

9th May 2023

INTERNATIONAL

1) Sri Lanka's tourism sector for the month of 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.



2) 78th Victory Day parade

- 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.

NATIONAL

1) Reserve Bank of India

- The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has announced that it has deployed its incremental reserves in bonds and securities, with a particular focus on US Treasuries and debt issued by other top-rated sovereigns.
- This move is part of the bank's ongoing efforts to manage its foreign currency assets and ensure the stability of the Indian economy.













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2) Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's

- Fitch Ratings has affirmed India's long-term foreign-currency issuer default rating (IDR) at 'BBB-' with a stable outlook.
- The rating agency cited India's robust growth outlook and resilient external finances as key factors in supporting its decision, despite concerns over weak public finances and lagging structural indicators. Fitch forecast India to be one of the fastest-growing Fitch-rated sovereigns globally at 6% in the fiscal year ending March 2024 (FY24), supported by resilient investment prospects.
- However, headwinds from elevated inflation, high interest rates, and subdued global demand, along with fading pandemic-induced pent-up demand, will slow growth from our FY23 estimate of 7.0% before rebounding to 6.7% by FY25.



3) MakeMyTrip

- MakeMyTrip, leading travel portal announced a collaboration with Microsoft to bring travel planning to a wider audience through the introduction of voice-assisted booking in Indian languages.
- The new technology stack incorporates Microsoft Azure OpenAI Service and Azure Cognitive Services to enable personalised travel recommendations for users based on their preferences.

4) 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations

- The 42nd Summit of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) has kicked off in Indonesia with a theme of "ASEAN Affairs: Epicenter of Growth."
- The summit aims to demonstrate the bloc's hopes and efforts to become the center and driving force behind global development.
- President Joko Widodo, who holds the presidency of the bloc, emphasized the enormous potential of the ASEAN region, which has a total population of around 650 million inhabitants and consistently outperforms the world average in terms of economic growth.
- He called on member countries to unite in terms of production power to make Southeast Asia the center of global growth.





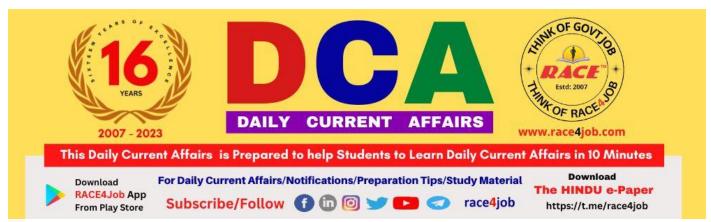








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5) Youth20 event

- 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.

6) Global IT research firm Everest Group

- Global IT research firm Everest Group has released its annual PEAK Matrix Service Provider of the Year Awards for Information Technology (IT) services.
- The rankings recognise large IT service providers with over \$2 billion in annual revenue who have demonstrated superior capabilities and service strategies.
- For the seventh year in a row, Accenture has secured the number one spot in the rankings, followed by Tata Consultancy Services (TCS), Capgemini, Wipro, and HCLTech.
- TCS climbed to second place, while Capgemini and Wipro each rose three positions in the rankings over last year.



7) Space Science and Technology Awareness Training

- The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) has announced a new online training programme for postgraduate and final-year undergraduate students of physical sciences and technology.
- The programme is called Space Science and Technology Awareness Training (START) and is part of ISRO's efforts to enable Indian students to become professionals in space science and technology.

8) "First ever" movie in Tagin language

- Union minister Kiren Rijiju said after launching the trailer of the "first ever" movie in Tagin language of his home state Arunachal Pradesh.















- The film looks at displaying the culture of the Tagin community before the whole country and the world. The film depicts the vibrant and colourful world of the 90s, based on the Tagin community in Upper Subansiri district of Arunachal Pradesh and the first film made entirely in Tagin language.
- Directed by Tapen Natam, the film brings to the national platform the rich culture, tradition and local filmmaking initiatives of Arunachal Pradesh.

9) Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor

- The Mumbai-Ahmedabad High-Speed Rail Corridor (MAHSR) is currently under construction to link the major cities of Mumbai and Ahmedabad in India.
- Once completed, it will be the country's first high-speed rail line, resulting in a considerable reduction in travel time between the two cities from 6 hours 35 minutes to just 1 hour 58 minutes.

10) The 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.



STATE NEWS

1) Lithium reserves have been discovered in Rajasthan's Degana

- 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.

2) Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad

- Telangana Chief Minister K. Chandrasekhar Rao laid the foundation for the Hare Krishna Heritage Tower in Hyderabad.















- The 400 feet tall structure will be constructed on six acres of land in Narsingi at a cost of Rs 200 crore. The tower will house the temples of Sri Sri Radha Krishna and Sri Venkateswara Swamy.

3) PM Jan Aushadhi Kendra at Warasiguda in Secunderabad

- 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.

SPORTS

1) Miami Grand Prix 2023

- World champion Max Verstappen powered from ninth on the grid to beat Red Bull team-mate Sergio Perez and win the Miami Grand Prix 2023.
- The victory extends Verstappen's lead at the top of the standings and follows his triumph in the inaugural Miami race last year. Aston Martin's Spanish veteran Fernando Alonso took third for his fourth podium in five races this season as he continues to enjoy his late career revival.
- Charles Leclerc, who crashed late in qualifying and started seventh on the grid, finished in seventh place with Frenchman Pierre Gasly of Alpine in eighth.



BOOKS AND AUTHORS

1) "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills"

- The book titled "Droupadi Murmu: From Tribal Hinterlands to Raisina Hills" tells the inspiring story of a tribal girl who overcame obstacles to become a symbol of resilience, determination, and perseverance.
- Droupadi Murmu achieved many milestones by taking an unconventional path, starting from leaving her small village in Mayurbhanj district of Odisha to becoming the first citizen of India. The author of the book is Kasturi Ray.















AWARDS AND RECOGNITIONS

1) 2023 Pulitzer Prize

- The 2023 Pulitzer Prize winners were announced, with four of the 16 awards for journalism across 15 categories going to local outlets reporting on corruption among local officials.
- The Pulitzers are regarded as the highest honor that a U.S. based journalist or organization can receive. The awards were announced by Marjorie Miller, the administrator of the Pulitzer Prizes.
- There are 22 Pulitzer categories. In 21 of those categories the winners receive a \$15,000 cash award and a certificate.

IMPORTANT DAYS

1) Maharana Pratap Jayanti

- Maharana Pratap Jayanti is celebrated in India every year to commemorate the birth anniversary of the great Rajput warrior, Maharana Pratap.
- According to the Hindu calendar, this auspicious day falls on the third day of the Jyeshtha month. In the year 2023, Maharana Pratap Jayanti will be celebrated on May 22nd.
- This day holds great historical significance as it marks the birth of a brave leader who fought with valor and determination to protect his kingdom and people. It will be Maharana Pratap's 483rd birth anniversary this year.













