



C.A Dated On 01-05-2019

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May Day:

As for May Day in India, the country witnessed the first celebration of Labour Day in 1923 in what was then Madras.

History:

- May 1 is a metonym for International Workers Day, a day of celebration of the working class. Behind it lies a history dating back over one-and-a-half centuries.
- The roots of May 1 can be traced to the second part of the 19th century when there were revolutions, and organisations behind which industrial workers rallied. Countries including Germany, France, England, the US saw demand for reducing work time from 12-15 hours a day to eight hours.
- The Communist Manifesto written by Karl Marx and Engels in 1848 had a great impact on workers across various countries that were feeling the heat of industrialisation.
- Crop failure in the 1840s led to widespread anti-feudal upheavals called 'The Revolutions of 1848'. As a result the International Workingmen's Association, known as the First International, was born in 1864 as an umbrella association for all socialist and communist organisations, at a workers' congregation in London.
- After the First International dissolved in 1876 over an ideological rift, the Second International emerged in 1889 as a united outfit of socialist and [labour](#) parties. It was this organisation that declared May 1 as International Workers' Day and March 8 as International Women's Day.

Origin:

- Historically, an event is referred to as the origin of May 1 as Workers' Day -- the Haymarket Affair or the Haymarket massacre.
- When labourers assembled at the Haymarket Square in Chicago on May 4, 1886 and took out a rally for eight-hour work day, a bombing attack was mounted on them by some unknown forces.
- Police firing and loss of 11 lives were reported at the rally that ended in riot.



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May day in India:

- As for May Day in India, the country witnessed the first celebration of Labour Day in 1923 in what was then Madras.
- Led by Singaravelar, leader of the Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan, two meetings were held, one at Triplicane Beach and one near the Madras High Court.
- It was at these meetings that a resolution was passed urging the British government to declare May 1 as Labour Day and also a government holiday.
- It was the first occasion in India on which the red flag was used.

Other Aspects:

- There is another aspect to the popular phrase May Day. It has ancient roots in several countries.
- The better known is the Festival of Flora in the old Rome which was billed as May celebration.
- Flora was the goddess of flowers, and the festival was marked by song, dance and theatrical performance.
- Another May Day celebration was in praise of Dionysus and Aphrodite, the Greek gods of grape harvest and love respectively.
- There is also 'Mayday', which is a distress call made by ships and aircraft.
- What is the connection between May Day and Mayday? Nothing. For, Mayday is an anglicised version of the French 'm'aidez' meaning "help me."

Cyclonic Storm "FANI"

Why in News?



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Yesterday's **cyclonic storm 'FANI'** (pronounced as '**FONI'**) over southeast Bay of Bengal (BoB) & neighbourhood moved nearly northwards and intensified into **severe cyclonic storm** in the same evening.

Continuing to move nearly northwards, it intensified further into **very severe cyclonic storm** over southeast and adjoining southwest BoB in the early morning.

It is very likely to intensify further into an **extremely severe cyclonic storm** during next 12 hours.

Classification of Cyclones:

The IMD ranks cyclones on a 5-point scale with the mildest at 62-88 kmph and the strongest, a 'super cyclonic storm', at 221 kmph).

- Cyclonic Storm : Intense low pressure system in which the wind speed on surface level is in between 34 – 47 Kts.
- Severe Cyclonic Storm: Intense low pressure system in which the wind speed on surface level is inbetween 48 – 63 Kts.
- Very Severe Cyclonic Storm : Intense low pressure system in which the wind speed on surface level is inbetween 64 – 119 Kts.
- Super cyclonic storm: Intense low pressure system in which the wind speed on surface level is 120Kts. and above.

About Cyclones in India:

- Cyclonic storm Fani, which is lying about 600 km east of Vishakapatnam and 800 km south of Puri, is the first severe, cyclonic storm to have formed



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in April in India's oceanic neighbourhood since 1976, according to records from the India Meteorological Department (IMD).

- While severe [cyclones](#) (defined as generating maximum windspeeds of 89-117 kmph) can form any time, they tend to be concentrated in November — after the monsoon — or around May, when the monsoon prepares to arrive in Kerala in June.
- The head of IMD told *The Hindu* that such quirks were a consequence of global warming.
- This is a cyclone that's forming due to the warming of the Bay of Bengal basin...with global warming we have to be prepared for such occurrences and take precaution accordingly.
- From 1965-2017, the Bay of Bengal and Arabian sea have collectively registered 46 'severe cyclonic storms.'
- As many as 28 of them were from October-December. Seven of them have been in May and only two — in 1966 and 1976 — were recorded in April, data from the IMD's cyclone-statistics unit shows.
- Tropical cyclones in the Indian neighbourhood begin as 'depressions' or a gradual build-up of warm air and pockets of low pressure.
- About 35% of such formations intensify to 'cyclones' and only 7% intensify to 'very severe cyclones'.
- About 20-30 severe tropical storms occur around the world every year.

Masood Azhar and UNSC:

Why in News?

A decision on whether Pakistan-based Jaish-e-Mohammed chief Masood Azhar will be listed as a global terrorist by the United Nations will be known on May 1 as the world body's Sanctions Committee holds a crucial meeting, [amid indications that China could lift its hold](#) on the proposal to blacklist Azhar.

China's Role:.

- Beijing said on April 30 that the vexed issue of designating Azhar as a global terrorist by the U.N. will be "properly resolved".



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- China had put a hold in March on a fresh proposal by the U.S., U.K. and France to impose a ban on the chief of the JeM which claimed responsibility for the Pulwama terror attack.
- The proposal was the fourth such bid at the U.N. in the last 10 years to list Azhar as a global terrorist.

India's Concern:

- In 2009, India had moved a proposal by itself to designate Azhar a terrorist. Again, in 2016 India moved the proposal with the P3 — the United States, the United Kingdom and France — in the U.N.'s 1267 Sanctions Committee to ban Azhar, also the mastermind of the attack on the air base in Pathankot in January 2016.
- In 2017, the P3 nations moved a similar proposal again.

However, on all occasions China, a veto-wielding permanent member of the Security Council, blocked India's proposal from being adopted by the Sanctions Committee.

Background:

- Keeping up the international pressure to designate Azhar as a global terrorist, the U.S., supported by France and the U.K., moved a draft resolution directly in the U.N. Security Council to blacklist the Pakistan-based terror organisation's head.
- Though China can exercise its veto power as a permanent member of the UNSC, Beijing has staunchly opposed the issue to be taken to the apex U.N. body as it has to publicly explain its stand on its reservations to list Azhar, whose group JeM has already been designated as terror outfit by UN, before exercising its veto.

What will happen upon Listing?

- A UNSC designation will subject Azhar to an assets freeze, travel ban and an arms embargo.
- An assets freeze under the Sanctions Committee requires that all states freeze without delay the funds and other financial assets or economic resources of designated individuals and entities.



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- The travel ban entails preventing the entry into or transit by all states through their territories by designated individuals.

Drug-resistant diseases:

Why in News?

Drug-resistant diseases could cause 10 million deaths each year by 2050, warned the UN Ad Hoc Interagency Coordinating Group on Antimicrobial Resistance in a report released on Monday.

It added that by 2030, antimicrobial resistance could force up to 24 million people into extreme poverty.

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Statistics and observation:

- Currently, at least 7,00,000 people die each year due to drug-resistant diseases, including 2,30,000 people who die from multidrug-resistant tuberculosis.
- It also noted that more and more common diseases, including respiratory tract infections, sexually transmitted infections and urinary tract infections, are becoming untreatable; lifesaving medical procedures are becoming riskier, and food systems are getting increasingly precarious.
- “Antimicrobial resistance is one of the greatest threats we face as a global community. This report reflects the depth and scope of the response needed to curb its rise and protect a century of progress in [health](#).”
- The report noted that the world is already feeling the economic and health consequences as crucial medicines become ineffective.
- Without investment from countries in all income brackets, future generations will face the disastrous impacts of uncontrolled antimicrobial resistance.

Recommendations:

It has now recommended that countries:



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- Prioritise national action plans to scale-up financing and capacity-building efforts.
- Put in place stronger regulatory systems and support awareness programs for responsible and prudent use of antimicrobials by professionals in human, animal and plant health and
- Invest in ambitious research and development for new technologies to combat antimicrobial resistance.

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National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA)

What is it?

- The Union Cabinet approved the creation of a National Financial Reporting Authority (NFRA), a big step forward in regulating the financial audit of large companies.
- The NFRA is to be an independent regulator overseeing the auditing profession, and its creation was first recommended by the Standing Committee on Finance in its 21st report.

How did it come about?

- While many provisions of the Companies Act, 2013 came into force on April 1, 2014, the setting up of the NFRA, a key recommendation, was delayed.
- The decision appears to have been prompted by the latest bank scam to have hit the headlines — the ₹12,636 crore Punjab National Bank fraud that went undetected by auditors.
- The Institute of Chartered Accountants of India (ICAI) had initially voiced its discontent with the idea of a regulator for the sector, saying the existing structure was adequate.
- The government has clarified that the roles of the new regulator and those of the ICAI will not overlap.

Why does it matter?



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- The government is quite clear that the need for such a body is all the more important after several financial accounting scams, the most recent of which was the Punjab National Bank scam.
- However, the idea for an NFRA came following the Satyam scam in 2009, following which the Standing Committee on Finance recommended the creation of an audit regulator.
- Most of the major economies of the world have independent audit regulators, and over the last decade or so, umbrella bodies have come up that have provided an element of cohesion to these regulators.

What lies ahead?

- Apart from setting the rules and regulations governing the audit sector, the NFRA will have the power to debar erring auditors or audit firm for up to 10 years and impose significant fines on them.
- According to Section 132 of the Companies Act, 2013, the NFRA will have powers to impose a fine of not less than ₹1 lakh, but the amount can extend up to five times of the fees received in case of individuals.
- The government has to set the rules that will stipulate the jurisdiction of the NFRA.
- Specifically, it has to set a limit on the size of an unlisted company that comes under the purview of the NFRA.

Ancient Molecule in Space:

Why in News?

Scientists have detected the most ancient type of molecule in our universe in space for the first time ever.

Details:

- Helium hydride ion (HeH^+) was the first molecule that formed when, almost 14 billion years ago, falling temperatures in the young universe allowed recombination of the light elements produced in the Big Bang.



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- At that time, ionised hydrogen and neutral helium atoms reacted to form HeH^+ , said researchers from The Max Planck Institute for Radio Astronomy (MPIfR) in Germany.
- Despite its importance in the history of the early Universe, HeH^+ has so far escaped detection in astrophysical nebulae — cloud of gas and dust in outer space.

Who detected it?

- Operating the GREAT far-infrared spectrometer onboard the flying observatory SOFIA, an international team reported unambiguous detection of the molecule towards the planetary nebula NGC 7027.

How did it form?

- During the dawn of [chemistry](#) when the temperature in the young universe had fallen below 4000 Kelvin, the ions of the light elements (hydrogen, helium, deuterium and traces of lithium) produced in Big Bang nucleosynthesis recombined in reverse order of their ionisation potential.
- Helium combined first with free electrons to form the first ever neutral atom, according to the study published in the journal *Nature*.
- At that time hydrogen was still ionised or present in form of bare protons. Helium atoms combined with these protons into the helium hydride ion HeH^+ , the universe's first molecular bond.
- As recombination progressed, HeH^+ reacted with then neutral hydrogen and created a first path to the formation of molecular hydrogen — marking the beginning of the modern universe.

The detection of this special molecule brings a long search to a happy ending, and eliminates doubts that we might not understand the underlying formation and destruction as well as we thought, researchers said.

Varuna 19.1 Bilateral Exercise

Why in News?



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The first part of the Indo-French joint naval exercise, Varuna 19.1 will be conducted off the Goa coast from 1st to 10th May 19.

Details:

- The upcoming 17th edition includes participation of the French Navy's aircraft carrier FNS Charles de Gaulle, two destroyers, FNS Forbin and FNS Provence, the frigate FNS Latouche-Treville, the tanker FNS Marne and a nuclear submarine.
- From the Indian side, the aircraft carrier INS Vikramaditya, destroyer INS Mumbai, the Teg-class frigate, INS Tarkash, the Shishumar- class submarine, INS Shankul, and the Deepak- class fleet tanker, INS Deepak, will be participating in this exercise.
- The exercise will be conducted in two phases. The harbour phase at Goa would include cross-visits, professional interactions and discussions and sports events.
- The sea phase would comprise various exercises across the spectrum of maritime operations.
- The second part, Varuna 19.2, is scheduled to be held at the end of May in Djibouti.

Background:

- The bilateral naval exercise initiated in 1983 and christened as 'Varuna' in 2001, form a vital part of the Indo-French strategic partnership.
- Having grown in scope and complexity over the years, this exercise exemplifies the strong relations between the two nations, in line with the Joint Strategic Vision of India-French Cooperation in the Indian Ocean Region.

Aim of Exercise:

- The Varuna exercise aims at developing interoperability between the two navies and fostering mutual cooperation by learning from each other's best practices to conduct joint operations.
- The exercise underscores the shared interests and commitment of both nations in promoting maritime security.



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