



Circular No – 027 / 2024

Date: 28-03-2024

To
All Members of The Association

TECHNICAL CONSULTATION ON EXTENDING SOCIAL PROTECTION TO GIG AND PLATFORM WORKERS IN INDIA – A GOVERNMENT OF KARNATAKA INITIATIVE IN COLLABORATION WITH ILO

Govt. of Karnataka in collaboration with the International Labour Organization (ILO) organized the inauguration program of "Technical Consultation of Extending Social Protection to Gig & Platform Workers in India" on 07th March 2024 at Taj West End, Bengaluru Hon'ble Minister of Labour Govt. of Karnataka inaugurated the session. On behalf of All India Organisation of Employers, the president of Karnataka Employers' Association Sri B.C. Prabhakar delivered Welcome Speech. On behalf of INTUC, Sri Lakshmi Venkatesh, President of Karnataka Branch of INTUC delivered Welcome address.

A few highlights from the speech of KEA President Sri B.C. Prabhakar is given below:

1. In India, the gig and platform economy has exploded in the past decade, empowering millions to use their skills, earn income, and boost the economy. Currently, over 7.7 million are engaged in this work, set to nearly triple to 23.5 million by 2029-2023—almost three times Switzerland's population.
2. The Ministry of Labour and Employment, Govt. of India has launched commendable initiatives to extend social protection to workers, including the e-shram portal for the unorganized workforce and gig workers. During the G20 presidency, the GoI showed significant commitment to enhancing social protection for this group.



3. AIOE, supported by the ILO, advocates for a multi-stakeholder approach involving Government, Employers, Workers, platform operators, civil society, Academia, and UN Agencies as the way forward. The key includes:
 - a. Inclusive Social Protection
 - b. Labor rights and fair wages
 - c. Date-driven regulations
 - d. Skill Development
 - e. Collaboration with platforms
 - f. Public Awareness
 - g. Research and Evaluation

4. He also mentioned about the social security benefits extended by Govt. of Karnataka to gig & platform workers. Like:
 - a. The Government of Karnataka had announced the provision of accident and life insurance worth ₹2 lakh and ₹4 lakh each to gig workers.
 - b. The Government of Karnataka, in the Budget Speech of 2024-25 has announced that a platform-based gig workers fund and welfare fee bill will be introduced in order to provide livelihood security and welfare to gig workers and that a CESS will be levied on eligible online transactions.

In conclusion, the President said that ensuring social protection for gig and platform workers is both morally imperative and economically vital. As a responsible employers' organization, the Association is dedicated to devising sustainable solutions that uphold the rights and dignity of these workers, while supporting the growth of the gig economy.



A few snippets from the session:



For KARNATAKA EMPLOYERS' ASSOCIATION

**Sd/
[B C Prabhakar]
President**