

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



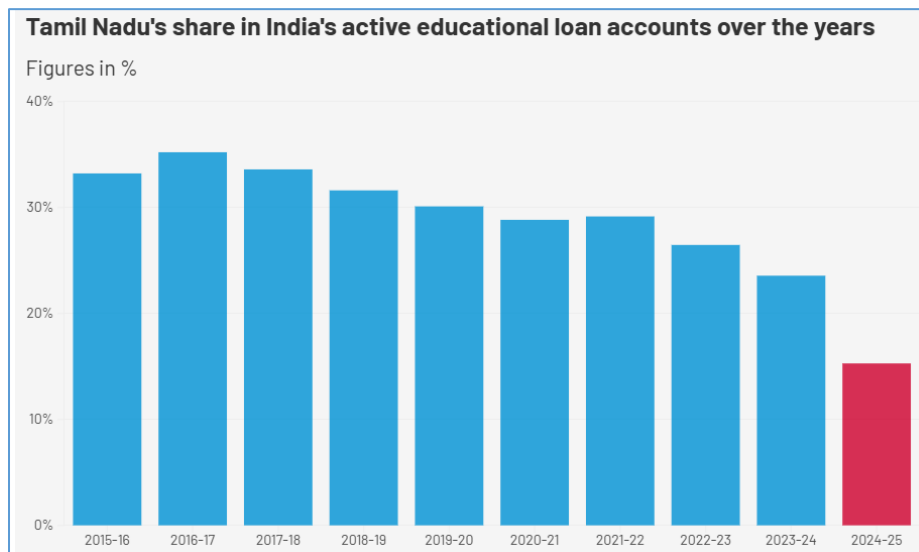
- ❖ The Greater Chennai Corporation (GCC) has cleared nearly 50 lakh metric tonnes of legacy waste out of a total of 90 lakh metric tonnes through the bio mining process.
- ❖ The remaining waste was targeted to be cleared by February 2027



- ❖ The Perungudi dumpyard 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, archae, 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 Umanage 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

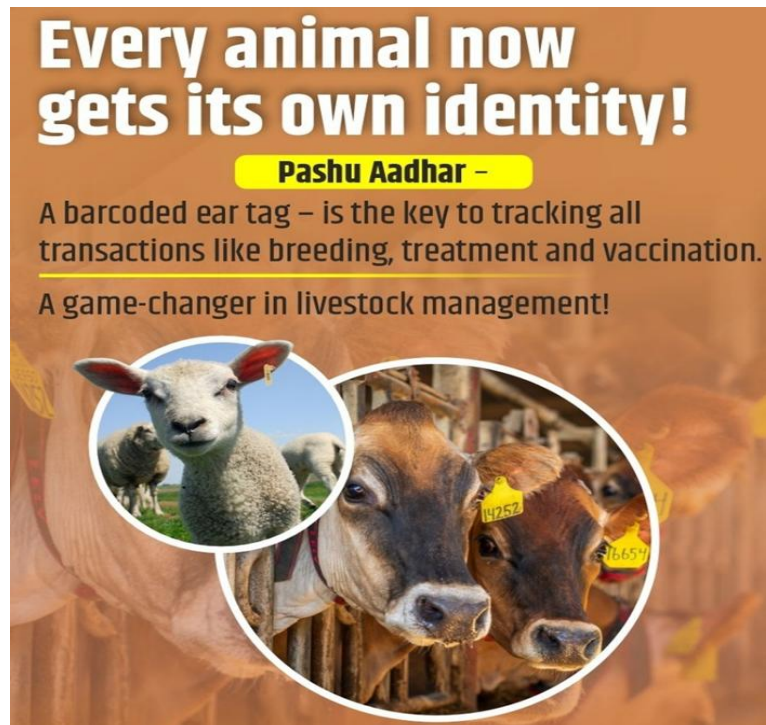


- ❖ India has reaffirmed that the Shaksgam Valley is part of its territory and rejected the China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC) route passing through the area.
- ❖ The 1963 China-Pakistan Boundary Agreement is illegal and not recognised by India.
- ❖ Shaksgam Valley lies north of the Siachen Glacier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

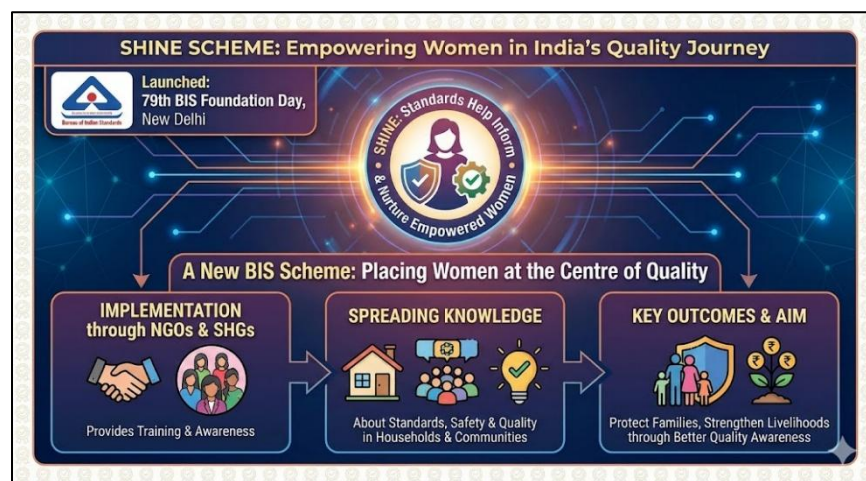
Digitalizing India's Dairy Sector

- ❖ 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.

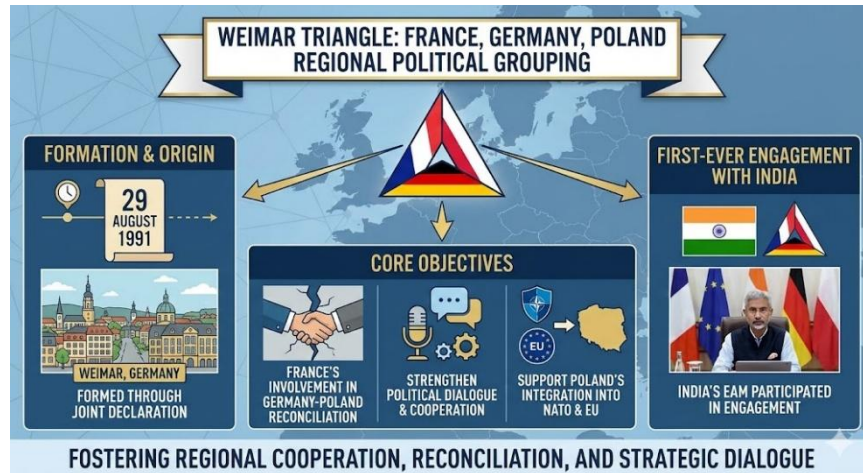
- ❖ The meeting is being held to secure supply chains of critical minerals needed for defence, technology, and clean energy.
- ❖ The Group of Seven (G7) includes the United States, the United Kingdom (UK), Japan, France, Germany, Italy, Canada, and the European Union (EU).
- ❖ Australia has large reserves 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

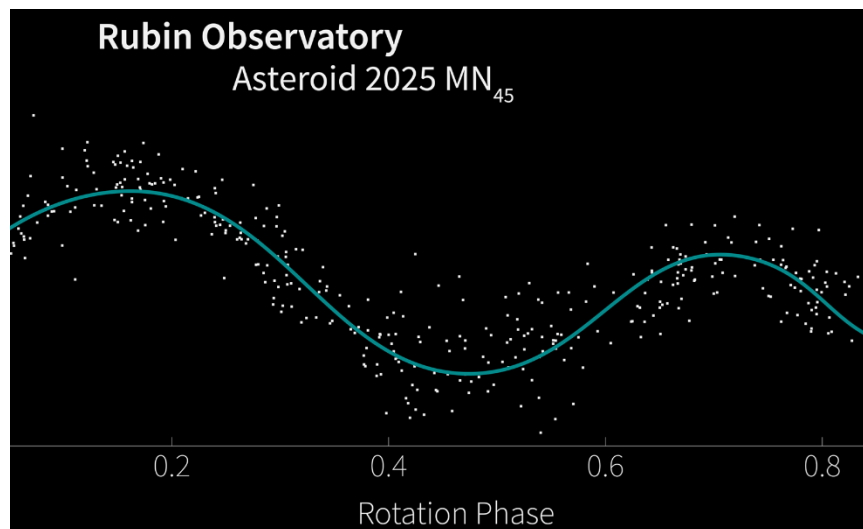
Early ISS Return



- ❖ 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



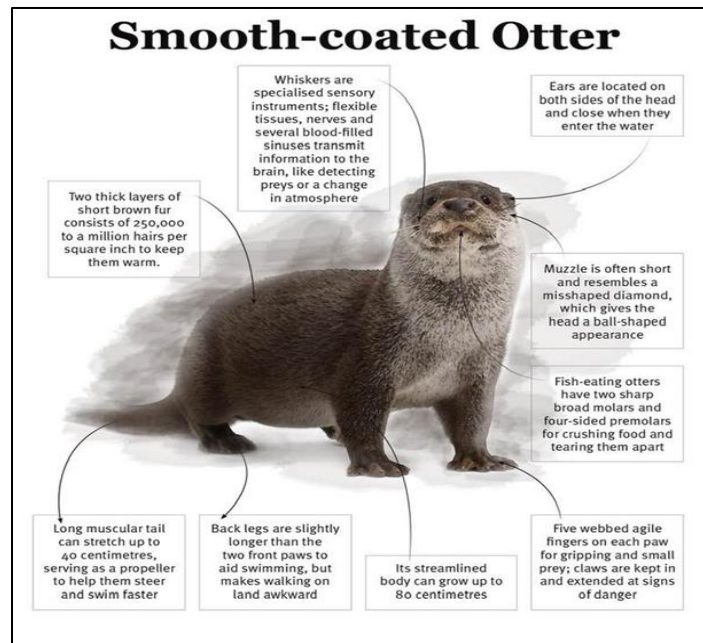
- ❖ The asteroid 2025 MN45 is the fastest-spinning asteroid of its size ever observed.
- ❖ It measures about 710 metres (2,300 feet) in diameter and rotates once every 113 seconds.
- ❖ The asteroid is located in the main asteroid belt between Mars and Jupiter.
- ❖ It was discovered using data from the 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 Adayar

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

- ❖ They 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.

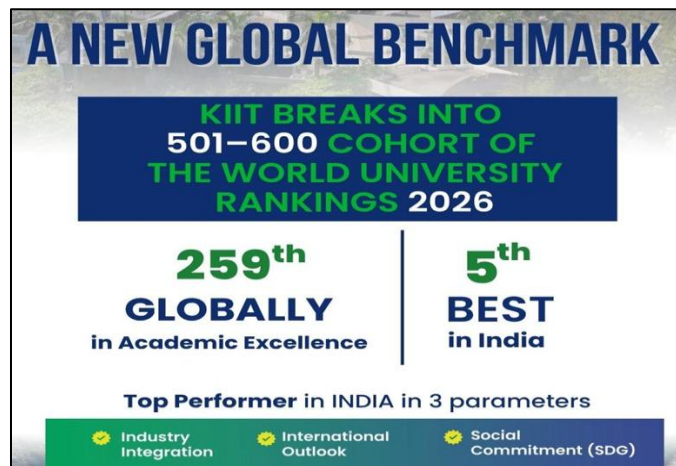


- ❖ The report studies India's solar photovoltaic (PV) manufacturing chain from polysilicon to wafers, cells and modules.
- ❖ China holds a major global share with 98% of wafers, 92% of polysilicon, 91.8% of cells and 84.6% of modules.
- ❖ India has about 120 GW per year module manufacturing capacity, 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 Maria 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.



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).

