# Foreword

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In an era marked by increasing life expectancy, financial security during retirement becomes paramount. Relying solely on pension and investments may not suffice to maintain the desired quality of life.

The simplest way to generate a source of income during your later life is to utilise your skills, experience and contacts in the field where you have spent most of your working career. Alternatively, you can work on building a passion/skill which you already pursue as a hobby and monetise it.

Research shows that retirement may lead to a decrease in mental stimulation which can impact your cognitive health. Learning new skills not only counteracts this decline but also provides a sense of accomplishment and purpose.

PGIM India Mutual Fund's Retirement Readiness Survey 2023 reveals that Indians are seeking various ways to add to their income by monetising their passion and acquiring new skills to fuel their aspirations post-retirement.

Keeping this in mind, PGIM India Mutual Fund has compiled a ready reckoner of a compendium of 50 gigs which you can explore and pursue to become financially independent in your later life.



# RENEW, RECHARGE **BUT NEVER RETIRE**

50 gigs that combine enjoyment and regular income for life



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## #26 Animal Care Services

If you love animals and want to turn the passion into a profession, animal care services could just be the post-retirement gig for you. The opportunity arises from the need for skilled individuals to provide care, training, and support to pets and their owners. The shortage of professionals with a genuine passion for animals presents a unique and fulfilling opportunity to contribute to the well-being of animals, especially when their owners are away.



#### **The Perks**

Embracing animal care offers numerous advantages. Firstly, it allows individuals to follow their passion for animals, potentially turning a lifelong hobby into a fulfilling profession.

The flexibility to work part-time or freelance caters to retirees' preferences for work-life balance. Additionally, working with animals fosters a sense of purpose and satisfaction, knowing that you are making a positive impact on their lives. There is also the opportunity to engage with a diverse community of fellow animal lovers and enthusiasts.

## What is Required?

Success in this gig necessitates a deep love and understanding of animals. Patience, empathy, and compassion are crucial traits when working with pets and their owners. Effective communication skills are valuable for conveying information to pet owners and training animals.

Adaptability is key since each animal has its unique personality and needs. Basic knowledge of animal behaviour and healthcare is essential and acquiring certifications in animal training or pet care can be beneficial.



#### What You Need and How Much Will It Cost?\*

An animal services gig requires minimal physical equipment. However, there may be expenses associated with gaining the necessary qualifications, such as certification courses (₹5,000 to ₹20,000).

Additionally, setting up a pet care or training business might involve costs for licensing and insurance (₹10,000 to ₹30,000). You need to invest in creating a safe and comfortable environment for pets in your home. This may include setting up designated areas for feeding, grooming, and play and it will cost you between ₹50,000 to ₹1,00,000.

### **Expected Earnings**

Earnings in this field can vary significantly based on factors such as location, specialisation, and the scale of services provided. On average, individuals can expect monthly incomes ranging from ₹15,000 to ₹50,000, or more.

Specialised services like dog training or pet grooming can command higher rates. Building a reputation in the local community and offering unique services can increase earning potential over time. It is important to note that the emotional rewards of this career often outweigh the financial benefits for animal enthusiasts.

#### **The Final Word**

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What makes this post-retirement gig truly unique is the profound connection and impact on lives-both human and animal. Retirees have the privilege of enriching the lives of pets and their owners. The work involves not just providing services but also forging bonds and fostering companionship.

This unique gig transcends the typical notions of retirement, offering individuals a chance to embark on a second career that is deeply fulfilling, heart-warming, and intrinsically rewarding.

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