

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.

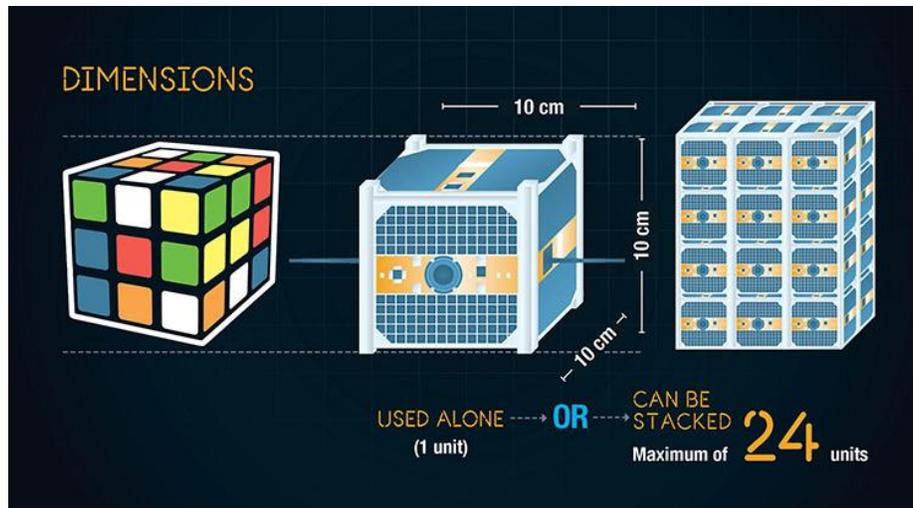
- ❖ In addition, the State also procures another 8,500 tonnes every month from the National Co-operative Consumer's Federation (NCCF) under the Open Market Sales Scheme.

The infographic is set against a light orange background and lists four key points about ration card portability. Each point is accompanied by a small icon: a globe for the first point, a group of people for the second, a money bag for the third, and a circular arrow for the fourth.

- 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



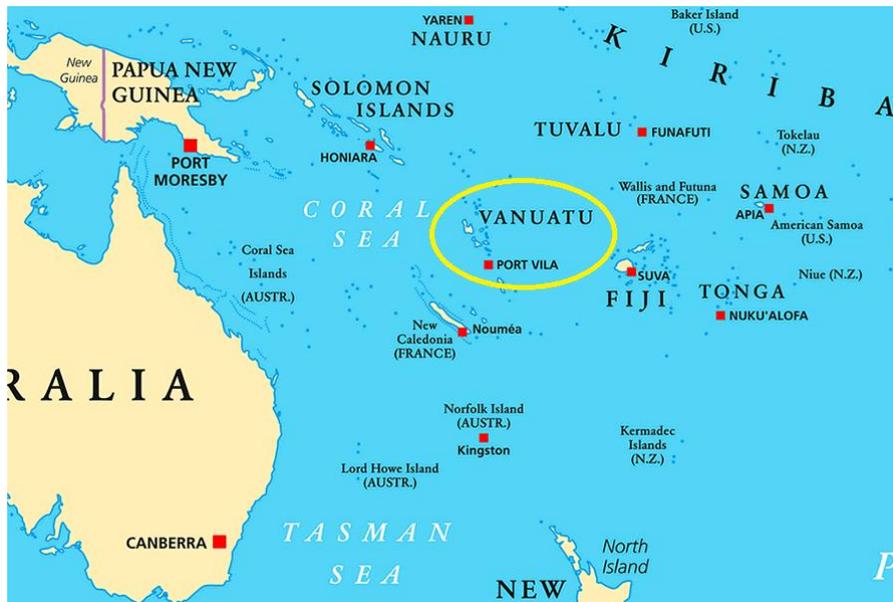
- ❖ The Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) has adopted the global standard for the CubeSat—a class of small satellites.
- ❖ The CubeSat standard, originally developed for the Stanford University's OPAL mission, has gained international acclaim.
- ❖ They mandate uniform dimensions, low-outgassing materials, 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

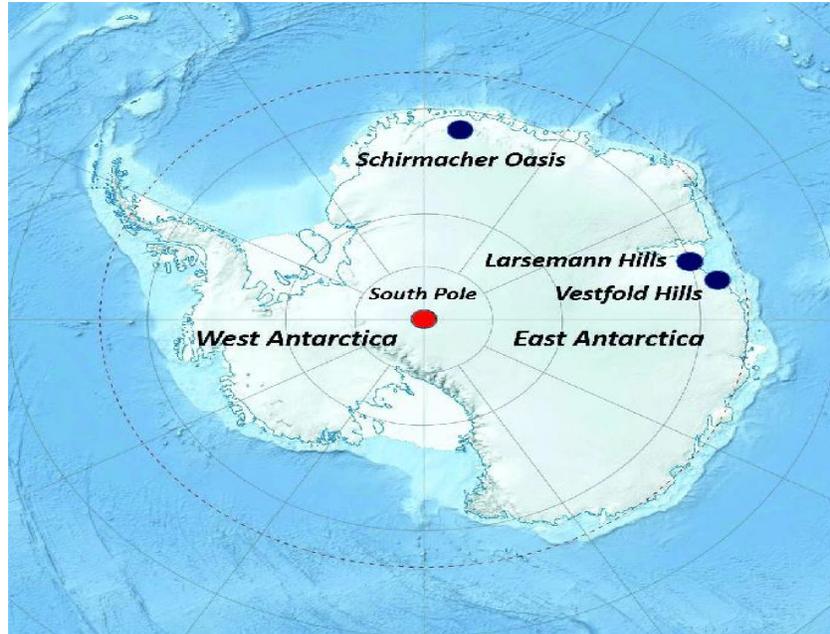
- ❖ Vanuatu has called for the International Court of Justice to find greenhouse gas-emitting nations have acted unlawfully by causing climate change.
- ❖ Australia argued that nations' obligations on climate change didn't extend beyond climate accords like the Paris Agreement of 2015.
- ❖ Nearly 100 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

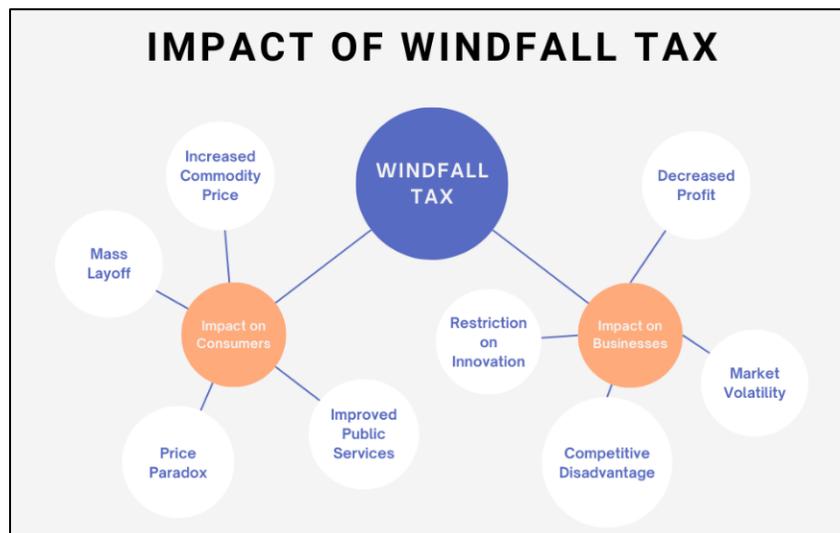
- ❖ China's first atmospheric monitoring station in Antarctica started its operations recently.
- ❖ The station is located in Larsmann Hills in East Antarctica.

- ❖ 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

Starting Point

Key changes in previous revision

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

*Weight in %

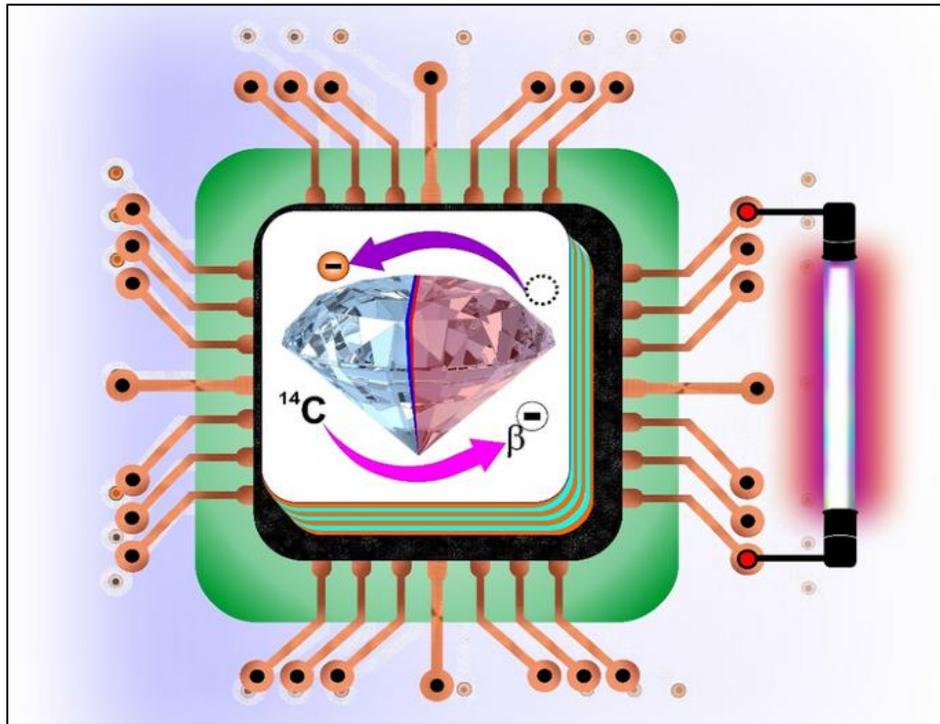
- ❖ The government has decided to update the base year for the compilation of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) from 2011-12 to 2022-23.
- ❖ The 26-member Advisory Committee was constituted under the Chairmanship of Biswanath Goldar and is expected to complete the exercise by early 2026.
- ❖ The Gross Domestic 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

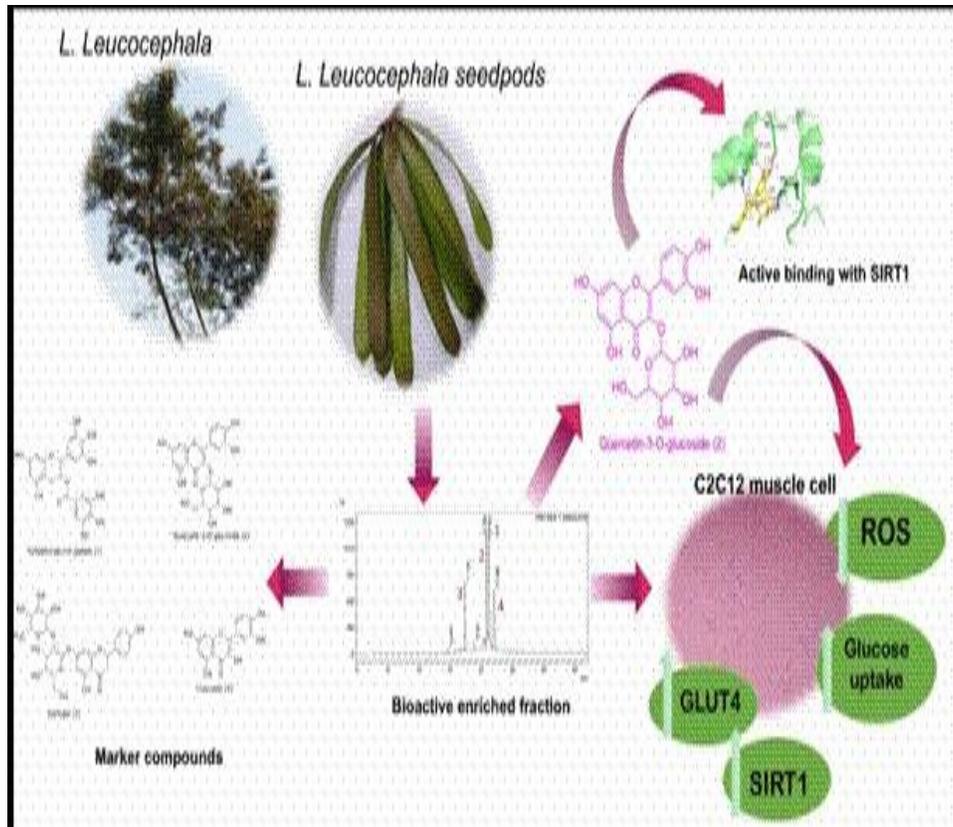
- ❖ The Scientists from UK have successfully developed the world's first carbon-14 diamond battery.
- ❖ It leverages the radioactive decay of carbon-14, a radioactive isotope commonly used in radiocarbon dating, to generate electricity.
- ❖ Since carbon-14 has a half-life of 5,700 years, the battery 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>Total funding \$225.5 million</p> | |
| <p>Target beneficiaries Over 700,000 people</p> <p>Coverage 400+ villages in Tripura and Nagaland</p> <p>Additional grant \$2.4 million (PROGREEN)</p> <p>PROJECT OBJECTIVES</p> <p>Forest Management</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Preserve and restore | <p>100,000+ hectares of forest</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Prevent 435,000 tonnes of annual carbon emissions ➤ Improve soil conservation and water availability <p>Economic Development</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Create 60,000 jobs for youth and women ➤ Promote forest-based |
| <p>entrepreneurship</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Develop forest product value chains (agarwood, bamboo, honey) ➤ Enhance nature-based tourism <p>Environmental Protection</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ➤ Support national parks and protected areas ➤ Manage diverse landscapes (forests, grasslands, wetlands, farmlands) ➤ Improve climate resilience | |
|  | |

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

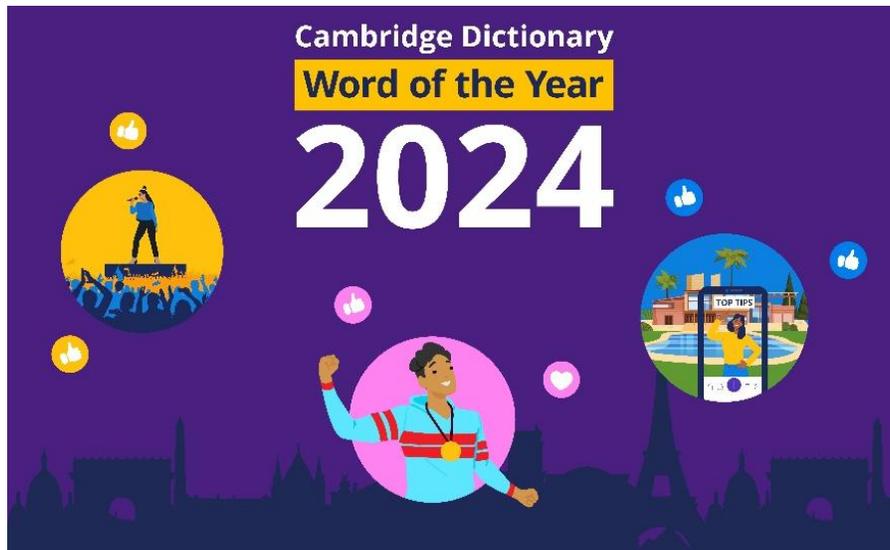
- ❖ It aims to acknowledge the significant potential of banks in financing sustainable growth.

- ❖ 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.

