

The week from 25th January 2026 to 31st January 2026

The supernatural thriller 'Sinners' has become the first film ever to receive 16 Academy Award nominations while Timothée Chalamet made history by becoming the youngest actor to receive three Best Actor Oscar nominations after being nominated for Marty Supreme at the 2026 Oscars.

Japanese IT services firm NTT Data is working with the National Payments Corporation of India (NPCI) to enable UPI payments in Japan on a trial basis during FY 2026. The initiative aims to link Indian and Japanese payment systems to facilitate seamless digital transactions. This move will benefit Indian travellers and businesses while expanding the global footprint of India's digital payments ecosystem.

India celebrated its 77th Republic Day on 26 January 2026 with the theme "150 Years of Vande Mataram." For the first time, two EU leaders—Ursula von der Leyen and António Costa—who is of Indian origin—attended as joint chief guests. The parade featured 30 tableaux, a new "battle array formation" military display, and a flypast with 29 aircraft, highlighting indigenous defence capability.

France's National Assembly has approved a law banning children under 15 from using social media platforms like Facebook, Instagram, TikTok, and YouTube. The move aims to protect minors from online bullying, mental health issues, excessive screen time, and unhealthy digital habits, with age-verification measures to enforce the rule. The bill now moves to the Senate for further approval.

The United States has formally withdrawn from the World Health Organization after completing the mandatory one-year notice period. The decision follows an executive order issued by President Donald Trump at the start of his presidency in 2025. The exit marks a major shift in US global health policy and raises concerns over global health cooperation.

Ajit Pawar, 6-time Deputy CM of Maharashtra, tragically passed away in a plane crash near Baramati during an emergency landing, also killing pilots and security staff. Born July 22, 1959, in Deolali Pravara, he rose from cooperative politics to being an eight-term MLA. His wife Sunetra Pawar was sworn in as Deputy CM of Maharashtra.

India has officially nominated Meghalaya's living root bridges for UNESCO's 2026–27 World Heritage evaluation cycle. Created by the Khasi and Jaintia communities using the roots of rubber fig trees, these bridges showcase sustainable bioengineering and indigenous knowledge. The nomination highlights Meghalaya's ecological heritage and India's tradition of harmony between culture and nature.

India's Padma Awards have highlighted grassroots environmental conservation by honouring Kollakkayil Devaki Amma G of Kerala with the Padma Shri. At 92, she is recognised for transforming barren coastal land in Alappuzha into a flourishing green sanctuary. Through decades of dedication, she nurtured over 3,000 rare indigenous and medicinal plant species.



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