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ExamChamps Daily Brief: 12 & 13th January 2026

Your Daily Dose of Current Affairs for Competitive Excellence

National & Governance

1. 9th NCORD Meeting: Strengthening India's Anti-Drug Grid

The Union Home Minister chaired the **9th Narco Coordination Centre (NCORD)** meeting in New Delhi.

- **Background:** Established in 2016 and restructured in 2019 under the Ministry of Home Affairs.
- **The Framework:** It operates on a **four-tier system** (Apex, Executive, State, and District levels) to ensure zero-gap coordination.
- **Objective:** Robust enforcement of the **NDPS Act, 1985** and creating a drug-free India.

2. Samagra Shiksha 3.0: Reimagining School Education

The Ministry of Education held a stakeholder consultation for **Samagra Shiksha 3.0**.

- **Scope:** A holistic "Centrally Sponsored Scheme" covering education from **Pre-nursery to Class 12**.
 - **Integration:** It subsumes three major schemes – **SSA** (Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan), **RMSA** (Rashtriya Madhyamik Shiksha Abhiyan), and **TE** (Teacher Education).
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International Relations & Strategic Affairs

3. Sovereignty Watch: India Reaffirms Claim on Shaksgam Valley

India has strongly opposed the **China-Pakistan Economic Corridor (CPEC)**, citing territorial violations in the **Shaksgam Valley** (Trans-Karakoram Tract).

- **Key Fact:** Located north of the **Siachen Glacier** in Ladakh.
- **Historical Context:** This territory was ceded illegally by Pakistan to China under the **1963 Boundary Agreement**, which India considers null and void.

4. Diplomatic Debut: India Joins the 'Weimar Triangle'

For the first time, India participated in discussions with the **Weimar Triangle**.

- **Members:** France, Germany, and Poland.
- **Origin:** Formed in **1991** in Weimar (Germany) to promote a secure and united Europe.

5. Raisina Science Diplomacy Initiative (SDI) 2026

Launched alongside the Raisina Dialogue, this initiative focuses on **Science & Tech as a tool for diplomacy**.

- **Core Areas:** AI, Quantum Computing, Deep-tech, and global standard-setting for research security.
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📈 Economy & Infrastructure

6. Mega Power: ₹26,000-Cr Kamala Hydroelectric Project

The Public Investment Board (PIB) has cleared the storage-based **Kamala HEP** in **Arunachal Pradesh**.

- **Execution:** A Joint Venture between **NHPC** and the State Government.
- **Impact:** Located on the Kamala River; it features a **216m gravity dam** and will generate ~6,870 MU of green power annually.

7. UN GDP Projection: India at 6.6%

The United Nations projects India's GDP growth at **6.6% for FY 2025-26**, citing resilient domestic consumption and tax reforms.

🔬 Science & Environment

8. Space Discovery: Hubble Identifies 'Cloud-9'

NASA's Hubble Space Telescope has confirmed a **RELHIC** (Reionization-Limited H I Cloud) named **Cloud-9**.

- **Definition:** A "failed galaxy" dominated by **dark matter** with no stars, located 14 million light-years away near Messier-94.

9. Conservation: Digital Tiger Census at Anamalai

The **Anamalai Tiger Reserve (ATR)** is utilizing the **M-STripES app** (Monitoring System for Tigers-Intensive Protection and Ecological Status) for its 2026 census.

- **Trend:** Tiger population in ATR has surged from **10 in 2014 to 25 in 2022**.
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📊 Quick Fact Sheet (Exam-Ready)

Topic	Key Takeaway
National Youth Day	Jan 12; Commemorates Swami Vivekananda; PM hosted 'Viksit Bharat Dialogue'.

Topic	Key Takeaway
Copper Demand	Expected to rise 50% by 2040 ; Key Indian belts: Khetri, Malanjkhand, Singhbhum.
Bengaluru	Ranked No. 1 Women-Friendly City in India (Avtar TCWI 2025).
President's Bio	" <i>A Lotus Blooming in Fire</i> " by Y. Lakshmi Prasad; released by a sanitation worker.
Critical Minerals	Union Minister attended the G7 Critical Minerals Ministerial in Washington DC.
Skydo	First Bengaluru fintech to get RBI's final PA-CB (Payment Aggregator-Cross Border) license.