

The week from 5 February 2024 to 11 February 2024

The Reserve Bank of India directed PayTM Payments Bank, one of India's major online payment and savings platforms, to halt new customer registrations and cease accepting fresh deposits in its wallets due to regulatory violations. The RBI allows users to utilize their existing PayTM wallet balance or switch to an alternative service provider until February 29, 2024.

The Union Government declared its intention to fence the entire 1643 km-long border with Myanmar and cancelled the Free Movement Regime. This regime permitted residents on both sides to cross the border within a specified distance. Security concerns related to illegal immigration and smuggling prompted these measures.

Uttarakhand became the first state in India to pass a Uniform Civil Code bill. The legislation standardises adoption and inheritance rights, the legal marriage age for men and women across all religions, while also prohibiting certain personal laws, excluding Scheduled Tribes.

The prestigious Bharat Ratna will be conferred upon former Prime Ministers P.V. Narasimha Rao and Choudhary Charan Singh, along with Green Revolution pioneer, and scientist M.S. Swaminathan. With five awardees announced this year, including socialist leader Karpoori Thakur and former Deputy Prime Minister L.K. Advani, this marks the highest number ever.

The 17th Lok Sabha concluded its final sitting on February 10, with the Budget session. The Lok Sabha proceedings moved to the New Parliament Building on September 20, 2023, during a special session, wherein the Women's Reservation Bill was passed. BJP MP Om Birla from Kota, Rajasthan, chaired the 17th Lok Sabha.

Australia triumphed over India by 79 runs in the ICC U-19 Men's Cricket World Cup final in South Africa. After winning the toss, Australia restricted India to 174 all-out in pursuit of 254 runs, with bowlers Mahli Beardman and Raf MacMillan each claiming three wickets.

In the 2024 Grammys, Taylor Swift made history by winning the award for Album of the Year for a fourth time, for the album *Midnights*. Indians also won big, with Tabla maestro Zakir Hussain bagging three, while flutist Rakesh Chaurasia won two, among three other Indian winners.

Buckingham Palace disclosed that Britain's Charles III, who ascended to the throne in 2022 following the death of Queen Elizabeth II, has been diagnosed with cancer. This marks the first time that a serious health issue with a reigning monarch has been officially declared.



Compiled by
Seema Chari and
Kunal Savarkar



xpress minds