

e-Shram Portal

Mains: GS II – Government Policies & Interventions

Why in News?

The e-Shram Portal completes 5 years, marking a significant milestone in strengthening social security for India's unorganised workforce.

What is e-Shram Portal?

- **e-Shram Portal** - It is India's first national centralized database of **unorganized workers**, launched by the Ministry of Labour and Employment in August 2021.

"Unorganised worker" includes a home-based worker, self-employed worker, or a wage worker in the unorganised sector. It also includes a worker in the organised sector who is not a member of ESIC/ EPFO/ Government Employee.

- **Developed by** - National Informatics Centre (NIC), created the country's first-ever Aadhaar-seeded National Database of Unorganised Workers.
- **Target Audience** - It covers construction workers, migrant workers, gig and platform workers, street vendors, domestic workers, and agricultural labourers.
- **Key objectives**
 - **National Database of Unorganised Workers (NDUW)** - It creates an Aadhaar-seeded database for workers outside formal or organized employment.
 - **Universal Account Number (UAN)** - Every registered worker receives a unique 12-digit UAN card that remains valid across India.
 - **One-Stop Solution** - The portal connects workers to social security schemes, welfare

benefits, job opportunities, skilling, and pensions.

- **Portability** - It helps migrant workers carry social security benefits across different states.
- **Crisis Response** - The government can use the database to provide direct assistance during national emergencies like pandemics.

e-Shram
Shramev Jayate
National Database of Unorganized Workers



SHANKAR
IAS PARLIAMENT

Key Highlights of e-Shram Portal

Towards Social Security and Dignity for All Unorganized Workers



Total Registrations

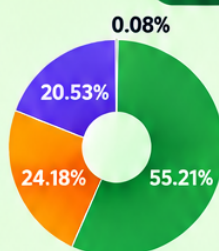
31.89 crore
registrations

Gender Distribution


54.28%
Women


45.72%
Men

Age Profile



● 0.08% – 16–18 years
● 55.21% – 18–40 years
● 24.18% – 40–50 years
● 20.53% – Above 50 years
(As on 20 August, 2026)

Top Occupational Categories

Highest registrations in:



Agriculture



Domestic and
Household
Workers



Construction



Apparel

Top States

Highest registrations in:



- 1 Uttar Pradesh
- 2 Bihar
- 3 West Bengal
- 4 Madhya Pradesh
- 5 Maharashtra

Mode of Registration



Common Service
Centres (CSCs)

Most Registrations (Main Mode)

Self-Registration

(Secondary Mode)

How e-Shram portal evolved into one-stop solution?

- **e-Shram Portal Transformation**

- **Unified Platform** - Transitioned to One-Stop Solution (Oct 2024), integrating welfare, employment, skilling & pension services with scheme visibility and convergence across portals.
- **Social Security Strengthening** - Improves delivery, portability, and access to welfare for unorganised workers, aligned with Union Budget 2024-25 vision.
- **One-Stop Solution** - It brings together 15 Social Security and Welfare Schemes on a single platform. These include
 - Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan-Dhan Yojana (PM-SYM),
 - Pradhan Mantri Suraksha Bima Yojana (PMSBY),
 - Pradhan Mantri Jeevan Jyoti Bima Yojana (PMJJBY),
 - National Social Assistance Programme (NSAP),
 - One Nation One Ration Card (ONORC),
 - Pradhan Mantri Awaas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) and others.

- **Insurance Access**

- **Easy Enrolment** - Registrants can directly enrol in PMSBY and PMJJBY through the e Shram portal.
- **Accidental Cover (PMSBY)** - Provides Rs.2 lakh for accidental death/permanent disability and Rs.1 lakh for partial disability.
- **Life Cover (PMJJBY)** - Offers Rs.2 lakh insurance for death due to any cause.

- **Portal Linkages**

- **Employment & Skilling** - Connects workers to National Career Service (NCS) for jobs and Skill India Digital Hub for skilling/apprenticeship.
- **Scheme Discovery** - Provides access to myScheme for identifying eligible government welfare programmes.
- **Pension Access**
- **Direct Enrolment** - Eligible workers can register for Pradhan Mantri Shram Yogi Maan Dhan (PM SYM) through the e Shram portal.
- **Benefit** - Assured Rs.3,000/month pension after age 60, subject to eligibility criteria.
- **Multilingual Functionality** - In 2025, the e-Shram portal, powered by BHASHINI, introduced 22 language multilingual support to enhance inclusivity and accessibility for workers nationwide
- **Family Details** - Collects information on the families of migrant workers to facilitate more effective welfare planning.
- **Construction Workers** - Shares data with States and Union Territories to support registration under Building and Other Construction Workers (BOCW) Boards.
- **Gig and Platform Workers** - Facilitates identification and registration within the national database for unorganised workers.
- **Scale and Utility** - Approximately 1.15 million platform workers are registered, and the database informs the development of targeted social security measures.

What are the limitations of e-Shram portal?

- **Low Awareness and Digital Divide** - Many unorganised workers, particularly women and those in rural areas, have limited awareness.
- Digital illiteracy further restricts their ability to self-register.
- **Language and Interface Barriers** - Although the platform supports 22 languages, navigation and usability remain challenging for some workers.

- **Aadhaar Dependence** - Address mismatches and outdated Aadhaar-linked mobile numbers may exclude eligible workers, especially migrants.
- **No Real-Time Benefits** - The system primarily serves as a worker database.
- Registration does not automatically provide benefits such as insurance, which require separate enrolment.
- **Static or Unverified Data** - Employment, occupation, and migration details may not be updated regularly, increasing the risk of outdated records.
- **Weak Institutional Follow-Up** - Limited coordination among labour departments, local bodies, and field-level staff, along with insufficient training, reduces outreach.
- **Migrant Worker Challenges** - Frequent migration makes it difficult to maintain updated information on location, occupation, and employment status, which affects effective targeting of schemes.

What are the steps to be taken?

- **Bridge Digital Divide** - Expand assisted registration through Common Service Centres (CSCs), Panchayats, and Self-Help Groups (SHGs). Implement targeted awareness campaigns for women, rural populations, and migrant workers.
- **Improve Accessibility** - Simplify the user interface, enhance support for regional languages, and incorporate features for voice input and low-literacy users.
- **Minimise Aadhaar Exclusion** - Implement flexible authentication and correction mechanisms for Aadhaar, mobile, and address mismatches, with particular attention to migrant populations.
- **Dynamic Database** - Enable regular updates and verification of occupation, location, employment status, and migration status.
- **Link Registration with Benefits** - Integrate the e-Shram platform with welfare schemes to enable automatic eligibility determination and seamless benefit delivery.
- **Ensure Portability** - Establish a portable social security identity for migrant workers that is recognised across all States.

- **Strengthen Coordination** - Enhance coordination among central, state, and local bodies. Provide regular training for officials and volunteers.
- **Ensure Data Security** - Enhance privacy protections, informed consent processes, cybersecurity measures, deduplication, and verification protocols to ensure reliable worker records.

What lies ahead?

- The e-Shram Portal has established a robust foundation for an inclusive, technology-enabled social security ecosystem for India's unorganised workforce.
- To advance this progress, the portal should transition from a static database to a dynamic social security platform.
- This evolution would facilitate portable, automatic, and timely access to welfare benefits, thereby transforming worker identification into substantive social security empowerment.

Reference

[PIB | 5 Years of e-Shram Portal](#)

