



PICT MUN'S OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

THE INQUISITOR

ISSUE 9.0

FEATURED ARTICLE:

US Capitol Riot
By Karthik Panicker



KEEP AMERICA SAFE!

TRUMP
-2020-
KEEP AMERICA GREAT

TABLE OF CONTENT

i

INTRODUCTION

01

THE GIG ECONOMY

Anuja Patil

02

Anti Abortion Laws

Soham Naik

03

US Capitol Riot

Karthik Panicker

INTRODUCTION

The PICT MUN Club consists of a group of students who are passionate about social and political aspects of events that have and are taking place throughout the world. Our main goal is to enhance the spread of such awareness and information, which has a direct and imperative relevance, among the general public.

Our organization abides by the motto- 'Think. Discuss. Prosper.'

The PICT MUN team has developed Issue 9.0 of 'The Inquisitor' from scratch. It consists of In-house articles that have been written by the club's members after carrying out extensive research in order to serve reports to the readers with the maximum possible factual accuracy. We plan on expanding the outreach of this esteemed newsletter with each edition and would love to accept articles from individuals who would be interested to get their work published. Feel free to communicate with us on - newsletterpictmun@gmail.com regarding the same.

Our authors have ensured that the content is accurate up to the date on which the article was written. The views expressed in the articles reflect the author's opinions and do not necessarily represent the opinions of the organisation publishing this document.

With this, we invite you to indulge in controversial propagandas, urgent and relevant coverage of events taking place over the globe, and fresh, new perspectives on raging, intriguing topics of today's day and age.

The members of the club have poured their heart and soul into this newsletter and we hope that the readers realise and appreciate these emotions.

Happy Reading!

Regards,

The Secretariat

PICT MUN

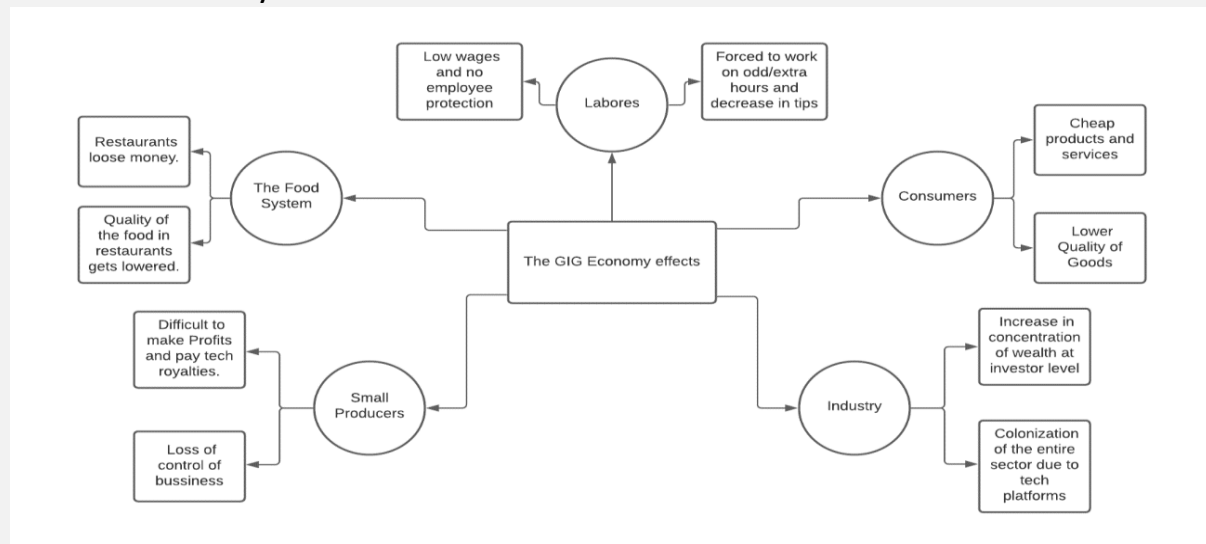
Gig Economy

Anuja Patil

The word 'Gig' means a job in which temporary positions are common and organizations hire independent workers for short-term commitments. In this type of economy, the organizations tend towards recruiting self-employed entities and freelancers rather than full-time employees. This type of economy subverts the customary economy of everyday workers who rarely change positions and rather centre around a lifetime profession. Thus, we can define gig economy as "the economy based on flexibility, temporary and freelancing jobs, often involving connecting with customers through online platforms." Thus, those who are not engaged in the technological services related to internet are left behind. Gig economy is epitomized by companies like Uber, Ola, Swiggy, TaskRabbit, Airbnb, Handy which operate by offering marketplaces dependent on evaluations and instalment frameworks steered through applications. The major benefits of the gig economy include:

- i. Great Flexibility: Hiring a freelancer offers companies the option of flexible manpower. A company could hire a freelancer to work on their social media pages over the weekend even when the business is closed as they are open for adaptable working hours.
- ii. Cost Effective: A report shared by the Noble House revealed that 45% of the HR heads hired gig workers to supplement the skills of the existing workforce. This choice brought reduction in the cost to the firms. Thus, hiring freelancer can help businesses cut down its overall spending in various ways.
- iii. Accessibility of appeal and concentrated ranges of abilities: Freelancers are flexible as well as they have the abilities of expanding their skills and accumulating recent technologies. For instance, gig workers are a valuable resource for upcoming specialized skill set jobs in the domain of artificial intelligence, data science, blockchain, etc.

Thus, this brings us to a conclusion that the gig economy has a glamorous image in which one can turn into a 'gig' at any time and have freedom of flexibility, autonomy and the companies would say "Come get a Job with us and be your own boss." But the scenario seems to be extremely different. Due to the COVID-19 induced supply-demand shock, gig platforms are harbouring less that safe work spaces. The gig economy has a significant effect on various parts of the economic society as demonstrated below:



The commonly faced problems are as follows:

- i. Gig economy prizes speed over results.
- ii. There is a limited control over life.
- iii. There is a constant feeling of detachment from the industries.
- iv. A gig has to wear the entrepreneur's hat and work tirelessly.
- v. Issues related to Legislature and Compliance worsen the woes.

India's largest 4 gig platform giants- Uber, Ola, Swiggy and Zomato have been ranked poorly on-

- 1) Fair Pay
- 2) Fair Conditions
- 3) Fair Contracts
- 4) Fair Management
- 5) Fair Representation

Apart from the poor work conditions, 75% gig workers are distant from medical insurance, 68% have no retirement savings, 86% are aloof from disability insurance while 87% are have no life insurance.

Anti-Abortion Laws

Soham Naik

Poland is a country that has had its fair share of protests and riots during the last century. Currently the country is witnessing large amount of strikes mainly led by young women in objection of a court ruling which tightened the anti-abortion laws in the country. Statistics show that Poland has one of the lowest rates of abortions i.e., about 2000 abortions are performed annually in a legal manner. So, this new law, in essence, translates to a near complete ban on abortions in the country.

The ruling party in Poland has practically taken over the judiciary system so it was no surprise when the court ruling was passed in favour of their policies. Under this new anti-abortion law, abortion is legal only if:

- a) The woman's life will be endangered if the pregnancy continues and;
- b) The pregnancy is the result of a criminal act

Even earlier, Poland was infamous for its strict anti-abortion laws in the EU. Many women with unwanted pregnancies or those who had some complications in their pregnancies had no other choice but to go abroad for abortions. Those who could not afford to go abroad had no other choice but to undergo illegal abortions, risking in this process the lives of both the mother and the unborn child.

This flow of rich clientele seeking abortion abroad made the private healthcare doctors in Poland so jealous that they started to give false reports and began aborting healthy foetuses for money. To curb such practices, instead of changing the existing abortion laws and making them more liberal, the government chose to enact even stricter laws, ultimately leading to the strikes.

As is the case with any major policy decisions, it's not as if the entire Polish youth is united in opposing this bill. Some of them welcome the bill and see it as a preserver of their Catholic ideals on which the country was built. Those in favour of this bill are of the opinion that even an unborn child has a right to live and it cannot be decided by some other person whether they should live or not. They see abortion as murder. In the community centres, there have been many instances where they have helped raise the children which were a result of unwanted pregnancies and rapes.

It is this vote bank that elected the government so, to appease this school of thought they changed the existing laws and made them more rigid. They passed these laws under the guise of restraining malpractices in the health sector. In doing so, they may have succeeded in stopping such wrongdoings and pleasing the traditional Catholics but they have completely disregarded women's basic rights.

Under this new law it is illegal to have abortions, even in cases where it is discovered that the foetus is severely malformed. The lifespan of an infant having malformation of vital organs is often very less. Thus, the government completely disregarded the psyche of the woman who is going to carry that child in her womb for nine months and the mental trauma that the parents would face if the infant dies in early stages because of its malformation.

The simple fact- that continuing with such a pregnancy must only be the woman's choice as it is her physical, emotional and mental health that is at stake, is not all considered and the expectation that after all this the mother is to continue living as if nothing has happened is nothing short of cruelty. It's high time we learn that such harsh laws always backfire and succeed in raising illegal practices. These protests in Poland must act as a wake-up call to all the governments in the world where such laws exist that are in favour of only one section of the society.

It is a great misfortune that even in the third decade of the 21st century women have to fight the society for basic rights that must have been guaranteed to them by default.

Capitol Hill Uprising-

An attack on Democracy

Karthik Panicker

The United States of America witnessed massive unprecedented chaos in the Capitol Hill on January 6, 2021, the day when lawmakers had gathered for a joint session in the House of Representatives to count electoral votes from the presidential election and officially confirm Joe Biden's victory. The incident came into action post the former president Donald Trump's relentless efforts to reverse the result of the 2020 election on the basis of mostly unsubstantiated claims of election fraud, whether it be confusion on counting ballots filled by Sharpie pens in Arizona or the fears based on the possibilities of the Dominion voting machines being hacked in Georgia, among other states.

The day that started off with Trump's "Save America Rally" near the White House in Washington, D.C., took the turn for the worse after he urged his supporters to show strength and march to the Capitol after repeatedly iterating that the election was stolen from the Republicans. Although he did mention that he was confident they would tread peacefully, the subsequent reaction of the crowd was one that would put anyone watching to shame and despair. What ensued is that a mob of his supporters overran the law enforcement officials and breached the Capitol by managing to enter the Senate chamber, where the election results were being certified just moments ago. The protestors then continued by looting and vandalizing offices used by House Speaker Nancy Pelosi and other lawmakers and making sure they took photos while they were at it.

Four hours after the breach, officials announced the securing of Capitol following the clearing of the demonstrators from the building while the Senators were led back into the Senate chamber where the certification process continued from where it was left off. The debacle ultimately led to the death of four civilians and a Capitol Police officer. Former President Donald Trump took

to Twitter after several hours following the tragic event, pleading his supporters to maintain peace and to respect the people in Law and Order but looking back, it was too little too late. The damage had been done, a dark day for the history books had been written and all that was left was to figure out what went so terribly wrong prior to the whole episode.

In the days that followed, the House Democrats accused Mr. Trump of encouraging violence and retaliation by undermining the faith of people in the democratic voting process with the help of his uncorroborated claims of voter fraud and consequently moved to successfully impeach him on Jan 13 by the margin of 232 votes in favour versus 197 against the same, making Donald Trump the first president to be impeached twice. The latest development in the impeachment proceeding comes as the blocking of the Impeachment trial in the U.S. Senate, as the Democrats failed to get two thirds of the Senate to vote for impeaching Mr. Trump. All the while, the Republicans who voted against the trial maintain that the proceedings would be unconstitutional because Mr. Trump has left office and the proceeding would basically try a private citizen and not the President, which violates the constitution.

In conclusion, the ambiguity in gauging the level of Mr. Trump's role in the Capitol Hill uprising still prevails. However, an issue of certainty is the fact that the end of his tenure has been a less than favourable one.



NORTH AMERICA

Rejoining the Paris Climate Accord and the canceling of the Keystone XL permit signed into effect via Executive Order as Biden strengthens US fight against climate change.

Mexican President Andres Manuel Lopez Obrador tests positive for Covid-19.



SOUTH AMERICA

Heavy losses due to the hurricanes Eta and Iota, the crisis of the Covid-19 pandemic and the volatile political situation in the country push Hondurans to flee North.

Argentina legalises abortion up to the 14th week of pregnancy.



EUROPE

Major firms in the Scandinavian region along with the UK, France and Switzerland improve their gender diversity scores during this pandemic.

Heavy impact on the automotive industry in the UK as car production slumps to lowest level since 1984.



AFRICA

In Tunisia, which has been beset by political infighting, unrest continues as protestors demand economic development, an end to police brutality, and the release of an estimated 1,400 people arrested in the disturbances.

Tanzania's president Magufuli releases 1,789 imprisoned Ethiopian migrants.



ASIA

Protesting farmers flood India's Capital, storm historic fort over contentious farm laws.

UAE, Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Egypt open air spaces in Qatar; Turkey and Saudi Arabia improve ties.



AUSTRALIA

Google threatens to remove search engine from Australia over new law.

Australia approves Pfizer jab for rollout in February.