

Cover Drive to Put Gig Workers on Front Foot

Govt will issue ID cards to gig workers and register them on e-Shram portal

Team ET

The FM has proposed healthcare coverage for the country's 10 million gig and platform workers.

She also said the government will issue them identity cards and register them on the e-Shram portal, which will make them eligible for social security benefits that are available for unorganised workers.

"Gig workers of online platforms provide great dynamism to the new-age services economy. Recognising their contribution, our government will arrange for their identity cards and registration on the e-Shram portal," Sitharaman said. "They will be

provided healthcare under PM Jan Aarogya Yojana," she said, adding this measure is likely to assist nearly 10 million gig workers.

ET had on January 27 reported that the FM could unveil a social security

scheme for gig and platform workers. "Social security for gig workers integrated with Shram Suvidha portal and health care assurance is a much-needed move to incentivise unaddressed segments of workers,"

said Anjali Malhotra, partner, Nangia Andersen. A panel, led by Ramesh Krishnamurthy, additional secretary in the labour and employment ministry, has firmed up multiple options for the government for funding this social security benefit.

Nearly 10m gig workers will now be able to register on e-Shram portal, ensuring coverage



"The Union Budget 2024-25 outlines measures to drive economic growth by strengthening key development engines. MSME classification criteria will be expanded with higher investment and turnover limits, while a new Fund of Funds will support startups. Sector-specific initiatives in footwear, leather, and toys aim to boost employment and productivity. The increased FDI for insurance sector from 74% to 100%, encourage greater inbound investment.

Speedy approval of company mergers will be aimed along with simplifying fast-track mergers. To enhance ease of doing business, a High-Level Committee for Regulatory Reforms will review non-financial sector regulations, and an Investment Friendliness Index of States will be introduced. Additionally, the Financial Stability and Development Council (FSDC) will assess existing financial regulations, and Jan Vishwas Bill 2.0 will decriminalize over 100 legal provisions.

These reforms mark a significant step in simplifying regulations, improving the M&A framework, and fostering a business-friendly environment to attract investment and accelerate growth."

Anjali Malhotra

Partner Regulatory, Nangia & Co LLP