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### 1. 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.
- 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.

## 2. 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 –
  1. **Undernutrition** - a population with insufficient caloric intake
  2. **Child wasting** – Children under the age of five, who are underweight for their height, show acute malnutrition.
  3. **Child stunting** - children under the age of five who are underweight for their age, indicating malnutrition
  4. **Child Mortality Rate** - Mortality rate of children under five years of age

### **3. 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.

**4. Abdul Latif Rashid elected as new president of Iraq ( Oct. 14, 2022 )**

On 13 October 2022, lawmakers in **Iraq** elected **Kurdish politician Abdul Latif Rashid** as the country's new **president**. He will replace **Barham Saleh**.

**Important facts**

- After two rounds of voting, **160 votes** were cast in favor of Rashid, while Saleh got **99 votes**.
- Rashid, 78, is an engineer and was Iraqi Water Resources Minister from 2003 to 2010.
- He has 15 days to invite a nominee from the largest parliamentary bloc to form the government.
- The country had seen months of political stalemate after powerful Shia leader Muqtada al-Sadr emerged as the biggest winner in a parliamentary vote last year but failed to garner enough support to form a government.
- Al-Sadr withdrew his lawmakers from the House and announced in August that he would quit politics, which was followed by violence in Baghdad.

**5. India participated in the 6th East Asia Education Ministers' Summit in Hanoi, Vietnam ( Oct. 14, 2022 )**

India participated at the 6th **East Asia Summit Education Minister's Meeting** held on 14 October, 2022 in **Hanoi, Vietnam**.

**Important facts**

- **Ms. Neeta Prasad**, Joint Secretary in the Ministry of Education addressed the gathering through virtually.
- She informed about the key initiatives of National Education Policy 2020 and India's collaborative efforts in education and research with partner countries.
- Ms. Neeta Prasad said that the National Education Policy - 2020 is a holistic, flexible and multi-disciplinary vision of Prime Minister Narendra Modi for education.
- She said that this policy is based on the fundamental pillars of equity, quality, affordability and accountability.
- She informed that the **National Education Policy-2020** focuses on internationalisation of education and building cooperation with other countries.

**About East Asia Summit (EAS)**

- It was initiated in 2005 with the convening of the **1st East Asia Summit** in **Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia**.
- At the time of its establishment, **16 countries** had participated in the East Asia Summit.

- The United States and the Russian Federation attended the East Asia Summit in **Bali, Indonesia on 19 November 2011.**
- It refers to the meeting of the Heads of State/Government of the countries participating in the EAS which is held annually.
  - It has identified **six priority areas** of cooperation which include environment and energy, education, finance, global health issues and pandemic diseases, natural disaster management and ASEAN connectivity.

## **6. Living Planet Report 2022 ( Oct. 14, 2022 )**

Recently the **Living Planet Report 2022** has been jointly released by the **World Wildlife Fund and the Zoological Society of London.**

### **Important facts**

- According to this report, the global wildlife population has **declined by 69%** between **1970 and 2018.**
- The report has been prepared by tracking about **32,000 organisms** of more than **5,230 vertebrate species** between 1970 and 2018 in the 'Living Planet Report'.
- The Living Planet Index has been used to calculate the **decline in vertebrate species** in the Living Planet Report.

### **'Living Planet Index'**

- It assesses the state of biodiversity of the world based on population trends of vertebrate species in terrestrial, freshwater and marine habitats.
- It is issued by the **Institute of Zoology (Zoological Society of London).**

### **Other key findings of the report**

- According to this report, **Latin America and the Caribbean region** that hosts the **Amazon rainforest** saw the highest wildlife decline of **94 percent** between 1970 and 2018.
- **Africa** recorded the **second biggest decline** with 66 percent, followed by the Pacific (55 percent).
- **North America and Europe** recorded declines of **20 percent and 18 percent**, respectively.
- The population of freshwater species has declined by **83 percent.**

## **7. External Affairs minister S.Jaishankar to visit Egypt on his first official tour ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

According to the Ministry of External Affairs, External Affairs Minister **Dr S.Jaishankar** will be on his **first official visit** to Egypt from 15-16 October 2022. He is going there on the invitation of Egypt's Foreign minister **Sameh Hassan Shoukry**. According to the ministry both the leaders will discuss a range of bilateral, regional and international issues of mutual interest.

India and Egypt traditionally enjoy warm and friendly relations underpinned by historical and cultural linkages. India is trying to deepen its relation with Egypt.

Recently in the month of September Defence minister [Rajnath Singh](#) was on a visit to Egypt to deepen defence ties.

Both countries are celebrating **75 years of establishment of diplomatic relations this year**.

Egypt has been invited as a 'Guest Country' during India's Presidency of G-20 in 2022-23.

### **Economic relations**

Egypt has been one of India's largest trading partners in Africa and the promotion of bilateral trade, commerce and investments will be one of the focus areas during the visit.

India - Egypt bilateral trade touched a record high at US\$ 7.26 billion during the financial year 2021-22.

Indian investment in Egypt exceeds US\$ 3.15 billion. Over 50 Indian companies are actively present in Egypt in a range of sectors like manufacturing, chemicals, energy, infrastructure, retail etc.

### **Arab Republic of Egypt**

It is an Arab country which is located on the African continent.

President: **Abdel Fattah al-Sisi**

Capital: **Cairo**

Currency: **Egyptian pound**

## **8. Meenaskshi Lekhi leads Indian delegation at the 6th CICA Summit meeting at Astana ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

Union Minister for External Affairs **Meenaskshi Lekhi** led the Indian delegation at the 6th Conference on Confidence Building Measures and Interaction in Asia (CICA) summit held on 12-13 October 2022 at the Kazakhstan capital, [Astana](#).

Replying to the Statement of the Prime Minister of Pakistan Shehbaz Sharif on Kashmir she said that Pakistan is misusing the CICA for propagating malicious propaganda against India. She said that Jammu and Kashmir is an integral part of India.

### **Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA)**

The Conference on Interaction and Confidence Building Measures in Asia (CICA) is a multi-national forum for enhancing cooperation towards promoting peace, security and stability in Asia.

The idea of convening CICA was first proposed by the President of the Republic of Kazakhstan **Nursultan Nazarbayev**, on 5 October 1992, at the 47th Session of the United Nations General Assembly.

**27 countries including India**, China, and Pakistan are members of CICA.

### **Summit meetings of CICA**

The First summit meeting was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on 4 June 2002. It was attended by Prime Minister Atal Bihari Vajpayee.

The second CICA summit was held in **Almaty, Kazakhstan** on June 17, 2006

The third CICA Summit was held in **Istanbul, Turkey** on 8 June 2010

The Fourth CICA Summit, was held in **Shanghai, China** on 21 May 2014

The Fifth CICA Summit was held in **Dushanbe, Tajikistan**, on 15 June 2019.

## **9. IAEA chief Rafael Gross calls for protecting Zaporizhzhia nuclear power in a meeting with President Putin in Russia ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

The International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA) Director General Rafael **Gross** met the Russian President **Vladimir Putin** in **St Petersburg**, amid concern over the safety of the Russian-held Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant in Ukraine.

Rafael Gross met Putin after his meeting with Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelenskyy in Kyiv last week.

Rafael Gross called for setting up a protection zone around the Zaporizhzhia Nuclear power plant and asserted that they cannot lose any more time. He emphasised that Russia and Ukraine must do everything to help in ensuring that a nuclear accident does not occur during the ongoing war between Russia and Ukraine.

### **Concern over the Zaporizhzhia nuclear power plant**

The 6000 MW Zaporizhzhia nuclear power complex is the **largest European nuclear power complex** which has been occupied by the invading Russian forces since early March 2022.

The area has been heavily fortified by the Russian military and the Ukrainian forces are also launching a counter attack. This has led to the fear that the nuclear complex could be hit in an attack which could lead to a nuclear catastrophe in the area.

### **International Atomic Energy Agency (IAEA)**

The IAEA was set up in 1957 as an agency of the United Nations.

The IAEA was set up to work with the member countries and multiple partners worldwide to promote safe, secure and peaceful nuclear technologies.

The International Atomic Energy Agency is the world's central intergovernmental forum for scientific and technical co-operation in the nuclear field.

Member Countries: **175**

The IAEA headquarters is at **Vienna, Austria** and it has two regional offices located in Toronto, Canada and Tokyo, Japan,

Director General: **Rafael Gross**

## **10. World's first space tourist Dennis Tito to ride to moon again on SpaceX ( Oct. 13, 2022 )**

World's first space tourist, **Dennis Tito**, has signed up with the Elon Musk Company SpaceX, to fly around the Moon aboard the Starship rocket.

The SpaceX Company on 12 October 2022 said that the rocket will take Tito and his wife, Akiko, within 200km (125 miles) of the far side of the Moon without landing on its surface. The date of the launch has yet to be announced as the Starship is yet to be tested.

Dennis Tito, an American engineer and entrepreneur became the first human space tourist to visit the International Space Station in 2001.

He was launched onboard a Russian rocket with the help of US-based Space Adventures in 2001.

Few companies in the world are striving to make space travel a reality. They are **SpaceX**, Richard Branson-founded **Virgin Galactic SPCE.N**, and **Jeff Bezos's Blue Origin** which currently offers suborbital joyrides that hit an altitude of about 106km (66 miles) above the Earth.

90 year old American actor, **William Shatner**, who played the role of Captain James T Kirk on the TV series Star Trek, became the **oldest person** to ride a rocket into space when he travelled on a Blue Origin flight last year.

## **Human Space Flight**

The first person to go into space was **Yury Gagarin** of the Soviet Union on 12 April 1961 onboard the Vostok Rocket.

The first woman to go into space was **Valentina Tereshkova** of the Soviet Union on 16 June 1963 onboard the Vostok 6 Rocket.

The first American to go into space was **Alan Shepard** in 1961.

Wing Commander **Rakesh Sharma** is the only Indian to go into space. He was part of the Soviet mission aboard Soyuz T-11 on 3 April 1984.