



**December - 08**

## **TNPSC BITS**

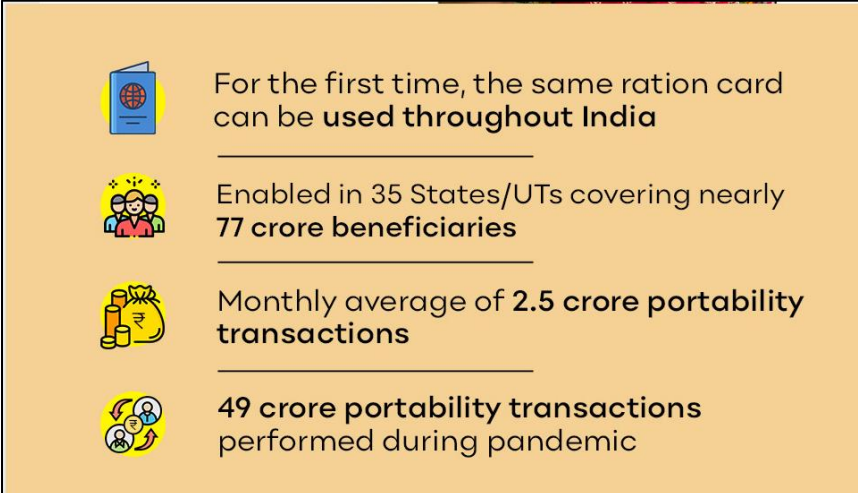
- ❖ Tamil Nadu has bagged an award at the FICCI Turf 2024-14th International Sports Conference and Awards for being the 'Best State in Promoting Sports'.
- ❖ A six-time National champion and an Arjuna Awardee Brigadier Raj Manchanda, the 'Old Fox' of Indian squash, passed away.
- ❖ Grandmaster Arjun Erigaisi has made history by becoming only the second Indian after Viswanathan Anand to reach the prestigious 2800 ELO rating barrier in classical chess.
- ❖ The Uttar Pradesh government declared the Maha Kumbh area as a new district ahead of the 2025 Maha Kumbh Mela.
- ❖ Nurse Maria Victoria Juan from Philippines, a Consultant at Philippines Army Health Services, has been announced as the winner of the Aster Guardians Global Nursing Award 2024.
- ❖ The World Health Organisation (WHO) announced that 81 cases of polio have been recorded in Afghanistan and Pakistan since the beginning of this year.
- ❖ Jasleen Kaur, a Glasgow-born Scottish Sikh artist of Indian heritage, has won the prestigious Turner Prize 2024 for her exhibition 'Alter Altar'.

## **TAMIL NADU**

### **‘One Nation One Ration Card’ scheme in Tamilnadu**

- ❖ Tamil Nadu has not been given any allocation of foodgrains under the ‘One Nation One Ration Card’ (ONOR) scheme.
- ❖ Normally, 5% of foodgrains in excess of the State’s allocation is set apart for such cardholders.
- ❖ 13.816 tonnes of foodgrains - 13.263 tonnes of rice and 0.553 tonnes of wheat - were allocated to the State during 2023-24.
- ❖ Around 22.8 tonnes of wheat and 0.036 tonnes of rice were distributed in the State under the inter-State portability arrangement in the first six months of the current financial year.
- ❖ The State draws an average 65,000 tonnes of rice every month.
- ❖ As for wheat, the Centre provides approximately 8,575 tonnes a month.

- ❖ In addition, the State also procures another 8,500 tonnes every month from the National Co-operative Consumer's Federation (NCCF) under the Open Market Sales Scheme.



For the first time, the same ration card can be **used throughout India**

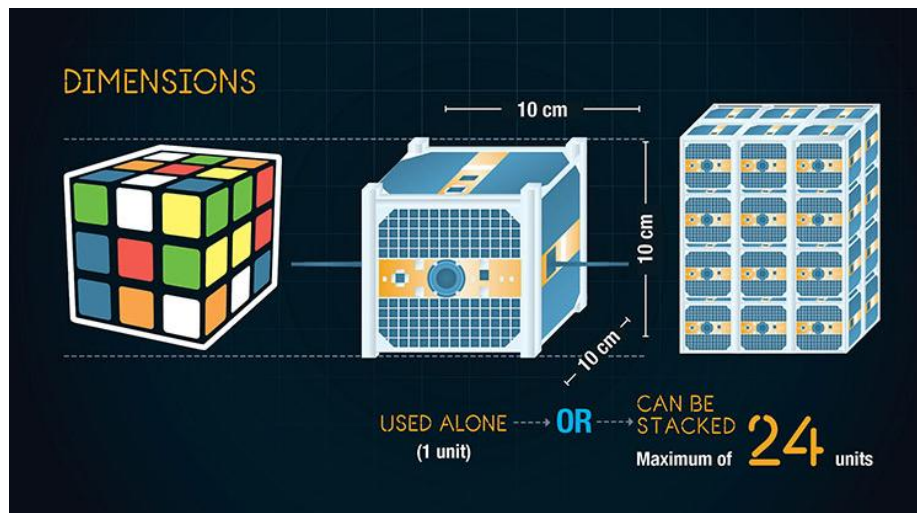
Enabled in 35 States/UTs covering nearly **77 crore beneficiaries**

Monthly average of **2.5 crore portability transactions**

**49 crore portability transactions** performed during pandemic

## NATIONAL

### CubeSat Standard



- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has adopted the global standard for the CubeSat—a class of small satellites.
- ❖ The CubeSat standard, originally developed for the Stanford University's OPAL mission, has gained international acclaim.
- ❖ They mandate uniform dimensions, low-outgassing materials, kill switches and rigorous testing (vibration, thermal, shock).
- ❖ The Indian satellite communication market was valued at \$1.6 billion in 2022.

- ❖ It is projected to grow at a compound annual growth rate (CAGR) of 11.75% from 2023 to 2030.
- ❖ India's space economy stands at \$8 billion, contributing around 2-3% of the global space economy.
- ❖ The government expects it to reach \$100 billion by 2040.

## INTERNATIONAL

### ICJ Climate Change Case - Vanuatu

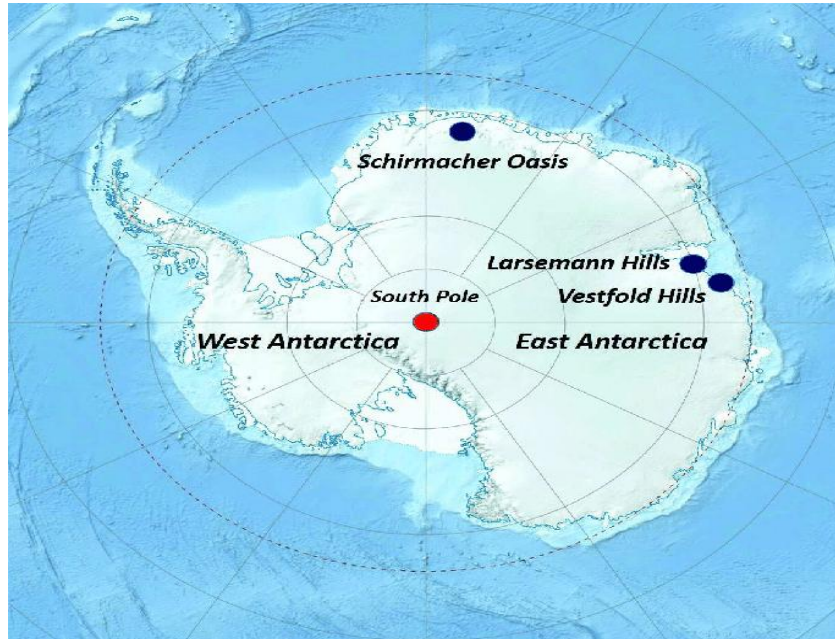
- ❖ Vanuatu has called for the International Court of Justice to find greenhouse gas-emitting nations have acted unlawfully by causing climate change.
- ❖ Australia argued that nations' obligations on climate change didn't extend beyond climate accords like the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- ❖ Nearly 100 countries will speak over two weeks of hearings at the ICJ — including the United States and China.
- ❖ Vanuatu is a small Pacific Island nation severely threatened by rising sea levels.
- ❖ Vanuatu was the first country to present evidence in the ICJ in this case.



### China's Atmospheric Monitoring Station in Antarctica

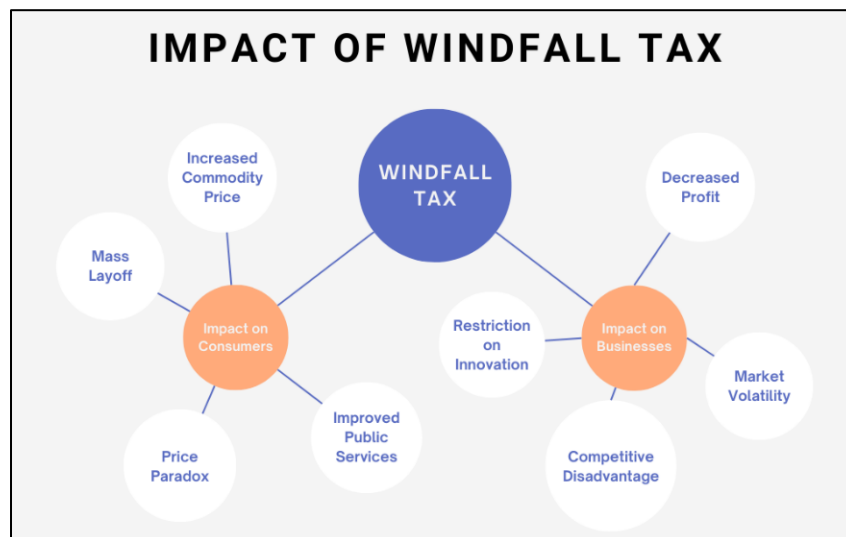
- ❖ China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica started its operations recently.
- ❖ The station is located in Larsmann Hills in East Antarctica.

- ❖ China in February opened its Ross Sea scientific research station in Antarctica.
- ❖ It also has five other research stations in Antarctica that were built between 1985 and 2014.



## ECONOMY

### Windfall Tax End



- ❖ The government has scrapped 30-month-old windfall profit tax on domestically-produced crude oil and on export of jet fuel (ATF), diesel and petrol.



- ❖ India first imposed windfall profit taxes on July 1, 2022 joining a growing number of nations that tax super normal profits of energy companies.
- ❖ A ₹23,250 per tonne (\$40 per barrel) windfall profit tax on the domestic crude production was levied.
- ❖ The tax rates were reviewed every fortnight based on average oil prices in the previous two weeks.
- ❖ The government had garnered about ₹25,000 crore from the levy in the first year of its implementation, ₹13,000 crore in 2023-24 and ₹6,000 crore this year.

### **GDP base year change**

<b>Starting Point</b>		
<b>Key changes in previous revision</b>		
Parameter	Now	Then
<b>GDP</b>		
Base year	2011-12	2004-05
MCA21 database with firms covered	500,000	2,500
SNA 2008 global norms followed		
<b>IIP</b>		
Base year	2011-12	2004-05
Manufacturing*	77.63	75.53
Electricity*	7.99	10.31
Weight for mining raised a tad		
<b>CPI</b>		
Base year	2012	2010
F&B*	45.86	47.58
Fuel and light*	6.84	9.49

\*Weight in %

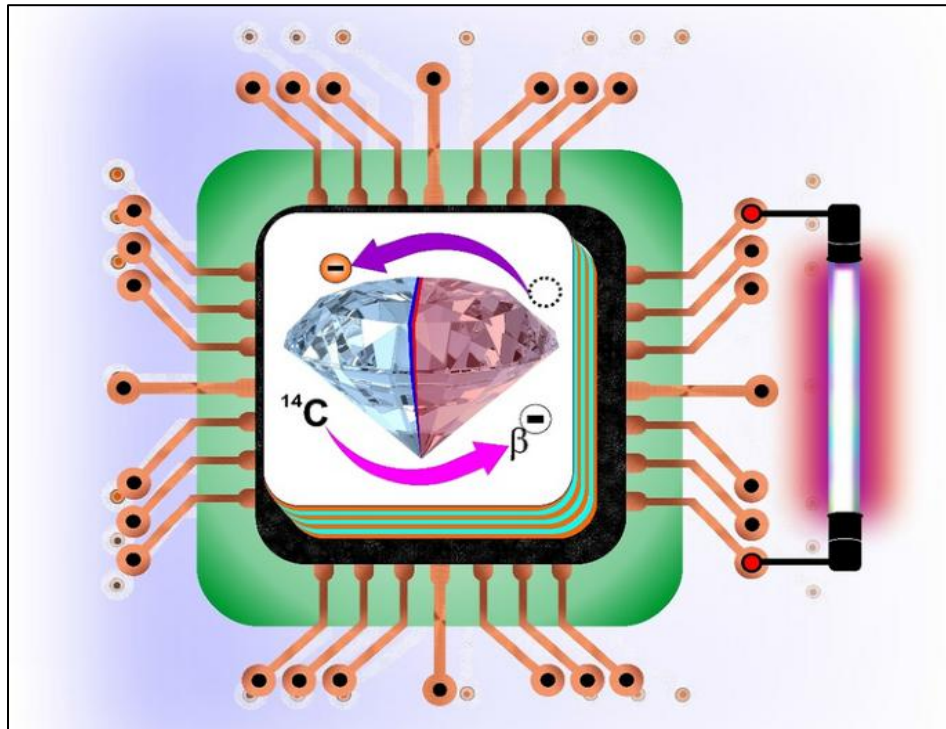
- ❖ The government has decided to update the base year for the compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- ❖ The 26-member Advisory Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar and is expected to complete the exercise by early 2026.
- ❖ The Gross Domestic Product (GDP) data based on the 2011-12 series was also released in January 2015.
- ❖ The first official estimates of the national income were prepared by the Central Statistical Organisation (CSO) with the base year 1948-49 for the estimates at constant prices.

- ❖ These estimates at the constant (1948-49) prices along with the corresponding estimates at the current prices and the accounts of the Public Authorities were published in the publication, 'Estimates of National Income' in 1956.

## SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

### Nuclear-powered diamond battery

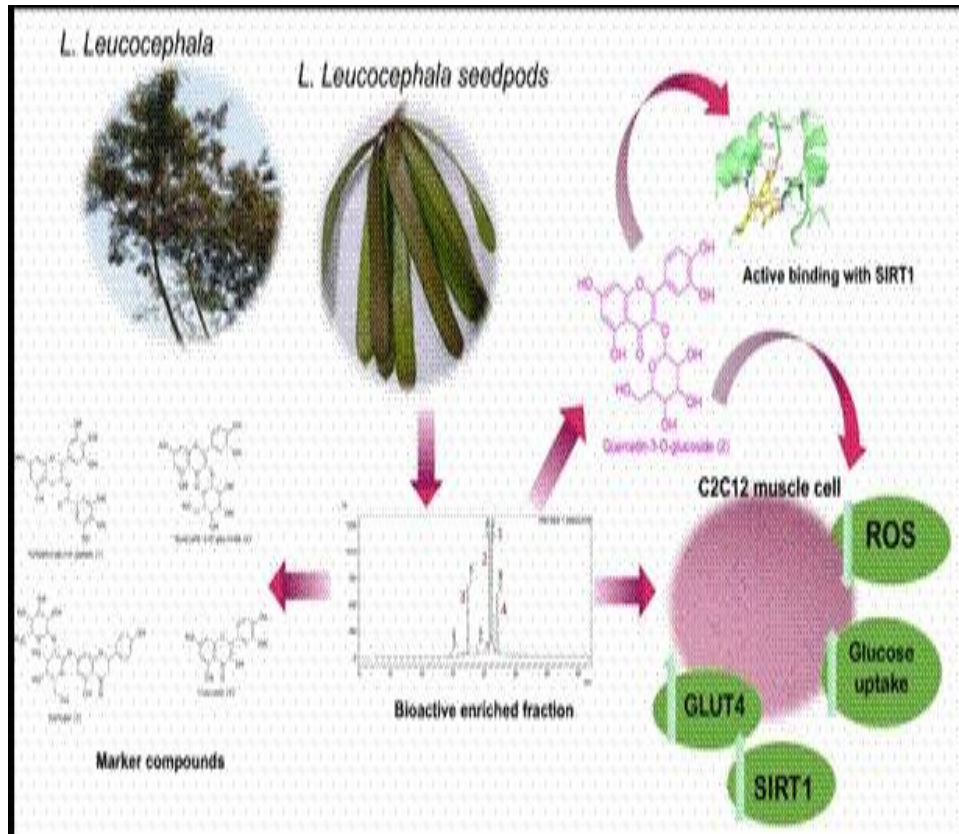
- ❖ The Scientists from UK have successfully developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery.
- ❖ It leverages the radioactive decay of carbon-14, a radioactive isotope commonly used in radiocarbon dating, to generate electricity.
- ❖ Since carbon-14 has a half-life of 5,700 years, the battery will retain half of its power even after thousands of years.
- ❖ The carbon-14 used in these batteries is extracted from graphite blocks, a very byproduct of nuclear fission reactors.
- ❖ The UK alone holds nearly 95,000 tonnes of graphite blocks.



### Tropical plant Subabul

- ❖ Research reveals Subabul's potential in improving insulin sensitivity, offering the new hope for managing type 2 diabetes.

- ❖ Subabul or *Leucaena leucocephala* (Lam.) de Wit is a fast-growing leguminous tree commonly found in tropical and subtropical regions.
- ❖ It is mainly found in Andhra Pradesh, Kerala, Maharashtra, Odisha and Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In Type 2 Diabetes, the human body doesn't use insulin well and can't keep blood sugar at normal levels.
- ❖ GLUT2 is a protein that helps move glucose and fructose across cell membranes.



## STATES

### ELEMENT project

- ❖ The World Bank has approved USD 225.5 million under its Enhancing Landscape and Ecosystem Management (ELEMENT) Project.
- ❖ It aims to manage forest landscapes better and enhance forest value chains in more than 400 villages across Tripura and Nagaland.
- ❖ The project will support more than 700,000 people to manage forest landscapes better and enhance forest value chains in both states.



- ❖ It will open up economic opportunities for communities through forest produce such as agarwood, bamboo and honey in partnership with the private sector.

TAKING A PEEK INTO PROJECT DETAILS	
	<p><b>entrepreneurship</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Develop <b>forest product value chains</b> (agarwood, bamboo, honey)</li> <li>➤ Enhance <b>nature-based tourism</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Environmental Protection</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Support <b>national parks</b> and protected areas</li> <li>➤ Manage <b>diverse landscapes</b> (forests, grasslands, wetlands, farmlands)</li> <li>➤ Improve <b>climate resilience</b></li> </ul>
	<p><b>Total funding</b> <b>\$225.5 million</b></p>
<p><b>Target beneficiaries</b>   Over <b>700,000</b> people</p> <p><b>Coverage</b>   <b>400+</b> villages in Tripura and Nagaland</p> <p><b>Additional grant</b>   <b>\$2.4 million</b> (PROGREEN)</p> <p><b>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</b></p> <p><b>Forest Management</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Preserve and restore</li> </ul>	<p><b>100,000+</b> hectares of forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Prevent <b>435,000 tonnes</b> of <b>annual carbon emissions</b></li> <li>➤ Improve <b>soil conservation</b> and <b>water availability</b></li> </ul> <p><b>Economic Development</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Create <b>60,000 jobs</b> for youth and women</li> <li>➤ Promote <b>forest-based</b></li> </ul>

## PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

### Arjun Vajpai



- ❖ Arjun Vajpai has scaled the Mt. Shishapangma (located in Tibet) and completing his 8th successful summit of a peak over 8,000 meters.



- ❖ This marks him as the first Indian to scale the mountain.
- ❖ This also includes the record for the fastest ascent from Base Camp to the summit and back in under 72 hours.
- ❖ He is the youngest person to climb Mt. Everest (2010) and Mt. Lhotse (2011).
- ❖ He has now summited 8 of the 14 tallest mountains on Earth.
- ❖ He is the First Indian to climb eight 8,000-meter peaks.

## IMPORTANT DAYS

### World Wildlife Conservation Day 2024 - December 04

- ❖ It aims to raise awareness about preserving the planet's endangered flora and fauna.
- ❖ This day highlights the importance of wildlife conservation and encourages people to take action to protect endangered species.
- ❖ This day began with efforts led by Hillary Clinton, the then US Secretary of State, during the "Wildlife Trafficking and Conservation" event held on November 8, 2012.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is "Connecting the People and Planet: Exploring the Digital Innovation in Wildlife Conservation".



### International Day of Banks 2024 - December 04

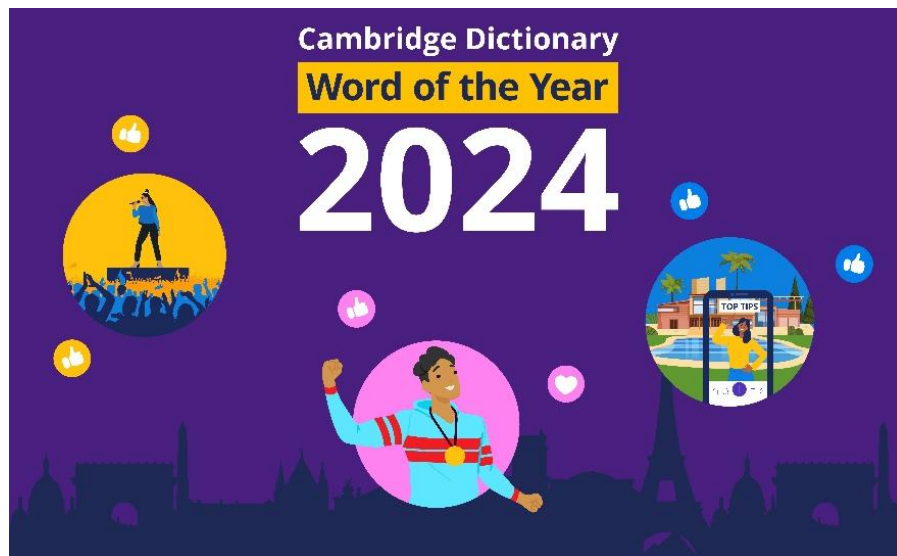
- ❖ It aims to acknowledge the significant potential of banks in financing sustainable growth.

- ❖ On December 19, 2019, the UN General Assembly has adopted the resolution to designate this day.
- ❖ The theme for 2024 is “Empowering Sustainable Development Through Finance.”



## MISCELLANEOUS

### Word of the Year for 2024



- ❖ Dictionary.com has named “demure” its 2024 Word of the Year.
- ❖ It defines the word demure as “characterized by shyness and modesty; reserved”.
- ❖ ‘Manifest’ is to become Cambridge Dictionary’s Word of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ The phrase “to manifest” is used in the sense of ‘to imagine achieving something you want



- ❖ Oxford University Press has announced 'brain rot' as the Oxford Word of the Year for 2024.
- ❖ It describes the cognitive decline attributed to the excessive exposure to mindless social media content.

