

January - 15

TNPSC BITS

- ❖ Bamanwas Kankar panchayat in Rajasthan has become the first village body in the State to be certified as fully organic.
- ❖ NLC India Limited (NLCIL) won the SKOCH Gold Award for financial performance for its financial management, operational efficiency, and value creation.
 - NLCIL is a Navaratna Central Public Sector Enterprise (CPSE) under the Ministry of Coal.
- ❖ The Public Investment Board has approved the Kamala Hydroelectric Project in Arunachal Pradesh.
 - The project has an installed capacity of 1,720 MW and aims to support India's renewable energy targets and net-zero emissions by 2070.

TAMIL NADU NEWS

50 lakh MT of legacy waste

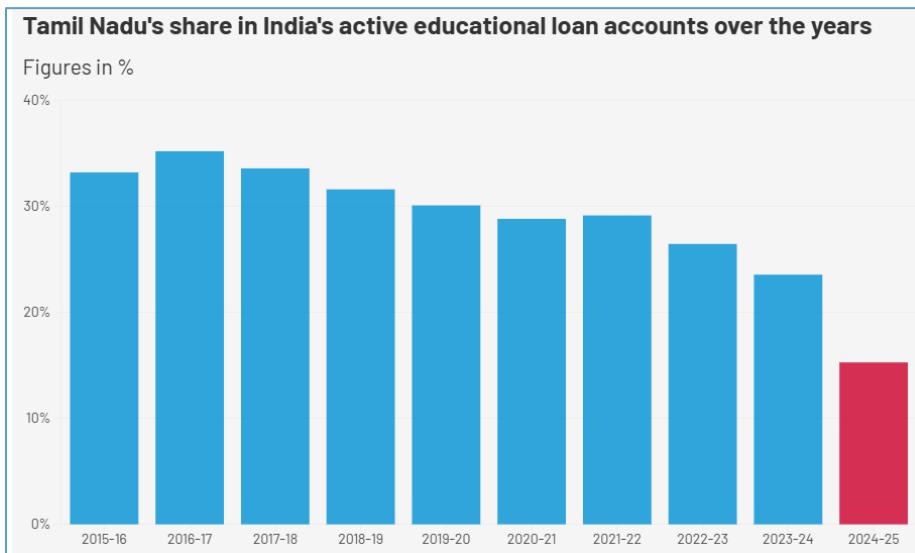


- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has cleared nearly 50 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste out of a total of 90 lakh metric tonnes through the bio mining process.
- ❖ The remaining waste was targeted to be cleared by February 2027

- ❖ The Perungudi dumpsite is using the bio mining tech from the Blue Planet Environmental Solutions.
- ❖ Biomining is the technique of extracting metals from ores and other solid materials, typically using micro-organisms like bacteria, archaea, fungi, or plants.

Active educational loan accounts

- ❖ The number of active educational loan accounts in lakh across India between FY16 and FY25.
- ❖ The number decreased from 27.4 lakh accounts to about 20.1 lakh in the period.
- ❖ The number drastically reduced from 9.1 lakh accounts to 3.1 lakh in the period in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Between FY16 and FY20, about 30-35% of India's educational loans were garnered by students in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ Tamil Nadu's students formed 15% of India's outstanding education loans in FY25, the highest share for any State.



World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026

- ❖ World Tamil Diaspora Day 2026 is being organised on 11–12 January 2026 in Chennai.
- ❖ It is organised by the Tamil Nadu Government through the Department of Non-Resident Tamils Welfare to connect Non-Resident Tamils (NRTs) worldwide.
- ❖ The event aims to promote the Tamil language, culture, heritage, and global Tamil unity.

- ❖ It includes discussion sessions, exhibitions, and cultural programmes to highlight the Tamil diaspora's achievements.
- ❖ The theme of 2026 is "Thamizhaal Inaivom, Tharanil Uyarvom".



iTNT-XeedQ Quantum Deal



- ❖ iTNT Hub signed a Letter of Intent (LoI) with Germany-based XeedQ GmbH at Umagine 2026 to start quantum computing programmes in Tamil Nadu.
- ❖ In the first phase, students and startups will get remote access to a 4-qubit quantum computer developed by XeedQ.
- ❖ The program will be run by iTNT Hub, a public-private initiative supported by the Government of Tamil Nadu.

- ❖ The facility will be located at the iTNT Hub inside Anna University campus, Chennai.
- ❖ XeedQ GmbH will provide the quantum hardware, technical support, and learning assistance.
- ❖ In the second phase, Tamil Nadu may become the first Indian State to host a physical quantum computer for its innovation ecosystem.

NATIONAL NEWS

Shaksgam Valley issue

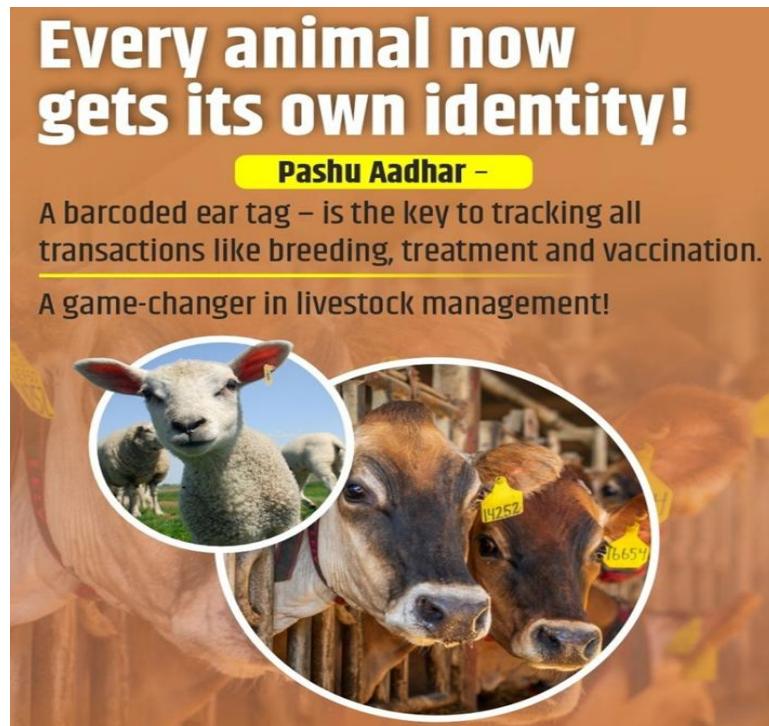


- ❖ India has reaffirmed that the Shaksgam Valley is part of its territory and rejected the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route passing through the area.
- ❖ The 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement is illegal and not recognised by India.
- ❖ Shaksgam Valley lies north of the Siachen Glacier and forms part of the larger Kashmir region.
- ❖ CPEC is a major infrastructure corridor connecting China's Xinjiang region to Pakistan's Gwadar Port.

Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

- ❖ More than 35.68 crore animals have been issued Pashu Aadhaar under the National Digital Livestock Mission (NDLM).
- ❖ The Pashu Aadhaar is a 12-digit unique ear-tag number used to record vaccination, breeding, and treatment details of livestock.
- ❖ Over 17.3 lakh milk producers in 54 milk unions use the Automatic Milk Collection System (AMCS) for digital milk payment and quality recording.

- ❖ Around 198 milk unions and 15 federations use the Internet-based Dairy Information System (i-DIS) for data-based monitoring and planning.
- ❖ The National Dairy Development Board (NDDB) has also introduced Geographical Information System (GIS)-based milk route optimisation to reduce transport cost and time.



SHINE Scheme



- ❖ The SHINE Scheme was launched on the 79th Foundation Day of the Bureau of Indian Standards (BIS) in New Delhi.

- ❖ SHINE stands for Standards Help Inform & Nurture Empowered Women.
- ❖ It is a new scheme of BIS to place women at the centre of India's quality journey.
- ❖ The scheme provides training and awareness through Non-Governmental Organisations (NGOs) and Self-Help Groups (SHGs).
- ❖ It spreads knowledge about standards, safety and quality in households and communities.

Akasa Air



- ❖ Akasa Air, India's youngest airline, founded in 2020, has become a member of the International Air Transport Association (IATA).
- ❖ IATA represents over 360 airlines worldwide and manages more than 80% of global air traffic.
- ❖ Akasa cleared the IATA Operational Safety Audit (IOSA) in December 2025.
- ❖ India now has five IATA member airlines: Air India, Air India Express, IndiGo, Akasa Air, and SpiceJet.
- ❖ Akasa plans to operate 226 Boeing 737 MAX aircraft by 2030 and aims to become a globally competitive airline.

INTERNATIONAL NEWS

G7 Critical Minerals Talks

- ❖ The United States (US) invited India and Australia to join the G7 finance ministers' talks on critical minerals in Washington in January 2026.

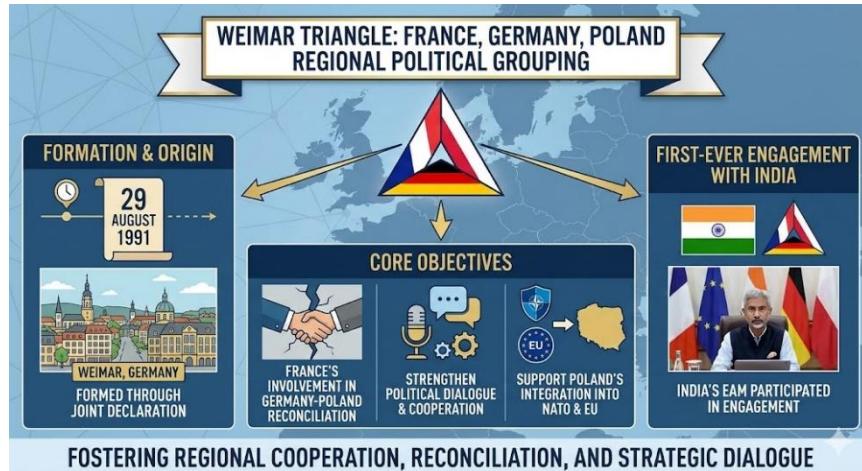
- ❖ The meeting is being held to secure supply chains of critical minerals needed for defence, technology, and clean energy.
- ❖ The Group of Seven (G7) includes the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Australia has large reserves of rare earths and lithium, and it signed an agreement with the US in October 2025 on mineral cooperation.
- ❖ China controls 47% to 87% of the global refining of key minerals like lithium, cobalt, graphite, copper, and rare earths.
- ❖ The talks aim to reduce dependence on China and diversify global mineral supply chains.



Weimar Triangle

- ❖ India's External Affairs Minister participated in India's first-ever engagement with the Weimar Triangle, along with France, Germany, and Poland.
- ❖ The Weimar Triangle is a regional political grouping of France, Germany, and Poland.
- ❖ It was formed on 29 August 1991 through a joint declaration issued in Weimar, Germany.
- ❖ One of its objectives is to involve France in the reconciliation between Germany and Poland.
- ❖ Another objective is to strengthen political dialogue and cooperation among the three countries.

- ❖ It also supports Poland's integration into the North Atlantic Treaty Organization (NATO) and the European Union (EU).



SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY NEWS

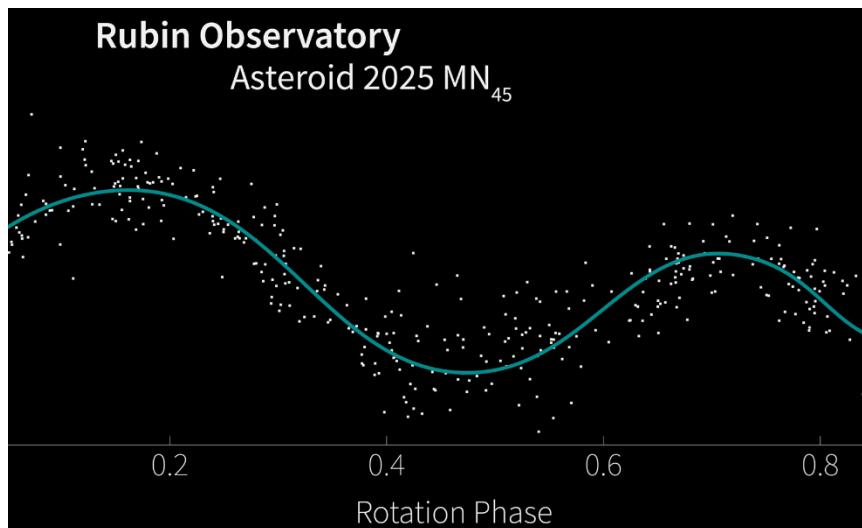
Early ISS Return



- ❖ NASA has brought four astronauts back early from the International Space Station (ISS) due to a medical concern affecting one crew member.

- ❖ The Crew-11 mission was launched in August 2025 aboard the SpaceX Crew Dragon spacecraft for a planned six-month stay.
- ❖ Astronauts returning include two Americans, one Japanese from JAXA (Japan Aerospace Exploration Agency), and one Russian cosmonaut.
- ❖ One American astronaut and two Russian cosmonauts will remain on the ISS to maintain essential operations and safety.
- ❖ This is the first early return in the ISS's 25-year continuous human presence history.

Asteroid 2025 MN45



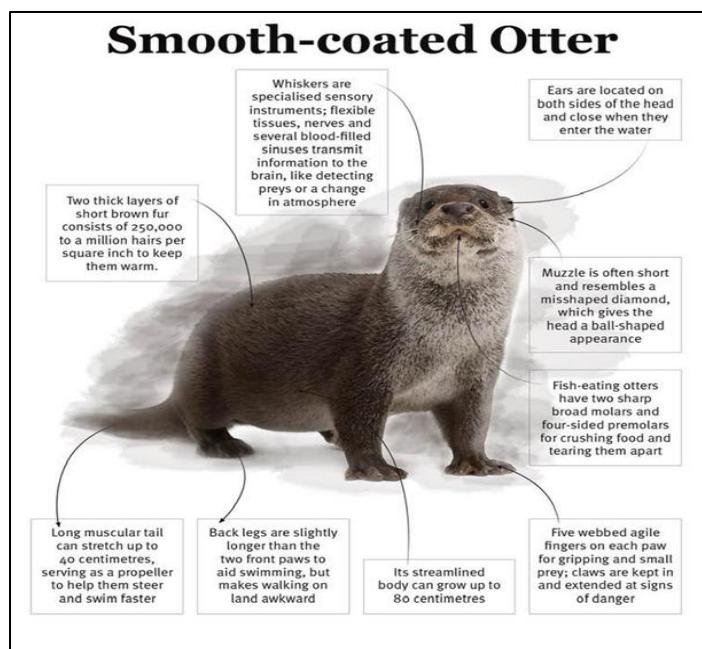
- ❖ The asteroid 2025 MN45 is the fastest-spinning asteroid of its size ever observed.
- ❖ It measures about 710 metres (2,300 feet) in diameter and rotates once every 113 seconds.
- ❖ The asteroid is located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- ❖ It was discovered using data from the Vera C. Rubin Observatory's LSST (Legacy Survey of Space and Time) Camera.
- ❖ The extreme rotation suggests that 2025 MN45 has solid internal strength, unlike most “rubble pile” asteroids.

ENVIRONMENT NEWS

Smooth-coated otter in Adyar

- ❖ A rare sighting of an otter was recently recorded in the Adyar River.

- ❖ They are found in freshwater-rich areas such as rivers, wetlands, lakes, swamps, and rice paddies.
- ❖ They are listed as Vulnerable in IUCN Red List.
- ❖ India is home to 3 types of otters out of the 13 species of otters found worldwide.



REPORTS AND INDICES

Bharat Climate Forum 2026



- ❖ The Energy and Resources Institute (TERI) has released the report “India’s PV Manufacturing & Its Strategic Inflection Points” at the Bharat Climate Forum 2026.

- ❖ The report studies India's solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing chain from polysilicon to wafers, cells and modules.
- ❖ China holds a major global share with 98% of wafers, 92% of polysilicon, 91.8% of cells and 84.6% of modules.
- ❖ India has about 120 GW per year module manufacturing capacity, but very low upstream capacity.
- ❖ India's solar module capacity is expected to cross 280 GW per year by 2030, while cell capacity may rise to about 171 GW per year.
- ❖ The report supports the National Cleantech Manufacturing Implementation Plan to build a strong domestic solar industry.

STATES' NEWS

Global Education Hub

- ❖ Kalinga Institute of Industrial Technology (KIIT), Bhubaneswar, Odisha, ranked fifth in India for attracting international students.
- ❖ Initiatives like Global Faculty Programmes, Global Immersion Programmes, and India Trek promote academic exchange and global engagement.
- ❖ Odisha ranks among the top ten states in India for attracting foreign students, ahead of West Bengal, Telangana, and Andhra Pradesh.



PERSONALITIES, AWARDS, AND EVENTS

Non-Transferable Nobel Peace Prize

- ❖ Machado won the 2025 Nobel Peace Prize for her work promoting democratic rights and peaceful transition in Venezuela.

- ❖ Recently Venezuelan opposition leader María Corina Machado offered to give her prize to former US President Donald Trump.
- ❖ But the Norwegian Nobel Committee said that, the Nobel Peace Prize cannot be shared, transferred, or revoked.
- ❖ The Nobel Committee clarified that once a prize is announced, the decision is final and permanent under the Statutes of the Nobel Foundation.
- ❖ Prize money, however, may be used at the recipient's discretion, but the title remains non-transferable.



IREDA Excellence Award



- ❖ IREDA (Indian Renewable Energy Development Agency Limited) got an 'Excellent' MoU rating for the fifth consecutive year.
- ❖ IREDA scored 96.42 out of 100 for the Financial Year (FY) 2024–25 by the Ministry of New and Renewable Energy (MNRE).
- ❖ The MoU is used to evaluate the performance of government enterprises every year.
- ❖ IREDA is a Non-Banking Financial Company (NBFC) that finances renewable energy projects in India.

- ❖ IREDA had received a 'Fair' rating in FY 2019–20 before improving its performance.

IMPORTANT DAYS

National Youth Day/Yuva Diwas 2026 - January 12

- ❖ It aims to inspire the youth with the ideas of Swami Vivekananda and promote nation-building.
- ❖ It was officially declared and first observed in 1984 by the Government of India.
- ❖ It is celebrated to mark the birth anniversary of Swami Vivekananda.
- ❖ The day aims to promote youth leadership, discipline, and national service among young people.

Swami Vivekananda, the wandering monk who introduced Hindu Vedanta philosophy to the West, was born today in 1863

The Patriot Saint

Founded the Ramakrishna Math, Ramakrishna Mission, Vedanta Societies	Represented India and Hinduism at the Parliament of the World's Religions in Chicago in 1893
Played a hand in the revival of Hinduism in India, contributing to the concept of nationalism in colonial India	His representations helped accord Hinduism with the status of a major world religion during the late 19th century



His birthday
 is celebrated as
**National Youth
 Day in India**

National Road Safety Week 2026 – January 11/17

- ❖ The day aims to promote road safety awareness and reduce road accidents and deaths.
- ❖ It was first introduced in 1989 by the Ministry of Road Transport and Highways (MoRTH).

- ❖ It is observed to encourage safe driving, pedestrian safety, and better road infrastructure.
- ❖ The theme for 2026 is “Sadak Suraksha Jeevan Raksha” (Road Safety, Life Safety).

