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1. Prime Minister Inaugurates 600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (Oct. 17, 2022)

Prime Minister Narendra Modi inaugurated **PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022** at **Indian Agricultural Research Institute in New Delhi** on 17 October, 2022.

Important facts

- The Prime Minister also inaugurated **600 Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras (PMKSK)** under the Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilisers.
- The Prime Minister also launched the **Pradhan Mantri Bhartiya Jan Fertilizer Project - One Nation One Fertilizer**.
- One Nation, One Fertilizer will free the farmer from all kinds of confusion regarding the quality and availability of manure.
- During the event, the Prime Minister also released the **12th instalment** of Rs 16,000 crore under the **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)** through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- The Prime Minister also inaugurated the Agriculture Startup Conclave and Exhibition.
- During the programme, the Prime Minister also launched an e-magazine on fertilisers, '**Indian Age**'.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samruddhi Kendras

- 3.25 lakh fertilizer shops will be developed across the country as **Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samridhi Kendra (PMKSK)**.
- These will be the centres where farmers can not only buy fertilizers and seeds but also conduct soil tests and get useful information about farming techniques.
- Under this scheme, retail fertilizer shops in the country will be converted into PMKSK in a phased manner.

2. International Day for the Eradication of Poverty (Oct. 17, 2022)

The **International Day for the Eradication of Poverty** is observed annually around the world on **17 October** to highlight the issues of poverty, hunger and violence.

Important facts

- The day intends to find ways to reduce and eradicate poverty.
- Every year on this day people from all backgrounds, social origins and beliefs gather together to show their solidarity with the poor.

Its aim is to raise awareness about the struggles of people living in poverty.

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- The United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organisation (**UNESCO**) believes that the lasting fight against poverty can be fought through education, science and the support of a creative economy.

Theme of 2022

- The theme of International Day for the Eradication of Poverty 2022 - '**Dignity for all in practice.**'
- This year's theme is based on the dignity of man, which is not only a fundamental right but is the basis of all other fundamental rights.

Background of the day

- On **17 October 1987**, more than a million people gathered at the **Trocadero in Paris**.
- He declared that poverty is a violation of human rights of an individual and there is a need to ensure that these rights are respected.
- Trocadéro is the place where the **Universal Declaration of Human Rights** was signed in **1948**.
- On **22 December 1992**, the **United Nations (UN) General Assembly** declared **17 October** as the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty.

Global scenario of poverty

- Around **689 million people** worldwide live in extreme poverty and live on less than **\$1.9** each day.
- About **1.3 billion people in 107 developing countries** live in multidimensional poverty. They account for 22 percent of the global population.
- About **84.3 percent** of multidimensionally poor individuals live in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.

Poverty in India

- According to the National Poverty Line in 2011, about **21.9%** of the population in India is **below the poverty line**.
- Presently the poverty line is **INR 1,059.42 per month** in rural areas and **INR 1,286 per month** in urban areas.
- Poverty in India is estimated by the **Task Force of NITI Aayog under the Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation** through the calculation of the poverty line on the basis of data obtained by the National Sample Survey Office.

3. Railway minister inaugurates India's first aluminium Freight Rake (Oct. 17, 2022)

On 16 October 2022, Union Railways Minister **Ashwini Vaishnaw** inaugurated **India's first aluminium freight rake** at **Bhubaneswar railway station**.

Important facts

- The first Aluminum Freight Rake - **61 BOBRNHSM1**, was flagged off by the Minister whose destination is **Bilaspur**.
- A dedicated effort of Make in India programme, it is indigenously designed and developed in collaboration with **RDSO, Hindalco and Besco Wagons**.
- Apart from freight trains, Indian Railways is also introducing aluminum passenger coaches in the near future.

Features of Aluminium Rake

- It is fully Lock Bolted construction with no welding on superstructure.
- The tare is 3.25 tons lower than normal steel rakes, 180 ton extra carrying capacity resulting in higher throughput per wagon.
- Higher payload to tare ratio is 2.85.

Significance

- This will reduce the **carbon footprint** as there will be less fuel consumption and more transportation of goods.
- A single rake can save over 14,500 tonnes of **CO2** over its lifetime.
- Its cost is **35% more** than the normal cost as all its structure is made of **aluminium**.
- Low maintenance cost due to high corrosion and abrasion resistance.

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5. India to host 90th General Assembly of INTERPOL (Oct. 17, 2022)

India will host the **90th General Assembly** of the International Criminal Police Organisation, **INTERPOL**, in **New Delhi** from October 18 to 21, 2022.

Important facts

- The General Assembly is the highest governing body of Interpol consisting of representatives of **195 member states**. Its meeting is held once a year.
- The General Assembly is being held in India **after 25 years**, last held in **1997** on the occasion of India's 75th Independence Day celebrations.
- Union Home Minister **Amit Shah** proposed the event to **Interpol Secretary General Jurgen Stock** during an official visit to New Delhi in August 2019.

Agenda of the meeting

- The agenda is expected to include presentations, workshops and discussions on the following subjects -

1. The future of policing
2. Policing and today's crimes

What is INTERPOL?

- The International Criminal Police Organisation, or Interpol, is an intergovernmental organisation with **194 members**.
- It was formed in **1923** as the International Criminal Police Commission, and it was named Interpol in **1956**.
- India joined **Interpol in 1949**, and is one of its oldest members.
- It is the **world's largest international police organisation**.
- Its work focuses on public safety and combating terrorism, crimes against humanity, genocide, war crimes, environmental crimes, etc.
- Headquartered - **Lyon, France**

What is the Interpol General Assembly?

- It is the supreme governing body of Interpol, and consists of representatives of all its member states.
- Each country is represented in the Assembly by one or more representatives, who are usually the heads of law enforcement agencies.
- The General Assembly also elects the members of the Interpol Executive Committee.

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7. Global Hunger Index 2022 (Oct. 15, 2022)

India ranked **107 out of 121 countries** in the **Global Hunger Index (GHI) 2022** that was released on 14 October 2022.

India's Performance

- India is in a worse position than all the countries of **South Asia** except war-torn **Afghanistan**.
- Hunger levels in India have been placed in the "**severe**" category with a score of **29.1**.
- Neighbouring **Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Nepal, and Myanmar have been ranked 99, 64, 84, 81, and 71 respectively** – all countries above India.
- The wasting rate (underweight by height) of children in India is **19.3%**, worse than the levels recorded in **2014 (15.1%)**.
- The prevalence of undernutrition in India has increased from **14.6% in 2018-2020 to 16.3% in 2019-2021**.
- It is estimated that 224.3 million people in India are malnourished, out of a total of 828 million people who are malnourished globally.

- India has shown **improvement in two indicators** - child stunting has declined from 38.7% to 35.5% between 2014 and 2022, and child mortality has fallen from 4.6% to 3.3% in the same period.
- In 2021, India ranked **101 out of 116 countries**, while in 2020, India stood at 94th position.

Global Scenario

- According to the index, there are 44 countries that currently have "**severe**" or "**alarming**" levels of hunger.
- Globally, progress against hunger has largely stalled in recent years.
- For the world a GHI **score of 18.2 in 2022** is considered "**moderate**", but 18.2 in 2022 represents a slight improvement from 19.1 in 2014.
- This is due to conflicts, climate change, the economic fallout of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as crises such as the Ukraine War, which have increased global food, fuel and fertilizer prices and are expected to worsen in 2023.

About Global Hunger Index

- GHI is a tool for comprehensively measuring and tracking hunger across nations.
- It is an annual report jointly published by **Concern Worldwide and Welthungerhilfe**.
- It was first released in **2006**, it is released every year in the month of October. Its 2022 edition refers to the 17th edition of the GHI.
- It is calculated on the basis of four indicators -

- Undernutrition** - a population with insufficient caloric intake
- Child wasting** - Children under the age of five, who are underweight for their height, show acute malnutrition.
- Child stunting** - children under the age of five who are underweight for their age, indicating malnutrition
- Child Mortality Rate** - Mortality rate of children under five years of age

8. Coconut Community Farmers' Conference (Oct. 15, 2022)

On October 14, 2022, the '**Coconut Community Farmers' Conference**' was organised in **Coimbatore**.

Important facts

- Union Minister for Agriculture and Farmers Welfare, **Narendra Singh Tomar** inaugurated the Conference.
- Tomar said that the government would continue to provide all possible assistance to the farmers in the coastal states to promote coconut cultivation in the country.
- Efforts made in the field of research and development in recent years have resulted in the development of new technologies in farming and processing as well as improvements in existing technologies.
- With the increase in the number of coconut based industries in the country, new products and employment opportunities are also increasing.
- The contribution of coconut cultivation in the agricultural economy is very important. India is a leader in coconut cultivation.

Coconut production in India

- India is one of the **third largest producers of coconut** in the world.
- **Tamil Nadu ranks first** in coconut processing activities.
- **Coimbatore ranks first in terms of area under coconut cultivation**, where coconut is cultivated in an area of 88,467 hectares.
- Support is being provided for setting up 537 new processing units in India with a processing capacity of 3,638 million coconuts per annum, of which 136 are in Tamil Nadu.
- **Indonesia is the world's leading coconut producer**, The **Philippines** is the world's **second** largest producer of coconuts.

9. Prime Minister Modi to inaugurate PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022 on October 17 (Oct. 15, 2022)

Prime Minister **Narendra Modi** will inaugurate **PM Kisan Samman Sammelan 2022** on 17th October, 2022 at **Mela Ground, Indian Agriculture Research Institute, Pusa in New Delhi.**

Important facts

- On this occasion, the Prime Minister will release **Rs 16,000 Crores** under the PM-KISAN flagship scheme as **12th instalment** through Direct Benefit Transfer.
- The Prime Minister will also inaugurate the **Agri Start-up Conclave and Exhibition.**
- He will also inaugurate **600 PM Kisan Samridhi Kendras (PM-KSKs)** of the Union Ministry of Chemicals and Fertilizers.
- On this occasion he will also launch **Bharat Urea Bags**, India's biggest move in fertilizers-**One Nation One Fertilizer Scheme** for Farmers.

- During this event, the Prime Minister will launch an international weekly **fertilizer e-magazine** Indian Age.

Pradhan Mantri Kisan Samman Nidhi (PM-KISAN)

- It was launched on **24 February, 2019 by PM Modi** to supplement financial needs of land holding farmers.
- Under the scheme financial benefit of **Rs 6000 per year** in three equal instalments, **every four month** is transferred into the bank accounts of farmers' families across the country through **Direct Benefit Transfer (DBT) mode**.
- It is a central sector scheme with **100% funding by the Government of India**.
- It is being implemented by the **Ministry of Agriculture and Farmers Welfare**.
- So far, eligible farmer families have received benefits of more than **Rs 2 lakh crore under PM-KISAN** through 11 instalments.

10. British PM Liz Truss sacks Finance Minister Kwasi Kwarteng, Jeremy Hunt appointed new Treasury chief (Oct. 15, 2022)

British Prime Minister Liz Truss sacked Finance Minister **Quasi Quarteng** on October 14, 2022, ahead of the announcement of the economic package.

Important facts

- In his place, former cabinet minister **Jeremy Hunt** has been appointed finance minister.
- For the past several days, there was a demand to remove Quarteng from this post, he remained in this post for about a month.
- Tax cuts were announced during his tenure, this caused a sharp drop in the pound's exchange rate.
- Recently, the Mini Budget of the Liz Truss government was presented, which proved to be a **failure in controlling inflation** in the country.
- After this, MPs gave an ultimatum to Truss that if Finance Minister Kwasi Quarteng is not removed, he may face a rebellion.
- Quasi became the shortest-serving chancellor in Britain **since 1970**, a position he held for just 38 days.