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Stunning performances thrill audiences at annual festival



Aman Ali Bangash with Ambra Chatterjee perform as part of the double bill

EE By Savitha Palanivel
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THE annual Darbar festival gives Indian classical music fans a feast of fabulous live performances. This dynamic double bill at Barbican Hall in London perhaps summed up everything that makes it such an important, vibrant and entertaining date in the calendar every year.

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Sarod maestro Amaan Ali Bangash, often seen on stage with his talented brother Ayaan Ali Bangash and legendary father Ustad Amjad Ali Khan, showed that he is a formidable solo performer. He began the show by playing an impressive repertoire of music that encompassed different moods and emotions. By enabling him to make his UK solo debut, Darbar gave a platform to an artist who will keep alive his impressive musical lineage, which has stretched for seven generations, for decades to come. Anubrata Chatterjee, accompanying on tabla, gave an already energetic performance added power with his mastery on stage.

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In the second half, legendary musician Dr L Subramaniam teamed up with his son Ambi Subramaniam for a world-class violin concert. Both showed absolute brilliance on the much-loved instrument, as they glided through different genres and styles with effortless ease. Accompanied by wonderful musicians, the duo used the violin to show how music can be a unifying force.

The performances, rooted in ancient tradition, not only united different generations, but also crossed cultures, as they enthralled a packed audience from diverse backgrounds. The stage was also filled with musicians at different stages of their respective journeys, ranging from current stars to future icons.

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All this perhaps sums up what Darbar is about. Those who missed the stunning series of concerts, including this one, can watch the performances on Sky Arts later this year. They are timeless and brilliant, like this near-perfect double bill, which took audiences on a memorable journey.



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Miss World 2025 Grand Finale in Hyderabad tonight with 108 contestants/ Instagram/missworld

Miss World 2025 grand finale to be held in Hyderabad with £800000 prize as Jacqueline Fernandez, Ishaan Khatter and Sonu Sood join the show

By Pooja Pillai May 31, 2025



After a month of travel, talent rounds, and cultural immersion across Telangana, the 72nd edition of *Miss World* comes to an end tonight with a grand finale at HITEC Exhibition Centre in Hyderabad. The event brings together 108 participants from around the globe, all aiming for the iconic blue crown.

The stage is set not just for a beauty contest, but a packed evening of performances, special appearances, and high-stakes competition. Hosted by *Miss World* 2016 Stephanie del Valle and Indian anchor Sachin Kumbhar, the event will also see Bollywood actors Jacqueline Fernandez and Ishaan Khatter perform *live*. [Keep Reading](#) →

Saif Ali Khan criticises Bollywood's grind culture for stealing family time/ Getty Images

Saif Ali Khan opens up on his idea of success as Bollywood's work hour debate takes centre stage

By Pooja Pillai May 31, 2025



While much of Bollywood still chases longer hours and larger deals, Saif Ali Khan is thinking about something far simpler: getting home in time to tuck his kids in.

At a recent media event in Dubai, the actor opened up about what success means to him today. It's not about box office numbers or prestige projects. It's about showing up for the small moments at home, especially with his young sons, Taimur and Jeh. "Coming back to find them asleep, that's not what I want," he admitted. "If I can catch even thirty minutes with them at the end of the day, that's worth more than a full day on set." [Keep Reading](#) →

Radiohead's Thom Yorke condemns Netanyahu and Hamas in statement on Gaza war/ Getty Images

Radiohead's Thom Yorke condemns Netanyahu and Hamas in statement on Gaza war

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Radiohead frontman Thom Yorke has spoken out about the war in Gaza for the first time, criticising both Israeli Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu and Hamas. In a detailed Instagram post published on Friday, Yorke also addressed the emotional toll of being pressured to comment on the conflict, which he said had impacted his mental health.

Yorke, known for keeping a low profile on political issues, said he had remained silent until now out of respect for victims of the ongoing war. However, he acknowledged that his lack of public comment had led some to interpret his silence as complicity. [Keep Reading →](#)

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Gervais delivers a cheeky speech filled with sarcasm and dark humour/ Getty Images

Ricky Gervais receives Walk of Fame star and jokes about Michael Jackson and Bill Cosby

By Pooja Pillai May 31, 2025



Ricky Gervais now has his own star on the Hollywood Walk of Fame, but it wouldn't be a Ricky moment without a few jabs that made the room a bit tense. Known for pushing buttons with his jokes, the 63-year-old comedian didn't hold back during his acceptance speech, which mixed dry humour with some edgy digs. Looking around at the star-studded pavement, he jokingly pointed out some controversial names, including Michael Jackson, Bill Cosby, and Fatty Arbuckle, all of whom have faced serious allegations. Gervais, with a smirk, seemed to be making a comment on how celebrity and scandal often go hand in hand, especially in a place like Hollywood. [Keep Reading →](#)

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Taylor Swift celebrates full control over the music that launched her career/ Getty Images

Taylor Swift finally regains full ownership of her first six albums after years-long battle

By Pooja Pillai May 31, 2025



After years of fighting for control over her early music, Taylor Swift has bought back the master recordings of her first six albums. The deal marks the end of a bitter chapter in her career and gives her full ownership of every song she's released since her teenage debut.

It all started in 2019 when Swift's old label, Big Machine, sold her original recordings to music executive Scooter Braun. At the time, Swift called it her "worst-case scenario," saying she wasn't even given the chance to buy them herself. Instead, she was offered a deal where she'd "earn" back one old album for every new one she made. She declined. Braun later sold the masters to Shamrock Capital for around £222 million (₹1,848 crore), and Swift decided to take matters into her own hands. [Keep Reading →](#)

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