

International

97th edition of the Academy Awards

Director Sean Baker's romantic comedy-drama "Anora" emerged as the ceremony's biggest winner, at the 97th edition of the Academy Awards in Los Angeles taking home five awards. "Anora" swept the Academy Awards, winning Best Picture, Best Director, Best Original Screenplay, Best Editing, and Best Actress. Emilia Pérez topped this year's nominations with 13 nods.

Adrien Brody won the Best Actor Oscar for "The Brutalist," while Mikey Madison won Best Actress for Anora. Zoe Saldña won her first Academy Award, taking home the Oscar for Best Supporting Actress for her role in Emilia Pérez.

Kieran Culkin received the Oscar for Best Supporting Actor for his performance in 'A Real Pain'.

Dune: Part Two, secured two major wins, earning the Oscars for Best Sound and Best Visual Effects. Paul Tazewell won the Oscar for Best Costume Design for "Wicked". The Oscar for Best Documentary Feature was awarded to No Other Land.

Sean Baker's Anora won Best Film Editing, Conclave received the award for Best Adapted Screenplay, and The Substance was recognized for Best Makeup and Hairstyling.

40% of the global population does not have access to education in a language they speak or understand.

As per the report compiled by UNESCO's Global Education Monitoring (GEM) team on the 25th anniversary of International Mother Language Day, nearly 40% of the global population does not have access to education in a language they speak or understand.

The team, in a report titled 'Languages matter: Global guidance on multilingual education', recommended the implementation of multilingual education policies and practices to nations to create educational systems that benefit all learners.

Abkhazia Presidential elections

As per official reports, Badra Gunba, a pro-Russian politician has been declared winner of

runoff presidential elections in the breakaway Georgian region of Abkhazia, amid tensions over Moscow's influence. Gunba won 54.73% of the vote in the second round, while opposition leader Adgur Ardzinba garnered 41.54%. Abkhazia is recognised by most of the world as Georgian territory but has been under de-facto Russian control since a brief 2008 war between Moscow and Tbilisi.

National

PM to chair meeting of National Board for Wildlife

On the occasion of World Wildlife Day, Prime Minister Narendra Modi will chair a meeting of the National Board for Wildlife (NBWL) at Sasan Gir in Junagadh district of Gujarat. The NBWL has 47 members, including the Chief of Army Staff, members from different states, representatives from NGOs working in this field, chief wildlife wardens, and secretaries from various states. This board works for the promotion of the conservation and development of wildlife and forests with the Prime Minister as its chairperson.

Workshop on sustainability and circularity in the dairy sector

Mr. Amit Shah, the Union Home and Cooperation Minister inaugurated the workshop on sustainability and circularity in the dairy sector in New Delhi. The workshop will focus on policies and initiatives of the Ministry of Cooperation and the Ministry of Animal Husbandry, Dairying, and Fisheries aimed at promoting sustainable dairy farming while ensuring economic growth with environmental responsibility.

Initiatives to promote healthier lifestyles

As per the Information and Broadcasting Ministry, the government has launched several initiatives, like Fit India Movement, POSHAN Abhiyaan, Eat Right India, and Khelo India to promote healthier lifestyles, better nutrition, and physical activity. These programs aim to encourage long-term behavioural change, ensuring a healthier future for all.

Business/Economy

Ajay Seth gets additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue

According to a Personnel Ministry order, Economic Affairs Secretary Ajay Seth was on March 1, 2025, given additional charge of the post of Secretary, Department of Revenue. The vacancy was necessitated following the appointment of Revenue Secretary Tuhin Kanta Pandey as the chairman of the Securities and Exchange Board of India (SEBI) on February 27.

Gross GST collections record a 9.1% increase in February

Gross GST collections rose by 9.1% to about ₹1.84 lakh crore in February, official data showed on March 1, 2025. As per the data, during February, mop up from Central GST stood at ₹35,204 crore, State GST at ₹43,704 crore, Integrated GST at ₹90,870 crore and compensation cess of ₹13,868 crore.

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenue includes a 10.2% jump in domestic revenues at ₹1.42 lakh crore and 5.4% rise in revenues from imports to Rs 41,702 crore during February.

Total refunds issued during February were ₹20,889 crore, a 17.3% increase over the year-ago period. Net GST collections during February 2025 grew 8.1% to about ₹1.63 lakh crore.

Gross and net GST revenues in February 2024 were ₹1.68 lakh crore and ₹1.50 lakh crore, respectively.

Women entrepreneurs comprise eight percent of the total seller base on GeM

Women entrepreneurs comprise eight percent of the total seller base at the Government e-Marketplace platform with over one crore 77 lakhs registered Udyam-verified women micro and small enterprises. These entrepreneurs have fulfilled a cumulative order value of over 46 thousand crore rupees.

According to the Ministry of Commerce and Industry, the platform's strategic initiatives, such as SWAYATT, Startup Runway 2.0, and Womaniya, have significantly contributed to the ease of doing business and enhanced participation in government procurement.

Paytm, RBL Bank partnership

India's leading payments and financial services company, Paytm, announced today a strategic partnership with RBL Bank to provide its Soundbox and card machines to the bank's merchant partners. Under this agreement, RBL Bank merchants will gain access to Paytm's technology infrastructure including real-time transaction monitoring and instant settlement through the Paytm for Business dashboard.

The payment solutions will support multiple payment methods including UPI, RuPay credit card on UPI, UPI Lite, debit and credit cards, along with EMI options.

Zen Technologies granted its third patent for the T-90 Tank Simulator

Zen Technologies Limited secured its third patent for the T-90 Tank Simulator, specifically for the Containerized Driving Simulator System (T-90 DS). The patent, filed in March 2022, will remain valid until March 2042. The T-90 DS is a high-fidelity portable training solution featuring a six-degree-of-freedom motion platform that replicates tank movements across various terrains.

Sports

India prevails over New Zealand

India beat New Zealand by 44 runs in the final Group A ODI encounter of the ICC Men's Champions Trophy at Dubai International Cricket Stadium. Chasing the target of 250 runs, Kiwis were all out for 205 runs in 45.3 overs. For New Zealand, Kane Williamson with 81 was the top scorer. For India, Varun Chakravathy scalped five wickets, and Shreyas Iyer, with 79 runs, was the top scorer. Varun Chakravathy was declared Player of the Match.

Brandon Holt wins the ninth edition of the ATP Challenger 125 tennis tournament.

Brandon Holt of the USA won his second ATP Challenger singles title of the season after beating Japan's Shintaro Mochizuki 6-3, 6-3 in the Bengaluru Open 2025 tennis tournament's singles final. The 26-year-old Holt became the first American winner in the Bengaluru Open history. This was the ninth edition of the ATP Challenger 125 tennis tournament.