



## Press Release

### **Insights on the Gig Economy at PAFI's Annual Forum - "Reimagining India's Workforce through the Gig Economy"**

**New Delhi (Delhi) 18 September 2024:** At the 11<sup>th</sup> Annual Forum of the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI), Ms. Sumita Dawra, Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment Government of India, Mr. Mike Orgill, Head of Public Policy – APAC Uber and Mr. Raghav Chandra, Co-founder and Chief Product and Technology Officer, Urban Company discussed about the importance of the gig economy in India, focusing on the need for professionalization, social security, and support for gig workers.

Ms. Dawra highlighted that at the recent BRICS meeting in Sochi, the gig economy was recognized as vital for inclusive development within India's labor force of 640 million. With 7.7 to 10 million gig workers, there is an urgent need to professionalize blue-collar roles and create opportunities for the 65% youth population. Extending social security to gig workers is essential to address disparities in work conditions and benefits. A structured government framework is necessary for partnerships among trade unions, gig associations, and employers. Notably, many young gig workers are women in fields like graphic design. By tackling these challenges, we can enhance health coverage, 34 crore people are already protected under Ayushman Bharat which provides healthcare coverage for all.

Mr. Orgill said, the growth of the gig economy in India is exciting, showcasing its size and scale. In the past decade, gig workers have earned around ₹50,000 crore, underscoring their economic impact. Stakeholders are eager to collaborate with the government and companies to shape supportive policies for this evolving sector.

Mr. Chandra said, Urban company's home services platform is seeing strong demand, but quality supply remains a challenge. We address this by upskilling partners through extensive training, likened to an "iron man suit" for their development. With 150 training centers and 300 trainers across India, Urban Company invested nearly ₹140 crore in training. Last year, Urban Company provided ₹37 crore in loans, helping partners become micro-entrepreneurs and empowering them on our platform. We also offer insurance to all partners, moving beyond traditional employment models.

At the PAFI Annual Forum, Ms. Sumita Dawra, **Secretary, Ministry of Labour and Employment Government of India**, officially launched the Gig Economy Report. This report which is in association with Uber delves into the rapid growth of the Gig economy, showcasing its potential to create jobs and simulate economic growth.



The welcome note was given by Sanjay Chadha, Chairperson, PAFI Gig Economy Council, Director, Public Policy India & South Asia, Uber, the event was moderated by Anil Padmanabhan, Senior Journalist, and the vote of thanks was given by Sudhir Zutshi, Director-Policy & Strategy, Asia Pacific, UL Solutions

**PAFI (Public Affairs Forum of India)**

*Founded in 2008, the Public Affairs Forum of India (PAFI) is India's premier organization focused on public affairs, policy advocacy, and corporate affairs in India. PAFI represents a diverse array of Indian and foreign companies, promoting ethical dialogue and professional growth. Its objectives include aligning business, society, and government, fostering trust, and developing collaborative policies. PAFI organizes impactful events, including its annual forum, which unites industry leaders and policymakers for meaningful discussions. With a strong commitment to transparency and inclusion, PAFI aims to build a well-informed public affairs community to address contemporary challenges in India.*

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