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History, Art and Culture

Rajaji Utsav

PM announced that a statue of British architect Edwin Lutyens in Rashtrapati Bhavan will be replaced by that of C. Rajagopalachari.

• **Observed on –** 23rd February
• **Hosted by –** Rashtrapati Bhavan.
• **Objectives –** To showcase the many facets of Rajagopalachari's contributions.
  - To honour those who shaped our destiny and to shed remnants of a colonial mindset.
• **Significance –** It aligns to the *Panch Pran pledges of the Azadi Ka Amrit Mahotsav*, particularly the goal of freeing India from a colonial mindset.

Social Issues

Revised Norms for Scholarship

• **Revised by –** Ministry of Labour and Employment.
• **Benefit –** Over 1 lakh students annually, especially *children of beedi, cine, and non-coal mine workers*, supporting higher education and long-term livelihood prospects.
• **Objective –** To enhance equity and remove exclusions caused by overlapping eligibility conditions.
• **Significance –** It aligns with the *Code on Social Security.*

Polity & Governance

Systematic Identification and Removal (SIR)

• **SIR –** It is a comprehensive initiative undertaken by the Election Commission (EC) to update and rectify voter lists.
• **Objective –** To remove duplicate, ineligible, or deceased voters from the electoral rolls.
• **Key Highlights**
  - Approximately 8% of voters were removed across 9 States and Union Territories during the 2nd phase of SIR.
  - **Total deletion –** 1.7 crore voters.
  - **Highest deletion rate –** Gujarat (13.4%), Andaman & Nicobar (16.87%).
  - **Lowest deletion rate –** Kerala (3.22%), Lakshadweep (0.36%).

International Relations and Issues

India – Brazil

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva of Brazil conducted bilateral discussions in New Delhi.

• **Key Agreements**
- Bilateral cooperation in the exploration and development of *rare earth elements and critical minerals.*
- Collaboration in the *steel and mining sectors*.
- Issuance of a joint declaration and adoption of an *action plan to advance a future-oriented digital partnership.*

• **Trade and economic relations**
- Commitment to increase bilateral trade to exceed $20 billion by 2030.
- Brazil proposed to *double annual bilateral trade* to $30 billion by 2030.
- Expansion of the *India-Mercosur Preferential Trade Agreement*.
- Promotion of increased investments in *renewable energy and critical mineral sectors.*

Strategic Importance of India – Brazil Ties

• Diversification of *critical mineral supply chains (reducing dependence on China).*
• Strengthening cooperation among countries of the *Global South.*
• India and Brazil are "the two biggest democracies of the Global South."
• Enhanced cooperation in the fields of *defence, energy, healthcare, agriculture, and pharmaceuticals.*

Economy

Double Taxation Avoidance Agreement (DTAA)

India and France sign amending protocol to update Double Taxation Avoidance Convention.

• **DTAA –** It is a treaty between India and other countries designed to prevent individuals and businesses from being taxed twice on the same income.
• It is significant for individuals who earn income in one country while residing in another.
• Without such an agreement, this income may be taxed in both countries.
• Under a DTAA, taxpayers usually *pay tax in only one country or claim credit for taxes paid in one country against their liability in the other.*
• India has established DTAAs with *over 100 countries to protect Non-Resident Indians (NRIs) from double taxation.*

Security

INS Anjadip

• It is the 3rd vessel of the eight-ship Anti-Submarine Warfare Shallow Water Craft (ASW-SWC) project.
• **Named after –** Anjadip Island, located near Karwar, Karnataka, but officially falls under Goa's jurisdiction.
• **Built by –** GRSE, Kolkata, the vessel reflects India's Aatmanirbhar Bharat push in defence manufacturing.
• **Designed as –** A *"Dolphin Hunter"*, it specializes in detecting, tracking, and neutralizing enemy submarines in shallow waters.
• **Key features –**
- 77-metre-long vessel.
- Equipped with an advanced indigenous ASW suite, including *hull mounted sonar 'Abhay', lightweight torpedoes and ASW rockets.*
- Powered by a *high-speed water-jet propulsion system* (speed up to 25 knots).
- It can perform coastal surveillance, LIMO, and search & rescue missions.

Science

New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact

AI Impact Summit 2026, concluded with the adoption of the New Delhi Declaration on AI Impact.

• **Endorsed by –** 91 countries and international organisations.
• **Guided by –** The principle of "Sarvajan Hitaya, Sarvajan Sukhaya" (Welfare for all, Happiness for all).
  - It underscores that the benefits of AI must be equitably shared across humanity.
• **Emphasizes on –**
  - Strengthening international cooperation and multistakeholder engagement.
  - Respecting national sovereignty.
  - Advancing AI through accessible, and trustworthy frameworks.

New Delhi Declaration - 7 Pillars (Chakras) of Action

The Declaration is structured around 7 key pillars, forming the foundation of global AI cooperation.

1. Democratizing AI Resources
2. Economic Growth & Social Good
3. Secure & Trusted AI
4. AI for Science
5. Access for Social Empowerment
6. Human Capital Development
7. Resilient, Efficient & Innovative AI Systems

Super-Dense Data Store

• **Technology –** Data storage using laser pulses to create 3D pixels in glass.
• **Research conducted by –** Microsoft (Project Silica).
• **Method –** Itutilizes short laser pulses directed into a 2-mm-thick glass plate, creating three-dimensional pixels across hundreds of layers.
• **Storage Capacity**
  - Each three-dimensional (3D) pixel is capable of representing multiple bits of information.
  - A glass plate measuring *120 mm by 120 mm can store up to 4.8 terabytes (TB) of data.*
  - Durability Borosilicate glass version projected to remain *stable for 10 millennia (10,000 years).*
  - **Data Retrieval –** Data can be read using *microscopes and machine learning.*
• **Significance**
  - It offers *extremely high-density and long-term data storage capabilities.*
  - Potential for archival data storage to address growing data needs.
  - **High durability –** Suitable for preserving information over several centuries.

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