

The week from 13 Jan 2025 to 19 Jan 2025

A peace deal between Israel and Hamas was brokered by USA, Saudi Arabia and Qatar, among others, to hopefully put an end to hostilities in Gaza. The deal calls for an end to violence, handing over of hostages and prisoners by both sides, and the Israeli military's gradual withdrawal from Gaza.

British band Cold Play began the Indian leg of their 'Music of the Sphere' World tour with packed concerts in Mumbai. Rumoured to be their last major tour before they retire, the group comprises vocalist and pianist Chris Martin, guitarist Jonny Buckland, bassist Guy Berryman, drummer and percussionist Will Champion, and manager Phil Harvey.

24-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic broke Roger Federer's record of 429 Grand Slam singles matches, when he played (and won) a 2nd round match at the 2025 Australian Open Championship. The Serbian player is currently tied with Margaret Court for most Grand Slam singles titles.

The Mahakumbh mela, held every 144 years, began at the Sangam at Prayagraj. On the first 2 days close to 40 million people took a ritual bath at the confluence of the Ganga, Yamuna and the mythical Saraswati. The largest gathering ever in recorded history, it is expected that over the next few weeks, 400 million people will take part in this festival of faith.

Barcelona beat Spanish and European champions Real Madrid in the final of the Supercopa de Espana in Saudi Arabia. In the latest edition of the 'El Clasico' as matches between these rival Spanish clubs are known, Barcelona hammered Real Madrid 5-2, even though the first goal was scored by Real's Mbappe; and despite losing a pleyer due to a red card!

According to the Ministry of New & Renewable Energy (MNRE), the country added a record 30 GigaWatts of renewable energy capacity in 2024. This is a 113% increase from 2023, when India added 13.75 GW. This exponential growth is a sign that India is making good progress towards its target of 500GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030.

Karnataka beat Vidarbha by 36 runs in the finals of the Vijay Hazare 50over tournament. Century-maker Ravichandran Smaran (Karnataka) was Player of the Match; whilst Vidarbha skipper and India-discard Karun Nair, who scored 779 runs in 8 innings at an astounding average of 389.5; with 5 hundreds, was fittingly declared Player of the Series.

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