

24-01-2023

## Gig Economy

### Why in Newspapers?

Recently, a **public interest litigation** was filed in the **Supreme Court** by the **Indian Federation of App-based Transport Workers** on behalf of gig workers.

### Quick Issue?

- The petition demands that food delivery platforms like **Zomato and Swiggy** and taxi aggregator apps like **Ola and Uber** provide **social security benefits to workers**.

### Historical Background?

- The **gig economy is a free market system** in which organizations hire or contract workers for short periods of time.
- Startups like **Ola, Uber, Zomato and Swiggy** have established themselves as the main source of gig economy in **India**.
- According to the Code on Social Security, 2020 (India), "**A gig worker is a person who works or participates in a work arrangement outside the traditional employer-employee relationship and earns from such activities.**"
- They are **independent contractors, online platform workers, contract firm workers, on-call workers and temporary workers**.
- A NITI Aayog study on "**India's growing gig and platform economy**" estimated that about **47 percent of gig workers are currently in medium-skilled jobs, about 22 percent in high-skilled, and about 31 percent in low-skilled jobs**.
- These figures clearly show the importance of **gig working community in the Indian economy**.
- Boston Consulting Group (BCG)** research studies have found that gig economy participation is higher in developing countries (**5-12 percent**) versus developed economies (**1-4 percent**).

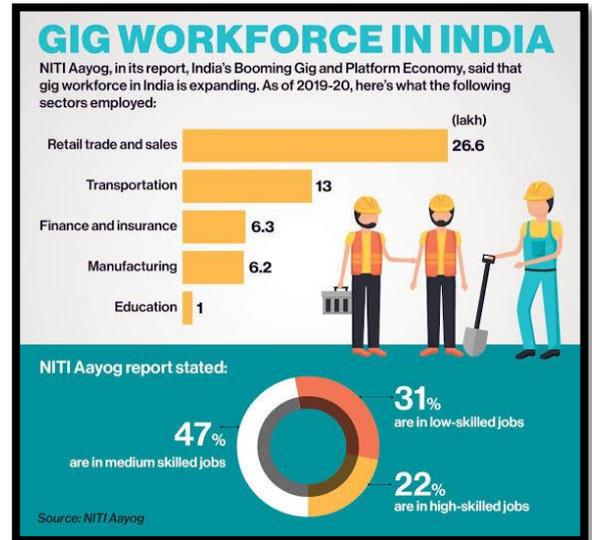


### Other Key Facts?

#### Challenges Faced by Gig Workers

- Low pay, unequal gender participation and lack of possibility of upward mobility within an organization.
- Gig workers are usually hired by companies on a contract basis and are not considered their employees.
- As a result, they do not get some of the benefits of an on-roll employee of the company.
- This means that they often do not receive benefits such as paid sick and casual leave, travel and housing allowance, and provident fund savings, among others.

- Most of these jobs are in **low-income job-types such as delivery, ridesharing, microtasks, care services.**
- These studies estimate that **77 lakh workers were associated with the gig economy in 2020-21.**
- The gig workforce is expected to grow to **2.35 crore employees by 2029-30.**
- The average age of Indian gig workers is **27 years** and **their average monthly income is Rs 18,000.**
- About 71 percent of these are the **sole breadwinners of their families.** Additionally, gig workers work with an **average household size of 4.4.**
- **Fiscal incentives;** - Fiscal incentives such as **tax-exemptions or start-up grants can be provided for businesses** that provide livelihood opportunities where women form a major portion of their workforce.
- It was highlighted by NITI Aayog in its report "**India's Booming Gig and Platform Economy**".
- The report also recommended that companies adopt policies **that offer old age or retirement plans and benefits,** and other insurance cover for contingencies such as the **Covid-19 pandemic.**
- Such schemes and policies may be envisaged under the **Social Security Code, 2020.**
- Businesses should consider **providing income support to workers.**
- This will be a **significant step towards providing social security against loss of income** and assured minimum earnings in the wake of uncertainty or irregularity in work.
- It also suggested **providing paid sick leave to the employees in addition to insurance cover.**



## Submarine Wagir

### Why in Newspapers?

Wagir, the fifth submarine of the Scorpene class, was commissioned by the Indian Navy on 23 January 2023.

### Quick Issue?

- Project RE-HAB is an initiative of Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) under National Honey Mission.
- It aims to reduce attacks on humans by elephants by using bees.

### Historical Background?

- Wagir is built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders

Limited (MDL) Mumbai.

- Wagir was launched in November, 2020 and sea trials commenced in February, 2022.
- Wagir is named after a predatory marine species, the sand fish.
- This submarine has the capability to attack the enemy with torpedoes as well as tube-launched anti-ship missiles, underwater or on the surface.
- It has better stealth features like advanced acoustic absorption technologies.
- It makes very low noise as well as is capable of carrying out deadly attacks on the enemy through guided weapons.
- Wagir can also be used for anti surface, anti submarine, gathering information, laying sea tunnels.
- Its speed is about 20 kilometers per hour above water and 37 kilometers per hour under water.

**5TH OF COUNTRY'S 6 DEADLIEST SUBS SETS ON ITS FIRST SAIL FROM MUMBAI**

The Navy's fifth Scorpene-class submarine, INS Wagir, which has advanced stealth features, was launched on Thursday at Mazagon Dock. The ceremony was partly virtual because of Covid, with the chief guest\* attending it via video link from Goa.

**PROJECT-75** That's the name of the Navy's Scorpene programme at MDL. Following are its six submarines and their stages:

SUB	LAUNCH (FOR SEA TRIALS)	COMMISSIONING
Kalvari	Oct 2015	Dec 2017
Khanderi	Jan 2017	Sept 2019
Karanj	Jan 2018	Dec 2020*
Vela	May 2019	Dec 2021*
Wagir	Nov 12, 2020	Dec 2022*
Vagsheer	Being resolved**	2023*

**CLASS OF SIX** INS Wagir is the fifth of six Scorpene class submarines being built in India (at Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited, a PSU)

**DESIGNED BY** French naval defence company DCNS

**CAPABILITIES** Anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, intelligence gathering, mine laying, and area surveillance

**STEALTH FACTOR** Scorpene-class submarines have: Advanced acoustic silencing techniques, low-radiated noise levels, hydro-dynamically optimised shape. They can launch attacks using precision-guided weapons

**NAMING** Wagir is named after the sand fish, a deadly deep-sea predator of the Indian Ocean

**THE 2ND WAGIR** The first Wagir, a sub from Russia, was commissioned into the Indian Navy in 1973 and decommissioned in 2001.

2005 India signs Scorpene deal for \$3 billion

2009 construction starts at Mazagon Dock

2015 First of the subs launched

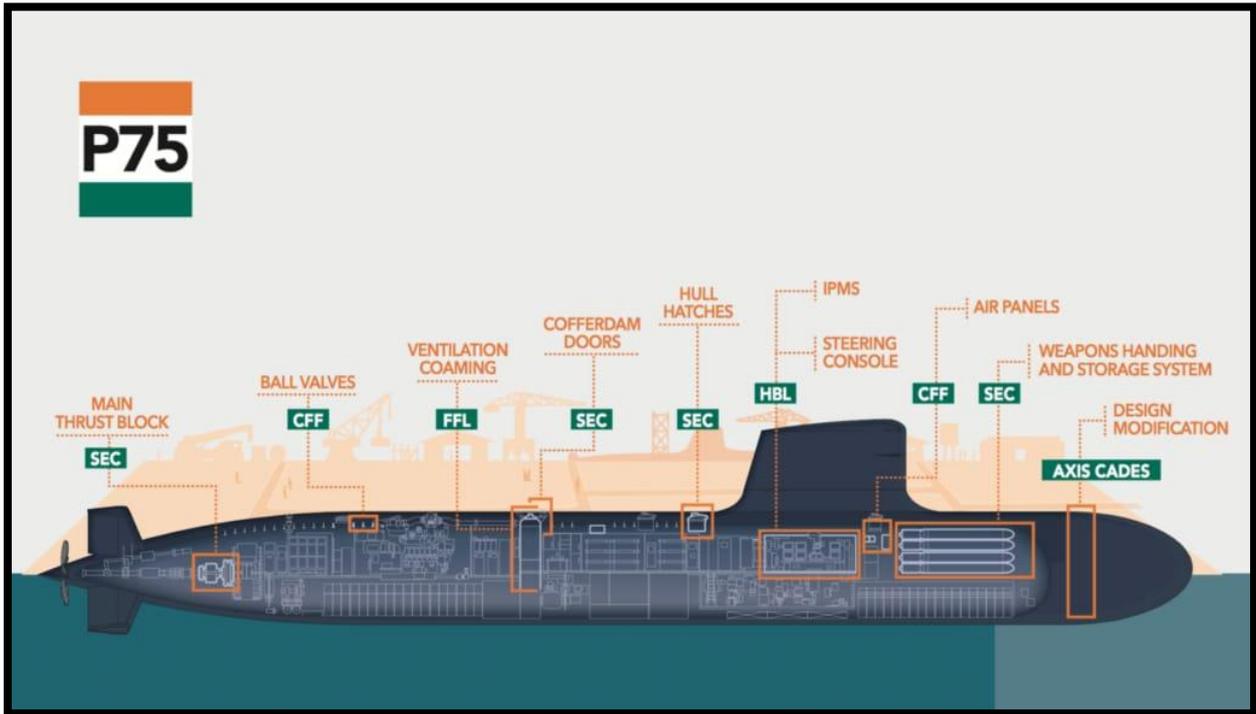
### Other Key Facts?

#### Project-75

- Project-75 involves the indigenous construction of six submarines of the Scorpene design.
- The submarines built under Project 75 will be equipped with weapons, advanced sensors, an air independent propulsion plant based on fuel cells and advanced missiles.
- These submarines are being built by Mazagon Dock Shipbuilders Limited (MDL) Mumbai in collaboration with M/s Naval Group, France.
- Under Project-75, the first submarine INS Kalvari has been commissioned in December 2017, the second submarine INS Khanderi in September 2019, the third submarine INS Karanj in March 2021 and the fourth INS Vela in November 2021.
- Vagsheer, the sixth and last of the Scorpene class submarines, is slated to be launched in April 2022.



- It can cover a distance of **more than 15 to 30 thousand kilometres** and can stay under water continuously for 50 days.



## India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline

### Why in Newspapers?

The **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline Project**, recently signed in 2018, will connect Siliguri in West Bengal in India and Parbatipur in Dinajpur district of Bangladesh.

### Quick Issue?

- Maitri pipeline** from India will start supplying diesel to Bangladesh from June. A **131.5 km long pipeline** has been constructed to import diesel from India, of which **126.5 km** is in Bangladesh and **5 km** in India.



### Historical Background?

- IBFPL project aims to facilitate **transportation of imported fuel oil** and **reduce its transportation cost** to Bangladesh.
- Pre-commissioning work** for diesel import through this pipeline is currently underway.
- This **international pipeline** will carry diesel from Numaligarh Refinery Limited's (NRL) marketing terminal at Siliguri to Bangladesh Petroleum Corporation's (BPC) Parbatipur depot.



- The ground-breaking ceremony for the **India-Bangladesh Friendship Pipeline (IBFPL)** was held in **September 2018** by **Prime Minister Narendra Modi** and **Bangladesh Prime Minister Sheikh Hasina**.
- This pipeline has a capacity of **One Million Metric Tonnes Per Annum (MMTPA)** and is being built under **grant-in-aid from the Government of India**.
- It will enable **export of fuel oil products to Bangladesh from India's Siliguri Marketing Terminal** in the state of West Bengal.
- According to the **Dhaka-Delhi agreement**, **fuel oil will be transported to Bangladesh through the pipeline for 15 years** in the first phase and this period will be extended on the consent of the countries.
- There has been a **steady increase in bilateral trade between India and Bangladesh**.
- In 2020, there was a **14% year-on-year growth**, which is a **very encouraging figure to achieve**.
- Bangladesh's exports to India have **crossed the billion-dollar mark** and are growing on a **very steady basis**.
- In 2021-22, **Bangladesh has emerged as the largest trading partner for India** in South Asia and the **fourth largest destination for Indian exports worldwide**.

