

GIG WORKFORCE

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-III (GOVERNMENT POLICIES AND INTERVENTIONS)

CONTEXT: India's gig workforce to reach 2.35 cr. by 2030.

FACTS

- The Centre's policy think tank NITI Aayog has recommended steps to provide **social security, including paid leave, occupational disease and accident insurance, support during irregularity of work and pension plans** for the country's gig workforce, which is expected to grow to 2.35 crore by 2029–30.
- According to a study released by NITI Aayog, India requires a framework that balances the flexibility offered by platforms while also ensuring social security of workers.
- The report broadly classifies gig workers into **platform and non-platform based workers**. While platform workers are those whose work is based on online software applications or digital platforms, non-platform gig workers are generally casual wage workers and own account workers in the conventional sectors, working part time or full time.
- The think tank has also recommended introducing a '**Platform India initiative**' on the lines of the 'Startup India initiative'.

ABOUT GIG ECONOMY

- A gig economy is a free market system in which temporary positions are common and organizations contract with independent workers for short-term engagements.
- According to a report by **Boston Consulting Group**, India's gig workforce comprises 15 million workers employed across industries such as software, shared services and professional services.
- According to the **World Bank**, around 6% of the world's labour force is part of the gig economy. Globally, more than half of gig jobs are driven by demand for low-skilled, low-wage work. Only around 30% of them require specialized skills and expertise.

POTENTIAL OF INDIA'S GIG SECTOR

- An estimated 56% of new employment in India is being generated by the gig economy companies across both the blue-collar and white-collar workforce.
- The gig economy can serve up to 90 million jobs in the non-farm sectors in India with a

potential to add 1.25% to the GDP over the "long term".

- As India moves towards its stated goal of becoming a USD 5 trillion economy by 2025, the gig economy will be a major building block in bridging the income and unemployment gap.

CHALLENGES FACED BY GIG-WORKFORCE IN INDIA

- No clear employment relationship.
- No employment stability and heavy workload.
- Lack of Grievance Redressal Mechanism (GRM).

POSHAN ABHIYAN

SYLLABUS: GS PAPER-II (WELFARE SCHEMES)

CONTEXT: The Centre has asked states to connect the beneficiaries through its digital malnutrition measuring tool, **Poshan tracker**, to universalise nutrition access.

ABOUT POSHAN ABHIYAN

- Launched in 2018, the scheme seeks to improve nutritional outcomes for children (0–6 years), pregnant women and lactating mothers.
- The term 'Poshan' in the name of the programme stands for '**Prime Minister's Overarching Scheme for Holistic Nutrition**'.
- **The mission aims to reduce stunting and wasting by 2% a year (total 6% until 2022) among children; anaemia by 3% a year (total 9%) among children, adolescent girls and pregnant women and lactating mothers.**

OBJECTIVES

- The objective of Poshan Abhiyan is to reduce stunting across districts with the highest malnutrition burden by improving utilization of key anganwadi services.
- It explicitly recognizes the need for convergence and coordination such that the benefits of multiple government schemes and programmes reach women and children in the first 1000 days of a child's life.

ABOUT POSHAN MISSION 2.0

- It is an umbrella scheme covering the Integrated Child Development Services (ICDS) (Anganwadi Services, Poshan Abhiyan, Scheme For Adolescent Girls, National Creche Scheme).
- It was announced in Union Budget 2021–22 by merging supplementary nutrition programmes and the POSHAN Abhiyan.

- It was launched to strengthen nutritional content, delivery, outreach and outcome, with renewed focus on developing practices that nurture health, wellness and immunity to disease and malnutrition in the country.

ABOUT POSHAN TRACKER

- Digital infrastructure under the 'Poshan tracker' was rolled out by MoWCD on 1st March 2021 through National e-Governance Division as a governance tool.
- Poshan Tracker management application provides a 360-degree view of the activities of the Anganwadi Centre (AWC), service deliveries of Anganwadi Workers (AWWs) and complete beneficiary management for pregnant women, lactating mothers and children. Simultaneously, the mobile application also digitizes and automates physical registers used by AWWs that helps improving their quality of work.
- It will strengthen and bring about transparency in nutrition delivery support systems.

PRELIMS FACTS

MITHUN OR GAYAL (BOS FRONTALIS)

- It is an important **endemic bovine species** found in the forests of North Eastern states and the neighbouring countries of Myanmar, Bhutan, Bangladesh and China.
- It inhabits hilly forests at an altitude of 1000–3000 m and is reared for its meat, milk, leather etc.
- Popularly known as '**cattle of mountain**', it is reared by indigenous tribes of Arunachal Pradesh, Nagaland, Mizoram and Manipur.

It is the State animal of Arunachal Pradesh and Nagaland.

FAST CHARGING SOLID STATE BATTERIES

- Researchers from IISc have reported a **new approach to enable fast charge-discharge rates in solid state lithium metal batteries**.
- They have found that **nanoscopic refractory layers like tungsten** could improve the performance of these batteries.
- Conventional Li-ion batteries employ a **liquid electrolyte** which is flammable and degrades at high temperatures leading to poor battery life as well as battery fires.
- However, **replacing the liquid electrolyte with a ceramic solid electrolyte** could enable safer Li-ion batteries that would last long on a single charge.

SALMONELLA TYPHI

- It is responsible for causing **typhoid fever** (more than 100000 deaths annually worldwide).
- South Asia carries the 70% of the global disease burden.

- **S. typhii** is a **gram negative, rod shaped, flagellated** (long hairy structures) **bacterium** whose only reservoir is the human body.
- Antibiotics are used to successfully treat typhoid fever infections. According to a recent study, the effectiveness of these antibiotics is threatened by the emergence of resistant S. typhii strains.

KERELA TO HAVE ITS OWN REGIONAL RED LIST OF BIRDS

- Kerela will be the first state to have a region specific red list of birds.
- Assessment will be done on the basis of **IUCN guidelines for preparing the red list** that has 5 main criteria including **population size reduction, area of occupancy, small population size and decline**.
- As per the global IUCN Red list, Kerela has **64 threatened species of birds**.
- Red-headed vulture and the white-rumped vulture are critically endangered bird species .

BANDA SINGH BAHADUR (1670–1716)

- The National Monuments Authority observed the Martyrdom day of the great warrior Baba Band Singh Bahadur at Red Fort in New Delhi.
- He was born in a Rajput family who were settled in the **Punch district of Kashmir**.
- He is regarded as a great Sikh warrior who **defeated the Mughals and established the Khalsa rule in Punjab**.
- He abolished the zamindari system and granted property rights to the tillers of the land.

VENKATARAMAN KRISHNAMURTHY (1925–2022)

- Considered as the '**Father of PSUs**' in India and the '**Turnaround Man**', Krishnamurthy recently passed away.
- He was incharge of the power projects as part of the Planning Commission in 1954.
- As the founding chairman of Maruti Udyog, he ushered in the modern era of India's automobile industry with the introduction of Maruti 800.
- As head of the BHEL and later the Steel Authority of India Limited, he revived the company's fortunes.
- Conferred with Padma Vibhushan, Padma Bhushan and Padma Shri awards.