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Current Affairs Digest: January 6, 2026 | Daily News for Competitive Exams

1. National News & Governance

Rajasthan Hosts Regional AI Impact Conference 2026

- **Context:** Jaipur hosted the regional conference as a precursor to the **India AI Impact Summit 2026**.
- **Key Participants:** Union Minister Ashwini Vaishnaw, MoS Jitin Prasada, and CM Bhajan Lal Sharma.
- **Highlights:** Focus on AI ethics, governance, startups, and **Digital Twins**. The event coincided with the Rajasthan DigiFest × TiE Global Summit.

I&B Ministry Announces 'Badalta Bharat' Winners

- **Campaign:** *Badalta Bharat Mera Anubhav*, held in collaboration with **MyGov**.
- **Objective:** To showcase India's transformation over the last 11 years through citizen storytelling.
- **Key Winners:** Indrajeet Mashankar (Instagram), Manthan Rohit (YouTube), Sushovan Manna (AV), and Krishna Gupta (Blog).

Telangana Scraps Two-Child Norm for Local Polls

- **Legislative Action:** Passed the **Telangana Panchayat Raj (Amendment) Bill, 2026**.
- **Reasoning:** Minister Anasuya Seethakka cited a rural Total Fertility Rate (TFR) of **1.7**, stating the restriction could negatively impact the state's demographic dividend.
- **Other updates:** Jaintirumalapoor renamed to **Jayanna Tirumalapur**.

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2. International Affairs

Delcy Rodríguez Becomes Interim President of Venezuela

- **Trigger:** Assumed leadership following the reported capture of Nicolás Maduro.
- **Diplomatic Shift:** Rodríguez signaled a potential reset in ties, offering to collaborate with the **Trump administration** for a "balanced and respectful" relationship.

Bulgaria Joins the Eurozone

- **Date of Adoption:** January 1, 2026.
- **Status:** Bulgaria is now the **21st member** of the Eurozone.
- **Transition:** The Bulgarian lev and the euro will co-circulate until January 31; the euro becomes sole legal tender on **February 1, 2026**.

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3. Economy & Startup Ecosystem

DSIR Relaxes Norms for Deeptech Startups

- **Policy Change:** The Department of Scientific and Industrial Research removed the **mandatory 3-year existence rule** for recognition.
- **Impact:** Early-stage deeptech innovators can now access R&D support and the **₹1 lakh crore RDI Fund** much faster.

DLI Scheme Boosts Semiconductor Design

- **Parent Program:** Semicon India Programme (MeitY).
- **Achievement:** 24 projects supported, leading to **16 tape-outs** and **6 ASIC chips**.
- **Focus Areas:** Microprocessors, IoT SoCs, and Satellite Communications.

Delhi Govt & RBI MoU for Infrastructure

- **Agreement:** RBI will act as the banker and debt manager for the Delhi Government.
- **Purpose:** To enable market borrowings via **State Development Loans (SDLs)** specifically for capital expenditure (Yamuna rejuvenation, health, and transport).

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4. Environment & Social Justice

ONGC–NSTFDC Partner for Tribal Education

- **Agreement:** MoU signed to support **Eklavya Model Residential Schools (EMRS)** via CSR funding.
- **Goal:** Infrastructure development and digital education for tribal students.
- **Fact:** There are currently **499 functional EMRS** nationwide under the Ministry of Tribal Affairs.

Volcanic Alert: Mount Bur Ni Telong (Indonesia)

- **Location:** Aceh, Indonesia.
- **Status:** Alert raised to the **second-highest level** due to increased seismic activity. Residents advised to maintain a 4 km safety radius.

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5. Appointments

P. S. Girisha: Director (Finance), Central Silk Board

- **Details:** 2012-batch IAS officer (Andhra Pradesh cadre).
- **Tenure:** 5-year deputation under the Ministry of Textiles.

Exam Capsule: Key Terms to Remember

- **TFR (Total Fertility Rate):** The average number of children born to a woman.
- **ASIC:** Application-Specific Integrated Circuit.

- **SDL:** State Development Loans (Bonds issued by state governments to fund deficits).

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