



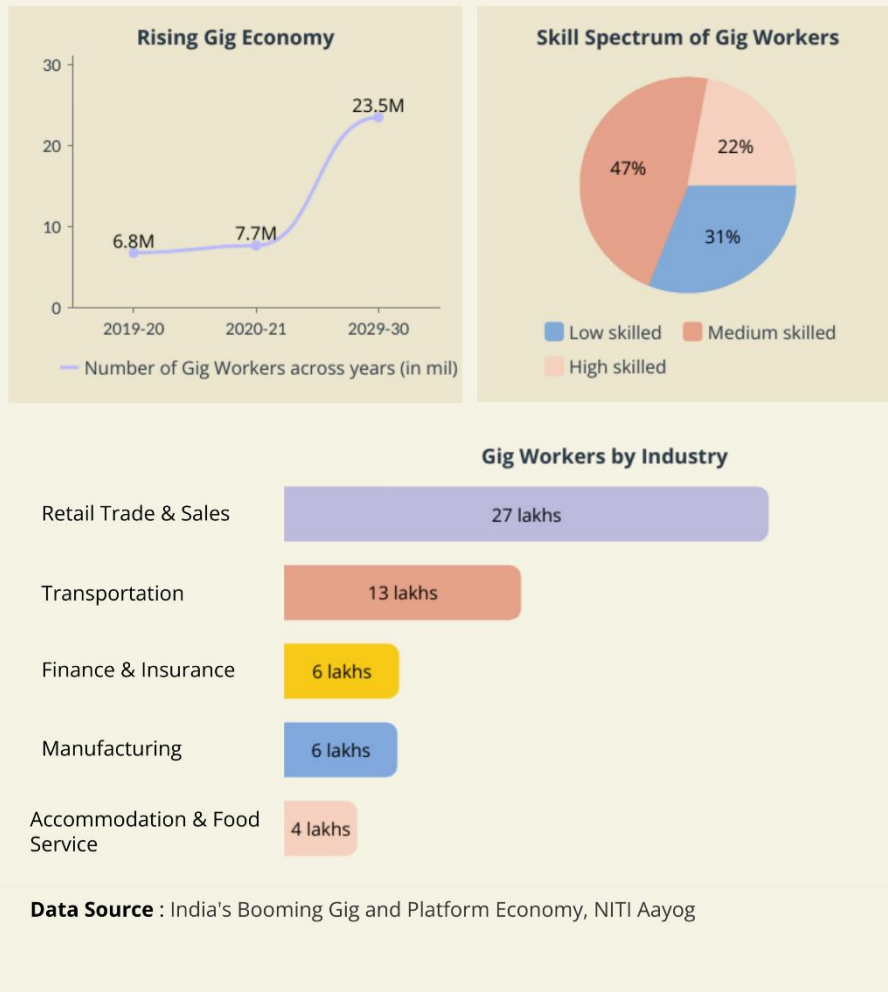
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Data Dive: Decoding the Gig Economy in India

Inside the Gig Economy

Gig workers – those engaged in livelihoods outside the traditional employer-employee arrangement.



The gig economy in India has brought about a transformative change in the employment scenario, marked by flexible work hours, on-demand service, and limited social protection. As more and more apps flourish here, it necessitates the requirement of a gig workforce. However, that also means, that more workforce is being deprived of basic social protection. This increases workload and uncertainty for workers without commensurate pay increases. Moreover, gig workers are not recognized as 'workers' but as 'partners' and thus lack any social security benefits. As policymakers grapple with the challenges as well as opportunities presented by this innovative trend, the Rajasthan government has delivered a Platform Based Gig Workers (Registration and Welfare) Bill 2023.

To gain a comprehensive insight into the current state of the gig economy in India, let's delve into data. According to a report by NITI Aayog, the gig economy in India employed 7.7 million workers in the year 2020-23 and is expected to rise to 23.5 million workers by the end of the year 2029-30. This sheds light on the potential of the gig economy as a major source of employment in the country.

The data highlights a significant disparity in the skill distribution among gig workers in India. Currently, only 22% of gig workers come in the high-skilled category and are engaged in the highly specialized design, IT, and management sectors. In contrast, the majority comprising 78% of workers fall in the category of low-medium-skilled. They are predominantly engaged in sectors such as sales, transportation, and food services, that do not require any extensive training or qualification. The current scenario presents itself as an opportunity to upskill these workers and improve their earning potential as well as design policies that protect the rights of these low-skilled workers, often associated with low wages and limited agency.

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