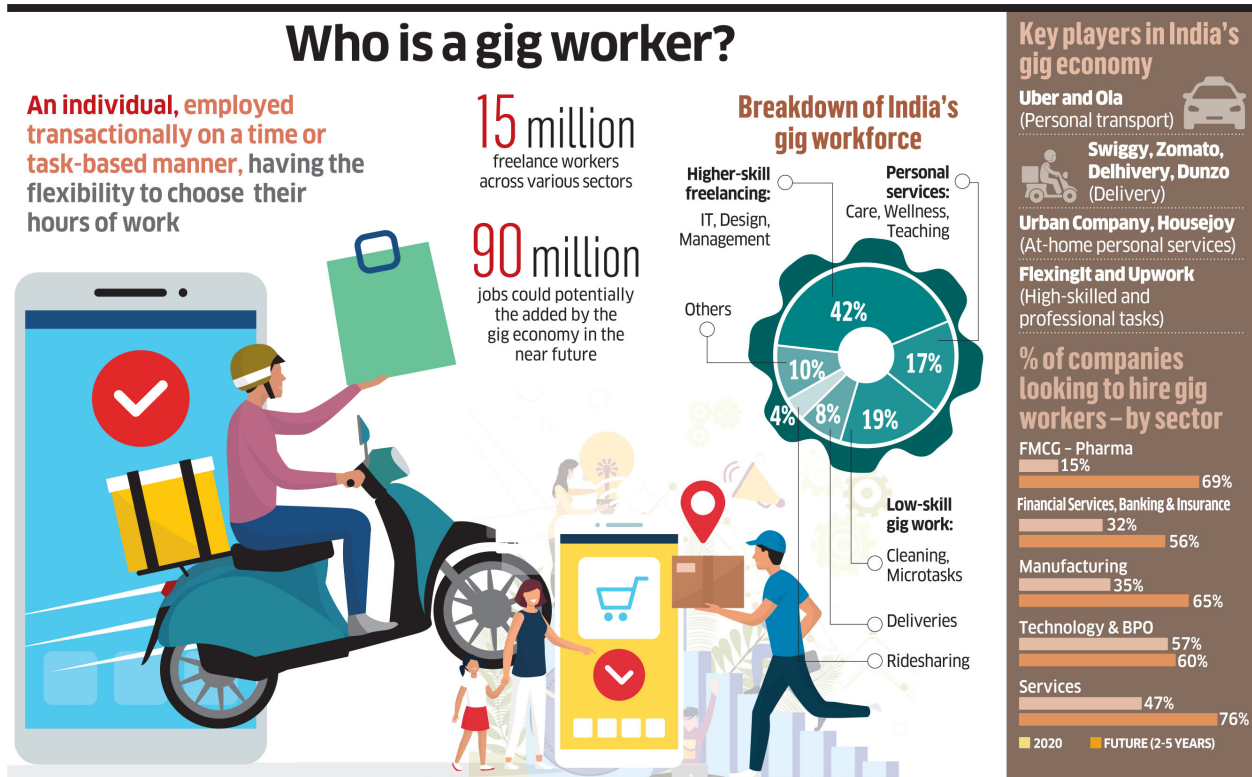


1. Gig Workers

Topic: **Economy**



In News: Delivery partners at Zomato-owned quick commerce firm Blinkit are in a strike to protest against their new policy which reduces their daily income by 40-50%.

More on the Topic

- According to Code on Social Security, Gig worker is ‘a person who performs work or participates in a work arrangement and earns from such activities outside of traditional employer-employee relationship’.
- Gig workers can be broadly classified into **platform and non-platform workers**.
- Platform workers are those **whose work is based on online software apps or digital platforms, while non-platform gig workers are generally casual wage workers**, working part-time or full-time.

How big is the workforce engaged in the gig economy?

- Niti Aayog estimates that more than 7.5 million workers were engaged in the gig economy in 2020-21.
- This could grow to 23.5 million workers in the next eight years, making up for 4.1 per cent of total livelihood in India.
- According to the report, at present, about 47 per cent of the gig work is in medium skilled jobs, about 22 per cent in high skilled, and about 31 per cent in low skilled jobs.



What are the Problems Faced by Gig Workers:

- Gig workers are typically hired by companies on a **contractual basis** and are not considered their employees.
- As a result, **they do not receive some of the benefits that an on-roll employee of the company may have** — this means they often do not receive benefits like paid sick and casual leaves, travel and housing allowances, and provident fund savings, among other things.
- While platform companies have created avenues of employment, it has often been marred by **low wages, unequal gender participation, and a lack of possibility for upward mobility** within an organisation.

What are the NITI Ayog Recommendations?

- Firms should adopt policies that offer **old age or retirement plans and benefits, and other insurance cover** for contingencies such as injury arising from work that may lead to loss of employment and income.
- **Social security benefits** be extended to workers in a partnership mode, as envisaged in the Code on Social Security, 2020.
- **Fiscal incentives such as tax-breaks or startup grants** may be provided for businesses that provide livelihood opportunities where women constitute a substantial portion (say, 30 per cent) of their workers.
- **Accelerate access to finance** through products specifically designed for platform workers.

Source: Indian Express

2. Treated Water Water Report

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: Reuse of Treated Wastewater in India: Market Potential and Recommendations for Strengthening Governance - report was released recently by the Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW).



More on the Topic:

- **Highlights of the Report:**
- India treats only 28 per cent of the total sewage it generates per day from its urban areas.
- Tier-1 and -2 cities, which make up 72 per cent of the urban population treats only only 30 per cent of it's sewage.
- India will produce over 35,000 million cubic meters of wastewater by 2050, and currently, **only 10 States have treated wastewater reuse policies.**
- 11 of the 15 major river basins are likely to face water stress by 2025.
- It is "essential to explore alternative sources of water to address the demand-supply gap."

Why India Should Re use Water?:

- Reusing treated wastewater for irrigation could have generated 28 million metric tonnes of fruit and vegetable produce and ₹96600 crore in revenue in 2021 alone.
- Further, using wastewater for irrigation in 2021 would have saved 1.3 million tonnes of greenhouse gas emissions and ₹5 crore in fertilizer use.
- **Nine times the area of New Delhi could have been irrigated** using the treated wastewater available in India for the irrigation sector in 2021.
- Market value of treated wastewater in India will be ₹83 crore in 2025 and Rs ₹190 crore in 2050 if we have the mechanism to sell it to select sectors.

Recommendations:

- All Indian states must **define reuse-specific wastewater treatment standards for safe reuse across different sectors.**
- States should develop **effective outreach plans to build public confidence** and nudge behaviour for the successful implementation of wastewater reuse projects.
- Wastewater needs to be considered **an integral part of water resources** and hence addressed in all water management related policies, plans, and regulations.
- **Urban local bodies** should be empowered to formulate and adopt long-term, city-level wastewater reuse plans.
- **Need-based and demand-driven technological advancements** for effectiveness of wastewater treatment.

Source: PIB

3. Link between 'flash droughts' and climate change

Topic: Geography



In News: Flash droughts, the kind that arrive quickly and can lay waste to crops in a matter of weeks, are becoming more common and faster to develop around the world, and according to a new study human-caused climate change is a major reason.

More on the Topic:

- In general, this kind of **rapid drying occurs when it is warm and rain would normally be falling but very little.**
- In such circumstances, the ground might already be wet from earlier rain or snow.
- So when the precipitation suddenly shuts off, hot, sunny and windy conditions can cause large amounts of water to evaporate quickly.
- This is why **the humid tropics tend to experience more flash droughts than slow ones.** The wet seasons there are usually rainy enough to keep land and vegetation damp.
- But when the rains fail unexpectedly, the equatorial heat can desiccate the ground to devastating effect.

About Flash Draughts:

- Flash droughts have been defined in two ways, either as a short-lived yet severe event where soil moisture completely depletes or a multi-week period of rapid intensification toward drought. It is sometimes also defined as a rapidly developing drought event.
- What makes flash drought unique from conventional drought development is **a lack of rainfall coupled with increased evapotranspiration.**
- Evapotranspiration is the combination of evaporation from the land surface and transpiration from vegetation.
- Both of these processes act to transfer water from the land surface to the atmosphere.

- **Enhanced evapotranspiration with a lack of rainfall can quickly deplete soil moisture** and lead to devastating impacts on agriculture and ecosystems.
- Flash drought can also be tied to rhythmic climatic patterns, such as El Nino (in Asia) and La Nina (eastern Pacific) events.

About Flash Draught Prediction:

- Changes in the rate of evapotranspiration and soil moisture have been identified as key early warning indicators.
- Vulnerability mapping will help policymakers, and farmers plan accordingly.

What are the alternatives to reducing plastic waste in India?

- A switch to **jute or paper-based packaging** could potentially cut down plastic waste.
- This could also **build sustainability within the paper industry**, and save on the import bill on ethylene solutions.
- The **wooden packaging** is yet another alternative, but that will make the packaging bulkier and increase cost.

Source: Indian Express

4. Khayal Music

Topic: Culture



In News: Khayal music is news.

More on the Topic:

- Khayal is the more widely practised of the two raga-bound genres with roots in north India.
- The early form of **khayal emerged in the late 16th century when Sufi musicians based in the region between Delhi and Jaunpur adapted the cutkula form**, which used a Hindi dialect, to devotional forms such as the Persian qaul and tarana sung in Sufi communities from Amir Khusro's (1253-1325) tradition.

- The khayal is related to the **longer melodic form known as the dhrupad but has fewer restrictions.**
- The earliest version of khayal evolved **into today's drut bandish.** It is the fast composition, also called the **chhota khayal**, which is meant to be sung in a spritely tempo.
- The members who played this style had close relationships with **Vaishnava sects.**
- Later, **Niyamat Khan Sadarang** (1670-1748), a famous dhrupad singer played a key role in developing khayal.

Source: Indian Express

5. Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative (APPI) and Animal Health System Support for One Health (AHSSOH)

Topic: Environment and Ecology

The One Health Triad



In News: Union Ministry for Fisheries , Animal Husbandry and Dairying has launched the Animal Pandemic Preparedness Initiative and World Bank-funded Animal Health System Support for One Health to enhance India's preparedness and response to potential animal pandemics, in line with the One Health approach.

More on the Topic:

- This initiative aims to enhance **India's preparedness and response to animal pandemics, with a focus on zoonotic diseases** that pose a threat to both animal and human health.

- This initiative will help **to improve veterinary services and infrastructure, disease surveillance capabilities, early detection and response, build the capacity** of animal health professionals, and awareness among farmers through community outreach.
- AHSSOH (Animal Husbandry Infrastructure Development Fund) is a central sector scheme.

Source: PIB

6. Bioluminescence

Topic: Environment and Ecology



In News: The Bioluminescence was reported at Kerala Coasts recently.

More on the Topic:

- Bioluminescence is light produced by a chemical reaction within a living organism.
- Bioluminescence is a type of chemiluminescence, which is simply the term for a chemical reaction where light is produced. (Bioluminescence is chemiluminescence that takes place inside a living organism.)
- **Most bioluminescent organisms are found in the ocean.**
- These bioluminescent marine species include fish, bacteria, and jellies. Some bioluminescent organisms, including fireflies and fungi, are found on land.
- There are almost no bioluminescent organisms native to freshwater habitats.
- The chemical reaction that results in bioluminescence requires two unique chemicals: **luciferin and either luciferase or photoprotein.**
- Luciferin is the compound that actually produces light. In a chemical reaction, luciferin is called the substrate.
- The bioluminescent color (yellow in fireflies, greenish in lanternfish) is a result of the arrangement of luciferin molecules.

Source: Business Standard

7. Arab league

Topic: International Affairs



In News: Arab nations discuss Syria return to Arab League in Saudi Arabia and concluded the discussion without consensus.

More on the Topic:

- The Arab League, formally the League of Arab States, is a regional organisation in the Arab world, which is located in Northern Africa, Western Africa, Eastern Africa, and Western Asia.
- Its headquartered in Cairo, Egypt.
- **Membership:** Initially formed with six members: Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, Saudi Arabia, and Syria. Yemen joined as a member on 5 May 1945. Currently, the League has **22 members**, but **Syria's participation has been suspended since November 2011**.
- The aims of the league in 1945 were to strengthen and coordinate the political, cultural, economic and social programs of its members and to mediate disputes among them or between them and third parties.

Source: Business Standard