Chintan Shivir of Labour, Employment & Industry Ministers, Gandhinagar

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News

The two-day 'Chintan Shivir' (brainstorming camp) of Labour, Employment and Industry Ministers of States and Union Territories, organised by the Union Ministry of Labour and Employment, began at Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 21 November 2026 and runs till 22 November (ANI). It marks one year since the four Labour Codes came into force on 21 November 2025. Union Minister Mansukh Mandaviya chaired it (PIB), and Gujarat Chief Minister Bhupendra Patel attended the inaugural session; Minister of State Shobha Karandlaje and Secretary Chandra Bhushan Kumar took part. Mandaviya called workers' welfare and industrial growth the 'twin wheels' of national progress and said social security now covers 101 crore people (2026); by ILO World Social Protection Report data, India's coverage rose from 19% in 2015 to 64.3% (2025). Themes include implementation of the Labour Codes, employment initiatives, EPFO and ESIC reforms, social security for unorganised workers, labour statistics, MSME engagement and trust-based electronic compliance. He also called for discussion on overseas jobs for youth and cross-border mobility of Indian workers. The knowledge partners are the V.V. Giri National Labour Institute (Noida) and Gujarat National Law University. Day 2 (22 November) is scheduled to see the launch of the National Career Service 'NCS ONE' portal and app, the NCS Voice Bot/Chat Bot, an Occupational Shortage Index, a Livelihood Profile Module and the National Classification of Occupations (NCO), with sessions on the Labour & Employment Stack and international labour mobility (PIB).

Key facts for the exam

Point	Details
Event	National Chintan Shivir of Labour, Employment & Industry Ministers
Dates	21–22 November 2026
Venue	Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar (Gujarat)
Organiser	Union Ministry of Labour & Employment
Chaired by	Mansukh Mandaviya (PIB); Gujarat CM Bhupendra Patel took part
Occasion	One year of Labour Codes (in force 21.11.2025)
Social security	101 crore people (2026); coverage 19% (2015) → 64.3% (2025, ILO)
Themes	EPFO, ESIC reforms; unorganised workers; MSMEs
Knowledge partners	VVGNLI (Noida), GNLU

Background

- Polity: trade unions, industrial disputes, social security and labour welfare are in the Concurrent List of the Seventh Schedule (Entries 22–24), so both the Centre and the States can legislate, and States have a big role in framing rules and enforcing them – hence the importance of such Centre–State consultations.
- Labour Codes: the Code on Wages 2019, the Industrial Relations Code 2020, the Code on Social Security 2020 and the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code 2020 merged many central labour laws and came into force on 21 November 2025. They provide for minimum wages, wider social security and fixed-term employment (ANI).
- History: the 'Madras Labour Union', formed on 27 April 1918 by workers of the Buckingham and Carnatic (Binny) Mills at Perambur, Madras, with B.P. Wadia as president, is regarded as India's first organised trade union; Thiru. Vi. Ka. was its vice-president (DNA, DT Next). The All India Trade Union Congress (AITUC) was founded in Bombay on 31 October 1920, with Lala Lajpat Rai as its first president. The same year Anasuya Sarabhai founded Ahmedabad's Textile Labour Association (Majoor Mahajan Sangh); Gandhiji had fasted during the 1918 Ahmedabad mill strike.
- Economy: most Indian workers are in the unorganised sector. The Code on Social Security defines gig and platform workers for the first time. The EPFO (provident fund) and ESIC (health insurance) are the main social security bodies.

Tamil Nadu link: Chennai is the cradle of India's trade union movement. The 'Madras Labour Union' was formed here in 1918 (DNA). On 1 May 1923 M. Singaravelar celebrated India's first May Day on the Madras seafront and raised the red flag for the first time in the country (DT Next). The 'Triumph of Labour' statue on the Marina recalls this history.

Frequently asked questions

What is this news about?

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Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar, Gujarat, on 21 November 2026 and runs till 22 November (ANI).

What are the key facts to remember for the exam?

Event: National Chintan Shivir of Labour, Employment & Industry Ministers; Dates: 21–22 November 2026; Venue: Mahatma Mandir, Gandhinagar (Gujarat); Organiser: Union Ministry of Labour & Employment.

What is the background to this news?

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Practice questions (with answers)

1. Which union, formed in 1918 with B.P. Wadia as its president, is regarded as India's first organised trade union?

A) Girni Kamgar Union

B) Madras Labour Union

C) Tata Workers' Union

D) Railwaymen's Federation

Answer: B – Explanation: The Madras Labour Union – 27 Apr 1918, Binny mill workers of Perambur. The Girni Kamgar Union belonged to Bombay's mills.

2. Who organised India's first May Day (Labour Day) celebration, in Madras in 1923?

A) E.V. Ramasamy

B) V.O. Chidambaram

C) Subramania Bharati

D) M. Singaravelar

Answer: D – Explanation: M. Singaravelar – on 1 May 1923 he raised the red flag on the Madras seafront, a first for India; hailed as 'Sindhanai Sirpi'.

3. Which of these is NOT one of the four Labour Codes in force since November 2025?

A) Code on Wages

B) Industrial Relations

C) Labour Inspection Code

D) Social Security Code

Answer: C – Explanation: No such code exists. The fourth is the Occupational Safety, Health and Working Conditions (OSH) Code, 2020.

4. Where was the AITUC, India's oldest central trade union body, founded in 1920?

A) Calcutta

B) Madras

C) Bombay

D) Kanpur

Answer: C – Explanation: Bombay – 31 Oct 1920; its first president was Lala Lajpat Rai. N.M. Joshi was one of its key founders.

5. Who founded Ahmedabad's Textile Labour Association (Majoor Mahajan Sangh) in 1920?

A) Anasuya Sarabhai

B) Sarojini Naidu

C) Mridula Sarabhai

D) Kasturba Gandhi

Answer: A – Explanation: Anasuya Sarabhai – 'Motaben'; she led workers with Gandhiji in the 1918 Ahmedabad mill strike.

Sources: PIB – Labour Ministry, 19 Nov 2026 – pib.gov.in/PressReleasePage.aspx?PRID=2338562; labour.gov.in; ANI; DT Next; DNA; NCERT Class 12 History / TN State Board (AITUC, Madras Labour Union). © Shanmugam IAS Academy.