National News

1. Goa Announces Creation of Third District: Kushavati

Goa Chief Minister Pramod Sawant has officially announced the formation of the state's third administrative district, named **Kushavati**.

- **Significance:** This marks a major administrative reorganization in the coastal state, aimed at improving governance and accessibility for the local population.
- **Fact Check:** Goa previously consisted of only two districts: North Goa and South Goa.

2. India's First Bullet Train Operations Set for August 2027

The Union Government announced that the country's first high-speed rail (Bullet Train) between **Mumbai and Ahmedabad** is expected to begin operations by **August 15, 2027**.

- **Key Detail:** The project uses Japanese Shinkansen technology and is a flagship infrastructure initiative under the Ministry of Railways.

3. Assam Constitutes 8th State Pay Commission

Assam has become the first state in India to proactively constitute its **8th State Pay Commission** ahead of the expiry of the previous commission's term.

International News

4. Sri Lanka Honours India's "Operation Sagar Bandhu"

The Sri Lankan government has formally acknowledged and honored the Indian Navy for its critical role in humanitarian assistance during **Cyclone Ditwah**.

- **The Mission:** "Operation Sagar Bandhu" involved large-scale rescue and relief operations by Indian naval assets in Sri Lankan waters.

5. Indonesia to Halt Food Imports in 2026

Indonesia has announced a total ban on the import of **rice, sugar, and corn** for the year 2026.

- **Objective:** The move is part of a strategic pivot toward national food self-sufficiency following a significant rise in domestic production.

Science, Environment & Sports

6. Parvati–Arga Bird Sanctuary Declared Eco-Sensitive Zone

The **Parvati–Arga Bird Sanctuary** located in **Uttar Pradesh** has been officially declared an **Eco-Sensitive Zone (ESZ)** by the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change.

- **Impact:** This status will restrict certain commercial activities to protect the wetland's biodiversity.

7. Arjun Erigaisi Wins Double Bronze in Doha

- Indian Chess Grandmaster **Arjun Erigaisi** secured two bronze medals in the Rapid and Blitz categories at the World Championships in Doha.

Science & Tech Highlights

8. First National AI Research Institution Established

- **Gujarat** has become the first state in India to establish a dedicated **National Artificial Intelligence (AI) Research Institution** to foster innovation in machine learning and automation.

9."Candida Auris" Fungus Outbreak

- Health agencies are monitoring a rapid spread of the drug-resistant fungal infection *Candida auris* in the United States, raising global concerns regarding hospital-acquired infections.

10. Kaamya Karthikeyan Becomes Youngest Indian to Ski to South Pole

18-year-old **Kaamya Karthikeyan** has scripted history by becoming the youngest Indian and the second-youngest woman globally to ski to the South Pole.

Important Day: January 2

11. World Introvert Day: Observed globally to celebrate introverts and bring awareness to their need for space and quiet.

Here is an expanded selection of current affairs for **January 2, 2026**, with a focus on defense, sports retirements, and major policy shifts to help your readers stay ahead in their exam preparation.

Defense & National Security

12. MoD Inks ₹4,666 Crore Deal for Carbines & Torpedoes

The Ministry of Defence (MoD) has signed two massive procurement contracts to bolster the Indian Army and Navy.

- **Indian Army:** Procurement of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) **Carbines** to replace aging submachine guns.
- **Indian Navy:** Purchase of **Heavy Weight Torpedoes** to enhance the offensive capabilities of the submarine fleet.

13. Vande Bharat Sleeper Sets New Speed Record

The newly developed **Vande Bharat Sleeper Train** successfully clocked a trial speed of **180 km/h**.

- **Significance:** This marks a major step toward long-distance high-speed travel in India, with commercial operations expected to begin later this year.

Economy & Policy Updates

14. Weekly Credit Score Updates Begin

Starting January 1, 2026, credit bureaus in India are now mandated to update customer credit data **every week** instead of every 15 days.

- **Impact:** This ensures that loan repayments or defaults reflect faster in credit scores, affecting loan eligibility in real-time.[12]

Quick Facts for "Exam Champs"

Topic	Quick Fact
New District	Kushavati (3rd district of Goa)
Bullet Train	Mumbai-Ahmedabad (Target: Aug 2027)
World Record	Kaamya Karthikeyan (Youngest Indian to ski to South Pole)
Space	2026 is the target year for Gaganyaan (India) and Artemis-II (USA).