

### INTERNATIONAL LABOUR DAY



The International Labour Day was recently observed to honour the contribution of workers across the world.

- International Labour Day, also known as **Workers Day** or **May Day**, is a global event that takes place annually on **May 1st**.
- It is a day dedicated to **honouring the efforts and achievements of workers** and the **labour movement**.
- **Over 80 countries**, including **India, Cuba, and China**, mark **International Labour day**.
- On this day, people all over the world march to advocate working-class rights and protect them from exploitation.
- **History:**
  - The origins of International Labour Day can be traced back to the late 19th-century labour movement in the United States.
  - **In 1886, a large demonstration** happened in **America** where the labours demanded eight hours of work on a daily basis.
  - However, soon the **demonstration went out of hand**, and in Chicago, a lot of people got hurt. This incident came to be **known as the Haymarket Affair**.
  - **The Haymarket Affair incident** marked the **start of International Labour Day**.
  - **In 1889**, a lot of **socialist parties in Europe** came together and **decided to celebrate May 1** as International Labour Day.
  - Since then, the special day has been observed every year on the same day.
  - **In India**, the **first May Day** was **celebrated in Chennai** (then Madras) **in 1923** by the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan**.

**Key Facts about International Labour Organization (ILO):**

- It is a **specialized agency of the United Nations (UN)** dedicated to improving labour conditions and living standards throughout the world.
- **Established in 1919 by the Treaty of Versailles** as an affiliated agency of the League of Nations, the **ILO became the first affiliated specialized agency of the UN in 1946.**
- It is **devoted to advancing opportunities** for women and men to **obtain decent and productive work** in conditions of freedom, equity, security, and human dignity.
- Its main aims are to **promote rights at work, encourage decent employment opportunities, enhance social protection,** and strengthen dialogue in handling work-related issues.
- In recognition of its activities, the ILO was awarded the **Nobel Prize for Peace in 1969.**

## HINDU MARRIAGE ACT, 1955

The Supreme Court recently said mere registration of marriage in absence of a proper ceremony would not be valid under the Hindu Marriage Act.



**Hindu Marriage Act, 1955 (HMA Act)** codifies the law relating to marriage among Hindus.

- It not only **provides for the ceremonies and registration** for Hindu marriage but also lays down rules regarding divorce.
- **Salient Features:**
  - A **Hindu by birth or by conversion** is the subject of HMA Act.
  - The definition of Hindu under the HMA Act **includes Buddhist, Jain, and Sikh** as well.
  - **Marriageable age:**
    - The **bridegroom** must be at **least 21 years old**, and the **bride** must be at **least 18 years old** when they get married.
    - **Marriage among minors is punishable** with imprisonment upto 3 years and/or fine upto Rs 1 lakh.
- **Significance of ceremonies:**

- **Customary practices** (customs/ long-term usages (Reeti-Riwaz)) are well respected under the HMA Act.
- **Saptapadi**, i.e., steps taken by the bride and groom before holy fire, is a **necessary ritual for marriage** among Hindus.
- However, **marriage ceremonies are subject to customs** and accepted accordingly.
- **Forbidding bigamy:**
  - It also brought an **end to the customary practice of bigamy, polygamy, or polyandry**, i.e., multiple marriages.
  - Section 5 of the Act specifies that **it is illegal to have two living wives at once**, which is known as bigamy.
- **Registration:**
  - **Registration** of a Hindu marriage is **subject to laws applicable in particular states**.
  - However, a marriage is **not invalid** or **illegal due to lack of an official certificate**.
- **Divorce:**
  - The Act also **allows divorce through mutual consent**.
  - Although parties are **legally not allowed** to seek **divorce within 1 year** of marriage, they **can go for judicial separation**.
  - However, **divorce may be granted before completion of 1 year in special circumstances** of exceptional hardship.
- **Restitution of conjugal rights:**
  - Unlike any other matrimonial laws in India, the HMA Act also contains **provisions for restitution of conjugal rights**.
  - So, **if one of the spouses leaves the other without any reasonable excuse**, the other spouse may **reach the court to restore their matrimonial relations and bring back the spouse**.
- **Legal Procedures:**

- **Matters of Hindu marriages and divorce follow procedure in family court in India.**
- **Matters under the Act are taken up by the courts of territorial jurisdiction (city/ town) where the marriage was celebrated, where one of the parties resides, or where the husband and wife last resided together.**

## WHY CAN PERSONS UNDER IMPRISONMENT CONTEST POLLS BUT NOT VOTE?

### **Legal Status of Right to Vote and Right to be Elected-**

Though free and fair elections are placed on highest constitutional pedestal, Supreme Court (SC) in *Kuldip Nayar v. Union of India* (2006) held that rights to elect and be elected do not enjoy same status. They are “pure and simple statutory rights” and not fundamental rights. Thus, they can be repealed.

### **Bar Against Contesting Elections-**

Section 8 of Representation of People Act (RPA), 1951 provides for disqualification from contesting elections to Parliament or State Legislatures from the date of conviction onwards and face further a six-year disqualification from contesting in elections beginning from the date of their release.

### **Exceptions to Disqualification-**

ECI can “remove” or “reduce” the disqualification period under Section 11 of RPA; Disqualified MPs or MLAs can contest elections if their conviction is stayed by a High Court on filing an appeal.

### **Bar Against Right to Vote for Confined Persons (Section 62(5) of RPA)-**

No person can vote at any election when in prison, whether under a sentence or transportation or in lawful custody of police except for the ones in preventive detention, unless they have been released on bail or have been acquitted. In 1997, SC rejected a challenge to Section 62(5) on four grounds- right to vote was a statutory right and is subject to statutory limitations; there is resource crunch in terms of infrastructure and deployment of police personnel; an imprisoned person cannot claim equal freedom of movement, speech and expression; persons with criminal background should be kept away from elections.

## KEY FACTS ABOUT ISRO'S SPACE APPLICATIONS CENTRE (SAC)



**Space Applications Centre (SAC)** is a major research and development centre of the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO). Located in **Ahmedabad, Gujarat**, SAC is spread across two campuses with multi-disciplinary activities.

- **Genesis:**
  - The genesis of the centre dates back to **1966**, with the **establishment of the Experimental Satellite Communication Earth Station (ESCES)** by the late **Vikram Sarabhai** in Ahmedabad.
  - Later in **1972**, the **different units of ISRO in Ahmedabad** pursuing research in applications of space technology **were merged to form SAC**.
- The core competence of the centre lies in the **development of space borne and air borne instruments/payloads and their applications** for national development and societal benefits.
  - These applications are in diverse areas and primarily meet the **communication, navigation, and remote sensing needs** of the country.
- Besides these, the centre also contributes significantly to scientific and **planetary missions of ISRO** like Chandrayan-1, the Mars Orbiter Mission, etc.
- The **communication transponders developed at this Centre** for Indian National Satellite (**INSAT**) and Geo Synchronous Satellite (**GSAT**) **series of satellites** are used by the government and private sector for VSAT, DTH, Internet, broadcasting, telephones, etc.
- This centre also **designs and develops the optical and microwave sensors** for the satellites, **signal and image processing software, GIS software**, and many **applications for the Earth Observation (EO) programme** of ISRO.
- SAC is a host institution for the **training programmes for students from the Asia Pacific** region under the aegis of the Centre for Space Science and Technology Education in Asia and the Pacific (**CSSTE-AP**) in **satellite meteorology and communication**.

## NAVRATNA STATUS

Recently, Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency public sector undertaking company was granted 'Navratna status' from the department of public enterprises.



- The government categorises all Public Sector Undertakings (PSUs) into three categories, namely **Maharatna, Navratna, and Miniratna.**
- The Government had introduced the 'Navratna' scheme in 1997.

### Criteria for Navratna status

- A PSU should be a **Miniratna-I, Schedule 'A'** company, should have obtained an 'excellent' or 'very good' MoU rating in three of the last five years, and must have a composite score of 60 in six performance indicators.
- It must report a **net profit** of more than **Rs 5,000 crore for three consecutive years**, and maintain an **average annual turnover** of **Rs 25,000 crore** for three years, or have an **annual average net worth** of over Rs 15,000 crore for three years.
- **Benefits**
  - **Financial Independence:** They invest up to **₹1,000 crore** without seeking approval from the central government.
  - Navratna companies are also allowed to invest up to **15% of their net worth on a single project**, or 30% of their net worth in a given year, subject to a cap of ₹1,000 crore.
  - To incur capital expenditure on purchase of new items or for replacement, without any monetary ceiling.
  - To enter into technology joint ventures or strategic alliances.

## PROJECT ISHAN



India has kickstarted the process of unifying its four airspace regions into one spanning the entire nation under Project ISHAN.

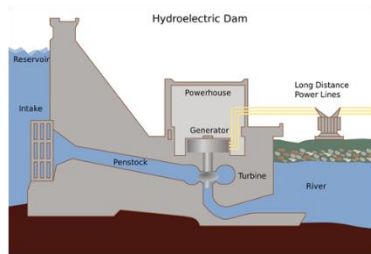
- The **Indian Single Sky Harmonized Air Traffic Management (ISHAN)** initiative aims to streamline and enhance air traffic management.
- India is planning a major move to unify its four Flight Information Regions (FIRs) in Delhi, Mumbai, Kolkata and Chennai into one continuous airspace in **Nagpur** and have harmonized Air Traffic Management from Nagpur.
- The **Airports Authority of India (AAI)**, the public entity invited expressions of interest (EoI) for the preparation of a detailed project report.
- **What's the arrangement at present?**

Currently, Indian airspace is divided into **four flight information regions (FIRs)** in **Mumbai, Kolkata, Delhi, Chennai**, and a sub-FIR in Guwahati each managed separately.

- **Significance:** It is expected to streamline operations, enhance capacity, and alleviate congestion, benefiting both airlines and passengers.

### **Key facts about AAI**

- It is a **statutory body** under the **Directorate General of Civil Aviation**, Ministry of Civil Aviation, Government of India.
- It was constituted by an Act of Parliament and came into being on 1st April 1995, by merging the erstwhile National Airports Authority and the International Airports Authority of India.
- It is entrusted with the responsibility of **creating, upgrading, maintaining, and managing civil aviation infrastructure** both on the ground and in air space in the country.
- It also provides **Air Traffic Management Services (ATMS)** over the entire Indian Air Space and adjoining oceanic areas, with ground installations at all airports, and 25 other locations to ensure the safety of aircraft operations.



## HOW VIABLE IS THE HYDROPOWER IN AN INCREASINGLY HOT AND DRY WORLD?

### What is Hydropower?

Hydropower functions by **harnessing the movement of water flowing through a turbine**, which generates electricity as it spins. A **reliable, cheap and low carbon** source of energy, hydropower has been in use over a hundred years ago and today has become a vital clean energy source, **providing more electricity than all other renewables combined**. Also, hydropower plants are built to **respond to changes in the weather** - storing water in the rainy season to use when it becomes dry.

### What are the Issues Faced by Hydropower?

Hydropower is **dependent on water** so clearly if there is no water at all then hydropower cannot be used, disrupting energy production and stressing energy systems. **Droughts and sudden floods** (which can also damage dams), which occur more frequently and severely due to **climate change**, are therefore an “increasing concern” for hydropower.

### What Happened in Ecuador and Colombia?

A **drought** fueled by the **El Nino weather phenomenon** has reduced reservoir water levels in hydropower plants in **Ecuador and Colombia** (both rely on hydropower for most of their electricity). This has led **Ecuador to declare a state of emergency** and institute power cuts. In neighboring **Colombia, water has been rationed** in the capital.

### What is the Solution for these Countries?

The solution for these countries is to **diversify their power sources** by incorporating other renewable technologies (such as wind and solar) into their energy mix. For example, **Ghana and Kenya** are successfully moving from high reliance on hydropower towards a more “robust portfolio of technologies”.



## KUTCH AJRAKH

Recently, the Controller General of Patents, Designs, and Trademarks (CGPDTM) has bestowed the Geographical Indication (GI) certificate upon the traditional artisans of 'Kutch Ajrakh,' hailing from the vibrant region of Kutch in Gujarat.



The Ajrakh is a **textile craft**, holds deep roots in the cultural tapestry of Gujarat, particularly in the regions of Sindh, Barmer, and Kutch, where its legacy spans millennia.

- The art of Ajrakh entails a meticulous process of **hand-block printing on treated cotton cloth**, culminating in intricate designs infused with rich symbolism and history.
  - Ajrak's nomenclature originates from 'Azrak', **meaning indigo**, a well-known substance most often employed as a powerful dye to achieve a bluish effect.
  - Ajrakh prints have traditionally consisted of **three colors: blue** which signifies the sky, **red** which signifies the land and the fire, and **white** which signifies the stars.
- Textiles are treated with **vegetable and mineral colours** and the fabric goes through a washing cycle about eight times.
- This craft was **introduced** to this region over 400 years back by **the Sind Muslims**.
- Nomadic pastoralist and agricultural communities like the Rabaris, Maldharis, and Ahirs wear Ajrakh printed cloth as turbans, lungis, or stoles.