

The week from 22 January 2024 to 28 January 2024

PM Narendra Modi performed the 'pran pratistha' or consecration ceremony of the Ram Lalla (infant Lord Ram) idol at the Ram Temple in Ayodhya. The event, inaugurating the sanctum sanctorum of the under-construction temple, was marked as 'the advent of a new era' by the PM, who called on the people to 'build the foundation of a strong, grand, and divine India.'

Citing divine inspiration after the consecration of the Ram idol in Ayodhya, PM Narendra Modi announced the "Pradhanmantri Suryodaya Yojana" with the target of installing rooftop solar systems on one crore houses. He tweeted that the scheme aims to reduce the electricity bills of the poor and middle class, apart from making India self-reliant in energy.

The late socialist leader and freedom fighter Karpoori Thakur was announced as the latest recipient of the Bharat Ratna, on the eve of his birth centenary on January 23. Popularly called Jannayak, he served twice as the CM of Bihar, during which he implemented reservation policies to deliver social and economic justice to the extremely backward classes.

President Emmanuel Macron of France was the chief guest at the 75th Republic Day parade in New Delhi. The French President and his host, President Draupadi Murmu, arrived at Kartavya Path in a horse-drawn 'buggy,' which was used for the first time in forty years.

The Central African country of Cameroon started the world's first routine vaccine program against malaria. The country, which witnesses high malaria deaths every year, is offering the RTS,S vaccine free of charge to all infants up to the age of six months old. The vaccine, however, is effective in only about 36% of cases, meaning it could save one in three lives.

Judges at the U.N. top court, the International Court of Justice, ruled that Israel must prevent genocidal acts in Gaza and facilitate "urgently needed" humanitarian aid into the besieged territory. However, they did not order Israel to cease its destructive offensive in Gaza.

Rohan Bopanna became only the third Indian to win a men's doubles Grand Slam title when he and his Australian partner Matthew Ebden won the 2024 Australian Open in Melbourne. At 43, Bopanna also became the oldest Grand Slam champion in Men's tennis.

Turkey ratified Sweden's bid to join the US-led North Atlantic Treaty Organisation military alliance, nearly two years after Sweden first applied to join the bloc along with Finland following the Russian invasion of Ukraine. Sweden now awaits Hungary's ratification to join.



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