



## International Labour Day

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### Why in News

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Every year 1<sup>st</sup> May is observed as May Day and is also known as **International Labour Day worldwide.**

- The day is observed as an occasion to **commemorate the contributions of labourers and the working class.**
- The **International Labour Organization**, a United Nations agency, works towards setting international labour standards.

### Key Points

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- **History and Significance:**

- **United States:**

- Labour Day **has its origins in the labour union movement in the United States** in the 19<sup>th</sup> Century.

- However, the **USA and Canada celebrate Labour day on the first Monday of September, every year.**

- Labour day was designated as a day in support of workers by trade unions and socialist groups in the memory of the **Haymarket affair of 1886 in Chicago, USA.**

- Haymarket Affair** was a peaceful rally in support of workers which led to a violent clash with the police, leading to severe casualties.

- Those who died were hailed as “Haymarket Martyrs”.

- Workers’ rights violations, straining work hours, poor working conditions, low wages and child labour were the issues highlighted in the protest.

- **Europe:**

- May Day was **first celebrated on 1<sup>st</sup> May, 1890**, after it was declared by the first **International Congress of Socialist Parties** in Europe in July 1889.

- **USSR:**

- The Soviet Union and the Eastern bloc nations **started celebrating the Labour day after the Russian Revolution, 1917.**

- New ideologies such as **Marxism and Socialism** inspired many socialist and communist groups and they attracted peasants and workers and made them an integral part of national movement.

- **India:**

- The first Labour’s Day was celebrated in 1923 in Chennai. This day was observed by the **Labour Kisan Party of Hindustan.**
  - On this day, communist leader **Malayapuram Singaravelu Chettiar** asked the government that 1<sup>st</sup> May should be considered as a national holiday to symbolise the efforts and work of the workers.
  - This day is also known as Kamgar Divas, Kamgar Din and Antarrashtriya Shramik Divas in India.

## **Constitutional Provisions Related to Labour**

- Indian constitution provides numerous safeguards for the protection of labour rights. These safeguards are in the **form of fundamental rights and the Directive principle of State policy.**
- **Article 14** commands the State to **treat any person equally before the law.**
- **Article (19) (1) (c)** grants citizens the **right to form associations or unions.**
- **Article 21** promises **protection of life and personal liberty.**
- **Article 23** prohibits forced labour.

- **Article 24** prohibits employment of children below the age of fourteen years.
- **Article 39(a)** provides that the State shall **secure to its citizens equal right to an adequate means of livelihood.**
- **Article 41** provides that within the limits of its economic capacity the State **shall secure for the Right to work and education.**
- **Article 42** instructs the State to make provisions for securing just and humane conditions of work and for maternity relief.
- **Article 43** orders the State to secure a **living wage, decent conditions of work and social and cultural opportunities** to all workers through legislation or economic organisation.
- **Article 43A** provides for the **participation of workers in Management of Industries through legislation.**

### **Legal Provisions**

Parliament has passed **3 labour code bills** aimed at labour welfare reforms covering more than 50 crores organized and unorganized workers in the country.

**Source: HT**