## 4,100 skilled labourers hired by Israeli team so far

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Lucknow: Undeterred by conflict, around 4,100 skilled labourers from Uttar Pradesh have been hired to perform various jobs - bar bending, tiling, mason and carpentry - in Israel.

Ending its one-week recruitment drive on Tuesday, the 15-member Israeli team is expected to hire over 5,000 workers from Uttar Pradesh to fill

up vacancies in their country.

Post the Israel-Hamas conflict, now in its fourth month, work permits of a large number of Palestinians have been revoked leading to shortage of labour. The Israeli team has been conducting skill tests for various construction roles – bar and bending, tiling, mason and stuttering carpenters. The selected ones will get a monthly salary of Rs 1.37 lakh along with medical insurance, food and accommodation.

"What will the conflict do when we have so much to earn? It is almost seven times more money per month than we would earn here," said Mukesh Kumar Rawat, 34, a mason from Lucknow.

Babu Lal (38) from Azamgarh said, "My hope is that we will go and do good work and spend some time and come back. I have four children to raise and the money I would earn in Israel will be sufficient for my family."

Following Israel's request to fast-track the arrival of Indian workers to the country amidst the war with Hamas,



(File) Job seekers undergoing skill test for jobs in Israel during job fair on ITI campus

two states - UP and Haryana - have responded to the Centre's call of providing manpower requirements to Israel and are conducting skill tests.

Placement officer MA Khan said, "Even before, workers from here went to Israel for work but through agents. Many a time, they were duped. For the first time, the governments of two countries are recruiting them in a fair manner. The pay package and incentives offered by the Israeli government are luring. In fact, the Israeli team will be back to UP next month too for another round of recruitment."

Principal at Government Industrial Training Institute (ITI), Aliganj, Raj Kumar Yadav, who is organising the recruitment drive, said, "We are expecting the figure to cross 5,000 mark at the end of the drive. There is a huge rush of on spot applicants. Instead of accommodating 500 workers each day, we are giving opportunities to 1,500 just to see them employed."