



CANARA BANK EMPLOYEES' UNION (Regd.)

(Affiliated to All India Bank Employees' Association)

"A.K.Nayak Bhavan", II Floor

14, Second Line Beach, Chennai - 600 001



P.B.No : 1770

Website : www.cbeu.co.in

Phone : 2524 3243

E-mail : cbeuco@gmail.com

Circular No: 13/2026

Index: X(OGC)/CO

April 27, 2026

Dear Comrades,

" MAY DAY - 2026 "

May Day, also referred to as International Workers' day, is a day to commemorate the success and gains of the working class attained through struggles and sacrifices.

It is on this day in the year 1886, it was officially resolved that eight hours shall constitute legal day of labour and that it was recommended to labour organizations throughout their jurisdiction and that they so direct their laws as to conform to this resolution.

Prior to this, people slogged from sunrise to sunset, and were being exploited by the capitalist bosses of that period. For the first time, it was decided in Chicago to demand for 8 hour work per day.

On May First Chicago witnessed a great outpouring of workers, who laid down tools at the call of the organised labour movement of the city. It was the most effective demonstration of class solidarity yet experienced by the labour movement itself. The importance at that time of the demand - the 8-hour day. This movement, culminating in the strike on May First, 1886, became a glorious chapter in the fighting history of the American working class. The victory march of the Chicago workers was arrested by the employers and the capitalist state, determined to put down the militant leaders, hoping thereby to deal a deadly blow to the entire labour movement. The events of May 3 and 4, which led to what is known as the Haymarket Affair, were a direct outgrowth of the May First strike.

The demonstration held on May 4 at Haymarket Square was called to protest against the brutal attack of the police upon a meeting of striking workers at the McCormick Reaper Works on May 3, where six workers were killed and many wounded. The meeting was peaceful and about to be adjourned when the police again launched an attack upon the assembled workers. A bomb was thrown into the crowd, killing a sergeant. A battle ensued with the result that seven policemen and four workers were dead. The bloodbath at Haymarket Square, led Parsons, Spies, Fischer, and Engel to the gallows and the imprisonment of the other militant Chicago leaders. Such was the intensity of the counter measures of the capitalists all over the country. The second half of 1886 was marked by a concentrated offensive of the employers, determined to regain the position lost during the strike movement of 1885-1886.

Even today, the Haymarket square memorial, the place at which bloodshed by the brutal attacks of the capitalist bosses took place is preserved in the heart of the Chicago city symbolizing the sacrifice of our predecessors to give us the designated working hours per day.

Comrades,

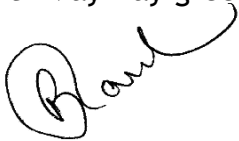
Today, as we commemorate this historic day, the working class once again faces serious challenges.

The introduction of the new Labour Codes, which is a serious threat to the rights and protections of workers, dilute the hard earned rights of employees by weakening the trade union powers, restricting collective bargaining and making it more difficult to organise and protest. Changes relating to working conditions, rules and regulations in organising the workers, job security, etc may adversely affect the life of the employees. These measures represent a shift that is not in favour of the working class and need to be combated effectively.

In this challenging environment, it becomes all the more important for us to remain united, vigilant and committed to the principles of the trade union movement.

On this May Day, let us pledge to defend public sector banking, protect the rights of employees and oppose all anti-worker measures. Let us draw inspiration from the struggles of the past and move forward with more determination to secure a better future for all.

With May Day greetings

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'B Ramprakash', written in a cursive style.

(B RAMPRAKASH)
GENERAL SECRETARY