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3rd July 2025



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**3<sup>rd</sup> July 2025**

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## Rephasing global development finance

### Why in News?

- India as a leader of Global South Countries

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 2 – International Relations

## Rephasing global development finance

India's development cooperation with the Global South has been showing a rising trend for the last several years. India has made consistent efforts to expand the facets of these engagements and has also almost doubled the flow of quantum – from around \$3 billion in 2010-11 to around \$7 billion in 2023-24. While capacity building programmes and the initiatives for technology transfer and duty-free access to India markets have been important modalities of this engagement, the main instrument has been the extension of lines of credit (LoC) under the Indian Development and Economic Assistance Scheme (IDEAS).

If budgetary provisions for 2025-26 are any indication, the red flag from the Ministry of Finance on credit lines, as a modality of engagement, is absolutely clear. At the G-20, India expressed serious concerns over rising sovereign debt levels across the Global South. During the third Voice of Global South Summit (VoGS) in 2024, Prime Minister Narendra Modi articulated the concept of a Global Development Compact (GDC), thereby implying a harmonious balance between all the modalities of engagement with the Global South. It is worth noting that there are five modalities of engagement, viz., capacity building, technology transfer, market access, grants and concessional finance. This balanced approach on modalities may be supplemented by India by having wider and deeper partnerships with countries that can work across third countries.

In this backdrop, under the modalities of engagement, India has to refocus on LoCs as an instrument of engagement. India was largely borrowing from global capital markets and providing the resources to the partner countries at a concessional rate of interest. The difference in the rates of interest was being absorbed by the Government of India. With a rising global liquidity crisis, such schemes have lost their relevance as capital market predictability and the repaying capabilities of partner countries have become severely constrained. India should take full advantage of this new reality.

#### Shrinking ODA and debt crisis

The traditional official development assistance (ODA) providers are going through their own budgetary crisis while the partners of the Global South have challenges in coping with the debt



**Sachin Chaturvedi**  
is Vice-Chancellor, Nalanda University, Rajgir, Bihar, and Director-General at the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), a New Delhi-based think-tank

With geopolitical complexities affecting global development finance, a solution lies in evolving a mechanism of pooling resources with like-minded countries

crisis. With rising geopolitical complexities, the flow of global development finance in any case is witnessing a profound decline. The collapse of USAID and the decline of the Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) have highlighted the emerging crisis in development finance. The availability and leveraging of resources have been hampered further by the declining trend in ODA, which is likely to be close to \$97 billion. This proposed slashing of foreign aid is a near 45% reduction from the levels of ODA in 2023, which stood at around \$214 billion. At the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD), its Development Assistance Committee (DAC) has been an elite club for ODA providers, dictating the terms and conditions for the economic and political programmes for the South.

Shrinkage in the resource flow is likely to affect several development programmes, across least developed economies, particularly at a time when several of them are passing through an unprecedented debt crisis. Over the last 20 years, a series of overlapping crises and major geopolitical and economic transformations have reshaped the global financial environment, leaving many developing countries struggling to access funding. This has posed a risk to development progress at risk and jeopardised achievements.

The investment needed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) by 2030 has also surged from \$2.5 trillion in 2015 to over \$4 trillion in 2024. Without a major increase in financing, progress toward the SDGs (already derailed by the COVID-19 pandemic and other global shocks) will remain elusive. Simultaneously, borrowing has become costlier and less predictable.

#### Rationale for triangular cooperation

A ray of hope lies in the possibility of evolving a new mechanism of pooling resources with like-minded countries. The flows from the 19 non-DAC countries that report to the OECD rose from \$1.1 billion in 2000 to \$17.7 billion in 2022. Some of these countries such as Indonesia and Brazil have evolved a rich global experience with Japan and Germany of working in third countries. Japan and Indonesia have worked together in several Association of Southeast Asian Nations

(ASEAN) economies to implement development projects. Similarly, Germany and Brazil have worked together in Mozambique in multiple development areas. Triangular Cooperation (TrC) has emerged as a powerful mechanism to bridge the divide between the Global North and the Global South.

The beauty of the TrC is that it brings together a traditional donor from the Global North, a pivotal country from the Global South, and a partner country (often from the Global South), creating inclusive platforms for shared learning, mutual respect and the co-creation of solutions tailored to local needs. Comprehensive TrC data is still being compiled at the global stage. However, the efficacy and the success of the model has been well established. Some preliminary data collection suggests TrC to be between \$670 million to \$1.1 billion.

#### Partnerships with results

The TrC has shown that addressing physical infrastructure can advance social progress. For instance, improving regional energy grids expands digital connectivity and provides access to opportunities in education and health. In this context, in 2022, Germany and India signed a Joint Declaration of Intent on the implementation of TrC projects in third countries (during the sixth India-Germany Inter-Governmental Consultations), with a focus on Africa, Asia, and Latin America. Since then, TrC projects are being implemented in several countries which include Cameroon, Ghana and Malawi in Africa, and in Peru in Latin America.

These offer clear examples as to how to rephase global development finance in a manner that ensures assured and efficacious outcomes in a cost-effective manner. Engagement in TrC was further emphasised during India's G-20 presidency, with expanded collaborations involving countries such as Germany, the United States, the United Kingdom, the European Union, and France. These partnerships span a variety of sectors and modalities, from grant-based projects to investment-driven initiatives such as the Global Innovation Partnership (GIP) with the U.K. These efforts illustrate how leveraging technical, financial, and human resources can deliver results in third countries.

*The views expressed are personal*



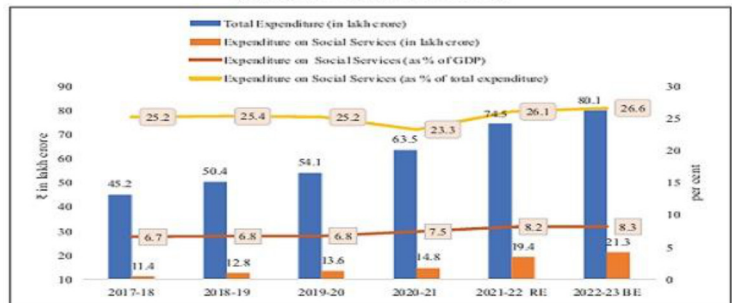


## Key Takeaways from the Article

### • Rising Trend in India's Development Cooperation:

- ♦ India has expanded its engagement with the **Global South**, increasing development assistance from **\$3 billion in 2010–11 to \$7 billion in 2023–24**.
- ♦ Main modalities include - **capacity building, technology transfer, duty-free market access**, and most notably, **Lines of Credit (LoCs)** under the **IDEAS scheme**.

Figure VI.1: Trends in social service sector expenditure by General Government (Combined Centre and States)



Source: Reserve Bank of India, Budget Documents of Union and State Governments.

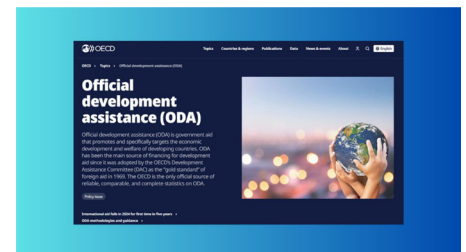
### • Budgetary Shift and Policy Refocus:

- ♦ The **Finance Ministry** has flagged concerns about LoCs amid rising debt vulnerabilities of partner countries and unpredictable global capital markets.
- ♦ PM Modi introduced the idea of a **Global Development Compact (GDC)** during the **Voice of Global South Summit (2024)**, emphasising a **balanced five-fold approach**: capacity building, technology transfer, market access, grants, and concessional finance.



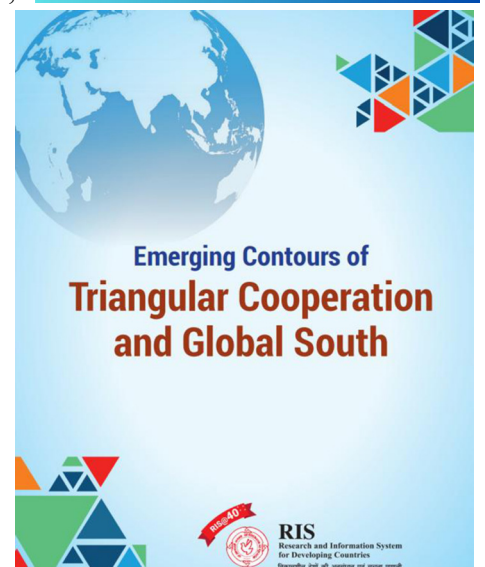
### • Decline in Traditional ODA Flows:

- ♦ **Official Development Assistance (ODA)** from traditional donors like USAID and FCDO is shrinking due to their own domestic budget crises.
- ♦ Global ODA projected to fall from **\$214 billion in 2023 to \$97 billion — a 45% reduction**.
- ♦ The **OECD-DAC** continues to dominate the aid framework, limiting autonomy for recipient countries.



### • Need for a New Model – Triangular Cooperation (TrC):

- ♦ TrC involves **three partners**: a traditional donor (e.g. Germany, Japan), a pivotal developing country (e.g. India, Brazil), and a recipient country (e.g. Ghana, Peru).
- ♦ TrC fosters **shared learning, mutual respect, and co-created solutions**, particularly suited to local needs.
- ♦ Funding flows from **non-DAC countries** (e.g., Brazil, Indonesia) rose from **\$1.1 billion in 2000 to \$17.7 billion in 2022**.





- **Successful Examples of TrC:**
  - ♦ **Germany and India's Joint Declaration (2022)** on TrC implementation in **Africa, Asia, and Latin America** — projects in **Ghana, Cameroon, Malawi, and Peru.**
  - ♦ **India's G-20 presidency** promoted TrC collaborations with **Germany, UK, EU, France, and the U.S.,** including the **Global Innovation Partnership (GIP)** with the U.K.



## AI in India: strategy must precede mission

### Why in News?

- National AI Strategy and AI Mission

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Science & Technology

## AI in India: strategy must precede mission

**I**ndia has declared its ambition to be a global leader in Artificial Intelligence (AI) governance. As the world's largest democracy and a tech-savvy nation, it is well-positioned to champion an inclusive and human-centric approach to AI. But this aspiration risks being undermined by the absence of a comprehensive, democratically anchored national AI strategy.

India's current AI initiatives centre on the IndiaAI Mission, led by a bureaucrat and housed as an independent unit within a Section 8 company under the Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology. The Mission cannot substitute for a national strategy. Missions are vehicles for executing priorities, but only after priorities have been clearly defined.

In India's approach to AI, fundamental questions remain unresolved. What are our national priorities? Which governance values should guide us? How should institutions be structured? Moving forward without answering these questions poses two risks: it may compromise India's ability to lead and maintain strategic autonomy; and it may embed an AI governance model that is technocratic, opaque, and lacking democratic legitimacy.

#### The many risks

This is not an abstract concern. Several pressing risks are already visible. AI technologies are becoming increasingly embedded in India's defence, intelligence, and critical infrastructure systems. Recent developments – military conflict, weaponisation of financial infrastructure, strategic technology competition – have demonstrated how technological dependencies can be leveraged to achieve geopolitical objectives. Without an indigenous, coordinated AI strategy, India faces the risk of strategic dependencies on foreign technologies. Safeguarding India's strategic autonomy requires developing a whole-of-government



**Ruchi Gupta**  
Executive Editor of the Future of India Foundation and an Aspen Global Leadership Fellow. This column is based on the Foundation's report 'Governing AI in India: Why Strategy Must Precede Mission'. Vandita Gupta contributed to the research

Without a transparent, democratically grounded national strategy on AI, India's ability to shape global AI norms will remain constrained

AI strategy aligned with national security priorities and focused on building resilient, sovereign capabilities.

Data is the raw material of AI. As India builds public data platforms, how this data is curated, accessed, and governed will shape innovation and market power. Without transparent, democratically debated data governance frameworks, these ecosystems risk reinforcing corporate concentration and undermining public trust.

Nowhere is the governance gap clearer than in employment. Automation is already transforming India's labour market. In 2024 alone, India's top three IT services firms – TCS, Infosys, and Wipro – shed nearly 65,000 jobs. The International Monetary Fund estimates that 26% of India's workforce is exposed to generative AI, with 12% at risk of displacement. Despite this, national AI initiatives do not sufficiently address employment transition, workforce planning, or social protections. The absence of structured input from labour economists, civil society, and workforce experts has limited the ambit of deliberation to technocratic concerns. Addressing these gaps will help ensure that AI adoption supports economic resilience and social stability.

AI is extraordinarily energy-hungry. The International Energy Agency projects that global data centre electricity demand will double by 2030. This poses challenges for India. Eleven of India's 20 largest cities face acute water stress. Groundwater levels are rapidly declining in Bengaluru and Hyderabad – both emerging AI and data centre hubs. Yet policy discussions on AI in India have scarcely addressed the energy implications of scaling AI.

AI will profoundly reshape work, education, and the social contract. It will determine which skills are valued, influence how citizens are trained, and shape who benefits from economic gains. These shifts cannot be left

to market forces or technical experts. They demand national dialogue involving industry leaders, parliamentarians, educators, civil society, and labour representatives, to chart a just and equitable path forward.

As AI gets integrated in sensitive domains – healthcare, policing, welfare – the risks of bias, discrimination, and lost accountability grow. Without clear regulatory frameworks, public trust in AI governance may erode.

India has rightly positioned itself as a voice for the Global South in international AI governance forums, notably through its leadership in the Global Partnership on AI. But global credibility depends on coherence at home. Without a transparent, democratically grounded national strategy, India's ability to shape global AI norms will remain constrained.

Strategy must precede mission. Harnessing AI for national leadership and public good requires proactive, strategic, and coordinated governance. Managing this transition demands inclusive, forward-looking, and democratically accountable governance anchored in a national strategy shaped through open public deliberation.

#### What is the path forward?

First, India needs to publish a Cabinet-endorsed national AI strategy and present it to Parliament. Second, it must constitute a dedicated Standing Committee on AI and Emerging Technologies in Parliament to oversee executive initiatives, ethical risks, and public consultations. Third, it needs to commission a national impact study on AI-driven employment disruption, particularly in entry-level white-collar roles, with granular data on sectors, demographics, and regions.

Taking the time to build democratic consensus and institutional architecture is a difficult road to take, but it will make India a genuine AI leader.



## Key Takeaways from the Article

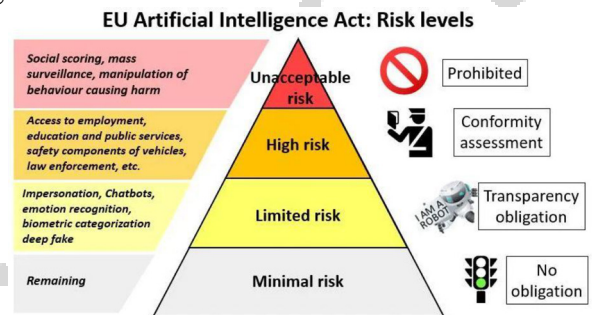
### ● India's Global AI Ambition vs. Domestic Gaps:

- ◆ India aspires to become a global leader in **human-centric AI governance**, especially for the **Global South**.
- ◆ However, this ambition is weakened by the **absence of a national AI strategy** with democratic legitimacy.
- ◆ The current **India AI Mission**, while well-intentioned, is run by a bureaucratic setup without strategic clarity, public accountability, or parliamentary endorsement.



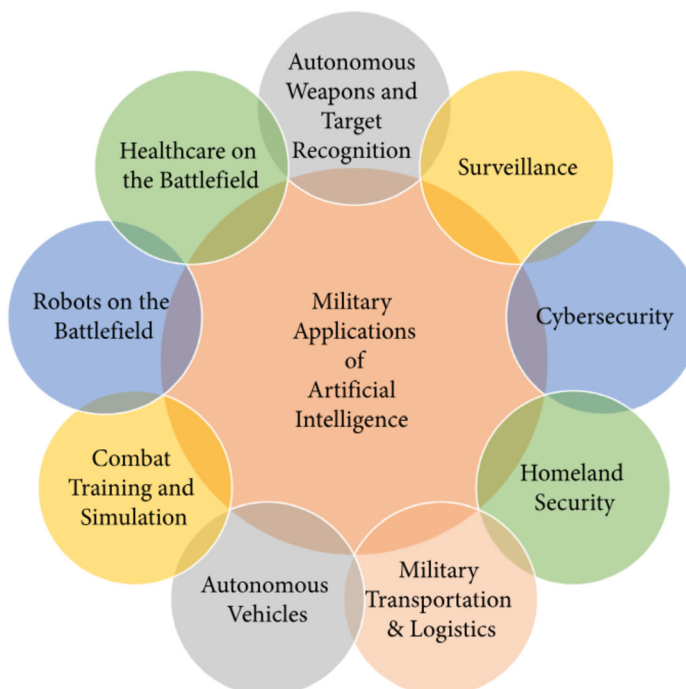
### ● Strategic & Security Concerns:

- ◆ AI is already being integrated into **defence, intelligence, and critical infrastructure**.
- ◆ Lack of an indigenous AI framework may create **dependencies on foreign technologies**, weakening **India's strategic autonomy**.



### ● Environmental Costs of AI:

- ◆ AI and data centres are **energy-intensive**; the IEA projects that data centre electricity demand will **double by 2030**.
- ◆ Cities like Bengaluru and Hyderabad, emerging as tech hubs, are already facing **acute water stress**.
- ◆ These concerns are **missing from India's AI discourse**.





## ● Global vs. Domestic Alignment:

- ◆ India is positioning itself as a **voice for the Global South** on global AI platforms like the **Global Partnership on AI (GPAI)**.
- ◆ But its **domestic incoherence** undermines its global credibility.

Transformative Impact of AI on Modern Military Operations



## Are gig workers a part of India's labour data?

### Why in News?

- Gig Economy Workers

### Syllabus

- GS Paper 3 – Indian Economy

# Are gig workers a part of India's labour data?

Though gig work is technically included under economic activity in the Periodic Labour Force Survey, without a specific classification, the survey fails to offer visibility into the unique nature of digital labour, characterised by multiple job roles, dependence on algorithms, lack of formal contract and absence of safety metrics

#### ECONOMIC NOTES

Durga Narayan

**T**he 2025 Union Budget took several measures to formally 'recognise' gig and platform workers, and extended various social protection schemes to this growing workforce. Despite this recognition, the revised Periodic Labour Force Survey (PLFS), 2025 does not include substantive changes to account for the diverse forms of gig and platform work.

#### Gaps in labour classification

Gig workers were first incorporated into the legal framework through the Code on Social Security, 2020. Under Chapter I, Section 2(35), a gig worker is defined as "a person who participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship." Platform work, as defined in the Code, is "a work arrangement outside of a traditional employer-employee relationship in which organisations or individuals use an online platform to access other organisations or individuals to solve specific problems or to provide specific services or any such other activities which may be notified by the Central Government, in exchange for payment."

While this definition separates gig workers from both formal and informal categories, it doesn't clearly define who a gig worker is or the nature of gig work. According to NITI Aayog's 2022 report 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy', the gig workforce is expected to reach 23.5 million by 2029-30. Despite such projections and efforts to define gig work, India's primary labour statistics source, the PLFS, continues to subsume gig work under vague categories such as 'self-employed', 'own-account workers', or 'casual labour'. This statistical invisibility has direct consequences.

Clause 141 of the Code on Social



**On the periphery:** Gig workers prepare to deliver orders in New Delhi, in 2024. REUTERS

Security, 2020, "seeks to provide that the Central Government shall establish a Social Security Fund for social security and welfare of the unorganised workers, gig workers and platform workers." Similarly, the National Social Security Board, constituted under Section 6 of the Code on Social Security, 2020, is tasked with framing and overseeing welfare schemes for gig and platform workers. Such welfare boards and policymakers rely on the PLFS for 'evidence-based policy'; but the absence of a distinct category for gig and platform workers undermines its very intent. When classification itself is unclear in primary datasets, access to schemes becomes uneven and exclusionary.

#### How the PLFS falls short

In response to a Rajya Sabha query on whether the government had updated PLFS methodology to capture the rise of

gig work, the Ministry of Statistics and Programme Implementation stated, "No updation in the PLFS Schedule has been undertaken with the objective of specifically identifying persons engaged in the gig economy. However, all market activities i.e. activities performed for pay or profit which result in production of goods and services for exchange are included under the domain of economic activity considered in PLFS. The activity situation of a person who is found to be working or being engaged in economic activity during a specified reference period is associated with employment in PLFS. Hence, even the persons engaged in 'gig economy' for pay & profit are covered in PLFS."

Though gig work is technically included under economic activity, without a specific category or classification, the survey fails to offer visibility into the unique nature of digital

labour, characterised by multiple job roles, dependence on algorithms, lack of formal contract and absence of safety metrics. In the survey, while the question on the type of job contract provides an option for 'no written job contract', it doesn't capture the hybrid nature of work.

Unlike traditional self-employment, gig work is shaped by platform algorithms, performed across multiple apps and are mostly task-based rather than time-bound. Workers have no stable contracts, and often rely on digital reach. Many lack access to benefits or protections available to formal workers, and don't fully own their work processes, making the "self-employed" label misleading. Employment uncertainties, income volatility and algorithm governance remain invisible within PLFS classification. A food delivery person working across platforms like Swiggy, Zomato, for instance, will be flattened into a category that does not reflect entirely on their employment conditions or social security needs.

#### THE GIST

◆ Gig workers were first incorporated into the legal framework through the Code on Social Security, 2020.

◆ According to NITI Aayog's 2022 report 'India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy', the gig workforce is expected to reach 23.5 million by 2029-30.

◆ Unlike traditional self-employment, gig work is shaped by platform algorithms, performed across multiple apps and are mostly task-based rather than time-bound. Workers have no stable contracts, and often rely on digital reach.

#### Recognition without representation

Recent policy efforts like the e-Shram registration, the issuance of digital ID cards, and health coverage under the Ayushman Bharat Pradhan Mantri Jan Arogya Yojana indicate the state's recognition of the gig and platform workforce. But unless statistical systems like the PLFS evolve, the data meant to support and monitor these interventions cannot be considered inclusive.

The 2025 PLFS revision introduced some important updates: a larger sample size, monthly estimates, and better rural representation. However, it still does not address the issues of how gig work is defined and understood. For inclusive policy making, India must update PLFS classification codes or introduce survey modules that distinctly capture gig work.

Durga Narayan is a policy researcher affiliated with the Indian Institute for Human Settlements (IIHS) and the Observer Research Foundation (ORF), Mumbai.



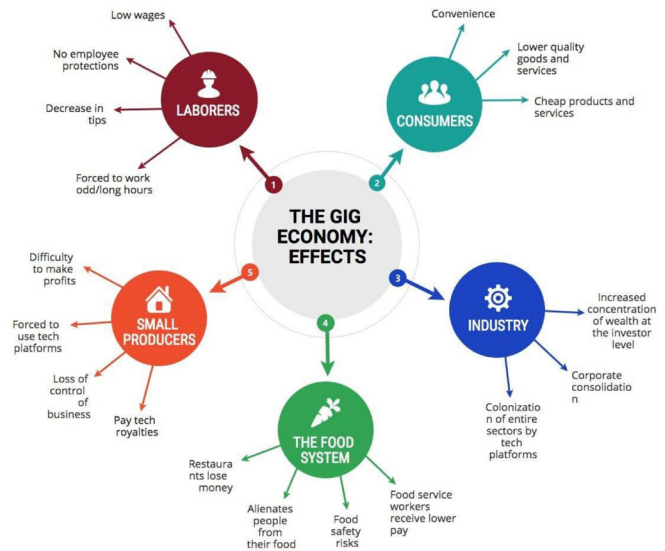
## Key Takeaways from the Article

### • Legal Recognition vs Statistical Invisibility:

- ♦ Gig and platform workers were first legally defined in the **Code on Social Security, 2020**, under Section 2(35), but not adequately reflected in labour statistics.
- ♦ The **Union Budget 2025** took steps to extend **social protection** schemes to gig workers.
- ♦ Despite this, the **2025 PLFS revision** does **not distinctly identify** gig/platform workers, continuing to lump them under broad categories such as **self-employed, own-account workers, or casual labour**.

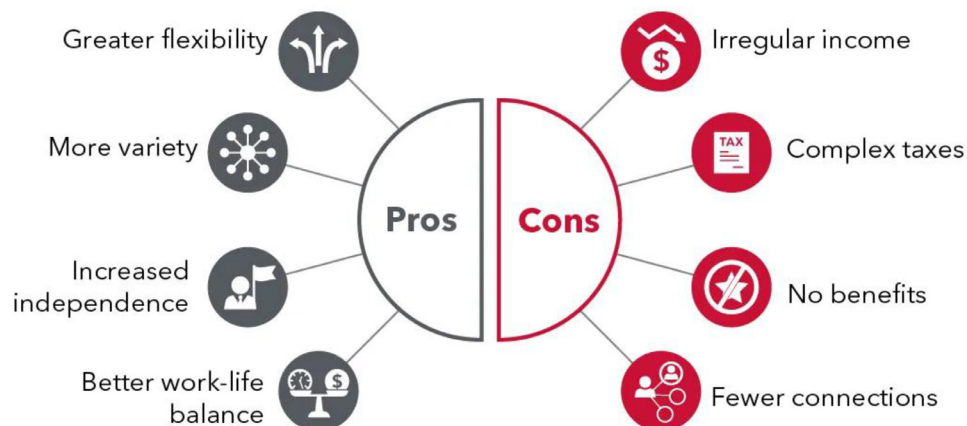
### • NITI Aayog Projections:

- ♦ The **2022 NITI Aayog report** titled '*India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy*' estimated that India's gig workforce could reach **23.5 million by 2029–30**.
- ♦ However, without updated statistical recognition, this rapidly growing workforce remains **underrepresented in national data**.



## GIG ECONOMY PROS AND CONS

Workers in a gig economy can enjoy a number of advantages, but there also are potential disadvantages. The pros and cons include:



### • Why PLFS Falls Short:

- ♦ Gig work is **not time-bound**, often involves **multiple apps**, is **algorithmically managed**, lacks **formal contracts**, and provides **no job security or benefits**.
- ♦ These complexities are **flattened in PLFS**, which doesn't capture **employment volatility**, **income insecurity**, or **techmediated working conditions**.
- ♦ Example: A food delivery worker on Swiggy and Zomato is recorded as "self-employed", ignoring their actual **hybrid work nature**.

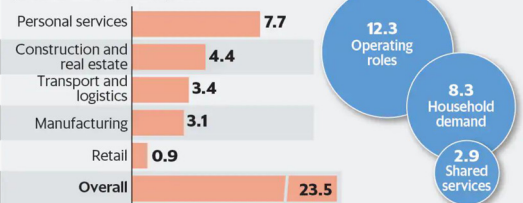
### Growing gigs

Construction, manufacturing, retail, transportation and logistics sectors may create around 70 million 'gigable' jobs within 8-10 years.

No. of gig jobs projected (in mn)

Gig workers may service 23.5 million jobs in three to four years

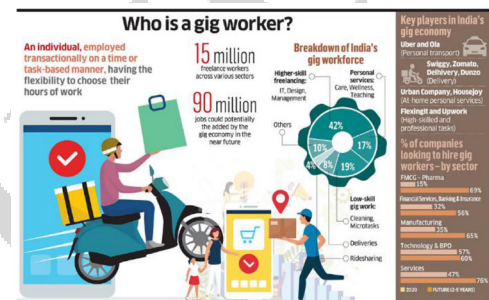
Type of gig roles



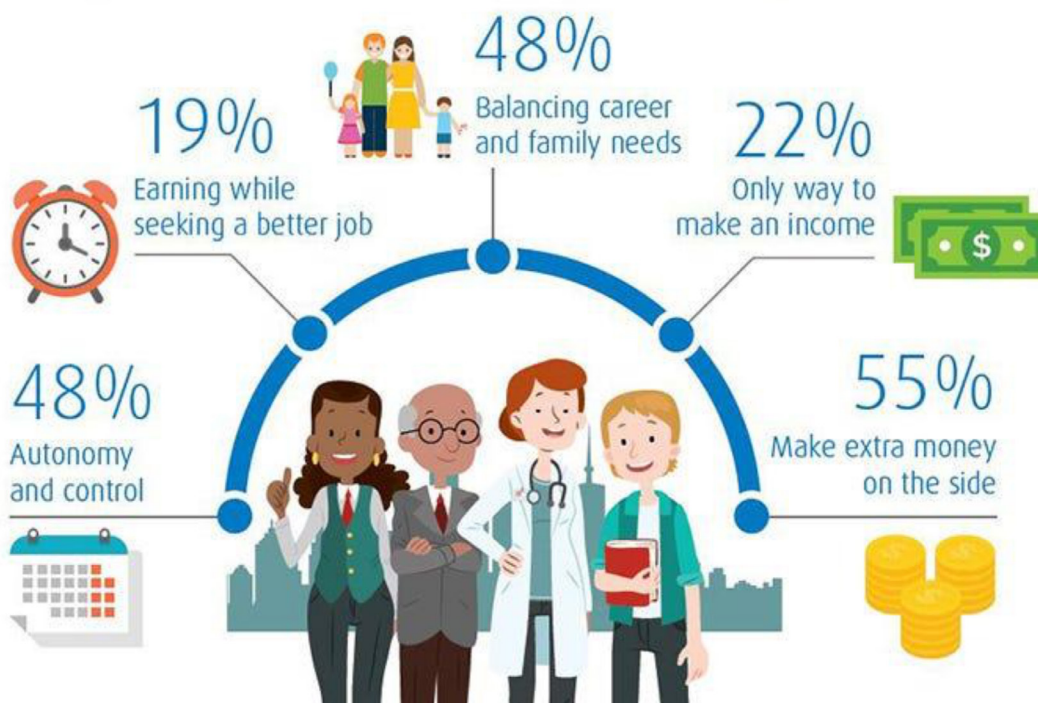
Source: Unlocking the Potential of Gig Economy in India Report

### • Recognition Without Representation:

- ♦ Initiatives like **e-Shram registration**, **digital ID cards**, and **Ayushman Bharat health coverage** for gig workers show **policy intent**.
- ♦ However, the lack of **granular, disaggregated data** undermines policy **targeting and monitoring**.
- ♦ Though the new PLFS version increased sample size, added **monthly estimates**, and improved **rural data representation**, it **did not fix classification issues** related to gig work.



## Top reasons for working in the gig economy





## BRICS

- What is BRICS?
- Origin of BRICS:
  - ◆ 2009 –
  - ◆ 2010 –
  - ◆ 2011 –
  - ◆ 2014 –
  - ◆ 2015 –
  - ◆ 2021 –
  - ◆ 2022 –

# BRICS will help create a ‘multipolar’ world: Modi

PM lands in Ghana as he begins his five-nation trip; he says the visits will strengthen cooperation within Global South; he will also attend the BRICS summit in Brazil and hold bilateral meetings

**Kallol Bhattacharjee**  
NEW DELHI

India and Brazil will discuss ways to advance the priorities of the Global South in the coming days, said Prime Minister Narendra Modi ahead of his five-nation visit beginning on Wednesday.

Mr. Modi, who will attend the BRICS summit to be held in Brazil's Rio De Janeiro during the trip, said the summit will help create a "balanced multipolar world order". He further said the five-nation visit will help strengthen cooperation within the Global South. The Prime Minister is expected to hold several bilateral meetings on the sidelines of the summit as well.

"As a founding member, India is committed to BRICS as a vital platform for cooperation among emerging economies. Together, we strive for a more peaceful, equitable, just, democratic and balanced multipolar world order," said Mr. Modi in a departure statement as he boarded the official aircraft that landed in Ghana for a bilateral visit.

The Prime Minister will



**Pleasant ties:** Prime Minister Narendra Modi being welcomed by Ghana President John Mahama on his arrival at Kotoka International Airport in Accra on Wednesday. ANI

also visit Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, and Namibia, before concluding the trip on July 9.

### State honour

According to Ghanaian news outlet *Graphic.com.gh*, the Foreign Minister of Ghana Samuel Okudzeto Ablakwa had announced that Mr. Modi will receive the country's highest state honour, the Companion of the Order of the Star of Ghana, during the visit. Previous recipients of the honour include the late French Presi-

dent Jacques Chirac, King Mohammed VI of Morocco, President Luiz Inácio 'Lula' da Silva of Brazil, former Nigerian President Olusegun Obasanjo, and former Namibian President Sam Nujoma.

Mr. Modi will hold talks with President John Dramani Mahama in Ghana. "Ghana is a valued partner in the Global South and plays an important role in the African Union and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS)," said Mr. Modi, adding that his visit will build

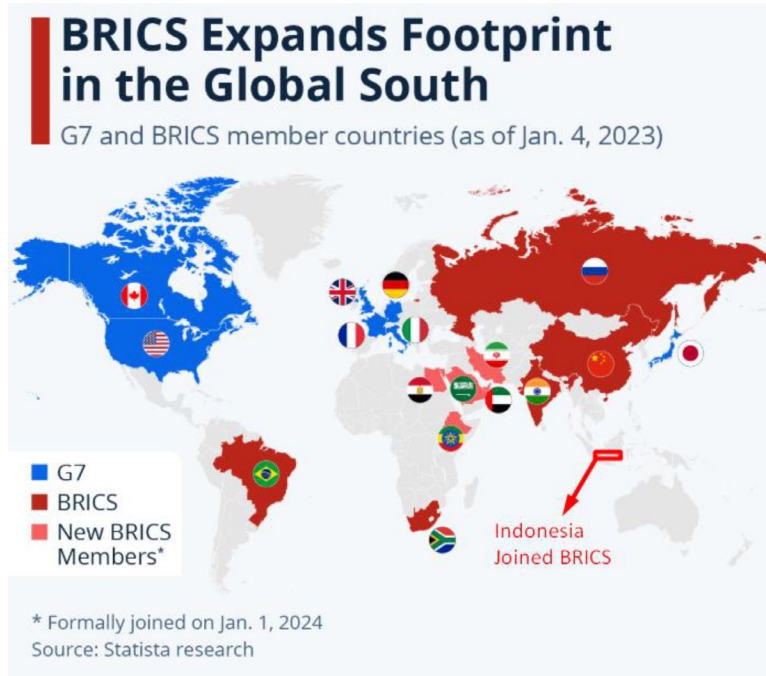
on India's historic ties with Ghana and help in opening up areas like investment, energy, health, capacity building and development partnership.

Mr. Modi will also address the Parliament of Ghana during the visit. Mr. Ablakwa has said that Ghana plans to emerge as the "vaccine hub" for Africa and talks would be held with Mr. Modi during the visit regarding vaccine production in Ghana.

**CONTINUED ON**  
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- ◆ New Development Bank (NDB) - ?
- ◆ Contingent Reserve Arrangement (CRA) - ?
- ◆ Expansion of BRICS Membership - ?



### Prelims PYQ (2025)

7. Consider the following statements with regard to **BRICS** :

- 16th **BRICS** Summit was held under the Chairship of Russia in Kazan.
- Indonesia has become a full member of **BRICS**.
- The theme of the 16th **BRICS** Summit was Strengthening Multiculturalism for Just Global Development and Security.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) I and II      (b) II and III  
(c) I and III      (d) I only



### Prelims CDS PYQ (2018)

**Q. The first BRICS Summit, after the inclusion of South Africa, was held at:**

- (a) Brasilia
- (b) Sanya
- (c) Yekaterinburg
- (d) Durban

### Prelims CDS PYQ (2016)

**Q. BRICS leaders signed the agreement to establish a New Development Bank at the summit held in:**

- (a) New Delhi, India (2012)
- (b) Durban, South Africa (2013)
- (c) Fortaleza, Brazil (2014)
- (d) Ufa, Russia (2015)

### QUAD

- ◆ What is QUAD - ?
- ◆ 2012 - ?
- ◆ 2020 - ?

## Bring perpetrators of terror attack in Pahalgam to justice, say Quad Foreign Ministers

**Suhasini Haidar**  
NEW DELHI

The Quad Foreign Ministers have condemned the Pahalgam terror attack in the "strongest terms" and called for the perpetrators of the attack to be brought to justice "without any delay", a joint statement issued in Washington after a meeting on Tuesday night said.

External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar, Australia's Foreign Minister Penny Wong, and Japan's Foreign Minister Iwama Takeshi were hosted by U.S. Secretary of State Marco Rubio on Tuesday for the Foreign Ministers' Meeting (FMM), held ahead of the Quad summit expected to be held in November in India this year.

"The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism, and renews our commitment to counterterrorism cooperation," the statement said, condemning the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack in which 26 were killed.

"We call for the perpetrators, organisers, and financiers of this reprehensible act to be brought to justice without any delay



The Quad unequivocally condemns all acts of terrorism and violent extremism in all its forms and manifestations, including cross-border terrorism

**QUAD FOREIGN MINISTERS' JOINT STATEMENT**

and urge all UN Member States, in accordance with their obligations under international law and relevant UNSCRs [United Nations Security Council Resolutions] to cooperate actively with all relevant authorities in this regard," the joint statement added.

The reference to "relevant" authorities, not "Indian authorities" in the statement was also made in the UNSCR passed in April, after the attack.

The four Ministers had held a meeting in Washington after attending the inauguration of U.S. President Donald Trump in January. However, this is the first formal Quad FMM since the Trump administration took over.

In a significant departure from previous Quad Foreign Ministers' statements, most notably under

the previous U.S. administration under Joe Biden, the latest joint statement dropped references to the Russia-Ukraine war and the Israel-Gaza conflict, indicating a more narrow geographical focus than before, with greater emphasis on the Indo-Pacific region.

#### 'New agenda'

The Ministers said they had agreed on a "new agenda" to focus on four key areas – maritime security; economic prosperity and security; critical and emerging technologies; and humanitarian assistance and disaster response. "Through this renewed focus, we will sharpen the Quad's ability to leverage our resources to address the region's most pressing challenges," the statement said.





**Prelims CAPF PYQ (2023)**

**Q. Which of the following statements about Quad is/are correct?**

1. It is a group of four countries, namely, India, Australia, USA and France.
2. Maritime cooperation is an important binding force among members of the Quad.
3. The Quad members formed a working group on COVID-19 vaccines.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 1 and 2 only
- (c) 2 and 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

**Prelims CDS PYQ (2022)**

**Q. In the recently formed grouping of countries generally known as the ‘Middle-East Quad’, in addition to **India**, which of the following are other members?**

- (a) Egypt, Saudi Arabia and USA
- (b) Israel, UAE and USA
- (c) Egypt, UAE and UK
- (d) Israel, Saudi Arabia and UK

