



# Dattopant Thengadi Foundation

## Important News in Media for December 08, 2022 and our Analysis

### News Analysis

#### About 90-110 lakh gig workers may be recruited by 2025: Report

The Economic Times| PTI

**Summary/Analysis:** According to a research, the number of people working as freelancers is expected to increase by 90–110 lakh by the year 2025. This is due to the fact that more and more businesses are opting to engage staff on a project basis. Indeed, a global job site, released a report on Wednesday stating that the "gig economy" has been one of the most significant economic shifts in a long time. People are choosing gig jobs because it works with their lifestyle, they can choose when and how much they work, or it allows them to earn money between jobs. According to the findings of the survey, businesses have also begun investing in gig work platforms and procedures, which is evidence that these factors will play an important role in the future expansion of employment opportunities in India. According to the findings of the analysis, 58% of the companies polled predict that the number of people working in the gig economy would increase to between 90 and 110 lakh by 2025, and some even predict that it will surpass this amount. Freelancers or independent contractors who work for several customers on a short-term basis and often on an as-needed basis are known as gig labourers.

"There has been a certain degree of formalisation in this sector as a result of the proliferation of app-based business models for functions such as delivery and in-home services. In the years to come, we anticipate that this market sector would see exponential growth" Sashi Kumar, who is in charge of sales in India, confirmed this.

The findings of this report come from a survey that was conducted with 550 employers and 750 gig workers working for various gig app companies. These companies include those that provide personal care services, cleaning services, household and vehicle repairs, food and other delivery,

and cab and two-wheeler-driving, HR consulting, retail, food and beverages, and home and office services. According to the findings of the survey, door-to-door delivery is now the gig position that companies are employing for the most often. In addition, according to the findings, 22% of the businesses polled are using independent contractors to supply meals, while 26% use them to deliver other goods. 10% of the firms polled are recruiting for cleaning positions, while 7% are hiring for personal care service jobs. Around 16% of the employers are employing gig workers for home or vehicle repairs and maintenance, as well as for driving cabs or two-wheeler vehicles. With the increasing gig and platform-based applications, it is indeed going to swell the numbers of workforce in the sector. Keeping the data in mind, the occupational, wage and social security is also necessary aspects to look with regard to the gig and platform workers.

## **Rural Sentiments Upbeat in November**

### **Business Standard| Mahesh Vyas**

**Summary/ Analysis:** Rural India performed quite well in November. The labour participation rate inched up and the unemployment rate dropped. As a result, the employment rate increased from 37 per cent in October to 37.5 per cent in November 2022. The 0.5 percentage point increase in November led to the addition of 4.3 million jobs in rural India. Urban India did not do as well because while the labour participation rate increased, the unemployment rate also increased and as a result, the employment rate rose only marginally from 34.2 per cent to 34.4 per cent in November 2022. The Index of Consumer Sentiments (ICS) shows a similar difference between rural and urban India's performance in November. The ICS fell by 1.5 per cent in urban India while it increased by 0.5 per cent in rural India. The overall ICS fell by 0.2 per cent. The fall in the ICS in November 2022 comes after two months of robust increases. The ICS had risen somewhat sharply, by 11.4 per cent, in the preceding two months, which were the major festival months in India. A correction after the festivities is understandable. Interestingly, the correction is small (0.2 per cent) compared to the rise (11.4 per cent). It is good to learn that consumer sentiments in India consolidated almost all the gains made during the festival months of 2022. The ICS seems to have sustained its elevated levels after the festival months partly because of the wedding season that has commenced. This is expected to last for a few months and could keep the demand for consumer durables elevated. Rural India also holds out a promise because

the rabi crop sowing seems to be progressing well. Higher output along with the elevated prices for most agricultural produce bodes well for the hinterlands. The rural Index of Consumer Expectations was up by 1.9 per cent in November 2022. This was the biggest contributor to the ICS holding up in November.

## **Tech cos will continue to look for talent with digital skills**

**Financial Express| Aysuhman Baruah**

**Summary/ Analysis:** This interview with Debjani Ghos, President NASSCOM bring some relevant points about the future of digital skills. Ghos tells that despite the short term macro-economic uncertainties and tailwinds, the longer-term technology enabled transformation story is intact. Nasscom will conduct an in-depth CEO survey in January to understand how next year looks like for Indian tech industry. Going forward, businesses are approaching hiring more systematically and placing emphasis on investing in re-skilling their workforce with training around specialised skills. While shortage of skilled talent continues to be a global phenomenon, India with over 1.6 million digitally skilled professional, has the lowest demand-supply gap at 21.1% (as a percentage of supply) among top tech locations such as the US, China, and the UK. What determines the competitive advantage for nations in the digital world is talent. India with its young, diverse, and digitally skilled pool of talent, is well positioned to help close the demand-supply gap on skilled talent and will continue to be the prime destination for talent for businesses globally. For India to keep its lead in the digital era, organisations need to ramp up their talent strategies to build digital capabilities in smaller towns, get more women to join the work stream with hybrid work norms, revamp vocational education from ITI and polytechnics, incentivise skilling, and explore innovative learning modules through government certifications. Building a culture of lifelong learning opportunities for employees and offering them clear career progression plans helps ignite employee engagement. Having said that, employees must also focus on upskilling and reskilling, learning, and unlearning to enhance their future competitiveness in the digital era.

## **India to soon suffer from heatwaves that break human survivability limit: World Bank**

**Mint| Sayantani Biswas**

**Summary/ Analysis:** The World Bank has issued a dire warning for India, predicting that it would be among the first nations to endure heatwaves so extreme that human survival will be threatened. In the last ten years, heatwaves have become more common worldwide, claiming

hundreds of lives each year. According to a paper titled "Climate Investment Opportunities in India's Cooling Sector," India is experiencing greater temperatures that come earlier and linger far longer than normal.

The World Bank and the government of Kerala are hosting a two-day "India Climate and Development Partners' Meet" where the study will be made public.

New Delhi, the capital city of India, had temperatures of 46 degrees Celsius and higher in April 2022 due to an early spring heat wave.

The research by the World Bank expressed concern that the increasing temperatures throughout India might threaten economic output. "Up to 380 million individuals in India's workforce rely on heat-exposed labour, sometimes working in conditions where their lives are at danger. Of the estimated 80 million worldwide employment losses by 2030 due to heat stress linked productivity drop, 34 million might be attributable to India ", the study said. Among the South Asian nations studied, India had the greatest effect from heat exposure on heavy work, with over 101 billion hours lost annually. McKinsey & Company, a worldwide management consulting organisation, has calculated that by the end of this decade, India might lose between \$150 and \$250 billion in GDP due to heat-related labour losses, which would represent 4.5% of the country's GDP. Maintaining food and public health safety in India over the long run requires a solid cold chain infrastructure. It is essential to have a fully functional cold chain refrigeration system for transporting food and pharmaceuticals throughout India.

"Even a brief rise in temperature during transport may ruin perishable goods like vegetables and vaccinations. Only 4% of India's fresh produce is protected by cold chain facilities, leading to an estimated \$13 billion in yearly food waste "claimed the message. It was also said that before Covid-19, India, the third biggest pharmaceutical manufacturer in the world, was losing around \$313 million yearly due to broken cold chains that affected about 20% of temperature-sensitive medicinal items and 25% of vaccines.

It warned that the current hot wave in India is evidence of what many climate experts have warned about for a long time in relation to increasing temperatures throughout South Asia.

According to the paper, "heat waves throughout India were predicted to endure 25 times longer by 2036-65 if carbon emissions stay high," using the worst-case emission scenario presented by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC).