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International Labour Day 2026

International Labour Day 2026 is observed on **Friday, May 1, 2026**. Also known as May Day or International Workers' Day, it is a global celebration honoring the contributions and rights of the working class.

The [International Labour Organization \(ILO\)](#) has centered the 2026 theme on "**Ensuring a Healthy Psychosocial Working Environment**". Key areas of focus for the year include:



- **Mental Health:** Addressing modern workplace risks such as burnout, stress, and heavy workloads.
- **Social Justice:** Bridging gaps between formal and informal economies and advocating for fair pay.
- **Gender Equality:** Empowering women workers and ensuring safe, inclusive work environments.
- **Climate Action:** Managing climate-related workplace risks and ensuring a "just transition" to sustainable energy.

International Labour Day 2026 Overview

Factor	Details
Also Known As	International Labour Day / International Workers' Day / May Day
Date in 2026	Thursday, 1 May 2026
First Observed	1 May 1889 (globally recognised after the 1886 Haymarket Affair in Chicago)
Purpose	To honour workers, celebrate their contributions, and advocate for fair labour practices
Origins	Rooted in the 19th-century labour movement for the eight-hour workday
Global Reach	Public holidays in over 80 countries (India, France, Russia, China, Germany, etc.)

Celebration Styles	Rallies, parades, speeches, seminars, cultural gatherings, and spring festivals
Theme	Yet to be announced
Exceptions	USA and Canada celebrate “Labour Day” in September

International Labour Day History

The **International Labour Day history** is rooted in the labour movement in the United States. On May 1, 1886, thousands of workers initiated a nationwide strike demanding an eight-hour workday. The protest in Chicago’s Haymarket Square turned violent, leading to deaths and widespread attention to labour issues. In 1889, the Second International declared May 1st as **International Labour Day** to honour these workers’ sacrifices.

In India, **Labour Day** was first celebrated in 1923 in Chennai under the leadership of Comrade Singaravelu Chettiar. The day not only symbolizes worker struggles but also represents the spirit of unity and collective action for labour welfare worldwide.

Labour Laws in India

Labour laws in India form the foundation for protecting workers’ rights and promoting safe, fair workplaces. This section covers the evolution and current structure of labour laws.

Labour laws in India have evolved considerably to adapt to economic changes and workforce diversity. The Indian Constitution supports labour rights through the Directive Principles of State Policy. Major labour reforms consolidated 29 existing laws into four new codes:

- **Code on Wages 2019**
- **Code on Social Security 2020**
- **Industrial Relations Code 2020**
- **Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions Code 2020**

These codes regulate wages, working hours, safety norms, industrial relations, and benefits like Provident Fund (PF) and Employee State Insurance (ESI). International Labour Day 2026 is an apt time to reflect on the progress and gaps in implementing these reforms to safeguard worker rights.

Labour Rights in India

Labour rights in India aim to ensure dignity, equality, and security for every worker. Labour rights in India are guaranteed through constitutional articles and labour legislation. Key constitutional provisions include:

- **Article 23 & 24:** Prohibit forced labour and child labour.

- **Article 39:** Promotes equal pay for equal work.
- **Article 41 & 43:** Right to work and a living wage, ensuring dignity.

India is also a signatory to important ILO Conventions such as:

- **Convention No. 138** (Minimum Age Convention)
- **Convention No. 182** (Worst Forms of Child Labour)

Key labour rights in India include:

- Right to fair and timely wages
- Right to safe and healthy workplaces
- Right to form and join trade unions
- Right to social security benefits
- Right to non-discrimination at the workplace

However, about **90% of India's workforce** is in the informal sector, where access to these rights remains limited. Government initiatives like the **e-Shram Portal**, **PM Shram Yogi Maandhan**, and **MGNREGA** are significant steps towards ensuring protections for unorganised workers.

50th Anniversary of Sikkim's Integration with India

Why in News?

The Prime Minister of India participated in the closing ceremony of **Sikkim's 50th Year of Statehood celebrations in Gangtok**.

- During the event, the Prime Minister lauded Sikkim's natural and organic farming model serves as a template for the entire country.

What are the Key Facts About Sikkim Statehood?

- **The Chogyal Dynasty:** Before its integration into India, Sikkim was an independent Himalayan kingdom ruled by the Namgyal dynasty, whose monarchs, known as the Chogyals, governed the region as a hereditary monarchy from **1642 to 1975**.
- **British Colonial Treaties:**
 - **Treaty of Titaliya (1817):** Granted the British authorities strategic **commercial and political advantages** in the region.
 - **Treaty of Tumlong (1861):** Formally established Sikkim as a **protectorate state of British India**.

- **Calcutta Convention (1890):** Demarcated the vital **Sikkim-Tibet border** (signed between Viceroy Lord Lansdowne and Qing China), a boundary later affirmed by the **Lhasa Convention (1904)**.
- **"Protectorate" Status (1947–1974):** When India gained independence in 1947, Sikkim chose not to join the Indian Union immediately.
 - Instead, under the **Indo-Sikkim Treaty of 1950**, Sikkim became an Indian "protectorate." This meant Sikkim retained its internal autonomy, but the Government of India took responsibility for its **defense, external affairs, and communications**.
- **Transition to an "Associate State" (1974):** By the early 1970s, there was growing political unrest in Sikkim, with the local population demanding greater democratic rights and closer ties with India.
 - In response, the Indian Parliament passed the **35th Constitutional Amendment Act in 1974**. This amendment gave Sikkim the unique status of an **"Associate State"** of the Indian Union, a status not given to any other state before or since.
- **Full Statehood (1975):** The "Associate" status did not fully satisfy the democratic aspirations of the Sikkimese people. In April 1975, the Chief Minister of Sikkim appealed to the Indian Parliament for full integration.
 - A special referendum was held, where over 97% of the voters chose to abolish the Chogyal monarchy and fully join India.
 - Consequently, the **36th Constitutional Amendment Act, 1975** was passed. It officially made Sikkim the **22nd State of the Indian Union on 16th May 1975**.
- **Special Constitutional Protections:** To protect the unique cultural identity, history, and land rights of the Sikkimese people, **Article 371F** was inserted into the Indian Constitution.
 - This article safeguards old Sikkimese laws and ensures that land and properties cannot be easily purchased by non-Sikkimese individuals, preserving the local demographics.
 - Sikkim is the only state in **India where eligible native residents are exempt from income tax**, secured by **Article 371F of the Constitution and Section 10(26AAA) of the Income Tax Act, 1961**.
 - This special status stems from the 1975 merger treaty, allowing residents to pay no tax on income from any source within Sikkim.

Notes:










Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0

The **Ministry of Panchayati Raj** released the **Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) 2.0** for FY 2023–24.

- **PAI:** Launched by the Ministry of Panchayati Raj, the Panchayat Advancement Index (PAI) is the world's first nationwide framework to measure the progress of rural local bodies such as **Gram Panchayats and Traditional Local Bodies** using objective, verifiable indicators.
 - By translating the **17 global Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** into **nine localized themes (LSDGs)**, the PAI provides an objective, data-driven tool to track and accelerate grassroots progress toward the 2030 sustainability targets.
 - PAI 2.0 serves as a report card for over 2.5 lakh Panchayats, assessing them on 150+ parameters across sectors like health, water, infrastructure, and sustainability.
 - The release of PAI 2.0 (FY 2023–24) reflects the government’s push for data-driven, transparent, and participatory governance to achieve the vision of **“Viksit Gram Panchayats.”**
- **Rationalized Assessment Framework:** PAI 2.0 refined its metrics down to **150 objective indicators and 230 data points** (a sharp reduction from PAI 1.0) to ensure stronger linkages with the **National Indicator Framework (NIF)** and **National Panchayat Awards**.
- **Tiered Performance Grading:** Panchayats are classified into five categories based on composite scores on a 0-100 scale: **Achiever (A+: ≥90)**, **Front Runner (A: 75–89)**, **Performer (B: 60–74)**, **Aspirant (C: 40–59)**, and **Beginner (D: <40)**.
- **Record Grassroots Participation:** The exercise achieved an unprecedented **97.30% national participation rate**, encompassing 2,59,867 Gram Panchayats across 33 States and Union Territories.
- **Thematic Excellence:** Overall, **3,635 GPs emerged as Front Runners (Grade A)**. Sectorally, **Theme 1 (Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods)** and **Theme 2 (Healthy Panchayat)** yielded the strongest outcomes, securing A+ grades for 3,313 and 1,015 GPs, respectively.
- **Top Rankers:** Tripura leads with around 80% of its Gram Panchayats rated as **‘Front Runner’**, followed by Kerala and Odisha. **No panchayat** could make it to the **‘Achiever’** category.
- **Technological & Governance Innovations:** The updated framework enforces **mandatory Gram Sabha validation** to guarantee data accuracy and grassroots accountability, alongside **auto-porting of data directly from Union Ministry portals**.
- **Strategic Policy Utility:** The index directly informs the preparation of **Gram Panchayat Development Plans (GPDs)**, dictates resource allocation in select states, and identifies high-performing units to serve as **Panchayat Learning Centers** for peer replication.

Thematic Framework

PAI assesses Gram Panchayat/Equivalent to GP performance across the following nine LSDG themes:

								
Theme 1	Theme 2	Theme 3	Theme 4	Theme 5	Theme 6	Theme 7	Theme 8	Theme 9
Poverty Free and Enhanced Livelihoods in Panchayat	Healthy Panchayat	Child-Friendly Panchayat	Water Sufficient Panchayat	Clean and Green Panchayat	Panchayat with Self-Sufficient Infrastructure	Socially Just and Socially Secured Panchayat	Panchayat with Good Governance	Women Friendly Panchayat

UAE's Exit from OPEC and OPEC+

The **United Arab Emirates (UAE)** announced its withdrawal from the **Organization of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC)** and the **broader OPEC+ alliance**, effective 1st May 2026.

- This landmark decision marks a major shift in global energy geopolitics, threatening to weaken the historic oil cartel's bargaining power.
- **OPEC:** It is a permanent intergovernmental organization created at the Baghdad Conference in 1960 by **Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela**.
 - **Mandate:** To coordinate and unify the petroleum policies of its Member Countries and ensure the stabilization of oil markets.
 - The UAE (through Abu Dhabi) has been a highly influential member since **joining in 1967**, later representing the entire federation.
 - Following the UAE's exit, OPEC is left with 11 active members: Algeria, Congo, Equatorial Guinea, Gabon, Iran, Iraq, Kuwait, Libya, Nigeria, Saudi Arabia, and Venezuela.
- **OPEC+:** Formed in 2016, as an alliance between OPEC and 10 other oil producers to address declining **oil prices due to US shale oil growth**.
 - OPEC+ includes the OPEC members plus **Azerbaijan, Bahrain, Brunei, Kazakhstan, Malaysia, Mexico, Oman, Russia, South Sudan, and Sudan**.
 - OPEC+ produced roughly 40% of the world's crude oil and accounts for about 60% of internationally traded petroleum.
- **Reasons for UAE Exit:** The UAE decided to exit OPEC primarily due to restrictive **production quotas** that limited its ability to utilize its expanded oil capacity, even as it aims to reach 5 million barrels per day by 2027.
 - At the same time, the UAE is pursuing an energy transition strategy that focuses on **maximizing oil revenues in the short term before global demand shifts toward renewables**.
 - OPEC's consensus-based decision-making, including the presence of Iran, further constrained the UAE's ability to respond independently to evolving geopolitical and market conditions.
- **Impact of UAE Exit:** In 2025, the UAE was the fourth-largest oil producer in OPEC, contributing around 11% of total production.
 - Its oil production capacity is estimated at 4.2-4.5 million barrels per day. The exit is expected to weaken OPEC's ability to control global oil supply and prices, as it reduces collective discipline within the cartel.
 - For India, this could bring economic relief through lower oil prices and reduced inflation, along with greater availability of oil supplies in the global market.

1 Consider the following statements:

1. International Labour Day is celebrated every year on 1st May to honour workers' contributions.
2. It originated from the Russian Revolution of 1917.
3. The demand for an eight-hour workday was a key factor behind its origin.
4. The United States celebrates Labour Day in May.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1 and 3 only
(b) 1, 2 and 4 only
(c) 2 and 4 only
(d) 1, 3 and 4 only

2. Consider the following statements:

1. Article 23 and 24 of the Constitution prohibit forced labour and child labour.
2. India has ratified all ILO conventions related to labour rights.
3. Equal pay for equal work is promoted under Article 39.
4. Around 90% of India's workforce is in the informal sector.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

3. Consider the following statements:

1. Sikkim became a protectorate of India after independence under a treaty signed in 1950.
2. The 35th Constitutional Amendment gave Sikkim full statehood.
3. Article 371F provides special protections to Sikkim.
4. Sikkim became the 22nd state of India in 1975.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 1, 3 and 4 only
(b) 1 and 2 only
(c) 2, 3 and 4 only
(d) 1, 2, 3 and 4

4. Consider the following statements:

1. PAI is a global framework launched by the United Nations.
2. It measures performance of Gram Panchayats using objective indicators.
3. Panchayats are graded from A+ to D based on performance.
4. Kerala has the highest percentage of 'Front Runner' Panchayats.

Which of the statements given above are correct?

- (a) 2 and 3 only
- (b) 1, 2 and 4 only
- (c) 2, 3 and 4 only
- (d) 1 and 4 only