



December - 28

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ NHPC Limited has been awarded as the winner of the 'Best Globally Competitive Power Company of India-Hydropower and Renewable Energy Sector'.
- ❖ Beth Mead has been awarded the BBC Sports Personality of the Year for 2022 as she was the player of the tournament and top scorer at Euro 2022.
- ❖ Dr Udaya Nath Jha, professor and head of Sahitya Department of Central Sanskrit University, Puri in Odisha chosen as the recipient of the Sahitya Akademi Bhasha Samman 2022.

NATIONAL

PMGKAY merged with NFSA

WHY PMGKAY, NFSA WERE MERGED

LOWER FOODGRAIN STOCKS

As on Nov 30, combined stock of rice (115.42 lakh metric tonne) and wheat (190.27 LMT) was at 305.69 LMT. This was lower than the figure of 591.56 LMT (rice 213.03 LMT, wheat 378.53 LMT) on Nov 30, 2021.

HIGHER ECONOMIC COST

Economic cost for rice has increased to Rs 3,670.04 per quintal this year from Rs 3,597.17 last year. For wheat, it has gone up to Rs 2,588.70 per quintal from Rs 2,499.69 per quintal last year.

- ❖ The Central Government has decided to merge the PMGKAY (Pradhan Mantri Garib Kalyan Ann Yojana) with the National food security Act (NFSA) and aims to provide free food grains for one year.



- ❖ PMGKAY was started in April 2020 to help the poor whose livelihoods were shuttered by a nationwide lockdown.
- ❖ Under the scheme, 5 kg of wheat and rice is provided free of cost to 80 crore poor per month.
- ❖ Under the NFSA Act, each Antyodaya Anna Yojana household, is entitled to 35 kg of food grains per month.
- ❖ All other ration card holders are entitled to 5 kg of food grains per person per month.

ECONOMY

Gas price index



- ❖ Indian Gas Exchange launched India's first price index to reflect the benchmark natural gas price for India.
- ❖ Till now, the people were using other international benchmarks including JKM (Japan Korea Marker) and HH (Henry Hub) for gas in India.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

World's First Commercial Moon Lander

- ❖ Japan's space startup has successfully launched a spacecraft to the moon recently.

- ❖ This is a step toward what would be a first for the nation and for a private company.
- ❖ Japan's ispace Inc's HAKUTO-R mission launched from Cape Canaveral, Florida, USA.
- ❖ Till date, the national space agencies of the United States, Russia and China have achieved soft landings on moon.
- ❖ The M1 lander will deploy two robotic rovers, a two-wheeled, baseball-sized device from Japan's JAXA space agency and the four-wheeled Rashid Rover made by the United Arab Emirates.



“World-first” operation using stem cells

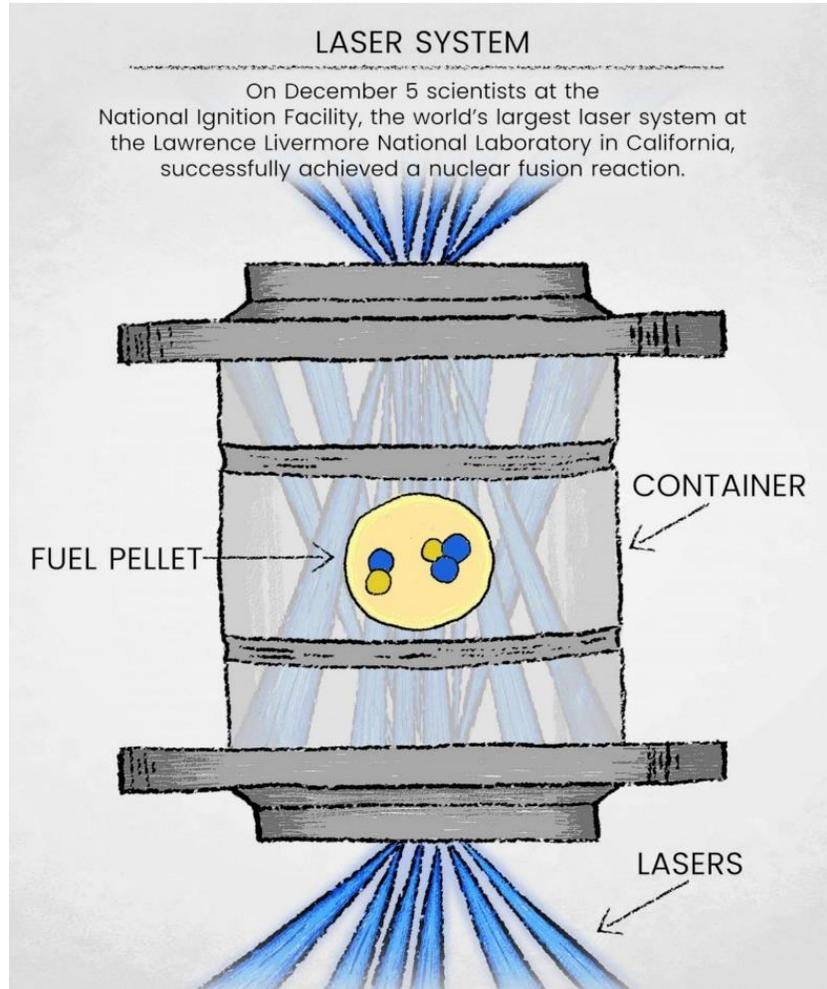


World-first operation using placenta stem cells saves baby with heart defect

- ❖ Heart surgeons in England has carried out a “world-first” operation using stem cells from the placentas.

- ❖ Stem cells are the body's raw materials.
- ❖ They are the cells from which all other cells with specialized functions are generated.
- ❖ Under the right conditions in the body or a laboratory, stem cells are divided to form more cells called daughter cells.

Nuclear Fusion Breakthrough



- ❖ The Lawrence Livermore National Laboratory (LLNL) said it had used the world's largest laser to create, for the first time, a fusion reaction.
- ❖ This replicated the process that powers the sun and generated more energy than it took to produce.
- ❖ Nuclear fusion has been touted by its supporters as a clean, abundant and safe source of energy.

- ❖ Researchers used 192 ultra-powerful lasers to deliver 2.05 megajoules of energy and got 3.15 megajoules of fusion energy output

First global water survey satellite

- ❖ NASA launched Surface Water and Ocean Topography (SWOT) satellite by SpaceX Falcon 9 rocket.
- ❖ The satellite will take the first global survey of Earth's freshwater systems from space.
- ❖ SWOT is an advanced radar satellite that aims to provide scientists with a deeper understanding of the oceans and how climate change impacts them.
- ❖ The satellite will be able to measure the water levels of ocean features ten times more accurately than is currently possible.
- ❖ It will also be able to measure over a million lakes and rivers on Earth.
- ❖ Through its observations, the satellite will also be able to improve the accuracy of flood forecasts.



REPORTS AND INDICES

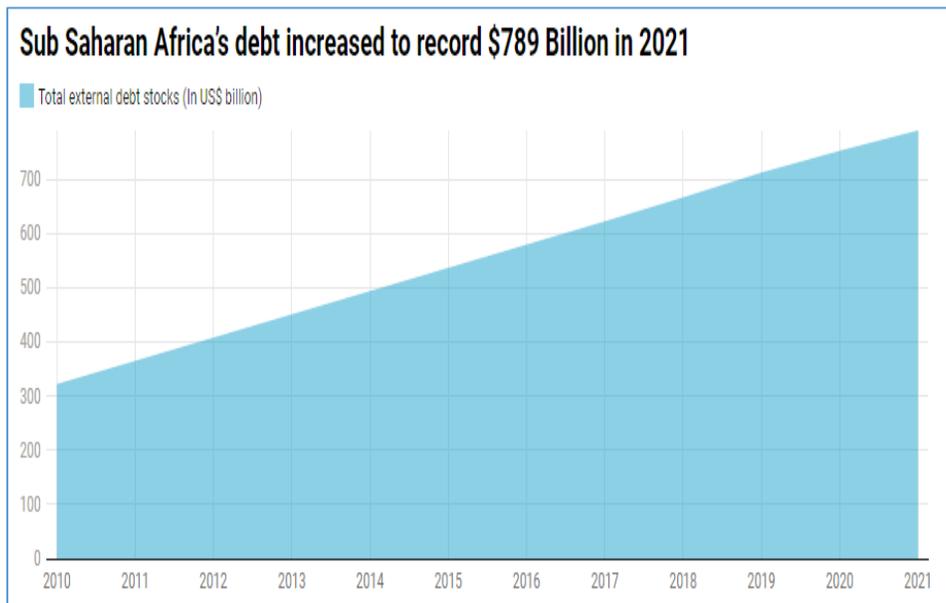
Restoration Barometer Report 2022

- ❖ It is released by International Union for Conservation of Nature.
- ❖ This report has highlighted the use of the 'Restoration Barometer tool' as the only tool currently used by governments to track progress on the implementation of restoration targets
- ❖ The tool was 1st launched in 2016 as the Bonn Challenge Barometer.

- ❖ It has highlighted that the investments of \$26bn across 18 countries have brought 14 million hectares of degraded landscapes under restoration.
- ❖ The Bonn Challenge is a global effort to restore 150 million hectares of the world's degraded and deforested lands by 2020 and 350 million hectares by 2030



International Debt Report 2022



- ❖ International Debt Report 2022 was released by the World Bank.
- ❖ The debt of low- and middle-income countries in sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) increased to a record \$789 billion in 2021 from \$702 billion in 2020.
- ❖ This is the region's highest debt burden since 2010.
- ❖ In 2010, the region's debt stood at around \$305 billion.

- ❖ The total external debt of low- and middle-income countries at the end of 2021 was \$9 trillion.
- ❖ China, which is not a member of the Paris Club, has become the largest bilateral lender to low- and middle-income countries.
- ❖ Among other non-Paris Club members, Russia averaged \$6.1 billion in annual lending over this time, Saudi Arabia \$2.5 billion, and India \$2.4 billion.

PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize



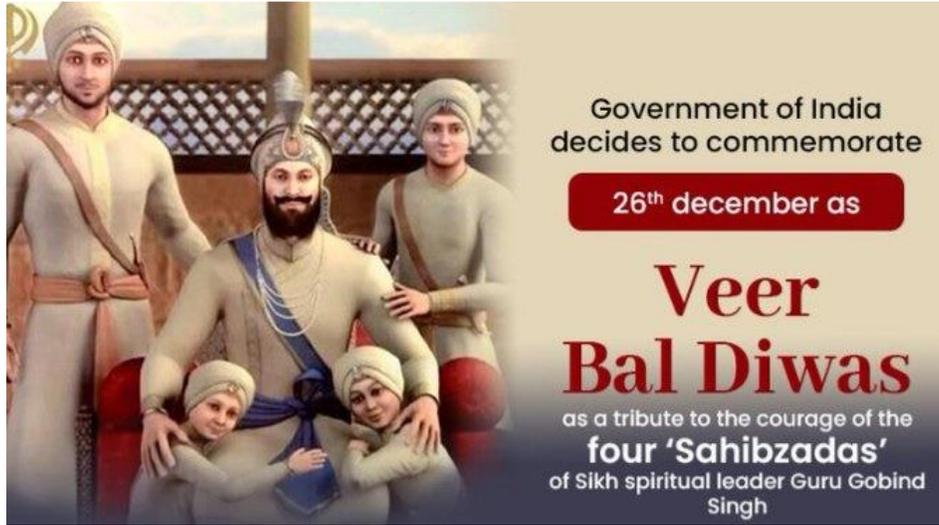
- ❖ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize has been jointly won by Sudeep Sen and Shobhana Kumar.
- ❖ Sudeep awarded for his Anthropocene: Climate Change, Contagion, Consolation (Pippa Rann Books & Media, 2021).
- ❖ Shobhana awarded for her haibun collection A Sky Full of Bucket Lists (Red River, 2021).
- ❖ The Rabindranath Tagore Literary Prize was started in 2018 to annually recognise literary and social accomplishments.

IMPORTANT DAYS

Veer Bal Diwas - December 26

- ❖ This day marks the martyrdom of Guru Gobind Singh's sons Sahibzada Baba Zorawar Singh and Baba Fateh Singh.

- ❖ They were killed by the Mughal forces in Sirhind, Punjab.



MISCELLANEOUS

Moa of Joynagar (West Bengal)

TEST OF TASTE	Joynagar Moa won the GI tag on March 23, 2015	
265 Total registered moa makers	2 Moa makers, Shatadal Moa and Bakrahat Moa, who have the permission to use GI tag	
₹400 Price of authentic Joynagar Moa	10 Moas in 500gm packet	
SWEET FORMULA <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ GI-tagged moas will have to be made out of Kanakchur khoi ➤ There are specifications for khejur ras, cashew and raisins 		
		The packet with the GI tag that will be available in market soon

- ❖ The moa is a popped-rice ball held together with fresh date-palm jaggery.
- ❖ It was extracted from the beginning of December till the end of February.
- ❖ Its manufacture is so synonymous with Joynagar, a settlement on the outskirts of Kolkata.
- ❖ It is earned the Geographical Indication tag of Joynagar Moa in 2015.
- ❖ Now, the extension of recognition has come through for another 10 years.



- ❖ The sweet's makers and IIT researchers are now developing packaging material to increase shelf life from five days to two and a half months

