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IN-DEPTH NEWS ANALYSIS FOR
UPSC & APSC

DATE: 21 OCTOBER 2022



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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

S. No	News Articles	Paper
1	UK to get 3rd PM	GS-2
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5	Bringing African Cheetah is an ill advised move	GS-3
6	Addressing north India's Burning issue sustainably	Editorial

CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

GS-2 UK to get 3rd PM

THE HINDU

Truss announces exit; U.K. to get its 3rd PM in three months

‘I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected’

A ‘leadership election’ will be completed next week, she says

Reports say that former PM Boris Johnson is planning a comeback

Sritam Lakshman
LONDON

Britain is about to get its third Prime Minister in three months, with Prime Minister Liz Truss, who faced growing pressure from Conservative MPs, announcing that she will quit the post. Ms. Truss’s budgetary plans, at the heart of which were unfunded tax cuts, had deeply rattled markets and led to the replacement of the Chancellor only days ago.

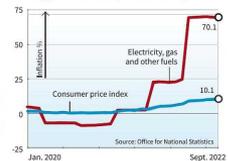
Speaking from behind a lectern outside No.10 Downing Street, where only 45 days ago she had stood, having just been appointed Prime Minister by the late Queen Elizabeth II, Ms. Truss announced her decision to a country that has been through a summer



Short term: Truss makes statement outside 10 Downing Street. AFP

Exit amid turmoil

U.K. inflation accelerated to 10.1% in September, a 40-year high. Energy was among the biggest contributors as electricity, gas and other fuel prices increased by 70%



which I was elected by the Conservative Party” she said, adding that she had spoken to King Charles III and informed him of her intent to resign as leader of the party.

Ms. Truss also announced that she had met with Sir Graham Brady, who is the Chairman of the powerful 1922 Committee, on Thursday morning, and they had decided that a “leadership election” will be “completed in the next week”. The 1922 Committee is a group of backbench MPs that meets twice weekly when the House of Commons is in session and whose support is crucial for Ms. Truss.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 18
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and early autumn of political chaos and economic turmoil. The outgoing Prime Minister said she had come into office at a time of significant international and

economic instability, with families and businesses worried about how they would pay their bills. She said she was elected by the Conservative Party with a mandate to fix the “low

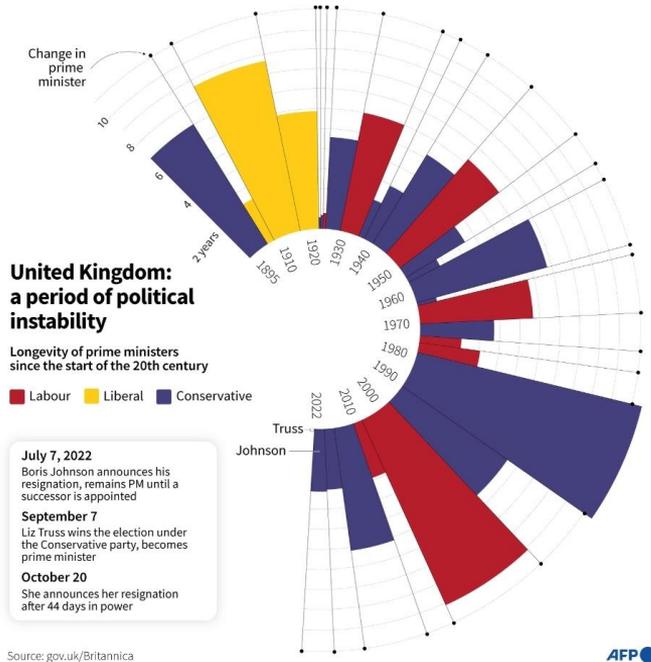
growth” that was holding the U.K. back, by lowering taxes and returning to high growth. “I recognise though given this situation, I cannot deliver the mandate on

Context

Britain is about to get its third Prime Minister in three months, with Prime Minister Liz Truss, who faced growing pressure from Conservative MPs, announcing that she will quit the post.



CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



Liz Truss became Prime Minister on a promise to open a new era of growth by shaking up Britain's economy. But the tumult that resulted was not exactly what she had in mind: Markets recoiled, the pound currency dived,

Ms. Truss, 47, was forced to quit after an ill-conceived economic stimulus plan she drew up caused economic and political chaos and wiped out her support in the Conservative Party.

The low-tax, low-regulation economic policies that got Truss elected by her party proved disastrous in the real world at a time of soaring inflation and weak growth.

CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

GS-3 Penalty on Google

THE HINDU

Competition panel imposes ₹1,338-cr. penalty on Google

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI

The Competition Commission of India (CCI) on Thursday imposed a ₹1,337.76 crore penalty on Google for “abusing its dominant position in multiple markets in the Android mobile device ecosystem”.

Issuing a “cease and desist” order, the CCI also directed Google to modify its conduct within a timeline. It added that original equipment manufacturers (OEMs) should not be forced to pre-install a bouquet of applications.

The matter pertains to the Android operating system (OS) acquired by Google in 2005. The CCI examined various practices of Google with respect to its licensing and various proprietary mobile applications, including Play Store, Google Search, Google Chrome, YouTube, etc.

Five relevant markets in India – for licensable OS

for smart mobile devices, app store, general web search services, non-OS specific mobile web browsers and online video hosting platform – were delineated for the purpose.

During the inquiry, Google argued about the “competitive constraints being faced from Apple” in terms of the respective OS ecosystems. The CCI noted that Apple’s business was primarily based on a vertically integrated smart device ecosystem that focused on sale of high-end smart devices.

“Whereas Google’s business was found to be driven by the ultimate intent of increasing users on its platforms so that they interact with its revenue earning service i.e., online search which directly affects sale of online advertising services by Google,” the CCI said in a statement.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 16

Context

Competition panel imposes ₹1,338-cr. penalty on Google.

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The Google logo is displayed in its characteristic multi-colored font (blue, red, yellow, green, blue, red) with a trademark symbol (TM) to the right. Below the logo is a decorative bar composed of vertical bars in the same color palette as the logo.

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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

THE HINDU

Interpol launches metaverse for global law enforcement

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

The Interpol on Thursday unveiled the first-ever 'metaverse' specifically designed for law enforcement worldwide, at its ongoing 90th General Assembly in Delhi.

The Interpol metaverse allows the registered users to take a virtual tour of its General Secretariat headquarters in France's Lyon, interact with other officers via their avatars, and even take training courses in forensic investigation and other policing skills, it said.

The facility is being provided through the global police organisation's secure cloud. "For many, the metaverse seems to herald an abstract future, but the issues it raises are those

that have always motivated Interpol – supporting our member countries to fight crime and making the world, virtual or not, safer for those who inhabit it," said Interpol Secretary-General Jürgen Stock.

In a follow-up panel discussion, the Interpol also announced the creation of an expert group on the metaverse to represent the concerns of law enforcement on the global stage and ensure that the new virtual world was secure by design. During a live demonstration, experts from the Interpol Capacity Building and Training Directorate delivered a training course on travel document verification and passenger screening using its capabilities in a metaverse classroom.

GS-3**Interpol launches metaverse****Context**

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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

GS-3

Army's emergency procurement

THE HINDU

Army's 4th round of emergency procurement to be from India

Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande says the domestic industry has risen to the challenge of meeting defence demands

Dinakar Peri
GANDHINAGAR

The Army, which has made three tranches of Emergency Procurements (EP) in the last few years, is preparing for a fourth round of EP which will be entirely from the domestic industry, Army chief Gen. Manoj Pande said on Thursday. He also said that in the next seven to eight years, orders worth 88 lakh crore could be placed with Indian industry.

"Emergency Procurements are done to address critical operational requirements. Three tranches of EPs were executed under which 68 contracts worth 85,000 crore were



Indian pavilion: Visitors viewing exhibits at the Defence Expo 2022 in Gandhinagar, Vijayawada.

placed. We are now in the 4th EP for indigenous equipment. Our industry has risen to the challenge," Gen. Pande said speaking on the sidelines of the De-DefExpo-2022. "We also need to indigenise to modernise. It should not be seen as an impediment, but as

an opportunity." Emergency financial powers were granted to the armed forces by the Defence Ministry in the past under which they could procure weapons systems up to ₹300 crores on an "urgent basis without any further clearances

to cut short the procurement cycle." Gen. Pande said the EP also gives them an opportunity to test various systems in the field before going in for larger acquisition through the capital budget route.

The Russia-Ukraine war taught us lot of lessons, the Army Chief said on becoming self-reliant. Not just maintenance and spares but also in terms of new acquisitions. He said the Army was working on indigenisation of ammunition while looking for alternate sources with regard to spares.

Elaborating on efforts in this direction, Gen. Pande said in the last three to four years indigenous contracts have grown almost three

times. Last year, Acceptance of Necessity (AoN) for various contracts to the tune of ₹40,000 crore were issued from the domestic industry.

"Similarly, last year, Army signed contracts with indigenous industry to the tune of ₹47,000 crore. In the next 7-8 years, contracts worth about 87-88 lakh crore could be placed with Indian industry. So in terms of a viable market, there is great potential in the industry," Gen Pande said. He said priority areas for indigenisation are intelligence, surveillance and reconnaissance, mobility solutions in forward areas, special armaments like loitering munitions and artificial intelligence.

Context

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“Emergency Procurements are done to address critical operational requirements.

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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

GS-3 Bringing African Cheetah is an ill advised move

THE HINDU

'Bringing African cheetahs to India is an ill-advised move'

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Eight wildlife scientists have raised concerns over the Central government's move to introduce African cheetahs in India.

The scientists, in an article titled "Introducing African cheetahs to India is an ill-advised conservation attempt", published in *Nature Ecology and Evolution*, said that there are unknown ecological, disease-related and genetic risks involved in replicating Asiatic cheetahs with the larger cheetahs from southern Africa.

From Namibia
Last month, eight cheetahs from Namibia were airlifted to India and released in



Raising concerns A file photo of Namibian cheetahs after being released inside a special enclosure of the Kuno National Park

the Kuno National Park by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

Ajay M. Gopalaswamy, Femke Broekhuis, Leli Khalilurri, Michael G.L. Mills, Kavi Chelam, David Thuo, Abi Tamim Vasanak and K. Ulhas Karanth, the

authors of the article, said that India's plan is based on three unsubstantiated claims — that cheetahs have run out of space in Africa; that India currently has sufficient and suitable space for them; and that conservation translocat-

tions have been successful in wild cheetah range restoration efforts.

"The action plan appears to have substantially overestimated cheetah carrying capacity in the first release site (Kuno National Park), which is unfenced, harbouring about 500 feral cattle and surrounded by a forested landscape with 109 human settlements. Neither Kuno nor the other landscapes considered are of the size and quality to permit self-sustaining and genetically viable cheetah populations," the authors said.

Dr. Gopalaswamy, the lead author of the article, said that the government plan ignores crucial scientific findings from important, recent demographic

studies on free-ranging cheetahs.

"This can prove to be a costly mistake because the cheetah carrying capacities assumed in the plan relies entirely on projections made from a single, likely flawed, density estimate from Namibia from over a decade ago. We have already seen that despite massive investments made in counting tigers at a country-wide scale, on account of taking a similarly truncated view of abundance estimation science, India's recent, official claims of doubling tiger numbers over a 10-year period quickly became scientifically indefensible," Dr. Gopalaswamy said.

He added that it was advisable to prepare a com-

pletely revised, rigorous, fully science-based action plan if India were to proceed with the idea of introducing cheetahs in the future.

Dr. Karanth, co-author of the article, said that a project such as this requires genuine consultations and collaboration with the best intellectual capacity in the country.

"This expensive, poorly conceived plan has no chance of establishing a viable self-sustaining population of free-ranging cheetahs — a vision which has been eloquently articulated by the Prime Minister. It is likely to fail given the severe constraints of habitat quality and socio-economic pressures," Dr. Karanth said.

Context

Eight wildlife scientists have raised concerns over the Central government's move to introduce African cheetahs in India.



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Last month, eight cheetahs from Namibia were airlifted to India and released in the Kuno National Park by Prime Minister Narendra Modi.

The authors of the article, said that India’s plan is based on three unsubstantiated claims — that cheetahs have run out of space in Africa; that India currently has sufficient and suitable space for them; and that conservation translocations have been successful in wild cheetah range restoration efforts.

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CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

Editorial

Addressing north India's Burning issue sustainably

THE HINDU

Addressing north India's burning issue sustainably



Bhargav Krishna
is a Fellow at the
Centre for Policy
Research

credit in agriculture only served to cement this diapody. But this transition to a two-crop agricultural praxis, while filling godowns and feeding mouths, has been depleting the water table, increasing pesticide and fertilizer use exponentially. It has also led to the consolidation of small farms into larger landholdings.

In an attempt to address the growing water crisis, the Punjab and Haryana governments encouraged farmers to look to the monsoon rather than groundwater to irrigate their crops. The shortened harvesting season that arose resulting from a not clearly thought-out policy move brought about the need for farmers to rapidly clear their fields between the kharf and rabi crops; the quickest of these ways was to burn off the remaining stubble post-harvest.

The reversion of stubble burning is felt all through the Indo-Gangetic Plain (IGP) airshed, where what is burned in Punjab and Haryana has an impact on air quality all the way down to Bihar and West Bengal. With studies showing a large contribution of stubble burning emissions to winter air quality in the National Capital Region, the demand for governments to act on this seemingly avoidable practice translated initially into a criminalisation of the act.

No significant improvement
More recently, however, with concerted focus on the subject, a series of short-term in-situ and in-situ solutions have been rolled out by the Union and state governments. In-situ solutions include happy seeders and bio-decomposers, while the ex-situ solutions include collecting and using stubble as fuel in boilers, to produce ethanol, or to simply burn away alongside coal in thermal power plants. Economic incentives to reduce burning have also been tested with limited success. With crores invested in these solutions

over the last five years, we have yet to see any significant improvement in the situation.

Meaningful steps that are needed
Driven largely by short-term thinking, these techno-fixes or alternative uses work at the margins, without addressing the root cause. As pointed out in a recent article, the entire value-chain of agriculture in the region needs to change if air quality, water, nutrition, and climate goals are to be addressed. In practical terms, this means substantially reducing the amount of paddy being grown in the region and replacing it with other crops that are equally high-yielding, in demand, and agro-ecologically suitable such as cotton, maize, pulses and oil seeds. It will also require building trust with farmers to ensure they are seen as partners (rather than perpetrators) and providing them the financial support necessary.

At a policy level, it also requires recognising that agriculture, nutrition, water, the environment, and the economy are all deeply intertwined in the era of the Anthropocene. One cannot be addressed in a silo without having second and third order effects on the other. Therefore, taking the long view on this would also mean establishing a mechanism for intersectoral policymaking that aligns our goals for sectoral policy within the broad frame of sustainable development we wish to follow.

A transition at this scale has not been witnessed since the Green Revolution, but it is what is required if we are to avert a climate crisis burning in the long run. Fostering the conditions necessary for such a transition is complex. Whether our institutions have the right mix of political will and professional skill to do so remains to be seen.

The views expressed are personal

The feverish focus on crop stubble burning has returned to India's public discourse.

The root cause of stubble burning can be traced back to the 1960s-70s, when to meet the urgent challenge of feeding its rapidly growing population, India introduced several measures as part of its Green Revolution.

The Green Revolution transformed the way agriculture was practised, especially in Punjab and Haryana. The economics of high-yielding varieties of paddy and wheat, supported by a guaranteed buyer (the government) and minimum support prices led to a crop duopoly oriented solely around increasing caloric intakes, supplanting the earlier diversity of crops grown in the region.

The monsoon has receded, and North India is bracing for a smoggy winter. And with that the feverish focus on crop stubble burning has returned to India's public discourse. Like each year, discussions have begun on how bad this year's stubble burning season will likely be and what potential ad hoc techno-fixes could solve the issue — in the short term.

A problem that is historic
We will soon read in depth analyses of satellite image-derived counts of the number of fires observed on each day, and source apportionment studies that determine the exact contribution of stubble burning to poor air quality. The purportedly apathetic farmer who cares little about the well being of Delhi's urban citizenry will be held to a high standard of environmental stewardship, and the inevitable political mudslinging will follow soon. However, this heated public discourse adopts an unhelpful adversarial frame to a complex challenge. The problem is a historic one that cannot be fixed with short-term, unsustainable solutions.

The root cause of stubble burning can be traced back to the 1960s-70s, when to meet the urgent challenge of feeding its rapidly growing population, India introduced several measures as part of its Green Revolution. The Green Revolution transformed the way agriculture was practised, especially in Punjab and Haryana. The economics of high-yielding varieties of paddy and wheat, supported by a guaranteed buyer (the government) and minimum support prices led to a crop duopoly oriented solely around increasing caloric intakes, supplanting the earlier diversity of crops grown in the region.

Further policy moves in subsequent decades, which included the introduction of subsidies for electricity and fertilizers, and ease of access for

The issue of crop stubble burning cannot be addressed in a silo and using short-term, unsustainable solutions



CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS



The introduction of subsidies for electricity and fertilizers, and ease of access for credit in agriculture only served to cement this duopoly.

This transition to a two-crop agricultural praxis, while filling godowns and feeding mouths, has been depleting the water table, increasing pesticide and fertilizer use exponentially. It has also led to the consolidation of small farms into larger landholdings.

In an attempt to address the growing water crisis, the Punjab and Haryana governments introduced laws around water conservation, encouraging farmers to look to the monsoon rather than groundwater to irrigate their crops.

The shortened harvesting season that arose resulting from a not clearly thought-out policy move brought about the need for farmers to rapidly clear their fields between the kharif and rabi crops; the quickest of these ways was to burn off the remaining stubble post-harvest.



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studies showing a large contribution of stubble burning emissions on winter air quality in the National Capital Region, the demand for governments to act on this seemingly avoidable practice translated initially into a criminalisation of the act.

A series of short-term ex-situ and in-situ solutions have been rolled out by the Union and State governments. In-situ solutions include happy seeders and bio-decomposers, while the ex-situ solutions include collecting and using stubble as fuel in boilers, to produce ethanol, or to simply burn away alongside coal in thermal power plants.

Economic incentives to reduce burning have also been tested with limited success. With crores invested in these solutions over the last five years, we have yet to see any significant improvement in the situation.

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1. With reference to medieval India, which one of the following is the correct sequence in ascending order in terms of size?

- (a) Paragana- Sarkar- Suba
- (b) Sarkar-Paragana-Suba
- (c) Suba-Sarkar-Paragana
- (d) Paragana-Suba-Sarkar

2. With reference to Mian Tansen, which one of the following statements is not correct?

- (a) Tansen was the title given to him by Emperor Akbar.
- (b) Tansen composed Dhrupads on Hindu gods and goddesses.
- (c) Tansen composed songs on his patrons.
- (d) Tansen invented many Ragas.

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3. With reference to chemical fertilizers in India, consider the following statements:

1. At present, the retail price of chemical fertilizers is market-driven and not administered by the Government.
2. Ammonia, which is an input of urea, is produced from natural gas.
3. Sulphur, which is a raw material for phosphoric acid fertilizer, is a by-product of oil refineries.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 only
- (c) Both 1 and 2 only
- (d) Neither 1 nor 2

4. What is/are the advantage/advantages of zero tillage in agriculture?

1. Sowing of wheat is possible without burning the residue of previous crop.
2. Without the need for nursery of rice saplings, direct planting of paddy seeds in the wet soil is possible.
3. Carbon sequestration in the soil is possible.

Select the correct answer using the code given below:

- (a) 1 and 2 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 3 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

5. With reference to pulse production in India, consider the following statements:

1. Black gram can be cultivated as both kharif and rabi crop.
2. Green gram alone accounts for nearly half of pulse production.
3. In the last three decades, while the production of kharif pulses has increased, the production of rabi pulses has decreased.

Which of the statements given above is/are correct?

- (a) 1 only
- (b) 2 and 3 only
- (c) 2 only
- (d) 1, 2 and 3

1. How do the melting of the Arctic ice and glaciers of the Antarctic differently affect the weather patterns and human activities on the Earth? Explain.



CSAP NEWS ANALYSIS

Answer keys for 20-10-22 PYQs are:

1-b

2-b

3-c

4-d

5-b



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