

**PRIME MINISTER CALLS UPON CITIZENS TO WITNESS PIPRAHWA RELICS AT RAI PITHORA CULTURAL COMPLEX**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi will inaugurate the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics titled "The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One" at the Rai Pithora Cultural Complex, New Delhi, on 3rd January 2026 at 11 AM.

The Prime Minister today called upon all those passionate about culture and Buddhism to visit the Exposition and experience the sacred heritage of Piprahwa.

PM remarked that the Exposition brings together the Piprahwa relics repatriated after more than a century. It also brings the

Authentic relics and archaeological materials from Piprahwa preserved in the collections of the National Museum, New Delhi and the Indian Museum, Kolkata.

In separate posts on X, Shri Modi stated:

"Tomorrow, 3rd January, is a very special day for those passionate about history, culture and the ideals of Bhagwan Buddha.

At 11 AM, the Grand International Exposition of Sacred Piprahwa Relics related to Bhagwan Buddha, 'The Light & the Lotus: Relics of the Awakened One', will be inaugurated at Rai



Pithora Cultural Complex in Delhi.

This Exposition brings together:

The Piprahwa relics repatriated after more than a century.

Authentic relics and archaeological materials from Piprahwa that are preserved in the collections of the National Museum, New Delhi and the Indian Museum, Kolkata."



"This Exposition is in line with our commitment to further popularising the noble thoughts of Bhagwan Buddha. It is also an effort to further deepen the bond between our youth and our rich culture. I would also like to appreciate everyone who worked towards the repatriation of these relics."

**CM FLAGS OFF VAIKO'S SAMATHUVA MARCH IN TIRUCHI**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Chief Minister M.K. Stalin today flagged off the Samathuva (Equality) March led by MDMK general secretary Vaiko in Tiruchirappalli, calling for joint action by the State and Union governments to rescue youth from drug addiction and curb the spread of narcotics.

The march, launched to highlight demands including the prevention of caste and religious conflicts and the need to stop youth from falling into substance abuse, began at the Anna Nagar Uzhavar Sandhai grounds in Tennur, Tiruchirappalli. The march will conclude in Madurai on January 12.

Addressing the gathering, Stalin said the fight against drug abuse requires coordinated efforts at multiple levels, as

narcotics trafficking operates through large inter-State and international networks. He stressed that drug smuggling must be curbed effectively and urged the Union government to prevent the movement of narcotics across State borders. Referring to recent seizures of nearly one lakh narcotic tablets in districts such as Tiruvallur, Vellore and Ranipet, he noted that several accused were from other States and even foreign countries.

He appealed to parents, teachers, artists and social influencers to take collective responsibility in spreading awareness against drug abuse. He also urged the film industry not to glorify narcotics and called on creators to act with social responsibility. Monitoring

children's behaviour at home and guiding students away from addiction, he said, was essential to protecting the next generation.

Stalin described Vaiko as a leader who had spent decades walking across Tamil Nadu to raise people's issues, remarking that his energy made it hard to tell whether he was 82 or 28. He said marches such as these help leaders connect directly with people and ensure that social concerns are discussed widely, leading to solutions. He expressed confidence that the march, centred on drug eradication and social harmony, would succeed, while also advising Vaiko to take care of his health.

Vaiko, speaking at the event, said democratic values were under threat from "sanatanist forces" and asserted



that the DMK-led secular progressive alliance would secure a decisive victory in the upcoming Assembly election, surpassing its previous mandate. He raised slogans in support of Dravidian ideology and Tamil Nadu.

VCK leader Thol. Thirumavalavan, addressing the gathering, said the forthcoming election would be a contest between equality and sanatanam. He asserted that Dravidian ideology was not opposed to Tamil identity but was a force that protected the Tamil language and social justice.

**PM LAUDS AHMEDABAD FLOWER SHOW AS A CELEBRATION OF CREATIVITY, SUSTAINABILITY, AND COMMUNITY SPIRIT**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi commended the Ahmedabad Flower Show for its remarkable role in bringing together creativity, sustainability, and community participation. The event beautifully showcases the city's vibrant spirit and enduring love for nature.

Highlighting the significance of the show, the Prime Minister noted how it has grown in scale and imagination over the years, becoming a symbol of Ahmedabad's cultural richness and environmental consciousness.

Responding to post by Chief Minister of Gujarat on X, Shri Modi said:

"The Ahmedabad



Flower Show brings together creativity, sustainability and community participation, while beautifully showcasing the city's vibrant spirit and love for nature. It is also commendable how this flower show has grown in scale and imagination over the years."

**VICE-PRESIDENT ADDRESSES 34TH CONVOCATION OF DR. M.G.R. EDUCATIONAL AND RESEARCH INSTITUTE, CHENNAI**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today addressed the 34th Convocation Ceremony of Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, Chennai, as the Chief Guest.

Extending New Year greetings, the Vice-President congratulated the graduating students and said that convocation marks the beginning of a new phase of life with greater responsibilities and opportunities. He expressed confidence that the graduates would contribute positively to society through professional competence, compassion, and commitment.

Recalling Tamil Nadu's historic role as a centre of knowledge and maritime trade, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan said that merchants from these

shores carried India's ideas, ethics, and culture across the world, reflecting the nation's confident civilisational engagement and openness to learning and exchange.

Referring to the vision of Viksit Bharat@2047, as articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Vice-President said that achieving the goal requires the active participation of every citizen, particularly the youth, and called upon students to contribute meaningfully to nation-building. Emphasising rapid technological change, he said that Artificial Intelligence and emerging technologies are transforming all sectors and stressed the need for continuous learning. He urged students to upskill regularly, adopt a lifelong learning mindset, and engage



with new technologies, even beyond their core disciplines.

Highlighting the importance of value-based education, Shri C.P. Radhakrishnan said that academic excellence must be anchored in ethics, integrity, and social responsibility.

Advising students on life beyond the campus, the Vice-President said that success and failure are integral to life and urged them to face both with balance, resilience and mental strength. He advised against shortcuts and unhealthy comparisons, and encouraged

graduates to set clear goals, progress steadily, and recognise their unique strengths.

Concluding his address, the Vice-President called upon the graduates to lead lives of purpose and service, and to contribute to individual excellence and collective national progress.

The Minister for Health and Family Welfare, Government of Tamil Nadu, Shri Ma. Subramanian; the Chancellor of Dr. M.G.R. Educational and Research Institute, Dr. A. C. Shanmugam; and other dignitaries were present at the event.

**ISRO PLANS TWO VARIANTS OF SOORIYA ROCKET**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: The Indian space agency is planning to develop at least two versions of its next heavy-lift rocket, 'Soorya', currently referred to as the 'Next Generation Launch Vehicle (NGLV)'.

The Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) appears to be drawing from its experience with the Polar Satellite Launch Vehicle (PSLV), which flies in multiple configurations-ranging from a core-alone version without strap-on motors to variants equipped with strap-on motors that enhance the lift capability of the solid-fuel first stage.

According to a tender document, ISRO is planning two NGLV variants: a core-alone version without booster motors and a full configuration with two strap-on motors. Both variants are expected to stand about 105 metres tall with a diameter of 6.5 metres, though these dimensions could change once the specifications are finalised.

Over time, ISRO has steadily increased the proposed height of the rocket from an earlier estimate of 90 metres. It is reliably learnt that the configuration is currently under review by a committee constituted by ISRO Chairman Dr

V. Narayanan. The core design philosophy of the new rocket centres on modularity, along with recovery and reuse of the first stage.

The first two stages of the three-stage launch vehicle will be powered by clustered LOX-methane engines, while the third stage will be cryogenic. In its full configuration, the rocket is expected to have a lift-off mass of around 1,000 tonnes. The NGLV project is being developed at an estimated cost of about Rs. 8,240 crore (roughly \$915 million) and is designed to deliver a 30-tonne payload to low Earth orbit.

Sat launch on Jan 10

Meanwhile, the first mission of the New Year 2026 by the Indian Space Research Organisation (ISRO) is likely to take place on January 10 with the launch of EOS-01 imaging satellite along with 18 small payloads using the trusted workhorse PSLV-C62 from the spaceport of Sriharikota.

According to ISRO Spaceflight post on X, the Launch will take place from the First Launch Pad. It said "PSLV-C62 is now tentatively scheduled for launch on January 10".

"The EOS-N1 satellite, which is the payload for PSLV-C62 i.e., the return-to-flight mission for PSLV, has arrived at SHAR on Dec 26 and is expected to lift off on Jan 10," it said.

It will be closely followed by the launch of PSLV-N1, the first commercially built PSLV vehicle, in February, it said, adding, PSLV-N1 will carry the EOS-10 satellite and the India-Mauritius Joint Satellite (IMJS).

## LOCKS & ARCHITECTURAL SOLUTIONS BY GODREJ ENTERPRISES CONCLUDES 2025 WITH ROBUST GROWTH, DIGITAL INNOVATION, AND MARKET EXPANSION

Mumbai, 03 Jan 2026: Locks & Architectural Solutions, a business of the Godrej Group, continues to strengthen its leadership in home safety and architectural hardware, targeting revenues of ₹1,400 crore by FY26, up from approximately ₹1,250 crore in FY25, marking a growth of 12-14% year on year. The momentum is being driven by a strong shift towards digital and connected solutions, backed by sustained demand across residential, commercial, and emerging urban markets in India.

The business has witnessed steady performance across its diversified portfolio, with locks remaining the core segment while Architectural Solutions emerges as a fast-growing vertical aligned with premium interiors and modern infrastructure needs. Digital locks remain the fastest-growing category, recording around 30% annual growth, significantly outperforming traditional mechanical locks. This growth reflects increasing consumer preference for smart, keyless, and connected security solutions that combine convenience with enhanced safety.

Godrej's product portfolio spans a comprehensive range

of mechanical locks such as padlocks, rim locks, deadbolts, cylindrical locks, shutter locks, and pentabolts, alongside an expanding digital and connected locks range. The company's digital offerings include the Neo Digital Locks range, priced from ₹8,999, onwards designed to make smart security accessible to a wider audience. These locks offer multi-mode access including PIN, biometric, RFID, mobile app control, and mechanical key override, along with features such as anti-theft alarms, auto-locking, emergency power backup, and IoT-enabled Wi-Fi and Bluetooth connectivity. The premium GSD1 further enhances the portfolio with advanced seven-in-one access, cloud integration, and remote monitoring, catering to consumers seeking high-end connected security.

E-commerce and quick commerce channels are playing an increasingly important role in the brand's growth journey. Currently contributing approximately 3.5-4% of total revenue, these channels are expected to scale rapidly and reach 11-12% contribution by FY28. Godrej Locks now services customers across over 13,000 PIN codes,



reinforcing its strong omnichannel presence and ability to reach consumers beyond metros, particularly in Tier 2 and Tier 3 cities.

In line with its longstanding commitment to safety awareness, Godrej continues to strengthen its flagship Har Ghar Surakshit platform, now in its ninth year. Under the 2025 edition, the brand launched the "Accidental Invitation" initiative, which extends the concept of home safety to the digital world. The initiative highlights how oversharing on social media can unintentionally expose individuals to security risks. Central to the campaign is the Accidental Invitation App, a first-of-its-kind digital tool that evaluates users' online behaviour and generates a personalised Accidental Invitation Score, encouraging mindful digital habits as part of holistic home safety.

The Har Ghar Surakshit programme has conducted over 170,000 home safety check-ups to date, with more than 21,000

completed in the current year alone, strengthening consumer education and community engagement across the country. The campaign is supported by a series of impactful films that depict everyday digital oversharing scenarios, reinforcing the relevance of digital mindfulness in today's connected world.

Commenting on the performance, Shyam Motwani, Business Head, Locks & Architectural Solutions, Godrej Enterprises Group, noted that 2025 has been a year of focused innovation, digital transformation, and strategic expansion. He emphasised that the company's growth is being driven by trust, relevance, and the ability to make smart security solutions accessible to Indian households across geographies. With strong momentum in digital locks, expanding online channels, and deeper penetration into emerging markets, the business is well positioned for sustained growth in the coming years.

focus areas, with six airbags standardized across multiple models, and the Innova Hycross achieving a 5-star Bharat NCAP rating. Enhancements such as the 6-speed automatic transmission and electronic parking brake further elevated the driving experience. The expansion of Toyota Used Car Outlets (TUCO) and value-added services like T CARE and T GLOSS also contributed to improved customer confidence and ownership satisfaction.

Toyota strengthened its brand connect through innovative initiatives including the Drum Tao India tour, the launch of the Toyota Experiential Museum (TEM), and participation in leading anime conventions, engaging

younger audiences across the country.

Commenting on the performance, Mr. Varinder Wadhwa, Vice President - Sales, Service, Used Car Business and Profit Enhancement, said that 2025 marked a meaningful year of growth driven by customer trust, strategic product actions, and government reforms. He reaffirmed Toyota's commitment to decarbonization through its multi-pathway approach and its long-term vision for India. As the company enters 2026, Toyota aims to further strengthen its product portfolio, enhance customer experiences, and continue engaging India's youth, reinforcing its position as one of the most admired automotive brands in the country.

## ICICI BANK LAUNCHES CAPITAL GAINS ACCOUNT SCHEME

Mumbai, 03 Jan 2026: ICICI Bank today announced the launch of the Capital Gains Account Scheme (CGAS), enabling customers to deposit un-invested long term capital gains or sale proceeds from the sale of specified capital assets\*.

This facility allows them to avail tax exemptions\* for up to three years while earning interest on deposited funds.

The launch follows the Government's approval of ICICI Bank as an authorised institution to handle CGAS deposits.

Starting January 1, 2026, this scheme is available for Resident individuals and Hindu

Undivided Families (HUFs). It will be available for non-individuals and NRIs shortly. It benefits taxpayers who are unable to reinvest long term capital gains before the Income Tax Return (ITR) filing deadline.

Customers can open a Capital Gains Account by visiting their nearest ICICI Bank branch (except rural locations, as per CGAS rules).

An ICICI Bank spokesperson said, "We thank the Government of India for recognising ICICI Bank as an authorised institution for CGAS deposits.

With this scheme, customers can park un-

invested long term capital gains, earn interest, and claim tax exemptions, while planning reinvestment up to three years. This offering reinforces our commitment to deliver financial solutions that meet evolving customer needs."

Key features & benefits of CGAS:

- Type A (Savings Account): Flexible withdrawals linked to approved reinvestment purposes

- Type B (Term Deposit Account): Cumulative or non-cumulative formats for fixed-tenure deposits

- Tax exemption: Deposit un-invested capital gains or sale proceeds before the

ITR due date to claim exemption on long-term capital gains under relevant Income Tax sections

- Temporary parking of funds: Up to three years to plan reinvestment without losing exemption eligibility

- Interest earned: Similar to regular savings account or fixed deposits.

- Flexible reinvestment: Proceeds can be invested in property, agricultural land, or new capital assets of industrial undertaking in non-urban areas/special economic zones depending on the CGAS chosen; with drawal of proceeds requires proof of usage of funds.

## "SALLIYARGAL": A MOVING TRIBUTE TO THE DOCTORS OF WAR AND THE UNBROKEN SPIRIT OF HUMANITY

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: The pain, sacrifice, and resilience of the Tamil Eelam people and their freedom fighters have been explored in cinema over the years. Among these narratives, "Sallyyargal" stands apart as a profoundly moving and humane cinematic work that brings to light a lesser-known yet extraordinary chapter of history—the humanitarian medical wing of the LTTE. By focusing on bunker hospitals and the selfless doctors who served within them, the film powerfully reminds us that even in the darkest hours of war, humanity survives through compassion and service.

Set amidst the brutal realities of conflict, Sallyyargal unfolds inside a bunker hospital created to treat wounded fighters battling the Sinhala army. At the heart of the story is Dr. Satya devi, a dedicated and courageous woman doctor who works relentlessly without adequate food, sleep, or safety, driven solely by her commitment to saving lives. To strengthen the medical unit, Dr. Sembian (Mahendran) is deputed from the main hospital. As the doctors struggle to protect the wounded,

the looming threat of an enemy attack on this humanitarian centre raises the emotional and narrative intensity, making the film both gripping and deeply affecting.

What truly elevates Sallyyargal is its portrayal of doctors as the highest symbols of humanity. The film emphasizes that for these medical warriors, life is sacred—whether the injured person is a fellow fighter or an enemy soldier. This unwavering ethical stand, depicted with sensitivity and dignity, becomes the film's emotional backbone. Through its restrained yet powerful storytelling, Sallyyargal celebrates courage not on the battlefield alone, but in the quiet, selfless act of saving lives.

Sathyadevi delivers an outstanding performance, marked by restraint, clarity, and emotional depth. Her controlled dialogue delivery, decisive movements, and natural body language make her portrayal of a doctor in a war zone deeply authentic and impactful. Mahendran, as Dr. Sembian, brings a quiet intensity and credibility to his role, with his understated performance adding realism to the narrative. Sethu Karunas, playing Mathizhayagan—the



heroine's father—adds emotional weight through dialogues that resonate with the collective suffering, strength, and dignity of the Tamil Eelam people.

The supporting cast strengthens the film significantly. Thiru murugan, Santhosh, and Mohan convincingly portray Sinhala army officers, adding tension and realism. Nagaraj and Priyalaya, transitioning from lovers to fighters, leave a lasting impression with their committed performances, symbolizing the transformation forced upon ordinary lives by war.

Music by Ken and Easwar, enriched by evocative lyrics from Vairamuthu and T. Kittu, deeply touches the soul, while the background score effectively heightens the emotional and dramatic moments. Cibi Sadasivam's cinematography vividly captures the harsh, war-torn landscapes of Tamil Eelam, immersing the audience in its

realities. C.M. Elango van's crisp editing ensures the film remains engaging throughout, and the art direction, makeup, and costumes contribute significantly to the film's striking realism.

Written and directed by T. Kittu, Sallyyargal stands as a heartfelt homage to the doctors who served humanity without discrimination, even at great personal risk. With poetic dialogues that speak of sacrifice, hope, and moral courage, the film leaves a profound and lasting impact. More than just a cinematic experience, "Sallyyargal" is an important historical reminder—one that every Tamil should know and remember.

Cast: Sathyadevi, S. Karunaas, Thirumurgan, Janaki, Mahendran, Nagaraj, Priya, Anand Sounderajan, Mohan, Santhosh, and others.

Producers: S. Karunaas & P. Karikalan. Written & Directed by: T. Kittu.

## TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR RECORDS 3,88,801 UNIT SALES IN CY 2025, ACHIEVES 19% GROWTH

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) has registered its highest-ever calendar year sales in 2025, achieving a total of 3,88,801 units, marking a robust 19% growth over the 3,26,329 units sold in 2024. This strong performance reflects the company's consistent focus on quality, safety, and customer-centric mobility solutions aligned with evolving market expectations.

The company witnessed strong momentum across both domestic and export markets. Domestic sales stood at 3,51,580 units, recording a 17% growth, while exports reached 37,221 units, reflecting a remarkable 42% increase. In December 2025 alone, Toyota recorded total sales of 39,333 units, up 33% from 29,529

units in December 2024, driven by strong demand across key segments.

Toyota's success in 2025 was powered by its diverse and compelling product portfolio across SUV, MPV, and compact segments. Models such as the Innova Hycross, Fortuner, Urban Cruiser Hyryder, Hilux, Glanza, and Urban Cruiser Taisor delivered strong performance. The introduction of new and upgraded variants including the Land Cruiser 300, GR-S grade, Legend MT, Hyryder Aero Edition, Fortuner Leader Edition, Camry Hybrid Sprint Edition, and Neo Drive variants further enhanced customer excitement and engagement.

Safety and technology remained key

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**\*BIGG BOSS VIKRAMAN'S DEBUT MOVIE WITH GOLDEN GATE STUDIOS WRAPS UP FILMING\***

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Golden Gate Studios Producer Thilakavathy Karikapan's upcoming romantic entertainer featuring Bigg Boss fame Vikraman, directed by Preethi Karikalan, has taken shape with an emotionally engaging narrative centered on relationships, humor, and heartfelt moments. Crafted to appeal to family audiences while retaining a contemporary flavor, the film is visually rich, musically vibrant, and rooted in realistic storytelling. Now the team is delighted to officially announce that the shooting has been successfully

completed. Speaking about the milestone, the producer Thilakavathy Karikalan says, "Completing a project on schedule requires commitment from every department, and our entire team rose to the occasion beautifully. The actors, technicians, and our director worked with remarkable dedication and positivity throughout the journey. We are now exploring the right window for release, and simultaneously, our marketing strategies are being planned carefully so the film reaches audiences in the best possible way."



The film, a heart warming romantic entertainer, features Vikraman in the lead, with Supritha, Jenson Diwakar, and an ensemble cast bringing warmth and spontaneity to the narrative. The technical crew includes Sridhar and Ramar handling editing, and Ajesh Ashokan composing the music, strengthening the film with their creative contributions. The makers have confirmed that updates regarding the official title, teaser, trailer, audio launch, and worldwide theatrical release will be announced very soon.

**"MARK IS A BOLD, HIGH-VOLTAGE ACTION FILM THAT PLAYS TO SUDEEP'S STRENGTHS"**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Mark marks another confident step in Vijay Kartikeyaa's evolving collaboration with Sudeep, building on the creative ambition first seen in Max. While Max impressed with its novelty-driven, single-night narrative set in minimal locations, Mark broadens the canvas into a fast-paced action-thriller that unfolds over 24 gripping hours across multiple locations. It is encouraging to see a star of Sudeep's stature continue to experiment with format, scale, and storytelling choices.

kidnappings shakes the city. The narrative ambitiously weaves together multiple layers—a ruthless gangster family, a menacing drug network, and a power-hungry politician aspiring to become Chief Minister—creating a world that is ripe for tension and confrontation. On screen, this pulpy setup translates into a classic action universe where one determined man takes on an entire system.



At its core, Mark is designed as a star-driven entertainer, and Sudeep anchors the film with a controlled, restrained performance that reflects the inner turmoil of a cop operating outside the system. Instead of relying solely on loud heroics, the character unfolds with quiet intensity. Select punch dialogues land effectively, and the climax action sequence—expertly choreographed—delivers the adrenaline rush audiences expect from a Sudeep film.

With Mark, Vijay Kartikeyaa demonstrates his team's impressive ability to mount a full-fledged action-thriller within a tight production schedule of just 4-5 months.

The film's technical polish and logistical efficiency stand out, proving that smart planning and clarity of vision can deliver a visually rich cinematic experience in a short span of time.

Sudeep plays Ajay Markandayya, a suspended, hot-headed cop who is drawn back into action when a series of child

kidnappings shakes the city. The narrative ambitiously weaves together multiple layers—a ruthless gangster family, a menacing drug network, and a power-hungry politician aspiring to become Chief Minister—creating a world that is ripe for tension and confrontation. On screen, this pulpy setup translates into a classic action universe where one determined man takes on an entire system.

Overall, Mark is a stylish and ambitious commercial film that reflects the makers' courage to think big and execute swiftly. While firmly within the action-thriller space, it showcases strong technical finesse, a committed lead performance, and an engaging narrative setup.

The ensemble cast adds colour to the narrative. Guru Soma sundaram stands out with a quirky, memorable performance that brings an element of unpredictability to the film. Naveen Chandra, Vikranth, Yogi Babu, and Shine Tom Chacko each contribute meaningfully to the larger plot, helping populate the world of Mark with diverse personalities and motivations. Emotionally, the film taps into the universal theme of children in danger, a device that effectively raises the stakes and gives the protagonist's mission moral urgency. This emotional underpinning ensures that the action is not just spectacle-driven but also rooted in empathy.

Emotionally, the

**NOISE AND GRAINS' MAIDEN PRODUCTION, A VIBRANT ROMANTIC-COMEDY WRITTEN AND DIRECTED BY 'NAAI SEKAR' FAME KISHORE RAJKUMAR, WRAPS UP SHOOT**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: India's leading media production and talent management company, Noise and Grains, known for producing some of the grandest and most successful cultural events in the Indian entertainment space, recently made its foray into film production. The shoot of its maiden production venture has been wrapped up successfully.

finish post-production work and release the film in theatres soon. Announcements regarding the film's title and music release will be made one after another very soon.



Under the Noise and Grains banner, producers Karthik Srinivas and Mahaveer Ashok are bankrolling this romantic-comedy, written and directed by Kishore Rajkumar, who also plays the male lead. Kishore, best known for directing 'Naai Sekar', has also acted in films like 'Comali', 'Kaithi', 'VIP 2', 'Imaikkaa Nodigal', and 'Kee', and has created many short films and YouTube videos.

The team states that the film has been made in a way that all types of audiences can enjoy it with their families, and that there will be no shortage of humour from beginning to end.

The film not just marks Kishore Rajkumar's return as a director but also his maiden venture as the protagonist. The female lead is played by acclaimed Malayalam actress Anna Ben, who also starred in the Tamil film 'Kottukkaali'. The movie will feature several prominent actors in pivotal roles.

complete feel-good experience to the audience. There's a feel among film lovers that movies like the ones K. Bhagyaraj sir used to direct are no longer being made — this film aims to fill that gap."

He added, "This lively film revolves around compatibility in relationships and places strong emphasis on the female lead. I am happy about working with the incredibly talented Anna Ben. I sincerely thank Noise and Grains for giving me this opportunity."

With the shooting now complete, the film crew is planning to

released directly on an OTT platform. Suresh Kamatchi announced this decision while addressing journalists after screening a special preview of Salliyargal for the press.

Costume designer - Kiruthikha Sekar

Executive Producer - SN Asraf / Naresh Dinakaran.

The rom-com produced by Noise and Grains and directed by Kishore Rajkumar is getting ready for theatrical release soon.

**"SINCE PVR CINEMAS HAS REFUSED TO SCREEN SALLIYARGAL, I AM RELEASING IT DIRECTLY ON AN OTT PLATFORM" - PRODUCER SURESH KAMATCHI'S BOLD ANNOUNCEMENT**

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: "Salliyargal" is a film jointly produced by Kalaimamani Sethu Karunas and Karikalan under the banner of CW Productions. This is the second film directed by Kittu, following his critically acclaimed film Methagu.

released directly on an OTT platform.

The film stars Sathya Devi as Dr. Nandhini in the lead role, with Karunas playing her father, actor Thirumurugan (famed for Kalavani) portraying an army villain, and Mahendran playing Dr. Sembian. Several newcomers have also acted in the film.

Speaking on the issue, producer Suresh Kamatchi said: "After watching Salliyargal, out of my own conviction, I decided to release this film myself. Earlier, nearly three or four times, we had finalised release dates by entering into theatre agreements, but due to reasons such as not getting adequate theatres, those plans were cancelled.



The songs for the film are penned by Poet Laureate Vairamuthu, while the music is composed jointly by Sethu Karunas, his son actor Ken Karunas, and their friend Easwar.

With films like Jananayagan and Parasakthi scheduled for release next week, and no major releases this week, we announced January 1 as the release date. But the unfortunate news now is that we are unable to bring this film to theatres tomorrow.

claim that this is the maximum they can give for small films. Even worse, PVR Cinemas refused to screen the film in even a single theatre they own. These are people who come from outside and do business here, but say they cannot release a film rooted in our soil. If they had said this in Karnataka, you know very well what the consequences would be. They mistake our patience for foolishness.

Producer Suresh Kamatchi is releasing the film across Tamil Nadu through his banner V House Productions.

Even if theatres are denied, the film must reach the people. That is why we have decided to release it directly on an OTT platform. There is no unity in the Producers' Council. During elections, people bring crores of rupees to become presidents or secretaries, but no one has done anything for producers.

Director Kittu said: "When a Tamil makes a film on Tamil ethnic history, such problems are inevitable. But when non-Tamils distort Tamil history, they easily bring it to the screen.

Although the film was officially announced to release today (January 1), the producer stated that circumstances have made a theatrical release impossible, and hence the film will be

The reason is that only 27 theatres have been allotted for Salliyargal. That means just 27 daily shows across the whole of Tamil Nadu. They

Ponniyin Selvan is not history—it is fiction—yet it was made in two parts and earned hundreds of crores. Today's younger generation believes that is our history. Our real history and our pain are not being documented. If you search any OTT platform for films on Tamil history, you will not find even one. But films against us are abundant. This film has already received censor certification. Yet theatres refuse to screen it. A solution must be found through the Producers' Council or the Directors' Union. This is my anguish."

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## \*HOTSTAR SPECIALS 'LBW - LOVE BEYOND WICKET', STARRING VIKRANTH, STREAMING FROM JANUARY 1, 2026 ON JIOHOTSTAR\*

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Hotstar Specials 'LBW - Love Beyond Wicket', the upcoming original series starring Vikranth in his OTT debut, is set to stream from January 1, 2026, exclusively on JioHotstar. Available across Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, and Hindi, the series is poised to reach audiences across regions.

Following the successful launch of its promo, which received an enthusiastic response across platforms, audiences were particularly excited to see Vikranth in the role of a cricket coach, marking a refreshing and impactful turn in his career. The buzz around the promo has further heightened anticipation for the series' premiere.

After the stupendous success of long-running, 100+ episode Tamil originals such as Kana Kaanum Kalangal, Heartbeat (Season 1 & 2), Uppu Puli Kaaram, Office, and Police Police, LBW - Love Beyond Wicket becomes the sixth title from Jio Hotstar's Tamil slate to achieve this landmark

format, reinforcing the platform's leadership in creating deeply engaging, audience-loved series.

Marking the first Tamil original series to premiere from the slate announced at the JioHotstar South Unbound event, LBW - Love Beyond Wicket brings together cricket, emotions, and human relationships in a compelling narrative. Set against the backdrop of grassroots cricket, the series follows Rangan, a once-promising cricketer whose career never reached its potential. Now a reluctant coach, he is entrusted with shaping an underdog team at a struggling cricket academy, while navigating complex personal relationships that influence his journey.

More than just a sports drama, LBW - Love Beyond Wicket is a deeply rooted relationship drama, exploring love, ambition, sacrifice, failure, and redemption—showing how relationships evolve under the weight of unrealised dreams and second chances, both on and



off the field.

Written by Aruna Rakhee and directed by Ganesh Karthikeyan, the series features a strong ensemble cast including Sindhu Shyam, Niyathi, Harish, Ayaz Khan, Akshatha, Naveen, Nikhil Nair, and Viswa Mithran, among others.

Produced by Atele Factory, the creators behind the blockbuster and long-running series Heartbeat, LBW - Love Beyond Wicket promises emotionally rich storytelling, relatable characters, and a narrative that resonates across generations.

Streaming Details

Streaming From: January 1, 2026.  
Platform: JioHotstar

Languages: Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi

About JioHotstar

JioHotstar is India's leading premium streaming platform, offering a rich library of blockbuster movies, original series, live sports, and entertainment across multiple languages. With a commitment to compelling story telling and immersive digital experiences, Jio Hotstar continues to redefine entertainment for audiences across India.

## BHARATHIRAJA LAUNCHED NITHILAN VAAKUMOOLAM, THE THIRD AND FINAL CHAPTER

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Author Kabilan Vairamuthu's new novel was launched on new year day. Nithilan vaakumoolam, which is said to have a strong dialogue on the future of artificial intelligence was launched by veteran director Bharathiraja.

The scenes of Bharathiraja launching the video was shot few days back at his home. The author in his launch video briefed about the third chapter and its significance to the contemporary society. 'The aagol series is the message of my life to the next

generation' says Kabilan Vairamuthu.

It all started in 2022 when the first chapter of Aagol released, which spoke about the struggles of the perungamanallur people against the criminal tribe act of the then British Indian government. It also discussed about the big data culture and data privacy.

The second chapter Machiavelli kaappiyam which hit the book stores in 2024 spoke about internet independence and a brief history of 'ettu naadugal' in Madurai which was the worst



affected by the criminal tribe act. The third and final chapter nithilan vaakumoolam is crafted as a murder mystery that investigates the death of the series' pivotal figure Nithilan.

The final chapter is inspired from the thoughts of Canadian artificial intelligence activist Joy Buloum wini. Kabilan Vairamuthu's five year journey of immense research, field work and crafting those into stories is getting huge reception among the tamil literary circle. The author will meet the readers on the 4th of January at an event organised by discovery publications in Chennai. Aagol is a second century tamil word meaning act of stealing cattle.

## RICHARD RISHI'S "DRAUPATHI 2" CERTIFIED U/A! MOVES CLOSER TO RELEASE.

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: The much-awaited historical action drama Draupathi 2, directed by Mohan G, has successfully received a U/A certificate from the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC), marking an important step toward its theatrical release.

The film, a multi lingual period drama, features Richard Rishi in the lead, with Rakshana Indusudan as the female lead and Natti Natraj in a pivotal role. The ensemble also includes Y.G. Mahendran, Nadodigal Barani, Saravana Subbiah, Vel Ramamoorthy, Siraj Johnny, Dinesh Lam

ba, Ganesh Gaurang, Divi, Devayani Sharma, and Arunodayan.

Produced by Chola Shakkaravarthi (Netaji Productions) in association with G.M. Film Corporation, Draupathi 2 has been mounted as a visually rich period narrative rooted in 14th-century South India.

The film boasts a strong technical team: Philip R. Sundar (cinematography), Ghibran Vaibodha (music), Action Santosh (stunts), Thanika Tony (choreography), Deva raj (editing), and Kamalnathan (production design). Dialogues are written by Padma



Chandrasekhar and Mohan G. announce the official release date, promising an engaging theatrical experience that blends history, drama, and spectacle.

With CBFC certification done, the makers will soon

## \*MENTOR DIRECTS DISCIPLE: MYSSKIN ACTS IN 'SUBRAMANI' DIRECTED BY R K SELVA (VINCENT SELVA)\*

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: In 'Subramani', a gripping crime thriller that will keep audiences on the edge of their seats from beginning to end, Mysskin, who worked as an assistant director to Selva on Thalapathy Vijay-starrer 'Youth' and Jithan Ramesh-starrer 'Jithan', plays a very important role.

Speaking about 'Subramani', which stars Richard Rishi and Natty (Natarajan Subramaniam) in lead roles, director R K Selva said, "It gives me immense pleasure to have directed Mysskin in this film. He has played a very important character that he has never played before, and he has delivered a wonderful performance. It was an unforgettable experi

ence to see him working on the set not only as an actor but also as my assistant director again. He even directed a few scenes too. Richard Rishi and Natty have also made excellent contributions. We have crafted a screenplay that approaches five gruesome murders from the perspective of three police officers and whether they are able to catch the culprit who is a dark devil before he could continue his killing spree. I believe that Tamil audiences, who always welcome unique storylines, will support this film as well."

'Subramani', written, screenplayed, and directed by R K Selva, has Pranov and Balaji as Project Heads and co-producers.



Afzal Baig is the executive producer. M.J. Bharathi is the production executive. Telugu 'Bigg Boss' fame Divya plays the female lead in 'Subramani'. Jasper, of Chennai Express fame, and Lollu Sabha Swaminathan have acted in this film.

Akhilesh and Sunder Ram Krishnan have handled the cinematography for 'Subramani'. Sanuka, known for 'Ayyo Saami', has composed the music, while Asmin has written the lyrics. Sujir Babu, a former assistant to editor Don Max, is handling the editing, and Rambo Vimal is in charge of the stunt choreography. Effects: Sethu, VFX: Sunil (69 Shades), Designs: Kumaran K, PRO: Nikil Murukan. 'Subramani', bankrolled by S Productions and directed by R.K. Selva (Vincent Selva), starring Mysskin, Richard Rishi, and Natty, is getting ready to hit the theatres soon.

## \*"DEMONTE COLONY 3" DROPS ITS FIRST LOOK ON NEW YEAR, TEASING A BIGGER, NEVER-BEFORE SPINE-TINGLING CHAPTER IN THE FRANCHISE\*

Chennai, 03 Jan 2026: Supernatural horror remains one of the most demanding genres in filmmaking, not simply for the technical precision required to stage scares, but for the challenge of sustaining audience engagement across multiple instalments. Hollywood franchises such as The Conjuring and the Evil Dead, have demonstrated how supernatural franchise with same character continuity and atmosphere can build enduring fandom. In Tamil cinema, director Ajay Gnanamuthu has steadily cultivated a similar legacy with the Demonte Colony series, a franchise that has evolved over a decade and turned into a benchmark for genre storytelling.

With the first two instalments performing strongly at the box office, expectations now converge on Demonte Colony 3, slated for a worldwide theatrical release in 2026. To mark the New Year, the makers unveiled the film's first-look poster, signaling both confidence and momentum as the

project moves through post-production.

Producer Sudhan Sundaram of Passion Studios says the film is shaping to exceed expectations. "Beginning 2026 with Demonte Colony 3 feels incredibly promising. Ajay brings extraordinary discipline to the process, he delivers on schedule while never compromising creative quality. As a producer, it's exciting to witness this scale develop. Arulnithi remains the anchor of the franchise, and his commitment is unwavering. Much of the cast from the second part returns, now with deeper arcs and heightened dramatic stakes. For the moment, that's all I can reveal, but the third chapter goes well beyond what audiences might anticipate," adds producer Sudhan Sundaram.

Director Ajay Gnanamuthu says, "Starting the year by sharing a first look with the franchise's fans feels special. The film is progressing beautifully, thanks in large part to Sudhan sir's support. He never intrudes creatively, yet



ensures the project remains complete and cohesive. I'm also deeply grateful to Arulnithi. Viewers have seen his range in the earlier films, and this one pushes him even further."

Written and directed by Gnanamuthu, Demonte Colony 3 reunites Arulnithi and Priya Bhavani Shankar, along with Meenakshi Govindarajan, Archana Ravichandran, Muthukumar and others in pivotal roles.

Production began in July 2025 and the film now moves through post-production, with the team

carefully steering toward a Summer 2026 release window.

With its escalating supernatural feast, returning ensemble and expanding visual ambition, Demonte Colony 3 positions itself not merely as another sequel, but as the next defining chapter in Tamil cinema's emerging supernatural franchise. The film is produced by Passion Studios Sudhan Sundaram on a grand scale, and is already one of the much-anticipated film among the trade circles as the theaters, distributors and exhibitors incurred a huge profit share with its previous parts.

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