

My Notes....

NATIONAL

MAY DAY IS CELEBRATED

- **1 May is marked as May Day** also referred to as **International Workers' Day** and **Labour Day** in different countries across the world.
- In India, **May Day was first celebrated on 1 May 1923**, after the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan** was initiated and Comrade **Singaravelar (Singaravelu Chettiar)** helmed the celebrations.

SUPREME COURT DIRECTLY GRANT DIVORCE TO COUPLES

- A **constitution or five-judge bench of the Supreme Court** held that it can exercise its powers under **Article 142** of the Constitution to **directly grant a decree of divorce to consenting parties**.
- The **judgement relates to a 2014 case, titled Shilpa Sailesh vs. Varun Sreenivasan**, where the parties sought a **divorce under Article 142** of the Indian Constitution.

THE POSH ACT

- **More than half — 16 — of India's 30 national sports federations** do not have an **Internal Complaints Committee (ICC)**, a legal requirement under the **Prevention of Sexual Harassment (PoSH) Act, 2013**.
- The **Sexual Harassment of Women at Workplace (Prevention, Prohibition and Redressal) Act**, commonly known as the **PoSH Act**, was passed in 2013.
- It defined **sexual harassment** lay down the **procedures for complaint and inquiry**, and the action to be taken in cases of **sexual harassment**.

THE LAW ON POLYGAMY IN INDIA

- **Polygamy** is the **practice of having more than one married spouse** — wife or husband. The issue is governed both by **personal laws** and the **Indian Penal Code (IPC)**.
- Parliament passed the **Hindu Marriage Act in 1955**, outlawing the **concept of having more than one spouse** at a time.
- **Buddhists, Jains, and Sikhs** are also included under the **Hindu Marriage Code**. The **Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act, 1936**, had already **outlawed bigamy**.
- **Marriage in Islam** is governed by the **Shariat Act, 1937**. Personal law allows a **Muslim man to have four wives**.

BEHIND THE VIOLENCE IN MANIPUR

- The **longstanding demand** of the **Meitei community to be included in the list of the state's Scheduled Tribes (ST)**.
- The **demand for ST status for the Meitei community has long been opposed** by the **state's tribal groups**.

INTERNATIONAL

THE ARAB LEAGUE REINSTATED SYRIA

- The **Arab League** on 7 May 2023 **voted to reinstate Syria's membership** after its **suspension more than 10 years ago**, underlining the **thawing relations between Damascus and other Arab countries**.
- The **Arab League**, formally known as the **League of Arab States**, was established in **1945** with initially just **six nations: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria**.
- Currently, **it has 22 member states**, who have pledged to cooperate on economic and military affairs, among other issues.

KALADAN PROJECT

- A vessel was flagged off from **Syama Prasad Mookerjee Port** in Kolkata to officially kick-start the operation of **Sittwe Port in Myanmar**.
- It is part of **Kaladan Multimodal Transit Transport Project (KMTTP)** with a primary aim to create an alternative route to connect northeast and mainland India.
- **Inland Waterways Authority of India (IWAI)** is the Project Development Consultant for KMTTP.

WASHINGTON DECLARATION

- **South Korean President visited U.S. to commemorate the 70th anniversary of U.S.-South Korea bilateral relations.**
- A highlight of the visit was the **signing of the “Washington Declaration”** as a nuclear deterrence strategy.

TITLE 42 IS ENDING

- The **United States is getting ready to lift COVID-19 restrictions** that have **blocked migrants** caught at the **U.S.-Mexico border** from seeking **asylum since 2020**, a major policy shift with **humanitarian and political implications**.
- The **COVID restrictions**, known as **Title 42**, were first implemented under Republican then-**President Donald Trump in March 2020** at the beginning of the pandemic.

ECONOMY

THE PREVENTION OF MONEY LAUNDERING ACT (PMLA), 2002

- **New rule** has brought in practicing **Chartered Accountants, Company Secretaries**, and Cost and Works Accountants **carrying out financial transactions** on behalf of their clients into the **ambit of PMLA**.
- Financial transactions that would be considered for monitoring include **buying and selling of any immovable property; managing of client money**, securities or other assets; management of bank, savings or securities accounts etc.

GLOBAL FINANCIAL INNOVATION NETWORK (GFIN)

- The **Reserve Bank of India** has opened the application window for **all India based firms and innovators** to participate in **Global Financial Innovation Network (GFIN)'s first ever Greenwashing TechSprint**.
- **Greenwashing** is marketing that portrays an **organisation's products, activities or policies** as producing **positive environmental or social outcomes**, or avoiding environmental or social harm, when this is not the case.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

VOYAGER 2 PROBE GETS NEW LEASE OF LIFE

- The **Voyager 2 spacecraft** was **launched in 1977** and it is **now more than 20 billion kilometres away from Earth**. Now, it plans to keep the **spacecraft's science instruments turned on** for a few years longer than previously anticipated.
- **Voyager 2 and Voyager 1** are the **only spacecraft that have ever operated outside the heliosphere**, which is considered to be the **border of our solar system**.

BABY BORN WITH THREE PEOPLE'S DNA

- **In a first**, a **baby in the United Kingdom (UK)** has been born using **three people's DNA**, UK's fertility regulator **Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority (HFEA)** has confirmed on 10 May 2023.

- The technique, called **early pronuclear transfer**, involves **transplanting the nuclear DNA from a fertilised egg into a donated egg**, which contains **healthy mitochondria**, on the day of fertilisation. It has extensively been researched ever **since 2015-16**.

25TH ANNIVERSARY OF POKHRAN-II

- **On 11 May 1998**, India conducted **three nuclear bomb test** explosions at the **Indian Army's Pokhran Test Range**. Two days later, on 13 May, **two more bombs were tested**.
- Codenamed **Operation Shakti (literally, "strength")**, these tests **would display India's capability** to build **fission and thermonuclear weapons**.
- **On 18 May 1974 with support from Indira**, India carried out its **first nuclear test at the Pokhran test site**. **Pokhran-I**, codenamed **Operation Smiling Buddha**, would be billed as a **"peaceful nuclear explosion"**, with **"few military implications"**.

NEUROTOXINS GAS LEAK LEADS TO DEATHS

- **11 people died due to Hydrogen Sulphide gas leak** (a kind of **neurotoxin**) in the **Giaspura area of Ludhiana**.
- **Neurotoxins are poisonous substances** which can **directly affect the nervous system**.
- **Methane, hydrogen sulphide, carbon monoxide and carbon dioxide** are **common neurotoxic gases**.

LIGO-INDIA

- The government has given the final go-ahead to **India's Laser Interferometer Gravitational-Wave Observatory, or LIGO-India**.
- The **LIGO-India facility** is being constructed in the **Hingoli district in Maharashtra**.
- **LIGO - India** is a planned **advanced gravitational-wave observatory** to be located in India as part of the worldwide network.
- This Project is funded by **Department of Atomic Energy (DAE)** and the **Department of Science and Technology (DST)**.

MISCELLANEOUS

WORLD PRESS FREEDOM DAY

- **World Press Freedom Day** is celebrated annually on **3rd May** to **raise awareness** about the **importance of press freedom** and the **role of journalists** in promoting democracy and defending human rights.
- This day was declared by the **United Nations General Assembly in 1993** to mark the anniversary of the **Windhoek Declaration**, a statement of principles for a **free press in Africa** that was adopted by journalists and media professionals from across the continent in 1991.

WORLD THALASSEMIA DAY 2023

- **On 8th May 1994**, **Thalassemia International Federation (TIF)** observed **World Thalassemia Day** in memory of George Englezos.
- **In India, thalassemia**, along with two other blood disorders, **was recognised as a benchmark disability** in the **Rights of Persons with Disabilities Act, of 2016**.
- **Thalassemia is a genetic-blood disorder** that requires people to have **regular blood transfusions** mostly throughout the span of their life.

MISSION AMRIT SAROVAR

- **More than 50,000 water bodies** have been rejuvenated ahead of schedule (build 50,000 'Amrit Sarovar' by August 2023) under the Mission Amrit Sarovar.
- **Mission Amrit Sarovar** was launched in 2022 with an objective to develop **at least 75 Amrit Sarovar in every district** of the country with a view **to conserve water for the future**. The **Ministry of Rural Development is the nodal ministry**.

CYCLONE MOCHA BUILDING OVER BAY OF BENGAL

- The **Indian Meteorological Department (IMD)** has said that a **cyclonic** or **low-pressure area** developed in the **Bay of Bengal**.
- This cyclone will be named **Mocha (Mokha)**, a name suggested **by Yemen** after the **Red Sea port city**, which is known to have introduced coffee to the world over 500 years ago.
- **Cyclone Mocha**, a tropical cyclone, has been developed due to **storm in southeast Bay of Bengal (BoB)**.

THE PROGRESS TO END CHILD MARRIAGE

- Despite a steady **decline in child marriage** in the last decade, multiple crises including **conflict, climate shocks**, and the **ongoing fallout from COVID-19** are threatening to reverse hard-earned gains, according to a new analysis issued by UNICEF.
- **India** has recorded **significant progress in recent decades**, it still accounts for **one-third of world's child brides**.

QUESTIONS IN LAST YEAR (2022) PT FROM MY NOTES

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