

## International

### 98th Academy Awards winners.

The 98th Academy Awards, was held on March 15, 2026, at the Dolby Theatre in Los Angeles, USA.

Paul Thomas Anderson's "One Battle After Another," emerged as the biggest winner, securing six Oscars, including the prestigious Best Picture. Anderson also took home the award for Best Director

### Winners List includes

**Best Picture:** One Battle After Another

**Best Director:** Paul Thomas Anderson(One Battle After Another)

**Best Film Editing:** One Battle After Another

**Best Actor:** Michael B. Jordan (Sinners)

**Best Actress:** Jessie Buckley (Hamnet)

**Best supporting actress:** Amy Madigan – Weapons

**Best supporting actor:** Sean Penn - One Battle After Another

**Best original screenplay:** Sinners - Ryan Coogler

**Best cinematography:** Sinners - Autumn Durald Arkapaw

**Best International Feature Film:** Sentimental Value(Norway)

**Best Animated Feature:** KPop Demon Hunters

**Best Documentary Feature:** Mr. Nobody Against Putin

**Best Documentary Short Film:** All the Empty Rooms

**Best Original Song:** Golden (KPop Demon Hunters)

**Best Sound:** F1

**Best Original Score:** Ludwig Goransson(Sinners)

**Best Production Design:** Frankenstein

**Best visual effects:** Avatar: Fire and Ash

### US strikes Iranian military bases on Kharg Island.

The US military has hit Iranian military bases on Kharg Island, a small island located on the northern Persian Gulf. Kharg Island, a small rocky outcrop in the Persian Gulf off Iran's south-western coast, serves as the country's primary oil export terminal, handling roughly

90 per cent of its crude shipments. The facility has long been regarded as Iran's "oil lifeline" and a strategic chokepoint in global energy markets.

### José Antonio Kast sworn in as President of Chile.

The ultra-conservative José Antonio Kast was sworn in as the President of Chile. Kast won the presidency after defeating the candidate of the center-left coalition Unidad Por Chile, Jeannette Jara, in the second round. In his inauguration speech, Kast reiterated the two elements that won him the presidency: security and economic recovery.

## National

### ECI announces poll schedule for Assam, Keralam, Puducherry, Tamil Nadu and West Bengal

The Election Commission of India has announced that Assembly elections in Assam, Keralam, Puducherry and Tamil Nadu will be held in a single phase, while polling in West Bengal will take place in two phases. In Keralam, Assam and Puducherry, polls will be held in a single phase on April 9. Tamil Nadu will vote in a single phase on April 23. In West Bengal, polls will be held in two phases on April 23 and 29. Counting across all four states and Puducherry will be held on May 04.

Over 17 crore people are eligible to vote in the elections to these five assemblies covering 824 Constituencies. This includes over 6 crore voters in West Bengal, nearly 6 crore in Tamil Nadu, nearly three crore in Keralam, over two crore in Assam and over nine lakh in Puducherry.

### Tamil lyricist Vairamuthu named 2025 Jnanpith Award winner.

The 60th Jnanpith Award, India's highest literary honour, for the year 2025 will be conferred on distinguished Tamil poet, lyricist and writer R. Vairamuthu. He has been selected for the prestigious award in recognition of his outstanding contributions to Tamil literature, marked by creative depth and a distinctive poetic voice.

During his career, he has received several prestigious honours, including the National Film Award for Best Lyrics on seven occasions. He was also awarded the Padma Shri in 2003 and the Padma Bhushan in 2014 by the Government of India.

### **Two Indian vessels carrying LPG cross Strait of Hormuz safely.**

Two Indian-flagged vessels, Shivalik and Nanda Devi, have crossed the Strait of Hormuz safely early this morning. These vessels are carrying 92,700 metric tonnes of LPG & will arrive at Mundra and Kandla ports on the 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> of this month.

### **SC directs Centre to submit report on illegal constructions along Ganga.**

The Supreme Court of India has directed the Centre to submit a comprehensive report on illegal constructions along the banks and flood plains of the Ganga river and inform about the steps taken to remove encroachments. A bench comprising Justices JB Pardiwala and KV Viswanathan asked the Centre to place on record the steps taken so far for implementation and execution of the notification on rejuvenation, protection and management of the Ganga. The court also issued notices to several states in the Ganga basin and said the issue required a broader examination beyond individual cases.

## **Business and Economy**

### **RBI launches “Awareness Program on Digital Payments”.**

The Reserve Bank of India (RBI) has launched a pilot programme titled “Awareness Program on Digital Payments” to promote safe and widespread adoption of digital payments across the country. The pilot was conducted in Maharashtra in partnership with CSC e-Governance Services India Ltd. The sixth edition of Digital Payments Awareness Week (DPAW) was observed during March 9-13, 2026.

The program aims to conduct in-person awareness sessions for 10 lakh participants in rural and semi-urban areas. These sessions will be carried out by Village Level Entrepreneurs (VLEs).

The RBI also unveiled a multi-media awareness campaign titled “Thoda Dhyan Se”, encouraging users to remain alert and cautious while making online payments and transacting online.

### **Banks recorded higher credit and deposits growth in the fortnight to February 28.**

Bank credit grew 14.5% year-on-year at the fortnight ending February 28, 2026 while deposits grew at 11.9% rate, data from Reserve Bank of India showed. Bank credit had grown at 13.6% year-on-year at the fortnight ending February 15 while deposits growth was seen at 11.2%.

The scheduled commercial banks' deposits stood at Rs 251.90 lakh crore. About 87% of total deposits were fixed deposits.

Total bank credit stood at Rs 207.54 lakh crore.

### **India developing indigenous capability to detect unregistered virtual asset service providers: FATF report.**

India is working to create an indigenous Virtual Asset Lab for detection of unregistered, high-risk offshore virtual asset service providers (oVASPs) by using analytics and web surveillance tools. A Financial Action Task Force (FATF) report, titled 'Understanding and mitigating the risks of offshore virtual asset service providers', gave case studies of India and other countries on how oVASPs are being used for money laundering and supervision being done by the nations.

According to the FATF report, some jurisdictions have established structured cooperation with internet service providers, app-store operators and online platforms to disrupt unauthorised oVASPs activity.

### **Ferrari unveils ₹10.37 crore 849 Testarossa at first Indian national premiere.**

Ferrari hosted its first national premiere in India, presenting the 849 Testarossa at the Jio World Convention Centre in Mumbai's BKC. The introduction of the new supercar, which replaces the SF90 Stradale at the top of the Italian carmaker's range, carries a starting price of approximately ₹10.37 crore (ex-showroom).

## Sports

### Mercedes Antonelli wins maiden grand prix in China.

Kimi Antonelli became just the second teenager to win a Formula 1 race after dominating the Chinese Grand Prix ahead of Mercedes teammate George Russell and Lewis Hamilton, who made his maiden podium for Ferrari. Antonelli dominated most of the race to become the second youngest race-winner in F1 history at 19 years and 202 days - only Max Verstappen was younger at 18 years and 202 days.

### Swiss Open 2026 badminton: Supanida Katethong and Tanaka Yushi win singles titles.

Supanida Katethong and Tanaka Yushi have captured the women's and men's badminton singles titles, respectively, at the Swiss Open 2026 on 15 March. Thailand's Katethong upset the women's number one seed Putri Kusuma Wardani of Indonesia to win her first BWF World Tour title in two years.

In the men's singles final, Japan's Tanaka defeated Alwi Farhan to win his third BWF World Tour title and first since the U.S. Open in 2024.