

1ST MAY DAY INTERNATIONAL WORKERS' DAY

In the late **1800s**, times were tough for workers in the United States of America due to growing rise of industries & corporations, which didn't always create the best work conditions. Workers' campaign for an *eight-hour work day* reached a milestone on **May 1, 1886**. On May 1, 1886, protests erupted all across the United States, with some 340,000 workers taking part. An estimated 190,000 went out on strike.

May Day celebrations later spread to Communist Governments, which naturally didn't make the *United States* Government too happy. That's why in 1958, President Eisenhower proclaimed May 1 as **Law Day**. Law Day encourages Americans to focus on the rights established in the "*fundamental documents of American democracy*".

Labour Day is an annual public holiday that celebrates the eight-hour working day, a victory for workers in the mid-late 19th century. The argument for the eight-hour day was based on the need for each person to have eight hours labour, eight hours recreation and eight hours rest. In the early 19th century, most labourers worked 10 to 12 hours a day for six days each week. The 1850s brought a strong push for better conditions. A significant part of the push began in 1855 in Sydney. On 21 April 1856, in Melbourne, the **Stonemasons** workers staged a well-organised protest. They downed tools and walked to Parliament House with other members of the building trade. Their fight was for an eight-hour day, effectively a 48-hour week in place of the 60-hour week. The government agreed to an eight-hour day for workers employed on public works, with no loss of pay.

Labour Day is also often referred to as **May Day** around the world. It is celebrated internationally on **1 May** and is known as **International Workers' Day** in more than 80 countries. The universal significance is that, across the world, the eight-hour day is considered the fairest working hours in a day for people in any industry.

Friends, the victory won long back seems to have been jeopardized in India nowadays because of surge in private & corporate sector and dramatic change of work culture based on '*outsourcing of work and job*' in Government sector also. It is general saying in present day office goes that "*The time of reaching office is fixed but there is no time of leaving office*"

