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1. Liz Truss becomes the shortest serving Britain's Prime Minister as she announces resignation (Oct. 20, 2022)

Liz Truss resigns

Elizabeth Truss popularly known as [Liz Truss](#) announced on 20 October 2022 that she would resign as British Prime Minister, just six weeks after being sworn in as the Prime Minister on 6 September 2022. She became the **shortest-serving Prime Minister (44 days)** in the British history.

She lost the support of her party and the people over her economic plans that led to the sharp fall in the value of the British pound, crashed the bond market, pushed up cost of living for voters and angered her own party members.

Speaking outside the door of her Number 10 Downing Street office, Truss accepted that she had lost the faith of her party and said she would step down next week. **Number 10 Downing Street is the official residence of the British prime Minister.**

The ruling Conservative Party which has a comfortable majority in the Parliament will elect a new leader by 28 October 2022.

The former finance minister Rishi Sunak is likely to contest the election. But many people are supporting former Prime Minister Boris Johnson, who was ousted in July when his ministers resigned en masse to force him out of power.

2. Russia-Ukraine conflict forces over 4 million children into poverty: UNICEF (Oct. 18, 2022)

The UN agency **UNICEF** has revealed that the economic crisis due to **Russia-Ukraine conflict** has thrown more than **4 million children into poverty** across eastern **Europe and Central Asia**.

Important facts

- In an official statement, UNICEF said that children are bearing the biggest burden of the economic crisis caused by the Ukraine war.
- Conflict and rising inflation have pushed an additional 4 million children into poverty in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, a **19 percent increase** since 2021.
- UNICEF has concluded this from a study of data from **22 countries**.
- Russians and Ukrainian children have been the most affected since Russia's attack on Ukraine in February this year.
- On the other hand, the **World Food Program** estimates that around **19 million Afghans** face food insecurity.

United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF)

- It was established by the United Nations General Assembly on **11 December 1946**.

- Poland's physician **Ludwik Rauschmann** was instrumental in the formation of UNICEF.
- The main purpose of establishing it was to provide food and health services in case of emergency to children and mothers in countries devastated by World War II.

3. Ulf Kristersson elected Sweden's new Prime Minister (Oct. 18, 2022)

Sweden's parliament on 17 October elected **Ulf Kristersson**, 59, leader of the Conservative Moderate Party, as the **new Prime Minister**.

Important facts

- He will head a coalition that is also backed by a once radical right-wing party.
- His government is expected to assume office on October 18.
- His alliance consists of three parties. Although the coalition does not have a majority, in Sweden, the prime minister can rule as long as there is no majority against him in parliament.
- His party emerged as the major winner in Sweden's 11 September general election, with a record **20.5 percent** of the vote, behind **outgoing Prime Minister Magdalena Andersen's Social Democrats**.
- The Social Democrats have dominated Swedish politics since the **1930s**.
- The new government plans to cut taxes, start the process of building new nuclear power plants, tighten immigration rules and give more police powers as part of a policy deal with the Sweden Democrats.

About Sweden

- It is located on the **Scandinavian Peninsula** in **northern Europe**.
- The ancient name of the country was **Svitiod**.
- Prime Minister - **Ulf Kristersson**
- Capital - **Stockholm**
- Currency - **Swedish krona**
- King - **Carl XVI Gustaf**

4. Diplomat Apoorva Srivastava appointed Ambassador to Slovak Republic (Oct. 18, 2022)

Apoorva Srivastava, a diplomat in the **Indian Foreign Service**, has been appointed to serve as **India's Ambassador to the Slovak Republic**.

Important facts

- Apoorva, a 2001 batch officer, is currently serving as the **Consul General at the Consulate General of India in Toronto**.
- Prior to this, she held various positions in the Ministry of External Affairs and was posted in Kathmandu and Paris, among other places.
- India and Slovakia have signed agreements ranging from defence and air services to economic and cultural.
- India and Slovakia regularly support each other's candidacy for top positions in multilateral organisations such as the International Court of Justice and the United Nations.

Slovak Republic

- Slovak Republic or Slovakia is a landlocked country of **central Europe**.
- It is bordered by Poland to the north, Ukraine to the east, Hungary to the south, and Austria to the southwest.
- Its former federal partner, the Czech Republic, lies to the west.
- Prime Minister - **Eduard Heger**
- Capital - **Bratislava**
- President - **Zuzana Caputova**
- Currency - **Euro**
- Official Language - **Slovak**

5. India-Africa Defence Dialogue (Oct. 18, 2022)

India-Africa Defence Dialogue (IADD) being held on 18 October on the sidelines of the **12th DefExpo in Gandhinagar, Gujarat**.

Important facts

- **The theme of the dialogue** is '**India-Africa : Adopting Strategy for Synergising and Strengthening Defence and Security Cooperation**'.
- **It aims** to explore new avenues of convergence for mutual engagement including in the areas of capacity building, training, cyber security, maritime security and counter-terrorism.
- **Manohar Parrikar Institute for Defence Studies and Analysis (MP-IDSA)**, India's leading think-tank for advanced research in international relations, is the **knowledge partner** for the **India-Africa Defence Dialogue**.

- India's approach towards Africa is guided by the **Kampala Principles** enunciated by Prime Minister **Narendra Modi in 2018**.
- On February 6, 2020, the first ever India-Africa Defence Ministers' Conference was held in **Lucknow, Uttar Pradesh** in conjunction with the DefExpo.

What are Kampala Principles?

- The Kampala Principles promote the ownership of private sector partnerships (PSEs) through development cooperation by partner countries.
- These principles ensure the alignment of PSE projects and programs with national sustainable development priorities.

About African continent

- It is the **second largest continent (after Asia)**, covering about one-fifth of the total land surface of Earth.
- It is **bounded by** the Atlantic Ocean in the west, the Mediterranean Sea in the north, the Red Sea and Indian Ocean in the east, and the Atlantic and Indian Oceans in the south.
- The island of **Madagascar**, off the coast of Africa, is one of the **largest islands in the world**.
- The African continent has a population of over **one billion**, with a combined **GDP of \$2.5 trillion**, making it a huge potential market.
- Africa is a resource-rich continent rich in **crude oil, gas, pulses and lentils, leather, gold and other metals**, all of which are lacking in substantial quantities in India.

6. Iraq's Moqtada al-Sadr's movement refuses to join new government (Oct. 17, 2022)

Iraqi firebrand Shia leader Moqtada al-Sadr's movement announced its refusal to join a new government being formed by Prime Minister-designate **Mohammad Shia al-Sudani**. This is likely to prolong the political instability in the country. The Moqtada al-Sadr's movement announcement came after the Iraqi Parliament elected **Abdul Latif Rashid**, a 78-year-old Iraqi Kurd, as Iraq's new president on 13 October 2022.

The newly elected President named al-Sudani as prime minister in a bid to end a year of political gridlock in the country since the October 2021 elections.

Mohammad Shia al-Sudani, supported by Iran backed Coordination Framework coalition parties has one month, within which to form a government.

Political instability in Iraq

- The democratic institutions built in oil-rich Iraq since the 2003 US-led invasion that toppled Dictator Saddam Hussein remain fragile, and neighbouring Iran wields major influence in the Shia majority Iraq.
- After the toppling of Saddam Hussein there has been bitter sectarian conflict between the Iraqi populations divided into Kurdish, Sunni, and Shia groups.
- To tackle the sectarian problem a new power sharing system has been developed in Iraq .The **President** by convention is Kurdish, the **Prime minister** a Shiite Arab and the **parliament speaker** a Sunni Arab.
- Iraq has been without a new government since elections last October, when candidates loyal to Mr. Sadr won the single biggest bloc of seats and eclipsed rival Shiite political parties backed by Iran. His relationship with Iran is also not good.
- Moqtada al-Sadr, who has the ability to mobilise tens of thousands of his supporters with a single tweet, has repeatedly demanded early elections, while the Coordination Framework wants a new government in place before any polls are held.
- Tensions between the two rival Shia camps boiled over on August 29 when more than 30 al-Sadr supporters were killed in clashes with Iran-backed factions and the army.

Republic of Iraq

In ancient times the region where modern Iraq is was known as Mesopotamia (Land between the rivers).

The modern state of Iraq was created in 1921 by Britain.

It gained its independence from Britain in 1932.

It is an Oil rich Arab country and it is the **largest supplier of crude oil to India.**

Capital: **Baghdad**

Currency: **Iraqi Dinar**

President: **Abdul Latif Rashid**

7. 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.

8. 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

9. 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.

10. 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.