

The week from 09th March 2026 to 15th March 2026

'One Battle After Another' won six awards, including 'Best Picture', at the 98th Academy Awards. Michael B. Jordan won 'Best Actor' for his role in 'Sinners' (which received 16 nominations but only four wins), while Jessie Buckley won 'Best Actress' for 'Hamnet'. Sean Penn won for 'Best Supporting Actor', marking his third Academy Award. Tom Cruise was honored with an Academy Award for his "incredible commitment to the filmmaking community, the theatrical experience, and the stunts community."

Japan has approved Amchepry, the world's first stem-cell treatment for Parkinson's Disease. Developed by Sumitomo Pharma, using iPS cell-derived neurons, discovered by Shinya Yamanaka, trials showed promising results and alongside ReHeart, this marks a major leap in regenerative medicine.

India has emerged as the largest supplier of cotton products to the United States in 2025, surpassing China for the first time in recent years. India's exports reached around 0.6 million tonnes, while China's fell to 0.5 million tonnes. US tariffs on Chinese goods (10%-125%) and the Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act prompted American firms to diversify suppliers.

Assam has achieved a milestone with the first large-scale export of its GI-tagged Joha rice to the United Kingdom and Italy. A consignment of 25 metric tonnes was dispatched from Guwahati, facilitated by APEDA under the Ministry of Commerce. Joha rice, known for its distinctive fragrance, fine grain, and rich taste, received the Geographical Indication tag in 2017.

India has established the world's first Autonomous Maritime Shipbuilding and Systems Centre in Nellore district, Andhra Pradesh. The centre will develop Unmanned Surface Vessels (USVs), Autonomous Underwater Vehicles (AUVs), and Intelligent Navigation Systems (INSS) under this facility.

NATO launched its biennial Arctic Exercise Cold Response 2026 (9-19 March), involving 25,000 troops from 14 nations. Focused on collective defence and Arctic operations, it unfolds amid rising strategic interest in Greenland, with Denmark reaffirming its sovereignty.

Scotland has legalised water cremation (alkaline hydrolysis), becoming the first UK nation to do so. The eco-friendly method, backed by Public Health Minister Jenni Minto, emits far less carbon dioxide, reflecting growing demand for sustainable funeral practices.

Following the death of Ayatollah Ali Khamenei, his son Mojtaba Khamenei was appointed as Iran's Supreme Leader by the Assembly of Experts. A cleric from Qom, his elevation signals political continuity amid escalating West Asia tensions in 2026.



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