,610 square kilometers.
- Sri Lanka has a tropical climate, with the rainy season lasting from May to September and the dry season lasting from December to March.
- The Sri Lankan rupee is the official currency of the country.
- The highest point in Sri Lanka is Pidurutalagala, which stands at 2,524 meters (8,281 feet) tall.
- Sri Lanka is home to several UNESCO World Heritage Sites, including the ancient city of Polonnaruwa, the Sigiriya Rock Fortress, and the Temple of the Tooth in Kandy.

4. PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra inaugurated at Warasiguda in Secunderabad



PM JAN AUSHADHI KENDRA INAUGURATED AT WARASIGUDA

- Union Tourism Minister G Kishan Reddy inaugurated a PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad.
- During the inauguration, Mr Reddy highlighted the importance of these Jan Aushadhi Kendras in providing affordable healthcare and generating self-employment opportunities for youth.
- He explained that the Pradhan Mantri Bharatiya Janaushadhi scheme was launched with the aim of making quality generic medicines accessible to the common man at low cost.

- Mr Reddy emphasized that medicines sold at Janausadhi Kendras are available at significantly lower prices, ranging from 50 to 90 percent less than what can be found in regular medical shops.
- Despite the low prices, he assured that there is no compromise on the quality of medicines being offered at these centers.
- The Union Minister's comments suggest that the government is committed to ensuring that everyone has access to medicine and healthcare services that are both affordable and of high quality.
- Pradhan Mantri Jan Aushadhi Kendra (PMJAK) is a scheme launched by the Government of India to provide affordable and quality generic medicines to the general public.
- Under this scheme, the government sets up Jan Aushadhi Kendras, which are stores that sell generic medicines at much lower prices than branded medicines.
- These stores are run by individuals, self-help groups, NGOs, or private institutions that are registered under the PMJAK scheme.

5. India operationalized Sittwe port in Myanmar



- The Sittwe Port in Myanmar has been put into operation by India, with the first shipment departing from the Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port in Kolkata.
- The project is a part of the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport initiative.
- The inaugural shipment, carrying 20,000 bags of cement weighing 1,000 metric tonnes, is expected to arrive at the Sittwe Port.
- Constructed with grant aid from the Indian government, the port has been established based on a framework agreement

between India and Myanmar for building and running a multimodal transit transport facility on the Kaladan river.

- Once the Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP) is fully operational, it will provide an alternative route for connectivity from India's eastern coast to the northeastern states through the Sittwe port.
- The port links to Paletwa in Myanmar via an inland waterway and from Paletwa to Zorinpui in Mizoram via a road segment.

6. Y20 Meet: Kashmir University To Host Delegates From 10 Nations



- The University of Kashmir will host a two-day Youth20 event (Y20) on climate change that will bring together delegates from 10 countries, including India according to Vice Chancellor Prof Neelofar Khan.
- The event, scheduled for May 10 and 11, is expected to attract 17 delegates from nine foreign countries, with four delegates from Russia and Indonesia, two each from the US and Brazil, and one each from Turkey, Japan, South Korea, Nigeria and Mexico.
- The University of Kashmir has chosen this theme to address local issues of climate change and man-made disaster management, as they have expertise in the subject of climate change and glacier studies.
- The meeting aims to encourage youth to share their ideas on how they can contribute to addressing and mitigating the impacts of climate change.
- Out of 15 premier institutions in India, the University of Kashmir has been selected to host the Youth20 consultation during the

G20 presidency, as part of India's efforts to involve the youth in discussions on climate change.

- This decision was made in light of the university's extensive research on climate change.
- The university has recently been recognized by the Department of Science and Technology and awarded the Center of Excellence in Glacial Studies in the Western Himalayas.
- The theme of the event is "Climate change and Disaster Risk Reduction: Making Sustainability a Way of Life".
- An outcome document will be prepared based on the inputs from the discussions.

7. Russia stages the 78th Victory Day parade at Red Square, Moscow



- Russia held the 78th Victory Day parade anniversary on May 9th, at Red Square in Moscow to celebrate the historic victory of the Soviet Union in 1945, when they defeated Nazi Germany in World War II, also known as the Great Patriotic War.
- This year's parade featured more than 10,000 individuals and 125 pieces of weaponry, which were all showcased by the Russian Defense Minister, Sergey Shoigu.
- The anniversary is particularly poignant this year as the country mourns the thousands of soldiers who have lost their lives in the 15-month war in Ukraine, which shows no signs of ending anytime soon.
- In the face of this tragedy, President Vladimir Putin delivered a speech on May 9th amidst tight security following a series of drone attacks, some of which targeted the Kremlin citadel itself, all of which Moscow has alleged to be the work of Kyiv.

PLUTUS ACADEMY