

City sees 2L spike in private sector jobs in 1 yr, shows data

ESIC Coverage Hits 14.8 Lakh In 2023-24

Bagish.Jha@timesofindia.com

Gurgaon: More than 2 lakh new employment opportunities were generated in the private sector in a year in the district. These were just entry-level jobs with a maximum salary of Rs 25,000 a month. The Employees' State Insurance Corporation (ESIC) data reveals the number of working population in Gurgaon has been steadily increasing and along with that, the number of insured employees has also gone up.

During 2022-23, there were 12.63 lakh insured workers (under ESIC) in Gurgaon, which increased to 14.8 lakh during 2023-24.

ESIC, a statutory corporate body established under the Employees' State Insurance Act, 1948, manages the ESIC scheme, a self-financed social security scheme.

ESIC provides healthcare and cash benefits to employees and their families, with contributions from both employers (3.3%) and

3K MORE AVAILED OF SICKNESS BENEFITS

Who is covered?	ESIC contribution
Those with a maximum salary of ₹25,000 a month	Employer contribution: 3.3% Employee contribution: 0.8%
How many insured?	Benefits given by ESIC Gurgaon
12.6L 2022-23	Sickness benefits: ₹3.7cr (3,000+ beneficiaries)
14.8L 2023-24	Maternity benefits: ₹4.6cr (571 beneficiaries)

employees (0.8%). Employees whose monthly wages do not exceed Rs 25,000 are covered under the Act.

Nearly 2.2 lakh new employees joined the workforce in the formal sector in a single year. This was contrary to the hype around the unemployment rate in Haryana. During the assembly election, unemployment was one of the major issues which the opposition used to corner the ruling party. The report from the Centre for Monitoring Indian Economy (CMIE) shows a staggering unemployment rate of 37.4%, which was among the highest in the country. However, the BJP-led govt in Haryana disputes these figures, asserting that the actual unemployment rate is around 6%.

During 2023-24, more than 3,000 insured (under ESIC) people received Rs 3.7

crore in sickness benefits and 571 female employees received Rs 4.6 crore in maternity benefits. Joint director (in-charge) of the sub-regional office of ESIC (Gurgaon) Sunil Yadav said that the increase is an indicator of the effective implementation of ESIC schemes and it shows that more and more workers are benefiting from these programs.

"To ensure better healthcare for workers, ESIC has launched several new initiatives, including preventive medical check-ups, health awareness campaigns and mental health support programmes. These initiatives have not only improved workers' health but have also enhanced their productivity," Yadav said.

Yadav said during 2023-24, this office took signifi-

cant steps to improve its services, expand its facilities and strengthen workers' welfare schemes. With the industrial development in the region, the effective implementation of ESIC's programmes has been crucial for the health and safety of the workers employed here. The work done by the Gurgaon office of ESIC was recognised by the ministry of labour & employment in Feb this year for providing "outstanding services" during the corporation's Foundation Day celebrations.

Gurgaon, emerging as a major industrial and corporate hub, posed a major challenge in providing adequate health facilities to the millions of workers employed here. "ESIC accepted this challenge and continuously expanded its health services. Hospitals and health centres were also equipped with modern facilities," Yadav said.

New medical equipment was provided at the ESIC hospitals located in Gurgaon and Manesar. ESIC's telemedicine services and the dispatch of medicines and health check-up services to elderly and disabled beneficiaries at their homes have provided workers with convenient healthcare services at home.