

TRUSS ANNOUNCES EXIT; U.K. TO GET ITS 3RD PM IN THREE MONTHS

In News:

- Britain is about to get its third Prime Minister in three months, with Prime Minister Liz Truss announcing that she will quit the post.
- She faced growing pressure from Conservative MPs to quit after her government presented its now infamous mini-Budget.



TRUSS HAS A GREAT FALL

Liz Truss's resignation as PM triggered the 2nd Tory leadership election in four months. This will be the 5th Conservative PM in just over six years – and the 3rd within this parliamentary term

Road To PM Office
Truss replaced Boris Johnson as party leader and UK PM. The general public did not elect Truss, instead, she won a leadership contest among members of her Conservative Party. She was Johnson's hawkish foreign secretary, a free-market champion and eventual supporter of Brexit

How did it start to come undone?
Her announced plans for tax cuts, deregulation and borrowing so alarmed global investors that the value of the British pound sank to a record low against the US dollar. The Bank of England stepped in to prop up government bonds, an extraordinary intervention to calm the markets. The response left no doubt that her free-market ambitions were untenable. In a humiliating U-turn, she was forced to reverse virtually

all of the tax cuts this week, including a much-criticized one on high earners. She fired Kwasi Kwarteng, the finance minister who was the architect of the plan and a close ally, and adopted economic policies favoured by the opposition Labour party

How did her tenure come under threat?
Her concessions did little to mollify a growing rebellion from within her own party. A Redfield & Wilton Strategies poll this week revealed the lowest approval rating it had ever recorded for a PM, with 70% disapproving of Truss, including 67% of Conservatives. If a general election were held today, 56% would vote for Labour while 20% would vote Conservative, the poll found

➤ Then even more chaos broke out. Suella Braverman, Britain's interior minister,

“I recognise that I cannot deliver the mandate on which I was elected by the Conservative Party”
—LIZ TRUSS | BRITISH PM

What Happens Now?
Graham Brady, Conservative official responsible for the election to replace Truss, said the candidates will need at least 100 nominations from Conservative MPs. If more than one candidate meets that threshold, they will be put to the Conservative members in an online ballot, with the new PM to be announced Oct 28

stepped down after an email breach, but took a swipe at Truss in her resignation letter, saying she had ‘concerns about the direction of this government’

Electoral system of UK

- The UK is divided into 650 constituencies and each constituency is represented by one MP elected in the House of Commons (the UK's lower chamber of parliament).
- It follows first past the post system to decide the winner in each constituency.
- The members of the upper chamber of the parliament, the House of Lords, are not elected. The King on the advice of the prime minister appoints them.
- To govern, a winning party needs to win more than half of the 650 seats.
- The leader of the winning party is appointed by the King as prime minister and forms a Cabinet of senior politicians.

Process of finding a successor after the PM resigns

- This process of finding a successor after the resignation of the PM is overseen by the 1922 Committee.

- The 1922 Committee, also known as "the 22", is a committee of all backbench Conservative MPs that meets weekly when the Commons is sitting.
- Its chair, usually a senior MP, is elected by committee members and has considerable influence within the Parliamentary Party.
- The Committee serves as a link between rank-and-file Conservative MPs and party leadership.
- The process of finding a successor works as following:
 - Candidates putting themselves forward for the leadership must be nominated by certain number of Conservative lawmakers.
 - Officer responsible for the election to replace Truss has announced that the Candidates will need at least 100 nominations from Conservative MPs to become a contender in this race.
 - Currently, Graham Brady is the Chairman of the powerful 1922 Committee which will oversee the process.
 - If more than one Candidate meet the threshold, an election will be held.
- Conservative lawmakers then hold several rounds of votes to whittle down the number of candidates.
- Each time they are asked to vote for their favoured candidate in a secret ballot, and the person with the fewest votes is eliminated.
- The final two candidates are then put to a postal ballot of the wider Conservative Party membership, with the winner named the new leader.
- The leader of the party with a majority in the House of Commons is the de facto Prime Minister.

Reasons

- **The mini-Budget**
 - After becoming the PM, her government, presented a mini-Budget that essentially ramped up spending while also cutting tax revenues.
 - This set-in motion a chain of events that ultimately caused her downfall.
- **Market reaction**
 - The mini-Budget spooked market participants because a sharp rise in borrowings at a time when the UK's growth prospects have been doubtful.

- It implied that the government may not be able to repay the debts it accumulated.
- In a panic reaction, investors started selling all possible UK assets.
- As such, the pound sterling fell to historic lows against the US dollar; worsening the imported inflation in the process because it made imports costlier.
- Similarly, investors, unwilling to lend money to the UK government, started selling gilts (government bonds).
- Within no time, the Bank of England had to step in to stop a financial collapse.
- **Crisis in pension funds and mortgage rates**
- A direct result of the mini-Budget and the fall in gilt prices (and a rise in gilt yields) was the crisis it set off in the pension funds in the UK.
- The situation created massive panic and genuine doubts over the viability of the pension funds.
- A sharp rise in market interest rates also meant that those with home loans had to either refinance or risk losing their homes.
- Prospective owners found that a new loan was considerably costlier within no time.
- **U-turn upon U-turn**
- As it became clear that the markets would continue to punish UK assets unless Truss realised her mistake, the PM reluctantly started announcing U-turns.
- The biggest blow came when she sacked her chancellor.
- This raised the obvious political question: why did Truss deserve to stay in office when she fired Kwarteng just for voicing Truss' economic plans?
- **The new chancellor**
- The last nail, came in the form of the actions of the newly appointed chancellor Jeremy Hunt.
- As soon as he took charge, he ripped apart everything that was left of Truss's agenda.

[NATIONAL MEDIA AWARD FOR BEST CAMPAIGN ON VOTER'S EDUCATION & AWARENESS-2022](#)

Election Commission of India recently invites entries from Media Houses for the National Media Award for best campaign on Voter's Education and Awareness during the year 2022.



About:

- The awards are to recognise the outstanding contribution by Media Houses to promote electoral participation by creating awareness about accessible elections, educating people about the electoral process and raising awareness among the general public about the relevance and importance of voting and registration.
- The awards will be in the form of a citation, plaque and cash prize and will be presented on the National Voter's Day (25th January, 2023).
- The awards will be given in the following four categories:
 - Print Media
 - Electronic (Television) Media
 - Electronic (Radio) Media and
 - Online (Internet)/Social Media

'MISSION DEFSPACE'

Prime Minister (PM) Narendra Modi recently launched Mission DefSpace in Gandhinagar.



About:

- The space programme aims to develop innovative solutions for the Defence Forces through industry & startups.
- Importantly, the initiative will prepare India for future possibilities in space domain and will also increase the country's preparation further.
- Under Mission DefSpace, 75 challenges are being opened to get innovative solutions, based on the defence requirements in the space domain.

- The programme will focus on various challenges in this area that have been reviewed and identified by the three defence services.

Space diplomacy:

- There are more than 60 developing countries with whom India is sharing its space science. Many African countries and many other small countries are benefiting from this.
- The 'South Asia satellite' is an effective example of this. By next year, ten ASEAN countries will also get real-time access to India's satellite data.

TEACH IN MOTHER TONGUE UNTIL AGE 8, NEW LANGUAGE CAN UNDO LEARNING: NCF

In News:

- The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for foundational stage (children aged 3 to 8 years) education was recently released by the Union Ministry of Education.
 - With the government unveiling the first NCF for the foundational stage, pre-primary school children have entered the formal schooling system in India for the first time.
- Dedicating the NCF for early childhood care and education (ECCE), the Minister also launched '**Balvatika**' at Kendriya Vidyalayas.

The National Curriculum Framework (NCF) for foundational stage education:

Background:

- Early childhood lays the groundwork for life-long learning and development, as experts have proved that 85% of the brain development happens by the age of 7 or 8.
- As a result, the new 5+3+3+4 curricular structure, which integrates ECCE for all children aged 3 to 8, was included in the National Education Policy (NEP) 2020.
 - ECCE under the Anganwadi system primarily focused on nutrition of a child, while in the private sphere - the playschool system has been unregulated.
- Against this backdrop, the Ministry of Education had constituted the **National Steering Committee** (chaired by **K Kasturirangan**) in 2021, for the development of NCF.

- The recently released NCF is based on the recommendations of the above committee.
- The NCF for the foundational stage will be followed (in future) by its editions for higher classes, as well as teacher and adult education.

About the new NCF:

- The new framework includes the 'panchakosha' concept for education of children aged 3 to 8, with five components -
 - Physical development (sharirik vikas),
 - Development of life energy (pranik vikas),
 - Emotional and mental development (manasik vikas),
 - Intellectual development (bauddhik vikas), and
 - Spiritual development (chaitisik vikas).
- It provides for the holistic overall transformation of the curriculum of the ECCE that will enable positive transformation of the school education system of India, including pedagogy.
- It uses **'play'** at the core of the approaches to curriculum organisation, as children learn best through play.
- Hence, NCF will enable the achievement of Foundational Literacy and Numeracy for all children.
- The NCF will deal with the role of teachers as well as parents and communities to achieve developmental outcomes that are sought during this stage.
- In particular, the NCF aims to help change practices in education and not just ideas, since the word 'curriculum' encapsulates the overall experiences that a student has in school.
- Thus, NCF do not just refer to curricular content and pedagogy, but also include school environment and culture.
- It is not so much about revision of textbooks, but about changes in teaching and learning process.
- The National Council of Educational Research and Training (NCERT) is expected to complete the new syllabus and textbooks for the foundational level soon.

Recommendations/observations made in the new NCF:

- Currently there is a learning crisis in India, as children are enrolled in primary school but are failing to attain basic skills such as foundational literacy and numeracy.
- Only 50.9% of the 19,344,199 students admitted to Grade 1 in 2020-21 had prior pre-school experience.
- **Mother tongue will be the primary medium** of instruction in both public and private schools for children up to the age of 8, because learning a new language reverses the entire learning process in the early years.
- English could be one of the second language options. However, it avoids providing any specific timetable for introducing English.
- A **natural, communication-focused approach**, supporting their primary medium of instruction is required for young children to acquire skills of speaking fluently in other languages (which could also be English).
- The children in this age group should not be burdened with textbooks.

HONESTY SHOPS

The 'honesty shops' were opened in nearly 15 schools in Kerala's Ernakulam district.



About:

- It was launched in 2008.
- It is part of the Student Police Cadet (SPC) project.
- It was conceived to inculcate better civic sense among students and mould them as responsible youth who will react positively to the demands of society.
- There is no salesman at these counters and students can drop the money for each item in the collection box kept on a table.

PM LAUNCHES NEW MISSION TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

In News:

- Prime Minister Narendra Modi launched ‘Mission LiFE’ (Lifestyle For Environment), a new initiative for sustainable and healthy lifestyle
- UN. Secretary-General Antonio Guterres was also present at the launching ceremony at the Statue of Unity in Gujarat.

Mission LiFE - Lifestyle For Environment

- Led by India, mission LiFE is a global plan of action that aims to save the planet from the disastrous consequences of climate change.
- **Vision:** This mission envisions replacing the prevalent ‘use-and-dispose’ economy with a circular economy.
- **Objective:** To promote an environmentally conscious lifestyle that focuses on ‘mindful and deliberate utilisation’ instead of ‘mindless and wasteful consumption’.

Approach of LiFE Campaign



Focus on Individual Behaviours

Make life a mass movement (Jan Andolan) by focusing on behaviours and attitudes of individuals and communities



Co-create Globally

Crowdsource empirical and scalable ideas from the best minds of the world, through top universities, think tanks and international organisations



Leverage Local Cultures

Leverage climate-friendly social norms, beliefs and daily household practices of different cultures worldwide to drive the campaign

Three-pronged strategy

- Mission LiFE aims at following a three-pronged strategy for changing our collective approach towards sustainability.
 - First is by nudging individuals to practise simple yet effective environment-friendly actions in their daily lives (**demand**);
 - Second is by enabling industries and markets to respond swiftly to the changing demand (**supply**);
 - Third is to influence government and industrial policy to support both sustainable consumption and production (**policy**).

Features

- **Unified effort:**



CROSS & CLIMB ROHTAK



- LiFE aims to utilise the power of collective action and nudge individuals across the world to undertake simple climate-friendly actions in their daily lives.
- **Allied goals:**
 - It also seeks to leverage the strength of social networks to influence social norms surrounding climate.
- **Promote 3P's:**
 - The Mission plans to create and nurture a global network of individuals, namely 'Pro-Planet People' (P3), who will have a shared commitment to adopt and promote environmentally friendly lifestyles.
- **Individual Action is the core of Climate Responsibility:**
 - The average carbon footprint of a person in India is 0.56 tonnes per year, compared to the global average of 4 tonnes.
 - Hence, in words the PM Modi, Mission LiFE makes us all trustees of the environment.
 - A trustee is someone who does not allow indiscriminate use of resources. A trustee works as a nurturer and not as an exploiter.

Background:

- The concept of 'Lifestyle for the Environment' (LiFE) was introduced by PM Modi during the COP26 in Glasgow in 2021.
- During his address at the summit, he announced LiFE to make changes in one's lifestyles that would contribute towards saving the environment.