

The week from 23th February 2026 to 01st March 2026

Manipuri-language film Boong won Best Children's & Family Film at the 2026 British Academy of Film and Television Arts Awards, marking a historic moment for regional Indian cinema. Directed by Lakshmipriya Devi and produced by Ritesh Sidhwani and Farhan Akhtar, the film triumphed over global contenders like Zootopia 2 and Lilo & Stitch.

The Union Cabinet has approved a proposal to rename Kerala as 'Keralam', following a unanimous resolution passed by the Kerala Legislative Assembly in June 2024. The move initiates the constitutional process under Article 3, which empowers Parliament to alter the name of a state after seeking the concerned legislature's views and the amendment will modify the First Schedule of the Constitution, which lists states and union territories.

The Ministry of Health and Family Welfare launched a nationwide Human Papillomavirus (HPV) vaccination programme targeting 14-year-old girls. The voluntary vaccine will be provided to reduce cervical cancer in India. Cervical cancer remains the second most common cancer among Indian women, causing nearly 80,000 new cases and over 42,000 deaths annually.

Palaeontologists have discovered a new dinosaur species, *Spinosaurus mirabilis*, at the Jenguebi site in Niger in the Sahara Desert, dating back around 95 million years to the Cretaceous Period. Measuring nearly 12 metres long and weighing up to seven tonnes, it was a top predator of ancient river systems.

The United Arab Emirates has launched two pioneering gene therapy programmes led by Emirates Health Services with one initiative focusing on genetic mutations linked to autism and epilepsy, and the second project targeting rare neurodegenerative disorders using gene repair strategies, biomarker research, and AI-based genomic analysis.

Harmanpreet Kaur created history on 20 February 2026 by becoming the most-capped player in Women's International Cricket during the second T20I against Australia in Canberra. With her 356th international appearance, she surpassed New Zealand legend Suzie Bates (355).

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh inaugurated the 13th edition of Exercise MILAN-2026 at Visakhapatnam, Andhra Pradesh, marking one of the world's largest multilateral naval exercises. The 2026 edition, with participation from 74 nations, is the most inclusive in its history.

PhonePe has introduced an AI-powered natural language search feature built on Microsoft Foundry, enabling users to make payments, recharges and track transactions through voice or text commands. Menu-based navigation has shifted to intent-driven, conversational interactions.



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