

# THE JAZZBAAT

NO THEORY, NO FICTION, ONLY JAZBAAT OF BHARAT



## UPI, Cheetahs, Trade and Global South Partnership Dominate Landmark Visit

### High Magnitude Earthquake Shakes Delhi

SULAGNA HALDER

**New Delhi:** On Thursday, 9:04 am IST, a 4.4 magnitude earthquake occurred near Jhajjar, Haryana, with shaking felt in the vicinity of Delhi-NCR, the National Centre of Seismology (NCS) reported. Tremors were also strongly experienced in Noida, Ghaziabad, Gurugram and Faridabad, and parts of western Uttar Pradesh as well.

The earthquake that had a shallow depth of 10km caused intense shaking of the building and offices. People in the area reported the movement of such devices as computers and fans. In Gurugram, computers vibrated and alarm lights came on, and people in offices rushed out. An inhabitant in Noida reported that there were tremors that were strong enough to move fans and also led to evacuations.

Although there was an effect, law enforcers confirmed that there were no casualties or destruction of buildings.

..... Contd. to P3



Prime Minister Narendra Modi with President Dr. Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah of Namibia

### Tourism Reviving in Kashmir

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Jammu & Kashmir:** The dastardly terror attack of Pahalgam, which had resulted in the unfortunate death of 26 tourists, had been a very serious setback to the growing Kashmir tourism.

Terror had struck when Kashmir tourism was setting new records. It rattled the nation, and Kashmir poured onto the streets, condemning this heinous crime.

The world joined India in condemning Pakistan-sponsored criminal terrorism. Tourism and dependent sectors were the biggest losers. With consistent efforts of the Central and UT governments, tourism is reviving. On 9 July 2025, J&K CM Omar Abdullah emphasised the tourism sector's positive surge after the April 22

Pahalgam attack, with pilgrims arriving in large numbers for the Amarnath Yatra. CM Abdullah arrived in Kolkata for a tourism fair. Speaking to the media, he said, "Tourists are coming back to Kashmir in good numbers. Amarnath Yatra has also begun, and pilgrims have been coming in good numbers on both routes. I talked to some pilgrims, and they are all happy." "I have come to Kolkata to take part in the tourism fair because we want tourists from West Bengal to come to Jammu and Kashmir in good numbers," CM Abdullah said. Tourism stakeholders in Jammu and Kashmir are happy over the revival and hope it returns to its old glory soon.

### PM Modi Conferred Namibia's Top Civilian Honour

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Windhoek, Namibia:** In a historic moment for India-Africa relations, Prime Minister Narendra Modi was conferred with Namibia's highest civilian honour, the Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis, during his official visit to the southern African nation. A major step toward enhancing bilateral ties was taken when President Dr. Netumbo Nandi Ndaitwah presented the award at the State House in Windhoek.

In addition to being the first Indian prime minister to visit Namibia in 27 years, Modi was the first to receive the honor. Additionally, this was President Nandi Ndaitwah's first bilateral state visit since taking office in March 2025. She hailed the two nations' long standing friendship and commended Prime Minister Modi for his dedication to inclusive development and global leadership.

Accepting the honour with humility, Modi stated, "I dedicate this award to the 1.4 billion people of India. It symbolises our shared values, our friendship, and our common journey towards prosperity and peace."

During bilateral talks, the two leaders discussed a wide array of strategic and developmental areas including defence cooperation, maritime security, healthcare, agriculture, digital innovation, energy, and the supply of critical minerals such as uranium and cobalt, resources key to India's clean energy goals. Prime Minister Modi proposed Indian assistance in setting up manufacturing hubs in Namibia and shared India's expertise in drone technology for agricultural applications.

One of the most notable outcomes of the visit was Namibia becoming the first African nation

to adopt India's Unified Payments Interface (UPI) platform under a licensing agreement with the National Payments Corporation of India. Speaking in the Namibian Parliament, Modi said, "Soon, a Himba grandmother in the remotest village will be able to make digital payments with a single tap. This is the power of digital cooperation."

Addressing the Namibian lawmakers, Modi hailed the \$800 million trade volume between the two nations, while highlighting the untapped potential in sectors like fintech, infrastructure and education. "The 21st century belongs to those who can harness the power of partnerships," he said. Both countries also agreed to expedite talks on the India-Southern African Customs Union Preferential Trade Agreement (India-SACU PTA).

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### SC Urges ECI to Accept Aadhaar and Ration Card for Bihar Roll Revision

SULAGNA HALDER

**New Delhi:** The Supreme Court of India on 10 July called on the Election Commission of India (ECI) to consider Aadhaar, voter ID and ration cards as valid identity proofs during the Special Intensive Revision (SIR) of electoral rolls in Bihar. The court also observed that the timelines set by the ECI appeared "very short", given the complexity of the exercise ahead of the November 2025 assembly elections.

A bench comprising Justices Sudhanshu Dhulia and Joymalya Bagchi noted that the ECI's list of eleven acceptable documents, issued in its 24 June 2025 order, was illustrative and not exhaustive, and urged it to allow the three additional commonly held documents in the interest of justice.

During proceedings, Senior Advocate Gopal Sankaranarayanan, appearing for petitioners including the Association for Democratic Reforms (ADR) and RJD MP Manoj Jha. .... Contd. to P2

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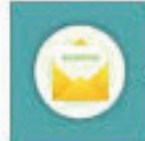
## Sada Kaam Bolda

...Aage Bhi Sada Kaam Hi Bolega

**Bhagwant Mann**  
Chief Minister, Punjab

Anti corruption Crusade  
200 arrests

Anti Gangster Task Force

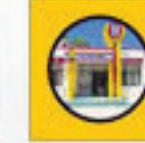


20000 new jobs,  
9000 regularized



Rs. 1 Crore Ex-gratia to martyrs' families

Zero electricity bill for 47 lac families



100 Aam Aadmi Clinics operationalised

Department of Information & Public Relations, Punjab



## NATIONAL

## India's Energy Vision Gets Global Spotlight at 9th OPEC Seminar

*Minister Hardeep Singh Puri Showcases Ambitious Roadmap in Vienna*

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**New Delhi:** At the 9th OPEC International Seminar in Vienna, Austria, Union Minister of Petroleum and Natural Gas Shri Hardeep Singh Puri presented India's bold vision for energy security, growth, and sustainability. Speaking to global leaders, industry experts, and professionals, the Minister described India as a "structural growth engine" of global oil markets and a stabilizing force amid market fluctuations.

In his keynote speech on 'Oil Markets: Energy Security, Growth & Prosperity', Shri Puri highlighted India's efforts to boost domestic hydrocarbon exploration and cut import reliance. "We've opened 2.5 lakh sq km under the Open Acreage Licensing Policy (OALP) Round-10 and are close to discovering a Guyana-scale oilfield in the Andaman Sea," he stated.

Under Prime Minister Narendra Modi's leadership, India aims to increase its total exploration acreage to 0.5 million sq km by 2025 and to 1 million sq km by 2030, which represents one of the most ambitious energy exploration programs in the world.

This initiative is supported by significant policy reforms. India has



shifted from the Production Sharing Contract system to a Revenue Sharing Model under the Hydrocarbon Exploration and Licensing Policy (HELP), promoting transparency and boosting investor confidence. The Ordinance for Oilfields (ORD Act, 1948) has also been changed to improve lease management and safety.

Notably, the government cut 'No-Go' zones by 99%, unlocking over 1 million sq km for new exploration. National programs like the National Seismic Programme, Andaman Off-shore Project, Mission Anveshan, and the Extended Continental Shelf

Survey are speeding up data collection and mapping of reserves.

Emphasizing India's growing energy demand, Shri Puri noted that the country is the world's third-largest energy consumer, with daily oil needs of 5.4 million barrels. India is set to account for nearly 25% of the global increase in energy demand in the coming years.

"India is not just a consumer; we are also driving innovation, stability, and sustainability in energy," he said.

The Minister outlined a strategy to address supply volatility and environmental sustainability. India has

diversified its crude import sources from 27 to 40 countries, increased domestic production, and is speeding up its shift to a gas-based economy. With plans to raise refining capacity to 310 million metric tonnes per annum (MMTPA) by 2028, India aims to become a global hub for refining and petrochemicals, with an industry size projected at US\$300 billion by 2030.

Despite global political tensions and rising fuel prices, Shri Puri stated that India has maintained energy affordability. "We may be the only major economy where fuel prices have decreased even as international prices have increased," he said. India seeks to achieve energy independence by 2047 and reach net-zero emissions by 2070.

The Minister also emphasized India's leadership in clean energy, particularly biofuels. He highlighted the Global Biofuels Alliance, launched during India's G20 Presidency, which includes over 29 countries and 14 international organizations. Domestically, India is promoting ethanol blending, compressed biogas (CBG), biodiesel, and sustainable aviation fuel (SAF).

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## Bihar Roll Division

.....Contd. from P 2

He highlighted that the ECI's exclusion of widely held documents such as Aadhaar and ration cards could result in mass disenfranchisement, particularly among marginalised groups. He said the ECI's cut off of the 2003 electoral roll, and the short deadline for proof submission, further exacerbated the issue.

The court emphasised that while it was not directing the ECI to automatically register voters on the basis of these documents, it should provide reasons if it chose to reject them. "If you have a good reason to discard Aadhaar, you do it. Give reasons," Justice Bagchi remarked.

Although the bench rejected interim relief such as a stay on the SIR process, it expressed concern over the accelerated schedule ahead of the Bihar elections due to the tight timelines for publication of draft and final rolls.

The court has listed the petitions for further hearing on 28 July and asked the ECI to file its response by 21 July. Until then, the SIR process will continue as planned, with the draft electoral roll expected to be published by 1 August.

Among the petitioners are the ADR, RJD's Manoj Jha, TMC MP Mahua Moitra, and activist Yogen-dra Yadav, who challenge the ECI's authority, the cut-off rules and the choice of acceptable documents under the Representation of the People Act and the Constitution.

The ECI began the SIR in late June, distributing enumeration forms across Bihar and conducting house-to-house verification via Booth Level Officers (BLOs) to identify voters not registered before 2003.

Petitioners caution that millions, especially those without access to the specified documents, like migrants, the poor, and marginalised communities, may be inadvertently excluded. "The documentation requirements, lack of due process and the short timeline make it highly likely that lakhs of genuine voters will be removed from the rolls," ADR warned.

The Supreme Court's intervention seeks a balance between the ECI's mandate to maintain accurate voter registers and the constitutional right to vote for all eligible citizens, amid logistical challenges and looming deadlines.



## Thiruvananthapuram MP blames Indira Gandhi for Emergency excesses, party leadership scrambles

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



**Thiruvananthapuram:** Tharoor's Emergency Article Puts Congress in the Spot. Shashi Tharoor has landed Congress in another embarrassing situation with his blunt criticism of the 1975 Emergency, directly holding Indira Gandhi and her son Sanjay Gandhi responsible for what he calls "unspeakable cruelty" during those 21 months.

The Thiruvananthapuram MP's article in Project Syndicate pulls no punches in describing the human rights violations under Emergency rule - forced sterilisations, brutal slum clearances, torture in custody, and extrajudicial killings. When Malayalam daily Deepika translated and published the piece on Thursday, it sent shockwaves through Kerala's Congress circles.

Kerala Opposition Leader V.D. Satheesan refused to take a position on Tharoor's explosive article when cornered by reporters in Kochi. "I have an opinion about it, which I

keep to myself," he said, clearly uncomfortable with the situation.

Satheesan's evasive response revealed the party's dilemma. Nobody wants to defend the Emergency's excesses, but criticising a Working Committee member publicly would worsen internal rifts. His solution: punt the issue to the All India Congress Committee.

Tharoor's article doesn't mince words about Sanjay Gandhi's role in the Emergency's worst abuses. He describes how forced vasectomy targeted the poor and rural communities, with "coercion and violence" used to meet government quotas. The slum demolitions in Delhi that left thousands homeless also get detailed treatment.

But Tharoor's sharpest barb targets his party colleagues. He writes that these atrocities were "later downplayed as unfortunate excesses" - a clear shot at Congress leaders who have spent decades avoiding uncomfortable truths about the Emergency.

refreshes the adversary with an open critique.

This isn't Tharoor's first recent controversy. Last month, he shared a survey showing himself as Kerala's most preferred chief ministerial candidate, upstaging current leaders. The timing couldn't have been worse, coming when state Congress was dealing with internal squabbles over leadership credit.

Earlier, Tharoor drew criticism for praising Modi's diplomatic moves, prompting Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge to take a dig at those who put "Modi first, country later." Tharoor's cryptic response about flying without permission only fueled speculation about his relationship with the high command.

The Emergency remains a poisoned field to Congress, particularly now that the BJP has begun to commemorate June 25 as a day of the Constitution Murder. As the party attempts to block the BJP's arguments concerning authoritarianism, Tharoor

refreshes the adversary with an open critique.

His article cautions against the concentration of power and suppressing critics, a topic that can easily be used against Congress based on the current political environment. The move comes at an especially awkward time as Kerala goes to the polls next year in local body elections and in 2026 in the assembly elections.

For now, Congress appears to be hoping this controversy dies down without forcing a public confrontation with Tharoor. But his pattern of provocative statements suggests more trouble ahead.

The party faces an impossible choice: defend the Emergency's legacy and look hypocritical, or acknowledge Tharoor's points and validate criticism of Indira Gandhi. Either way, the MP from Thiruvananthapuram has once again put his party in an uncomfortable position just when it needs unity most.

## India Records 4,000% Surge in Solar Capacity

*Piyush Goyal Calls for Energy Storage Revolution to Power Self-Reliant Future*

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**New Delhi :** India's renewable energy sector is experiencing a remarkable change. Union Minister of Commerce and Industry Shri Piyush Goyal, speaking at the 11th India Energy Storage Week (IESW) 2025 in New Delhi, announced that the country has seen an incredible 4,000 percent growth in its installed solar capacity over the last decade. With renewable energy capacity now at 227 GW, India is becoming a leader in the global clean energy movement. The Minister noted that India may soon be the first G20 nation to meet its Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement.

Emphasizing the local impact of clean energy, Shri Goyal mentioned Palli village in Jammu and Kashmir. This village has become India's first carbon-neutral panchayat by adopting solar power and energy efficiency measures. He also praised the sustainability model of the IESW venue,

Yashobhoomi Convention Centre, which includes rooftop solar installations, wastewater treatment, and efficient infrastructure.

The Minister discussed India's remarkable progress in manufacturing solar components. He stated that the country's solar photovoltaic module manufacturing capacity has grown 38 times, while solar cell capacity has increased 21-fold. Shri Goyal also highlighted the PM Surya Ghar Yojana, which plans to provide rooftop solar panels to one crore households nationwide, helping them become energy self-sufficient and reduce electricity bills. He added that the PM-KUSUM scheme is changing India's agriculture sector by promoting the use of solar-powered pumps.

While commending India's advances in renewable energy production, Shri Goyal emphasized that the next significant step must be in energy storage. He described technologies like batteries, pumped hydro,

geothermal storage, and even nuclear energy as crucial for providing a stable, continuous green energy supply.

The Minister pointed out that energy storage will be key to meeting India's increasing electricity demands while moving away from fossil fuels.

In a crucial policy announcement, Shri Goyal revealed that the Union Cabinet has approved a ₹1 lakh crore Research, Development and Innovation Fund. This fund, he explained, would enhance India's leadership in next-generation battery technologies, including solid-state and hybrid chemistries. Noting India's cost advantage, he said this fund could potentially attract R&D investments of ₹6-7 lakh crore, positioning India alongside global innovation leaders.

Shri Goyal outlined a clear strategy for advancing India's energy independence. He called for a strong effort in innovation focused on battery technologies and closed-

loop supply chains. He stressed the need to build solid infrastructure for electric mobility, including charging and battery swapping systems. T

he Minister also emphasized the importance of supply chain resilience to decrease reliance on specific regions and to localize manufacturing. He stated that the vision must encompass the full value chain—from raw materials and cell components to battery packs, semiconductors, management systems, and recycling at the end of life.

He urged stakeholders to take advantage of opportunities in the clean energy sector and expand operations to make India globally competitive. The Minister reaffirmed India's goal of reaching 500 GW of renewable energy capacity by 2030, noting that energy storage will be central to that effort. He echoed Prime Minister Narendra Modi's sentiment that ensuring energy security for all citizens is not only a priority but a na-

tional responsibility.

Congratulating the India Energy Alliance and other partners for organizing the 11th edition of India Energy Storage Week, Shri Goyal recognized their role in bringing together experts in clean energy, green hydrogen, electric mobility, and storage solutions.

He asserted that the future of energy depends on collaboration, innovation, and inclusivity, and that India is well-positioned to lead this transition.

India Energy Storage Week has become a key platform for dialogue, partnerships, skill development, and policy innovation. It connects industry leaders, researchers, policymakers, and stakeholders from around the world to shape the future of energy storage and clean technology. The 2025 edition focused on aligning technological progress and industrial goals with India's long-term climate and energy commitments.

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# SBSP State President Vivek Bali Holds Key Meeting with Dagarpura Team

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Srinagar:** Today, Suheldev Bhartiya Samaj Party (SBSP) Jammu & Kashmir State President Shri Vivek Bali held a significant meeting with the Dagarpura team to discuss urgent local issues and strategies for strengthening the party at the grassroots level.

During the meeting, the team raised serious concerns regarding the shortage of clean water and the lack of proper hospital facilities in the area. Shri Vivek Bali gave a patient hearing to the grievances and assured the team that he would raise these issues with the concerned government authorities for swift redressal. He reiterated the party's commitment to working for the well-being of the people and ensuring basic amenities are accessible to all.

The discussion also focused on strategies to strengthen the SBSP's

presence at the group level. Shri Vivek Bali emphasized the importance of grassroots organization, active community engagement, and coordinated efforts to build a strong and united party structure in the region.

Prominent leaders present at the meeting included Mudasir Nazir Dar, District President, Baramulla, Zumair Malik, Youth District President, Baramulla, Bashir Ahmed Najar, Lateef Ahmad Dar, Mohammad Ashraf Dar, Mohammad Ashraf Mir, Bashir Ahmed Mir & Ghulam Nabi Nagar.

The meeting reflects SBSP's dedication to both addressing people's issues and strengthening the party at the grassroots level for a stronger and more connected Jammu & Kashmir.

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## Omar Abdullah Likely To Meet Mamata At Bengal Secretariat On Thursday

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Kolkata:** Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to call on his West Bengal counterpart Mamata Banerjee at the eastern state's secretariat on July 10, a senior official said on Wednesday.

During the "courtesy meet", as described by the state bureaucrats, the two leaders will likely hold discussions on the strategies of the opposition for the upcoming monsoon session of Parliament.

"Jammu and Kashmir Chief Minister Omar Abdullah is likely to pay a visit to CM Mamata Banerjee on

Thursday. It is a courtesy meeting," the senior official said.

Incidentally, this would be the first meeting between the two CMs since the April 22 Pahalgam terror attack, in which 26 people were killed.



# REGIONAL

## Bengaluru Techie Murders Wife Over an Argument, Stuffs Body in a Suitcase

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Bengaluru:** The most appalling incident has come out of Bengaluru, where a 36-year-old tech professional is accused of murdering his wife and then trying to dispose of her body in a suitcase. Her name has been identified as Gouri Anil Sambrekar (32 years old), and her husband, Rakesh Rajendra Khedekar, is the accused. The couple was based in Maharashtra but had changed base to Doddakannahalli, in Hulimavu, Bengaluru, about a month before the tragedy.

The deadly fight ended in the late evening of 26 March 2025, as police sources reported. At around 7.30 pm, the couple came back after going on a walk, and they had some snacks and liquor like they always did. As revealed by Rakesh in his confession, the conflict started after Gouri started playing a Marathi song that they both did not like, and also played the air near him in order to mock him. This enraged his temper and whilst arguing, it is alleged that Gouri threw a kitchen knife on her husband.

In a twist of tragedy, Rakesh has been said to have picked up the knife and stabbed Gouri twice in the neck and once in the stomach around 8:45 to 9:00 pm. it has been reported that the injuries were inflicted by the same knife that led to her death at the scene.

It is said that Rakesh continued to stay in the flat all night, talking to the lifeless body of Gouri and at other times asking her questions about their differences and work-related frustrations. The previous night, Gouri had thrown out a suitcase in anticipation of a possible move back to Mumbai because of the failure to secure a job.

When he was sure that she was dead, Rakesh put her into the suitcase, but in the process of taking the case into the bathroom to drain the blood, an attempt that he made, the handle broke out. The suitcase was

finally left anywhere close to the bathroom outlet, and he then washed up the flat, only to get away in the direction of North at around 12:45 am, locking the door behind him.

Rakesh would later make an about 800km trip to Shirwal in Maharashtra. In the process, he supposedly ingested poison as a method of suicide. He was found in an unconscious state in the Satara district and later admitted to the hospital in Pune on 27 March 2025.

By following a call detail record, he was tracked by law enforcers after he had confessed to both the brother of Gouri and the landlord of the flat. By 2 April 2025, after having been stabilized enough to be transported, policemen of the Bengaluru Hulimavu unit contacted their Maharashtra counterparts and arrested him.

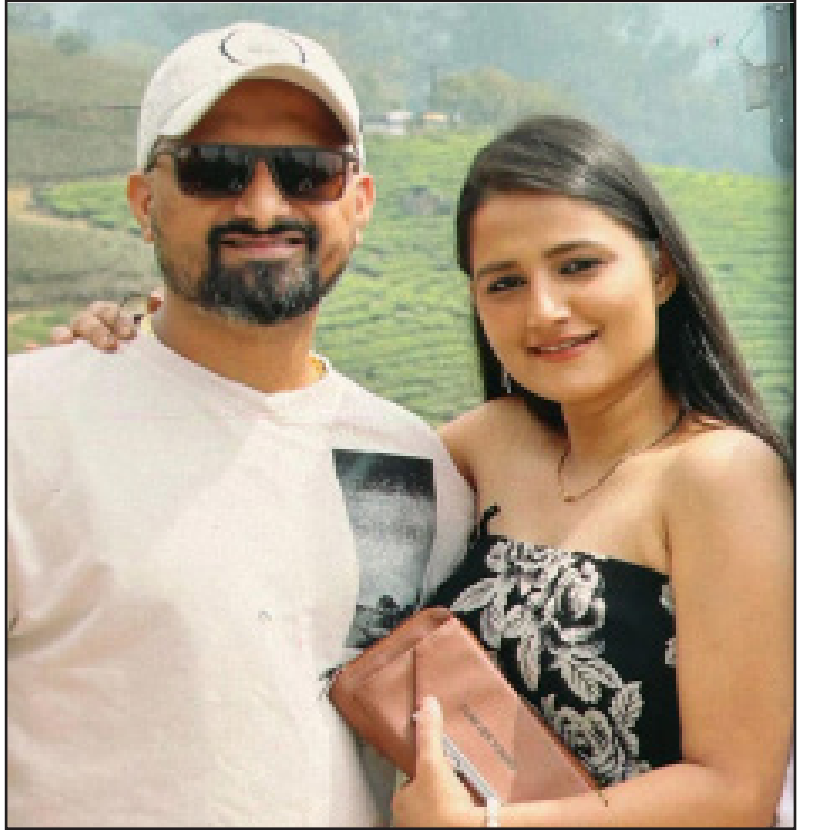
Deputy Commissioner of Police Sarah Fathima said that Gouri's body was found with several stab injuries in a suitcase in a still-intact condition. She added that officials are probing into the continuing domestic issues and financial strains that the couple seemed to have gone into that night.

In an interview, Rakesh is said to have argued that he was provoked into violence by constant offenses against his family. He has been quoted as saying that Gouri used to complain about my father, mother, and sister.

The case with the police is open. The serious doubts have been cast about the nature of their marital conflict, the unexpected loss of motivation by Gouri to continue working, and his presence of a weapon on the side of Rakesh. Investigators wait until after post-mortem, forensic reports in made final charges.

The grotesque ugliness of this case has shaken Bengaluru and highlighted the issue of domestic violence, mental health, and the closed tensions inside marriages.

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## Delhi-Earthquake

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Nevertheless, the quake resulted in massive panic where schools suspended classes, markets stalled, buildings emptied and the postponement of traffic in several roads with pedestrians flooding the streets.

Certain cases of spontaneous evacuation of the road were reported: commuters got out of their cars, and shopkeepers went outside to investigate the situation. Commercial establishments in the inner regions of Delhi went on short breaks when security measures automatically opened rush counters.

The location of the quake, based on the coordinates of the epicentre, which is 28.63 N, 76.68 E, is in line with the district of Jhajjar, therefore, indicating that the epicentre is located there. Authorities insisted that shallow-depth quakes may sound more explosive and cause strong tremors even at moderate magnitudes. This conforms to the position of Delhi in the Seismic Zone IV, which reports a medium to high seismic threat.

The Delhi Disaster Management Authority (DDMA), in the initial reaction, provided safety guidelines, as per the protocol of safety procedures, that is, in accordance with the drop, cover, and hold on, and also provided instructions to residents to keep emergency kits and remain prepared. The National Disaster

Response Force (NDRF) was sent along with local fire departments to inspect critical infrastructure such as schools, hospitals, or bridges.

There are no reports of aftershocks at the moment; however, the seismologists warn that such may be experienced, albeit of lower magnitudes. Historical registries demonstrate that the region is subjected to moderate quakes: In February, a 4.0 magnitude tremor was recorded in Delhi, with similar ones being observed in 2020.

New safety measures in the city are being reconsidered. Theoreticians, such as engineers and other structural experts, propose a long-term solution to retrofitting older buildings, strengthening adherence to the earthquake building requirements, and designing some drills in schools and office complexes to help.

There were no damages, but the quake on Thursday highlights the fact that the city of Delhi and the surrounding areas are vulnerable. The government has promised a transparent inquiry into the causes of the tremor and has prompted greater preparedness. They emphasised the investment in seismic-resistant infrastructures, large-scale education and training of the people about disaster response, and coordination improvement among the disaster management agencies, to prevent future risks in the known seismic hot spot.

## Gurgaon Hit by Torrential Rains, City Issues Work from Home Advisory

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Gurgaon:** After a severe night downpour, Gurgaon came to a halt and received 133 mm of rainfall in a span of 12 hours along with 103 mm in 90 mins between 7.30 pm to 9 pm on 9 July and therefore this event led to a Work From Home in the Gurgaon district administration advisory to the corporate and private offices on Thursday.

India Meteorological Department (IMD) has given an orange warning to the area of more wet weather. This specific classification of warning means a greater than normal probability of losses of vital amenities and an increase in the risks of flooding. The IMD also mentioned the north-

ward shift of the monsoon axis as the reason for the sudden deluge.

Sohna Road, Golf Course Extension Road, NH-8, Rajeev Chowk, and Sheetla Mata Road were some of the main traffic spots that got flooded early Thursday, and water was up to 3-4 feet in some sectors. One broken-down truck caused a three-hour traffic jam at Rajeev Chowk. Viewers on social media compared the floods to the "Venice vibes" and shared viral photos with the cars floating and ambulances sitting stranded.

Business commuters parked their cars, and the markets and buses stopped. Pedestrians hid under flyo-

vers or sheltered themselves in bus shelters.

This was further aggravated by waterlogging in low lying regions, particularly in the Delhi-Gurgaon border where a drainage cum footpath construction has long been in the offing but has never been completed, despite flooding several times during the monsoons in Kapashera.

In the name of easing the strain and to make sure citizens remained secure, District Commissioner Ajay Kumar asked corporate offices to encourage home working conditions and requested residents not to commute except when necessary. The busier junctions of Delhi-NCR were

also waterlogged, such as Noida, Ek Murti Chowk, and the Expressways of Ghaziabad.

Traffic police and civil agencies were to put pumps to clean up waterlogged streets, with the fire department and NDRF remaining on standby.

Despite the fact that there have been no reported injuries, they are keeping an eye out for the possible issues of electrocution, as well as intend to look at the weakened infrastructure in the future legally quoted in brackets.

Preparedness and weather outlook IMD also predicts that more rainfall will occur until Thursday, after

which the intensity will reduce on the 6th onwards. Experts reiterated that Gurgaon is in a waterlogging-prone region, and added that the city needs to put in place long-overdue drainage works as soon as possible.

As much as the city can be expecting some relief within the next two days, the orange alert and the WFH advisory in place today demonstrate that urban planning is still failing at large. At the moment, it is recommended to stay vigilant, do not travel, and listen to official recommendations. There is a need now to accelerate drainage plans by civic bodies in order to avoid another flooding of such magnitude.

## Surinder Singh Channi Chairs Congress Meeting in Kulgam,

DANISHWAR HAMEED

**Kulgam:** In a determined push to bolster party presence and mobilize support for key political goals, a crucial meeting of the Congress Party was chaired on Thursday by Surinder Singh Channi—Member AICC, Vice President JKPC, and District Coordinator—during his one-day visit to Kulgam district.

The meeting, held under the leadership of District Congress Committee Kulgam head Abdul Rashid Lone, witnessed the participation of senior party leaders, grassroots workers, and representatives of frontal organizations. Ex-MLA Devsar, Mohammad Amin Bhat, was also in attendance.

The primary agenda of the meeting was to strengthen the Congress Party at the grassroots level and to intensify the campaign for the restoration of statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

Addressing the gathering, Mr. Channi underscored the need for unity and stronger coordination among party cadres. He emphasized the importance of reconnecting with the public to reflect their aspirations and challenges more effectively.

The meeting concluded with a renewed commitment to grassroots mobilization and a unified call for the restoration of democratic rights and full statehood to Jammu and Kashmir.

## Brave Dog's Howls Save 60 Lives During Mandi Cloudburst

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Shimla :** A heroic dog's persistent barking averted a tragedy in Siyathi, a small village in Mandi district, Himachal Pradesh. Amid heavy monsoon rains, the faithful canine alerted residents just moments before a devastating landslide flattened the village. Between midnight and 1 am, the dog began barking and howling inconsolably while sleeping on the second floor of homeowner Narendra's house. Startled awake, Narendra investigated and discovered a large crack in a wall with water seeping through, precursors to imminent collapse. He promptly roused his family and neighbours. Thanks to the warning, 67 people from about 20 families fled to safety, leaving behind possessions, before the earth collapsed. Within minutes, a massive landslide struck Siyathi, reducing nearly a dozen homes to rubble. By morning, only four or five structures were visible beneath the debris. Survivors continue to shelter at the Naina Devi temple in nearby Triyambala village, nearly a week later, with many struggling with high blood pressure and psychological trauma. The incident is part of a wider disaster that has hit Himachal Pradesh since the monsoon began around 20 June. The State Disaster Management Authority (SDMA) reported 78 fatalities 50 from extreme weather events like cloudbursts and landslides, and 28 from accidents. Mandi is hardest hit, with 23 flash floods, 19 cloudbursts, and 16 landslides recorded. Over 280 roads statewide are damaged or blocked—156 in Mandi alone. Authorities have announced a ₹10,000 ex gratia payment per affected family and pledged immediate relief. Rescue operations continue in isolated hamlets, led by the NDRF, SDRF, and local volunteers.

Chief Minister Sukhvinder Singh Sukhu called the monsoon season "unprecedented," citing 8–10 cloudbursts in a single night. The IMD has issued a yellow alert for seven districts, forecasting continued heavy rains. Experts call this a reminder of nature's capriciousness and the human-animal bond. In high-altitude regions like Mandi, dogs often act as unwitting early-warning systems, sensing subtle shifts in earth or weather. While the dog's timely alert saved dozens, the destruction in Siyathi underlines the urgent need for improved early warning systems, climate-resilient infrastructure, and regular disaster preparedness drills in vulnerable areas. As the monsoon intensifies, authorities have called for heightened vigilance, continuous monitoring, and community-level training to forestall future calamities.





# A Tour of Diplomacy and Legacy – Decoding Prime Minister Modi’s Landmark Five-Nation Visit

Prime Minister Narendra Modi returned to New Delhi on Thursday morning, wrapping up a week-long diplomatic tour to five nations: Ghana, Trinidad and Tobago, Argentina, Brazil, and Namibia, from July 2 to 9. This visit covered three continents and reaffirmed India’s commitment to strengthening South-South cooperation while highlighting its global ambitions in a multipolar world. Modi’s arrival in Accra on July 2 marked the first visit by an Indian Prime Minister to Ghana in over three decades. He

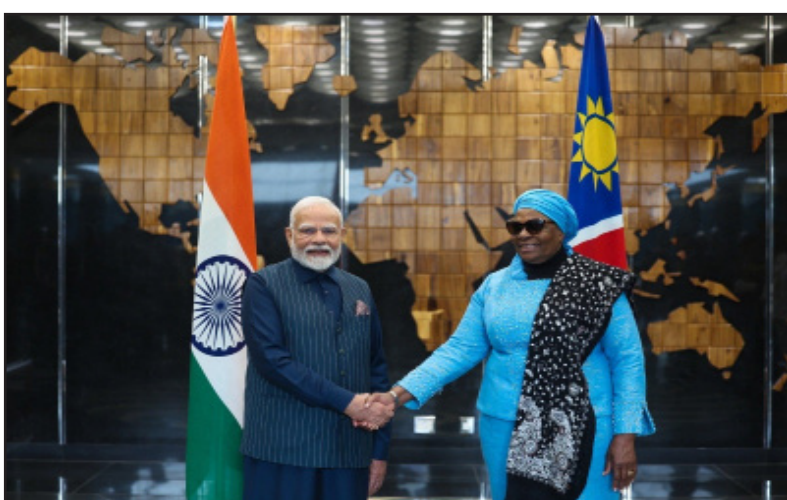
On July 3, Modi traveled to Trinidad and Tobago. This was his first visit to the Caribbean nation and the first by an Indian Prime Minister in 25 years. In Port of Spain, he held talks with Prime Minister Kamla Persad-Bissessar and addressed the Parliament. The visit, rich in cultural importance, also aimed to connect with the large Indian diaspora that has been there since the 19th century. A key announcement from Modi was that Overseas Citizenship of India (OCI) cards would now be issued to sixth-generation persons of Indian origin, reinforcing India’s

hope that their discussions would create “significant momentum” in their bilateral relationship. The Mayor of Buenos Aires, Jorge Macri, honored him with the symbolic Key to the City. Next, Modi went to Brazil to attend the 17th BRICS Summit in Rio de Janeiro from July 6 to 7. At the summit, hosted by Brazil, the Prime Minister advocated for an inclusive and rules-based global order. This trip wasn’t just about meetings and official statements. It was a personal journey for Prime Minister Modi, connecting India’s global ambitions

and warned against using natural resources as weapons. Modi’s visit to Brasilia felt like a warm reunion. His extensive talks with President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva focused on more than just trade or space. They were about two leaders imagining a future where their countries’ destinies are intertwined, building stronger connections between their people. When President Lula placed “The Grand Collar of the National Order of the Southern Cross” around Modi’s neck, it was clear that their friendship was growing and that Brazil respects India.

Next was Namibia, a truly special part of the journey. Picture stepping into a foreign Parliament and giving a speech that brings everyone to their feet in a rare standing ovation. That’s what happened for Modi in Namibia. It wasn’t just a political speech; it was a strong confirmation of the deep trust and friendship India has built in Africa. His talks with President Netumbo Nandi-Ndaitwah focused on shared goals in energy, conservation, education, and skill development. These discussions highlighted India’s role as a true friend invested in Africa’s future.

achievement; it shows how India, under his leadership, is genuinely connecting with regions often overlooked by traditional diplomacy. It highlights India’s growing influence and the real affection it receives. As the Prime Minister returns home, this journey will shape New Delhi’s vision for the Global South. The emphasis on critical minerals, connecting with the diaspora, securing energy, and strengthening defense goes beyond policy. It reflects India’s commitment to being a global player that is strong



with meaningful relationships. In Brazil, after the important BRICS summit where he urged countries to secure vital mineral supply chains



When Namibia awarded him its highest civilian honor, the “Order of the Most Ancient Welwitschia Mirabilis,” it represented more than a medal; it symbolized the goodwill India enjoys on the continent. Throughout this tour, Prime Minister Modi received four prestigious national awards. This isn’t just a diplomatic

yet collaborative. This diplomatic momentum isn’t just about building new ties; it’s about strengthening India’s role as a key partner in creating a more connected and harmonious world.

received a warm welcome from President John Mahama, and both leaders agreed to enhance bilateral relations by establishing a Comprehensive Partnership. They discussed cooperation in critical minerals, energy, maritime security, and defense. The Prime Minister highlighted the significant opportunities for working together, especially in areas crucial for both countries’ development goals. In a notable diplomatic gesture, President Mahama awarded Modi the “Officer of the Order of the Star of Ghana,” the highest civilian honor in Ghana, which Modi called a source of great pride.

emotional and cultural ties with its diaspora. During a ceremony at the President’s House, he received “The Order of the Republic of Trinidad and Tobago,” the highest civilian award from the island nation. The third stop was Argentina on July 4, where Modi met President Javier Milei in Buenos Aires. They reviewed the progress of existing partnerships and discussed opportunities in energy, mining, agriculture, defense, and trade. Argentina, with its rich lithium and other strategic resources, is becoming vital for India’s energy transition supply chains. Modi called the visit “productive” and expressed



# Guru Purnima 2025:Honouring the Eternal Bond Between Guru and Shishya

*Guru Purnima 2025: Date, Timings, Puja Rituals and Significance*

**SULAGNA HALDER**

This Thursday, 10 July 2025 in India, is celebrated as Guru Purnima, during which most of the people will stop and take some time to give consideration to the role that the guru plays in their life whether it be a spiritual master, a hometown teacher, a guide or that part of their lives that taught them something valuable. The day is not only a religious event, but deep cultural and spiritual embodiment of appreciation and thankfulness; it is a peculiar observation performed on the full moon of the Hindu month Ashadha.

Guru Purnima is a phenomena or festival that is attested as surrounded by tradition which is deep rooted in Hinduism, Buddhism and Jainism religion. Living in the fast paced world where education frequently amounts to the screen and online trends, Guru Purnima still serves an important reminder of the perennial value of true knowledge and connecting with other people.

In Sanskrit the word guru translates as the one who dispels darkness. Although commonly carriers of considerable meaning that are applied to spiritual teachers, it has reached a higher level of meaning which involves all those individuals through whom knowledge is learned and the direction is given. In India, Guru Purnima is celebrated in the Hindu faith as the birthday of Maharishi Veda Vyasa who is not only the creator of the Vedas, compiler of the Mahabharata but also codifier of many Puranas. He is known as being the Adi Guru or the first teacher.

Due to this connection, this day is also called Vyasa Purnima. Special ceremonies are observed temple, gurukuls and ashrams across India in the honour of Vyasa and in his many successors known as guru. Devotees sing

Guru Stotras and present the flowers, sweets and fruits and light the lamps as indications of spiritual awakening.

The day also marks the birth of the Gautama Buddha in the Buddhism religion because the day was when the Buddha delivered his first sermon at the deer park at Sarnath, after he had attained enlightenment. This sermon also referred to as Dhammacakkappavattana Sutta is regarded as the turning of the wheel of Dharma and the starting of the Buddhist monastic course. Therefore, Guru Purnima is very significant to the Buddhist monks and followers particularly in India, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

In case of Jains, the day is connected with the main disciple of Lord Mahavira, Gautam Swami his followers believe that he had achieved Keval Gyan (absolute knowledge) on that day. The similarity of all spiritual traditions and across sects is that a high value is placed on wisdom, direction, and ethical keenness.

The Guru Purnima festivities normally start with early morning purification of the believer and sacred place of worship. Disciples wear simple and conventional wears and offer puja at homes or through spiritual centres. The procedures include provision of the photo or other symbol of the guru in a clean platform, adorned with flowers and incense and offerings made by fruits and sweets. One group of disciples on the other hand fast the day, and pass the time in silence, prayer, or meditation.

The specialty of Guru Purnima lies in the fact that the celebration of gratitude is personalised. To others, it is an emotional dedication of a schoolteacher who altered the life track of a person. To other people it is a very spiritual event where one is to meet his

spiritual master and seeks blessings and strengthens the resolve to continue in the ways of truth.

Most of them also go to the internet to share their sentiments, especially through social media in the digital age. The hashtags such as #GuruPurnima2025 or #ThankYouGuru are trending on various platforms multiplying the photos, quotes, and soulful messages on behalf of mentors people have. The essence of the respect has been preserved although the medium has changed.

Guru Purnima is going to occur on Sunday, this is why every person can attend religious and cultural activities. Spiritual gatherings have become attractions in the cities such as Rishikesh, Haridwar, Varanasi and so on. Preparations are underway to organise mass meditations and satsangs in different parts of the country by the Art of Living foundation in Bengaluru and Isha foundation in Coimbatore; rituals and discourses would be conducted by Buddhist monasteries in Ladakh and Sikkim.

Events will be organised in schools and colleges in urban and rural India beforehand. This entails the greeting of retired teachers, cultural events run by students themselves and addresses about the importance of education and respect between them. Even in present day traditional Sanskrit institutes and gurukuls, guru dakshina the ancient system of exchanging something in lieu of acquisition of knowledge continues to be practiced symbolically.

Osho International Meditation Centre located in Pune is going to organise a silent meditation retreat to which seekers of all parts of the world will be invited. In the meanwhile, the Indira Gandhi National Centre for the Arts (IGNCA) in Delhi, is hosting a seminar on

Guru in Indian Philosophy around which scholars and spiritual heads of different traditions are converging.

More than the rites and the programmed festivities, Guru Purnima is a spiritual testing station, a point to stop and consider, and the question is Who is the guide and what has been directing me? It teaches contemplation, modesty and recognition that nobody can make any advancements, spiritual, academic or emotional, without being guided.

It is not so simply about prostrating one self to someone who wears saffron clothes, says Dr. Ritu Jha a literature professor in Kolkata. In my case, my grandmother was my guru who made me realise the worth of honesty through stories. It is a person in whom I honour on this day.”

Guru Purnima is a reminder in the world that is sometimes guided by competition, ego, and noise at times that there is the quiet radiant presence of the teacher, the one who walks with us and sometimes quietly assists us in seeing that which we cannot always see.

On 10 July 2025 there will be temples that will be illuminated, schools will have chants, and homes filled with gratitude songs. But then, even more than these words, the actual spirit of Guru Purnima is about continuing the teaching left by one guru in everyday life with respect, caring and insight.

India does not only celebrate tradition in Guru Purnima, but also a universal fact that no man is ever alone in his way to enlightenment, success or peace. At all times we have a guiding figure, visible or otherwise whose light shows the path.

## Monsoon Magic in Mukutmanipur: A Perfect Weekend Getaway Amidst Nature’s Serenity

**JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK**

Monsoon is not just about getting wet or muddy, but also a wonderful moment of nature’s rebirth. During this time, as the surrounding nature gets a new lease of life, our minds also find a little peace. And one of the few places in West Bengal that is perfect for visiting during the monsoon season to find this tranquility is Mukutmanipur in Bankura district. This tourist destination, located away from the hustle and bustle of the city and surrounded by nature, takes on a completely different look during the rainy season.

Mukutmanipur, situated at the confluence of the Kangsabati and Kumarjora rivers, becomes a veritable green paradise during the monsoons. The unique beauty is created by the combination of a huge reservoir, mountains, and dense green forests. This unique beauty is created by the combination of a huge reservoir, mountains, and dense green forests. Especially during the monsoon, when the water level of the Kangsabati River rises, it is a strange satisfaction to see the water flowing past the huge dam. One of the largest earthen dams in the country – Mukutmanipur Dam, which is about



11 km long, is submerged during the monsoon season, adding to its beauty. Walking over the dam, you can clearly see the play of clouds blending into the mountains in the distance.

Not only the natural scenery, but the surrounding areas of Mukutmanipur also have many places to visit. There is an open-air Jain temple on Pareshnath Hill, whose peaceful atmosphere and the green hills behind it calm the mind for a moment. There are also Sutan Forest, Jhilimili Jungle, and Bonpukuria Deer Park. During the monsoon, these forests are covered in dense

greenery, with the sounds of birds chirping and raindrops falling on the leaves, creating a unique experience.

Monsoon is indeed an ideal time to travel to Mukutmanipur, but it is important to take some precautions. Due to rain, the mountain roads and the area around the dam often become slippery. Therefore, it is advisable to carry good grip shoes and an umbrella or raincoat while trekking or roaming. Extra caution is also required while driving, as visibility is often reduced on mountain roads. The monsoon season is also relatively less crowded, creating a great

opportunity to enjoy nature in peace.

Mukutmanipur is not just a tourist destination, but a perfect opportunity to spend some time in the lap of nature. It is an ideal destination, especially for those who love the beauty of nature, walking along the mountain rivers and embankments on rainy days. If you want to forget the fatigue of mechanical life and take a breath of relief, come visit Mukutmanipur during this monsoon vacation. This trip will definitely touch your heart.

## Middle Class Drowning in Lifestyle Debt as 55% of Borrowing Goes Beyond Housing

Personal finance expert warns of troubling shifts as Indians increasingly borrow for spending, not assets. A quiet crisis is unfolding in India’s middle class. More and more people are taking on debt not to buy homes or invest in their future, but to fund their present. Personal finance expert Pranjal Kamra recently sounded the alarm, warning that household borrowing in India is drifting away from asset creation and toward consumption. “Our parents borrowed to build assets. Today, most people borrow to fuel instant gratification,” he wrote in a widely shared LinkedIn post. The numbers back up his concern. In 2023, the average household borrower carried ₹3.9 lakh in debt. By March 2025, that jumped to ₹4.8 lakh—a 23% increase in just two years. But more telling is how that money is being used. Only 29% of household debt today goes toward housing. The rest—55%—is tied up in credit card bills, personal loans, and car financing. It’s a significant shift from how

Indian families traditionally approached borrowing. Credit card expenditure has soared over the past decade. Overall credit card spends were ₹1.2 lakh crore in 2011. This year, they’ve jumped to ₹15.6 lakh crore. Cards in circulation have also ballooned to over 10.8 crore. Lending patterns reflect this change. Before the pandemic, credit card debt grew at 12.1% annually. Now it’s rising by 21%. Personal loans, once slower, are now growing at 18.2% annually, up from 15.1%. Meanwhile, home loan growth has slowed from 19% to 15.5% since the pandemic. The Reserve Bank of India has issued repeated warnings about rising unsecured lending, especially credit card and personal loan debt. The concern goes beyond individual defaults—it’s about broader economic ripple effects. The trend is clear: more borrowing for consumption, less for future security. And as the numbers continue to rise, so will the debate.

## Forget the Booze, Bring the Brews: India’s Coffee Rave Revolution

**JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK**

India’s newest party scene kicks off not at midnight, but at sunrise. Welcome to the world of coffee raves: high-energy, alcohol-free dance parties fueled by caffeine, good vibes, and Afro-house beats. What started as an underground phenomenon among the cities of Europe, Amsterdam and London, among others, is now trickling down to the fast pulse of India. Whether you are in the creative districts of Bengaluru or the cool cafes of Mumbai, coffee raves are the new way to satisfy the need to party with a purpose, and the new generation seems to make it the alternative to a good party in town.

### What Exactly Is a Coffee Rave?

A coffee rave is a daytime dance gathering that swaps liquor for lattes and strobe lights for natural sunlight. Picture this: grooving to soulful house music or lo-fi beats inside a sun-drenched café, sipping on speciality cold brews or matcha shots—no hangover, no judgment.

These events typically kick off early, sometimes as early as 7 AM, and create a space where people come together for movement, connection, and community, all while staying completely sober.

While India’s nightlife has long revolved around clubs and cocktails, Gen-Z and young millennials are reshaping that culture. This new wave is all about mindfulness, mental health, and meaningful connections, and coffee raves tick every box. Unlike traditional parties that can often feel chaotic or exclusive, these sober raves prioritise inclusivity, creative self-expression, and community spirit, making even introverts feel at home.

The music at a coffee rave isn’t designed to blow the roof off; it’s designed to lift spirits. DJs tailor their sets to chill, soulful vibes: think Afro-house, downtempo electronic, and sun-soaked grooves that complement your morning cortado rather than compete with it.

Bengaluru, with its thriving café culture and young tech workforce, has emerged as the heartland of the coffee rave trend. Venues like The Window Seat and Bangalore Creative Circus have already hosted multiple morning raves, drawing 100+ attendees for each event since late 2024.

Mumbai, India’s fast-paced entertainment capital, is also leaning in hard. Events like The Haus Coffee Rave, organised by Daud Run Club, have transformed early mornings into electric experiences with packed dance floors and curated brews. While the buzz started in Bengaluru and Mumbai, cities like Delhi, Surat, Indore,

Lucknow, Hyderabad, Nagpur, and even Chennai are catching the wave. Cafe Manana in Chennai recently hosted its first coffee rave, with DJ Kavin spinning Afro-beats to a curious and captivated crowd.

Organisers in Chennai now plan to make these events a monthly affair, reflecting the growing demand for conscious clubbing across India. Coffee raves tap into something deeper: a wellness-first mindset. They’re not just about dancing, they’re about starting your day with joy, purpose, and community.

The events cut across generations and social groups, creating a welcoming, sober space that celebrates diversity and togetherness. From university students to creative professionals, everyone’s welcome, no dress code, no judgment, just good music and great coffee.

Expect this movement to go mainstream. More cafés are planning to host monthly coffee raves, and DJs are curating daytime-

specific playlists just for these events. On Instagram and Reels, videos of early-morning ravers in flowy outfits sipping flat whites are already going viral. Brands are taking notice, too. With wellness culture on the rise, coffee raves could become the new co-branded lifestyle experience, complete with artisanal drinks, fitness pop-ups, and live art installations. In India’s busiest cities, a new generation is saying yes, and doing it with a reusable coffee cup in hand.





# Is Pakistan Heading Toward Another Military Rule?

*Speculation Rises Over General Asim Munir Becoming President*

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Pakistan :** Currently, Pakistan has once again entered a new chapter of deep political uncertainty and military shadow. Speculation has begun about the country's military chief, General Asim Munir - is there a plan to install him as president? Reports in domestic and international media are raising this possibility. Some say this could be the beginning of another 'soft coup' in Pakistan, in which the military is once again directly entering the country's executive power.

Recently, General Munir was given the title of "Field Marshal" of Pakistan. This has happened for the second time in the history of Pakistan. The first time this honor was given to General Ayub Khan, who later became the country's president and initiated military rule.

That's why, many people believe that giving this honor to Munir is actually a 'signal' in the political context, indicating that he is not just the supreme leader of the military - but may be about to become the ultimate

power holder in Pakistan.

The tension between the 'elected government' and the 'invisible government' has been going on in Pakistan for a long time. Since the fall of Imran Khan's government, the military's interference in Pakistani politics has become more evident. Imran Khan is currently in jail, but his popularity is still strong among a large section of the country. In such a situation, Munir has become the only reliable pillar for the army and the current government, controlling everything from political decisions to administrative power. Now, it would not be surprising at all if the plan to make him president actually materializes.

According to various Pakistani newspapers, journalists, and political analysts, discussions are underway in General Munir's close circle to remove current President Asif Ali Zardari. Although there has been no official recognition of this, there has been a lot of information circulating on social media, based on which it is

being said that the position of president has actually become a part of military strategy.

This rumor is further strengthened when it is seen that a kind of shadow of the military has begun to fall on the courts and parliament of Pakistan. Economic crisis, domestic terrorism, tough fiscal decisions under IMF conditions, and tense relations with India - all of these factors are leading to growing concerns about democracy in Pakistan.

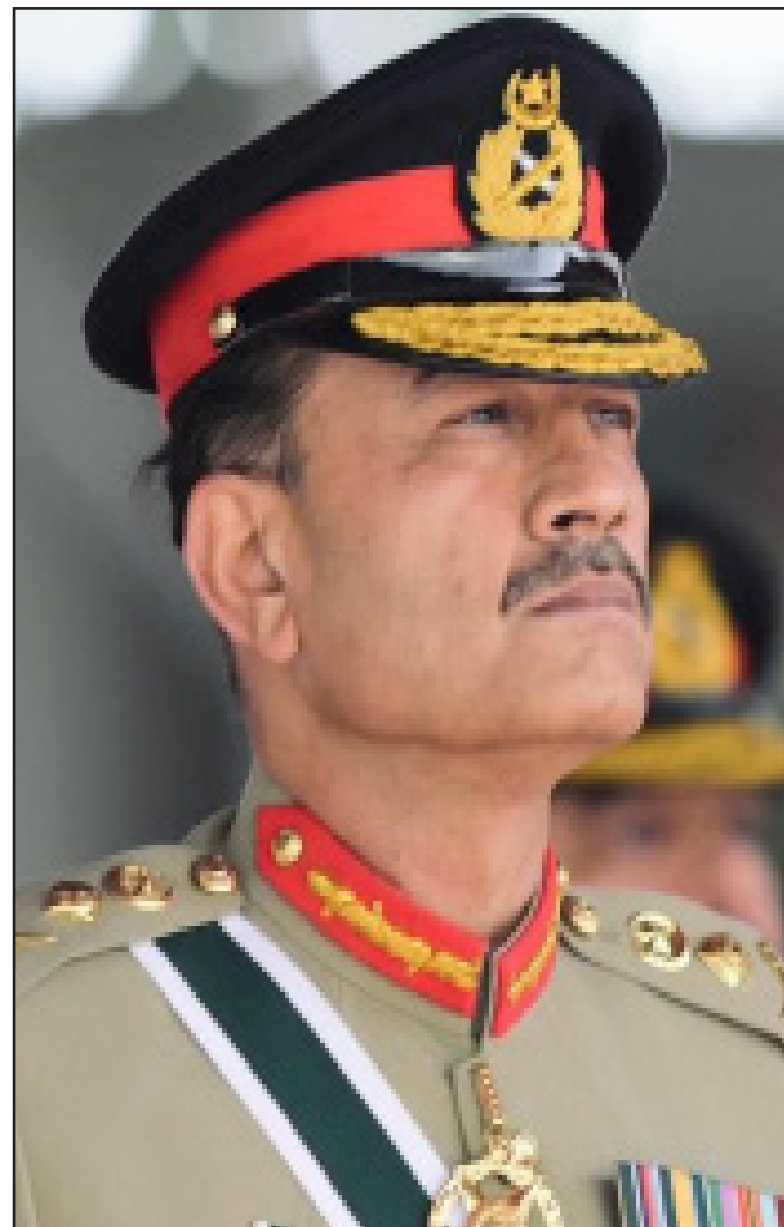
Many are questioning why General Munir was given such a rare military title, which had only been awarded once before. Analysts say the rank greatly expanded his power. Not only in the military sense, but now he has become an unwritten yet influential figure at the state level as well. If he is made president, many believe that the dividing line between democracy and military authority in Pakistan could be erased forever.

Although the government has stated that everything in the country is

being done in accordance with the constitution, many ordinary citizens, human rights organizations, and international observers fear that the military is about to take full political control in Pakistan in the near future. In such a context, if Asim Muni becomes president, he will effectively play the role of president, army chief, and political guardian.

Pakistan's history shows that the army has never been a mere security force; rather, its influence has repeatedly had the final say behind the scenes of politics. The rise of General Asim Munir and the speculation surrounding him becoming president in the current era is not just the story of the rise of one man, but rather it is a profound signal about the existence of democracy in Pakistan, constitutional values, and people's right to vote. The whole of South Asia is waiting to see how realistic this speculation becomes in the coming days and which way Pakistan moves.

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## Modi : Namibia

.....Contd. from P 1

Two Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) were signed, one on health and medicine, and the other on entrepreneurship development. India also committed support for Quick Impact Projects (QIPs) in areas such as women's empowerment, child welfare, cybersecurity, rural education, and skill development.

The visit also rekindled ecological collaboration. Modi thanked Namibia for its instrumental role in relocating cheetahs to India under Project Cheetah, and announced that the population at Kuno National Park had grown from 8 to 12.

In keeping with their shared dedication to biodiversity, he invited Namibia to join the International Big Cat Alliance. Both leaders denounced terrorism and colonial legacies that still influence global inequality, and President Nandi Ndaitwah joined Modi in reaffirming support for the Global South. Additionally, Modi thanked Namibia for its resounding denunciation of the terror attack in Pahal

gam earlier this year that killed a number of Indian security personnel.

Modi took part in playing local drums during a ceremonial welcome that featured traditional Namibian music and dance as the visit came to an end. He laid a wreath at Heroes' Acre, paying homage to Namibia's founding father, Dr. Sam Nujoma, and met members of the Indian diaspora in Windhoek.

President Nandi Ndaitwah hosted a grand banquet in his honour, where Prime Minister Modi extended a warm invitation for her to visit India at a mutually convenient time.

Before departing Namibia on 10 July, Modi described the visit as "a new chapter in India-Africa partnership." As he wrapped up his five nation tour, including Ghana, Trinidad & Tobago, Argentina, and Brazil, analysts noted that the Namibia leg stood out for its symbolism and substance, bringing India and Africa closer in pursuit of shared prosperity, security and technological advancement.

## Brazil Strikes Back Under Reciprocity Law After Trump's 50% Tariff Threat

SULAGNA HALDER

**Brazil :** Brazil has invoked its newly enacted Economic Reciprocity Law after US President Donald Trump announced a steep 50 percent tariff on all Brazilian imports, marking a significant escalation in a transcontinental trade dispute.

Trump, in a letter to President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva on 9 July, cited Brazil's ongoing prosecution of his political ally, former president Jair Bolsonaro, alleging the legal action to be a "witch hunt" and accusing Brazil of unfair trade and censorship of US tech firms.

He declared: "This trial should not be taking place. It is an international disgrace."

The tariff is scheduled to take effect on 1 August and is part of Trump's broader "Liberation Day" reciprocal tariff policy.

President Lula responded forcefully, stating on social media that Brazil "will not accept tutelage" and reaffirming the country's sover-

eign right to defend its judicial independence. He emphasised:

"Brazil is a sovereign nation with independent institutions and will not accept any form of tutelage."

Under the Economic Reciprocity Law, approved by Congress in April, Brazil is empowered to impose countermeasures, such as matching tariffs, restricting investments or suspending trade concessions, in proportion to the economic impact of foreign barriers.

Following Trump's announcement, the real slid nearly 2 percent, and Brazil's Bovespa stock index fell by around 1.3 percent. The government also summoned the US ambassador to seek clarification and returned Trump's letter, labelling it "offensive and inaccurate".

Trump has also accused Brazil's Supreme Court of censoring US social media platforms and initiated a Section 301 investigation into alleged digital restrictions. He re-



ferred to broader unfair practices and an alleged trade imbalance, though US officials confirmed a trade surplus with Brazil in recent years.

Political analysts warn that the 50 percent tariff risks intensifying global tensions. The dispute coincides with rising protectionist rhetoric within the BRICS alliance and Trump's earlier threats of tariffs against other BRICS nations.

Brazilian officials indicate they are weighing responses carefully.

While Brazil's Trade Reciprocity Law provides legal backing for proportional action, authorities emphasise diplomatic negotiation and possible recourse to the World Trade Organisation as preferred options.

The dispute, critics say, arrives at a precarious moment: vast trade volumes are at stake, almost \$50 billion in annual Brazilian exports to the US, including commodities such as orange juice, coffee and steel. Both economies now brace for a showdown in global trade diplomacy.

## US Introduces \$250 Security Deposit on Student, Tourist, and H-1B Visas Under New Enforcement Bill

SULAGNA HALDER

**Washington D.C. :** Millions of travelers and temporary employees will be affected by the United States' decision to require a \$250 Visa Integrity Fee for the majority of non immigrant visa categories, with only a few exceptions, such as student (F-1), tourist (B-1/B-2), work (H-1B), and exchange visitor (J-1). The new policy comes with a series of comprehensive immigration reforms, which were enacted under One Big Beautiful Bill, which was approved by the US Congress on 4 July 2025.

Being implemented as a security deposit in contrast to the conventional visa fee, this fee will become operative as early as 1 January 2026, as proclaimed in the official release made by US immigration authorities.

The \$250 fee will be taken upon issuance of the visa and is meant to deter overstays of visas, mainly so that the money is used to pursue enforcement activities. This is a deposit that is eligible for a refund. Overstaying the visa in the country comes at the expense of the government. This is a charge that is meant to recoup such ex-

penses, said Opal Lee, an immigration lawyer addressing the US media.

The bill states that the fee will be paid by nearly all applicants of non-immigrant visas, with the exception of diplomatic and official visas (types A and G). The fee will be pegged at an inflationary rate per annum, and the power to increase the fee will still lie with the Department of Homeland Security to issue regulations. Though the lawmakers in the US have sponsored the bill arguing that the action will enhance visa compliance and finance the guarding of the US borders, critics have raised the concern that it will burden the visitors who are not intending to violate the rules, and also the international students. Others are worried that it could deteriorate the US as a destination for higher education and a tourist place.

It might be particularly expensive to students who intend to study in the United States (a number of whom already have to pay high amounts of tuition and living expenses). Likewise, the firms using foreign skilled workers registered on the H-1B programme can also be pushed to

help or reimburse in this additional expenditure on their workers.

The lack of clarity on the process of getting a refund has also been an issue of concern, as criticized by its users. The legislation has yet to give specifics as to how the refund will be carried out, how evidence of departure or adherence will be required, and how long this process will be lengthy.

The statute is a component of a larger bundle that prescribes more Border Patrol and ICE personnel, the growth of immigration detention hubs, and a new border barrier undertaking. These are seen to enhance the security of a country and curb illegal immigration.

As the deadline closes in, consular officers and other providers of immigration services are expected to release comprehensive advice in the next few months to help applicants plan accordingly in navigating the new requirement. Prior to this, students, travellers, and visa holders have been feeling anxious since they need more clarification.

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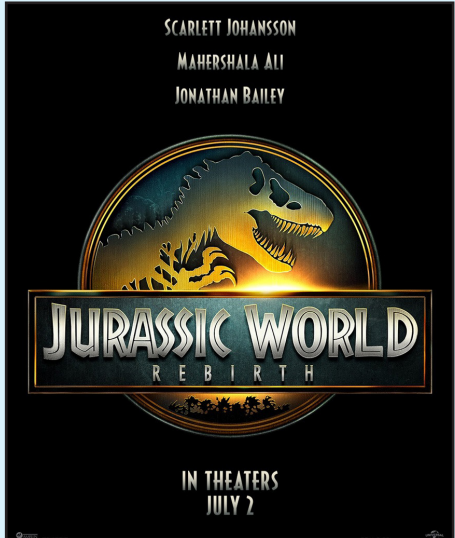
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## Jurassic World Rebirth Crushes Competition

Hits Rs 50 Crore in Just Six Days

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



Jurassic World Rebirth has emerged as a dominant force at the Indian box office, significantly outperforming local competition. The film has stomped its way to Rs 50.95 crore in just six days, leaving audiences mesmerised and competitors in the dust. While Jurassic World: Rebirth roared past the Rs 50-crore mark, Anurag Basu's Metro... In Dino is struggling with just Rs 24.44 crore in the same period. Despite recording its lowest single-day collection yet at Rs 3.25 crore on Wednesday, the film still managed to cross the prestigious milestone. What's particularly fascinating is the language-wise performance. While the Hindi version leads the charge, Tamil and Telugu dubbed versions are following closely behind. Industry watchers are keen to see if the Hindi dubbed version continues to outperform the original English version, a trend increasingly common with Hollywood blockbusters in India. The film's success puts it in exclusive company as only the second Hollywood release this year to cross Rs 50 crore in India, after Mission: Impossible - The Final Reckoning. Adding to its significance, Jurassic World Rebirth made history by becoming the first Hollywood film to have a Hindi premiere at Raj Mandir in Jaipur on July 3. Globally, this dinosaur adventure has

amassed USD 349.3 million, USD 174.5 million from America and USD 174.8 million internationally. The franchise connection runs deep in India, as Steven Spielberg's original Jurassic Park (1993) was among the first Hollywood films ever dubbed in Hindi. Scarlett Johansson has taken over lead duties from Chris Pratt, and the gamble has paid off spectacularly. Following the film's record-breaking \$318 million global opening weekend, Johansson achieved a historic milestone, becoming the highest-grossing lead actor in Hollywood history, surpassing Chris Pratt, Robert Downey Jr., Samuel L. Jackson, and Tom Hanks. Meanwhile, Metro... In Dino, despite carrying Anurag Basu's reputation, it couldn't capture moviegoers' imagination. The film's Wednesday collection of Rs 2.19 crore and its overall Hindi occupancy of 14.59 percent tell their own story. In contrast, Aamir Khan's Sitaare Zameen Par is holding steady with Rs 1.25 crore on its 20th day, bringing its total to Rs 153.25 crore. However, the celebration might be short-lived. James Gunn's Superman drops this Friday, and superhero films have historically performed exceptionally well in India. The DC reboot will test whether Jurassic World: Rebirth can maintain its grip on audiences.

## Celebrities booked by ED in online-betting-linked PMLA case

Vijay Deverakonda, Rana Daggubati, Prakash Raj among 29 actors, influencers, YouTubers

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

New Delhi: The Enforcement Directorate has launched a comprehensive money laundering investigation against 29 high-profile celebrities, including Telugu cinema stars Vijay Deverakonda and Rana Daggubati, for allegedly promoting illegal betting applications. The federal agency filed an Enforcement Case Information Report under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act following five separate FIRs registered across Andhra Pradesh and Telangana. The celebrities face serious accusations of violating the Public Gambling Act of 1867 through their promotional activities. The inquiry began with a complaint from 32-year-old entrepreneur PM Phanindra Sarma in March. He felt compelled to take action after an eye-opening discussion with young people in his community on March 16. During that conversation, he learned that celebrity endorsements were fueling gambling addiction among the youth. "Several young members of my community had been influenced to invest money in gambling platforms that were heavily promoted by social media influencers," Phanindra shared in his complaint. He revealed that these influencers were receiving substantial payments to endorse betting apps designed to entice users into gambling away their money. In a personal twist, Phanindra admitted he had considered investing in

one of these platforms himself but was saved by his family's warnings about the financial risks involved. This near-miss experience motivated him to take legal action. The case encompasses a who's who of Telugu entertainment. Beyond Deverakonda and Daggubati, the heavyweight of the entertainment sector, veteran actor Prakash Raj, Manchu Lakshmi, Nidhi Agarwal, Pranitha Subhash, and Ananya Nagella also found themselves under investigation for the same. The probe extends far beyond cinema, targeting popular TV personalities like Sreemukhi, digital influencers such as Harsha Sai, Shyamala, Varshini Sundarajan, and even YouTube channels like 'Local Boy Nani'. The charges hence are so serious that they have been lodged in a FIR under a wide spectrum of serious legal provisions including Sections 318(4) and 112 read with 49 of the Bharatiya Nyaya Sanhita (BNS), Sections 3, 3(A), and 4 of the Telangana Gaming Act and Section 66(D) of the Information Technology Act. The ED officials suspect that through such celebrity endorsements, money laundering on a huge scale took place. The platforms that are being questioned are Junglee Rummy, A23, JeetWin, Parimatch, and Lotus365 that the platforms concealed gambling business with role playing games being skill-based games. It has been financially crippling to

certain users. One of the users claimed he lost more than 3 crore INR, having been caught up in the advertising with big names, which makes the filthy effect of such celebrity endorsements on reality clear. Some of the accused celebrities have rushed to release a clarification.. Deverakonda maintains his contract was strictly for "skill-based games," which Supreme Court rulings have distinguished from gambling. Daggubati's team insists his involvement ended in 2017, while Prakash Raj revealed he didn't renew his 2016 contract and later objected when companies used his old promotional videos without permission. The case shows an emerging regulatory interest regarding the presence of stars and their tendencies in promoting.

The Special Investigation Team to address online betting has been announced by Telangana Chief Minister Revanth Reddy, which indicates that online betting is becoming a government priority. The celebrities are questioned in the following weeks. This landmark case may set some essential precedents concerning celebrity accountability in endorsing, especially in favour of those sites that confuse the boundary between ability and chance. To the digital generation who religiously follow these stars, it is a reminder that celebrity endorsements are not always what they are on the surface.



## Gunmen Open Fire at Kapil Sharma's Café in Canada; Khalistani

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



Surrey, Canada: A restaurant co-owned by Indian comedian and actor Kapil Sharma in Surrey, British Columbia, came under a targeted gun attack on Wednesday night. Unidentified assailants opened fire at Kap's Café, a newly launched eatery associated with Sharma and his wife Ginni Chatrath. Security footage shows at least nine rounds being fired at the property. No injuries were reported. The incident occurred around midnight local time and was captured on CCTV cameras. A car is seen pulling up in front of the café, from which two masked individuals emerged and began firing. What has alarmed officials and the Indian diaspora in Canada is the claim of responsibility made by fugitive Khalistani terrorist Harjeet Singh Laddi. Laddi, reportedly linked to the banned Babbar Khalsa International (BKI), is on India's National Investigation Agency (NIA) most-wanted list. In a video

that has surfaced online, Laddi stated that the attack was a response to past comments made by Kapil Sharma, which he claimed were offensive to the Sikh community. Intelligence sources indicate that he is currently based in Canada and continues to operate through local networks. Indian authorities are said to be closely monitoring the developments, especially in light of increasing concerns over the activities of pro-Khalistan elements operating from Canadian soil. Recent reports have highlighted how extremist figures have been using Canadian territory to coordinate or promote violent actions. Kapil Sharma has not yet issued a public statement regarding the attack. The café, which opened earlier this year, had quickly become popular among the local Indian community. The attack has sparked fears among Indian immigrants and restaurateurs in the region, with many demanding stronger action from Canadian authorities to rein in extremist elements that pose a threat to public safety and bilateral ties. Surrey Police issued a statement acknowledging the firing incident and appealed to the public for any information that could aid the investigation.

## Rajamouli Combines Epic Saga as a single theatrical experience

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



Director SS Rajamouli dropped a bombshell yesterday when he announced that his blockbuster Baahubali films are heading back to cinemas as one massive movie called "Baahubali: The Epic." The surprise announcement came exactly ten years after the first film hit screens and changed everything we thought we knew about Indian cinema. Rajamouli shared the news on Instagram with a new poster of Prabhas and a firm release date. "Baahubali...The beginning of many journeys. Countless memories. Endless inspiration. It's been 10 years," the director wrote. Marking this special milestone with #BaahubaliTheEpic, a two-part combined film. In theatres worldwide on October 31, 2025." Let's be honest, when Baahubali first came out in 2015, nobody expected what happened next. The film, along with its 2017 sequel, didn't just make money. It rewrote the rules. Before Baahubali, most regional Indian films stayed regional. Rajamouli changed that. His films starring Prabhas, Rana Daggubati, Anushka Shetty, and Tamannaah Bhatia proved that audiences everywhere were hungry for spectacular storytelling, regardless of the origi-

nal language. The director invented the modern pan-India film. Now, every major production tries to replicate his formula of massive budgets, multiple language releases, and sequel-worthy storytelling. Here's what makes this announcement even more significant. The first Baahubali made ₹650 crore worldwide, impressive by any standard. But Baahubali 2 exploded, collecting ₹1,788.06 crore globally. To put that in perspective, the sequel sits third on the all-time highest-grossing Indian films list. The new "Epic" version will stick to the original's multilingual approach - Telugu, Tamil, Malayalam, and Hindi are confirmed. Though fans are already asking why Kannada got

left out this time. Rajamouli's calling it a "two-part combined film," which suggests he's not just stitching the movies together. This sounds like a proper re-edit that treats the entire story as one continuous narrative. Given his perfectionist reputation, expect some surprises. Social media lit up after the announcement. "Baahubali raised the bar for TFI and Indian cinema," one fan wrote. "Ten glorious years of the masterpiece from #SSRajamouli." Others are calling it the "trim version," hoping for a tighter, more focused story. But fans aren't just excited about revisiting old material. Many are also pestering Rajamouli for updates on his next project, SSMB 29, which

reportedly stars Mahesh Babu, Priyanka Chopra, and Prithviraj Sukumaran. Here's something worth watching: Rajamouli has a habit of starting trends that others follow. He popularised the sequel format in Telugu cinema, normalised massive budgets, and made pan-India releases standard practice. If Baahubali: The Epic works, don't be surprised if other filmmakers start looking at their multi-part stories differently. With streaming taking over, many thought the magic of theatres was fading. But directors revisiting their work for special screenings show the big screen still has its charm. Rajamouli's movie suggests otherwise. He's betting that audiences still want that big-screen experience, especially for stories that deserve it. And given his track record, that's probably a safe bet. The October 31 release date gives the production team enough time to craft something special. For a director who's never been satisfied with "good enough," this anniversary project could end up being more than just a nostalgic cash grab.





# Shubman Gill Set for Dream Debut at Lord’s

India to go for 3rd Test against England, Kohli Likely to cheer from the stands

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



**London:** London’s historic Lord’s Cricket Ground is a sacred venue for the cricketing world. Known as the ‘Mecca’ of cricket, this ground is a place where there is much more emotion, honor and glory than just the bat-and-ball battle. Promising Indian cricketer Shubman Gill is set to play his first Test match at Lord’s. This debut is not just a match, but the beginning of a memorable chapter in Shubman’s career.

Shubman Gill’s cricketing career began at a very

young age. Hailing from a small village in Punjab, this young cricketer has been showing his unique talent with the bat since childhood. He made his international debut against New Zealand in 2019. Since then, he has proven himself in ODIs, T20Is, and Test cricket one after the other. He has proven himself in ODIs, T20s, and Tests. His batting is technical, daring, confident—a glimpse of modern cricket. Gill is steadily establishing himself as a promising cricketer and a

potential future leader.

The proudest stage of Test cricket, Lord’s, is special for all cricketers. Centurions here have their names engraved in gold outside the dressing room. Those who perform well become part of history. When Gill steps into Lord’s for the first time, there will be excitement and pressure. This debut is a proud moment not just for a batsman, but for the country. Former captain Virat Kohli may be on the field to encourage Gill. Though currently on break, sources

say he’ll be in London and likely present. With the series tied 1-1, the third Test is the decider. The Lord’s pitch is challenging. The ball swings early, the pitch bounces, and the weather can shift the game’s momentum. Gill’s performance will be crucial. A big score could lift team morale and influence the outcome. The Lord’s Test isn’t just another match in Gill’s life—it’s the start of a new journey. If India wins through his batting, it will mark a glorious chapter in his career.

## IPL Ticket Scam: Hyderabad Cricket Association President Jagan Mohan Rao in CID’s Net

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Hyderabad:** Hyderabad Cricket Association has been rocked by allegations of corruption in ticket distribution surrounding IPL matches. The Telangana Crime Investigation Department (CID) has arrested Jagan Mohan Rao. Not only he, but four other top HCA officials have been arrested. The investigating agency has registered a case against them on multiple charges of corruption, embezzlement, breach of trust, and fraud in ticket distribution.

It is learned that the scandal began around Sunrisers Hyderabad’s home matches in the 2025 IPL season. Allegedly, the Hyderabad Cricket Association demanded additional ‘complimentary tickets’ from the team. When SRH refused to accept this demand, the HCA authorities allegedly locked their corporate box and started putting pressure on them. Sunrisers Hyderabad claimed the matter as ‘blackmail’ and complained to the administration. Upon investigation, the CID found that several top officials of the organization had illegally manipulated tickets and committed financial irregularities.

Those arrested by the CID include HCA president Jagan Mohan Rao, treasurer C J Srinivas Rao, CEO Sunil Kante, general secretary Rajender Yadav, and his wife Kavita. Cases have been filed against them under multiple sections. The investigation even revealed that they were making a lot of money by selling complimentary tickets, which are usually reserved for guests, in various ways.

Former India captain and former president of the Hyderabad Cricket Association, Mohammad Azharuddin, has strongly reacted to this incident. He said in clear terms, “This corrupt administration cannot be allowed to continue. This board should be dissolved immediately, and a new organization should be formed.”

After this incident, big questions have been raised about the transparency of cricket administration in Hyderabad. On the one hand, as the IPL has become a game of popularity and money, on the other hand, this incident has made it clear how corruption is rearing its head behind it. Many cricket fans consider this incident a shame for the country’s cricket administration.

The CID believes that new information may come to light during the investigation. Now let’s see what impact this incident has at the administrative level and how the Hyderabad Cricket Association can restore its image.

# Luka Modrić Bids Emotional Farewell to Real Madrid After Illustrious 13-Year Reign

DIPANJAN MONDAL

**Madrid:** The final whistle at MetLife Stadium on Wednesday, marking Real Madrid’s 0-4 defeat to Paris Saint-Germain in the FIFA Club World Cup 2025 semifinal, signalled more than just an exit from the tournament. It marked the end of an era, as Luka Modrić, the Croatian maestro who had graced the Santiago Bernabéu for 13 unforgettable years, played his last competitive match in the iconic white shirt. After 597 appearances, 28 trophies, and 13 years, the 39-year-old Croat has played his last game for Real.

While the result was a bitter pill to swallow for the Madrid faithful, the overwhelming emotion of the night was a poignant farewell to a player who transcended the game. Modrić, at 39, had already announced his departure from the club a couple of months prior, with a verbal agreement to join Serie A giants AC Milan. His final tournament with Los Blancos culminated in a bittersweet exit, but his legacy remains firmly etched in the annals of football history.

Modrić started the semifinal on the bench, a testament to the evolving dynamics of his role in recent seasons. However, when he stepped onto the field in the 64th minute, with PSG already 3-0 up, a palpable roar erupted from the predominantly Real Madrid crowd. It was a moment of profound recognition, a collective embrace from fans who had witnessed his magic for over a decade. Despite the grim scoreline, Modrić’s final minutes showcased glimpses of the brilliance that defined his career—the effortless control, the incisive pass, the relentless drive.

His teammates and even the opposing PSG players acknowledged the moment, sharing emotional exchanges with the departing legend. Manager Xabi Alonso, who once shared the midfield with Modrić, praised him after the game, stating, “This is not the desired end, it’s a bitter end, but he won’t be remembered for today’s game but for other great ones. He’s a legend of world football and of Real Madrid.” Goalkeeper Thibaut Courtois echoed the sentiment, noting the void Modrić would leave. “Modric always gets a standing ovation, not only from the Madridistas. He’s a great player, a great teammate, and we’ll miss him.”

Modrić’s journey at Real Madrid began in 2012, and what followed was a period of unprecedented success. He departs as the most decorated player in the club’s history, with an astounding 28 trophies, including six UEFA Champions League titles, four La Liga championships, and four FIFA Club World Cups. The 2018 Ballon d’Or winner made 597 appearances for Real Madrid, scoring 43 goals and providing 95 assists, leaving an indelible mark with his artistry, resilience, and unwavering professionalism.

The emotional tributes poured in from all corners. Weeks prior, at his last game at the Santiago Bernabéu, he received a heartfelt send-off from teammates and fans, a moment captured in emotional scenes. Players like Vinicius Jr., Jude Bellingham, and even Kylian Mbappé shared their deep admiration and gratitude for his influence, both on and off the pitch. Cristiano Ronaldo, his former teammate, also paid tribute, reminiscing about their glorious years together.

As Modrić prepares for his new chapter with AC Milan, the words he shared previously resonate deeply: “The moment I never wanted to come has arrived, but it’s been a long and wonderful journey... The greatest trophy I’ve won is the love you’ve given me all these years.

There are no words to thank you for everything you’ve given me.”

Luka Modrić leaves Real Madrid not just as a legend, but as an icon whose humility, dedication, and unparalleled talent captivated hearts worldwide.

His departure marks the closing of a golden chapter, but his legacy will continue to inspire generations of footballers and fans alike. Hala Madrid, and thank you, Luka.



# RCB Star Player Joins KKR Ahead of IPL Season

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK



**Jammu & Kashmir :** Shah Rukh Khan’s Knight Riders have now bought the star cricketer from Virat Kohli’s Royal Challengers Bangalore. Yes, the Indian Premier League has been over for a long time! But even though the IPL is over, the news of player transfers has not stopped.

Now, following that lead, Shah Rukh’s franchise has bought the star cricketer of last year’s winning team Royal Challengers Bangalore. Who did the Knight Riders take into the team?

It is being said that Shah Rukh Khan’s team has bought the winning player from last year’s Indian Premier League-winning team, Royal Challengers Bangalore, ahead of the upcoming International League T20. According to reports, Abu Dhabi Knight Riders have already bought Kohli’s teammate and RCB star Liam Livingstone.

After investigating, it was learned that King Khan’s ADKR has made him a partner in the future, keeping in mind the player’s brilliant

performance for RCB last season. According to experts, Liam Livingstone has joined the Abu Dhabi Knight Riders, a team owned by Kolkata Knight Riders, with the upcoming T20 World Cup in mind. It is learnt that Livingstone wants to prove his skills in the International T20 League before the T20 World Cup. And that is why he has chosen Shah Rukh’s team ADKR.

In the 18th edition of the Indian Premier League, along with Liam Livingstone, one of the biggest stars of Royal Challengers Bangalore, another RCB star and Australian finisher, Tim David, recently left the David Girls Giants and signed for the Sharjah Warriors.

In addition to signing RCB star Liam Livingstone ahead of the 2025-26 season of the International League T20, ADKR has already retained Caribbean stars Sunil Narine, Andre Russell, Alishan Sharafu, Sri Lanka’s Charith Asalanka and Phil Salts. In addition, Sherfen Rutherford and Alex Hales were also signed.

## India to Face Sri Lanka in ODIs & T20Is as Bangladesh Tour Shelved

JAZZBAAT NEWS DESK

**Mumbai:** The Indian cricket team was scheduled to tour Bangladesh after completing its tour of England. Team India was scheduled to play a series of 3 ODI matches and 3 T20 international matches there, but now this series has been postponed. But now a big update has come to the fore. According to the information received in this regard, it has been revealed that Team India will also play a series of ODI and T20 international matches with another country.

Now the BCCI and the selection committee are in talks to play a bilateral series with a team in this free time and in that context that the name of Sri Lanka came to the fore. Sources said that the Board of Control for Cricket in India (BCCI) has already started preliminary talks with the Sri Lankan Cricket Board (SLC). The tour is planned to include three ODIs and three T20Is.

Not only India, but Sri Lanka too is well placed to host the series, as the Sri Lanka Premier League (LPL) is scheduled to be held at that time, but it is facing uncertainty. As a result, Sri Lankan cricketers will also be available for national duty at that time.

This potential series could take place between the last week of August and mid-September. Although there has been no official announcement from either the BCCI or the Sri Lankan board yet, sources say that both sides are keen on positive discussions on the matter.

It is worth noting that India and Sri Lanka last faced each other in 2024, where Sri Lanka won the ODI series and India won the T20 series. Keep-



ing that memory in mind, cricket fans are looking forward to another exciting series.

Also, if this series against Sri Lanka is implemented, then Virat Kohli and Rohit Sharma could be the biggest attractions for the Indian team. After a long time, these two veteran cricketers can be seen together on the field again. The presence of these two superstars in the Indian team’s batting lineup will not only boost the team’s confidence, but it will also be a special moment for the audience. Cricket fans have been waiting for a long time for Virat-Rohit to get back to their old rhythm. If this series against Sri Lanka really happens, then we can once again witness that magical batting partnership.

Even though the Bangladesh tour has been cancelled, Indian cricket fans have nothing to be disappointed about. On the contrary, the prospect of a competitive series against Sri Lanka is giving them renewed optimism. Rather, the prospect of a competitive series against Sri Lanka is giving them renewed optimism. Now all that is waiting is for the official announcement from the BCCI and the Sri Lankan board. Once that announcement comes, it will be clear where India’s cricket journey is headed next.