

**PRESIDENT MURMU, VP DHANKHAR, MODI PAY HOMAGE TO MAHATMA**

Chennai, 31 January 2025: Tributes were paid to Mahatma Gandhi at the Gandhi Smriti Memorial at Rajghat on his death anniversary, honouring his immense contributions to the nation and his unwavering commitment to truth and non-violence. President Droupadi Murmu, Vice President Jagdeep Dhankhar, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi led the solemn ceremony, joined by other senior leaders in remembering the Father of the Nation.



sacrificed their lives for India's freedom. As a tribute, the devotional song 'Raghupati Raghav Raja Ram,' which was popularised by Mahatma Gandhi himself, was played during the ceremony.

The bhajan, set to tune by Vishnu Digambar Paluskar in Raga Mishra Gara, has long been associated with Mahatma Gandhi's spiritual and political journey. Earlier in the day, Prime Minister Modi took to X to express his tribute.

"Tributes to Pujya

his death anniversary," he posted on X. "Bapu's ideas centred on Swadeshi and self-reliance are paving the way for an Atmanirbhar and Viksit Bharat. His life ideals will always inspire the entire humanity," he added. Union Home Minister Amit Shah, in his tribute, highlighted Mahatma Gandhi's role in uniting the nation and his global impact.

Bapu on his Punya Tithi. His ideals motivate us to build a developed India. I also pay tributes to all those martyred for our nation and recall their service as well as sacrifices," he wrote. BJP President and Union Minister J.P. Nadda also paid his respects, emphasising Gandhi's philosophy of self-reliance.

"I pay my heartfelt tribute to the eternal worshiper of truth and non-violence, the great leader of the Indian freedom movement, 'Father of the Nation' Mahatma Gandhi, on

"On behalf of the grateful nation, I pay my tribute to Mahatma Gandhi, the leading figure of the Indian freedom movement, who popularised the Indian values of truth, non-violence, and the fight against injustice across the world, on his death anniversary," he wrote on X. "Mahatma Gandhi strengthened the freedom movement by binding the country in the thread of unity.

**INDIAN MARITIME UNIVERSITY (IMU) AND INSTITUTE OF HOTEL MANAGEMENT (IHM) CHENNAI FORGE PARTNERSHIP TO BOOST CRUISE TOURISM AND HOSPITALITY TRAINING**

Chennai, 31 January 2025: The Indian Maritime University (IMU) and the Institute of Hotel Management Catering Technology & Applied Nutrition (IHM Chennai) have entered into a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) to promote skill development and training for crew and hospitality services on board the cruise ships. The agreement marks a significant step towards creating a skilled workforce to meet the growing demand for trained manpower in the national and international cruise industry.



This partnership aims to provide youth with training under the Cruise India Mission launched by the Hon'ble Union Minister for Ports, Shipping, and Waterways, Shri Sarbananda Sonowal in Sep 2024.

This mission endeavours to promote career opportunities in both the hospitality and maritime sectors. Through this MoU, the two institutions will collaborate on various initiatives, including offering short-term courses, awareness programs, and hands-

on training for students interested in pursuing careers on board the cruise ships.

Key Highlights of the Partnership:

IMU will offer certification programs on the Merchant Navy and Passenger/Cruise Ships, including STCW safety training, Passenger Ship Familiarization, and DGS-approved certifications.

IHM Chennai will provide specialized training in soft skills, dining etiquette, food safety, housekeeping practices, and more.

Providing courses and support required for the interested students of IHM to make them Cruise industry ready

Awareness programs for both IHM Chennai and

IMU students to explore job opportunities and career growth in the cruise and hospitality industries.

Organizing visits to maritime ports and ships for hands-on experience.

Impact on the Industry: This collaboration will not only address the future demands for skilled professionals in cruise tourism but also support the larger goal of enhancing India's maritime sector.

By leveraging the expertise of both institutions, the partnership is poised to contribute to the growth of cruise tourism and related hospitality services in India towards the furtherance of the Hon'ble Prime

Minister's initiative of "Viksit Bharat" by 2047.

The MoU was signed by Shri K Saravanan Registrar IMU and Ms. Smt. R. Parimala, Principal & Secretary, IHM, Chennai, in the presence of Dr. Malini V Shankar Vice Chancellor IMU and Dr. B. CHANDRA MOHAN, I.A.S Principal Secretary, Dept. of Tourism, Culture & Religious Endowments, Govt. of Tamil Nadu, Dr. Rajoo Balaji Pro Vice-Chancellor IMU, R. Adm Dr. P J Rangachari (retd) IN Director IMU Chennai Campus, Capt Ganesan Velayutham Associate Professor & HoD School of Nautical Science, and other officials of IMU and IHM.

**BUDGET SESSION: KEY ECONOMIC AND POLICY BILLS TO SHAPE FISCAL LANDSCAPE**

Chennai, 31 January 2025: The Budget Session 2025 is set to address several critical legislative and financial matters following the presentation of the Economic Survey on January 31 and the Union Budget on February 1.

This session will witness the introduction and passage of key bills, alongside crucial discussions that will influence India's fiscal policies.

A range of significant bills is expected to be taken up, including the Banking Laws (Amendment) Bill, 2024, aimed at strengthening banking regulations, and the Railways (Amendment) Bill, 2024, focused on improving the operational efficiency of Indian Railways.

The Disaster Management (Amendment) Bill, 2024 seeks to enhance the country's disaster



response mechanisms, while the Oilfields (Regulation and Development) Amendment Bill, 2024 will propose updates to oil exploration and extraction laws. Additionally, the Boilers Bill, 2024 aims

to introduce new safety and operational standards for industrial boilers.

Other anticipated bills include the Readjustment of Representation of Scheduled Tribes in Assembly Constituencies of the State of Goa Bill, 2024, which will revise constituency allocations for better representation of scheduled tribes.

The Waqf (Amendment) Bill, 2024 and the Mussalman Wakf (Repeal) Bill, 2024 are expected to introduce reforms in the management of religious endowments.

India's maritime sector will see several updates with the Bills of Lading Bill, 2024, Carriage of Goods by Sea Bill, 2024, Coastal Shipping Bill, 2024, and Merchant Shipping Bill, 2024, all aimed at modernizing shipping regulations.

**NIFT CHENNAI CELEBRATES 30 YEARS WITH 'IMAGINARIUM' - KRISHNA ON CANVAS BY KESHAV**

Chennai, 31 January 2025: In celebration of the National Institute of Fashion Technology (NIFT) Chennai's 30th anniversary and 40 years of NIFT, the Fashion Communication Department proudly hosted Imaginarium - Krishna on Canvas, an exclusive art exhibition by Mr. Keshav, founder of Krishna for today. The event, held on January 27th and 28th, 2025, showcased a remarkable collection of paintings that reimagined Lord Krishna through a fusion of traditional themes and modern artistic techniques.

Mr. Keshav's works, spanning mediums from ink to watercolours, captivated audiences with their contemporary



interpretations of Lord Krishna while maintaining deep cultural resonance. The exhibition was a testament to the artist's ability to weave mythology into present-day artistic expressions, bringing together elements of pan-Indian aesthetics.

As part of the event, an artist talk was organised at Thiruvalluvar

Auditorium, featuring a conversation between Mr. Keshav and Ms. Divya N, Assistant Professor at the Fashion Communication Department. The session offered attendees a rare glimpse into the creative process behind his unique artistic vision and the inspirations that shape his evocative depictions of Krishna.

Imaginarium not only celebrated the artistic brilliance of Mr. Keshav but also reinforced NIFT Chennai's commitment to fostering cultural dialogue through art and design. The exhibition marked a significant milestone in the institute's history, highlighting the intersection of tradition and contemporary perspectives in visual storytelling.

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## ACCLAIMED CINEMATOGRAPHER RAVI VARMAN HAS BEEN HONOURED WITH THE MEMBERSHIP OF THE WORLD-RENOUNDED AMERICAN SOCIETY OF CINEMATOGRAPHERS (ASC).

Chennai, 31 January 2025: Renowned cinematographer Ravivarman has been inducted as a member of the world's leading cinematographers' organization, the American Society of Cinematographers (ASC)

It is a tough task for non-American cinematographers to receive this recognition. It is noteworthy that cinematographers who have won multiple Oscar awards watch a cinematographer's body of work, assess the quality of the cinematography, discuss and only then collectively grant this recognition.

Ravi Varman, who has been honoured



including Oscars are members. I wholeheartedly thank those who made me realise this dream.”

In the last 25 years, Ravi Varman has shot many films in Tamil, Malayalam, Telugu, Kannada, Hindi and English. He has collaborated with many great directors of India.

Some of the noteworthy films that Ravi Varman has done cinematography are Ponniiyan Selvan', 'Dasavatham', 'VettaiyAADu Vaidyaadu', 'Barbi', 'Sanju', etc.

Ravi Varman became the second Indian to be inducted into the American Society of Cinematographers, after cinematographer Santosh Sivan.

It gives me great joy and pride to be included in a platform where the world's cinematographers who have won awards

with many accolades including a National Award, has been greeted by the film fraternity and prominent personalities following his acceptance as a highly respected ASC member.

Accepting this recognition, Ravi Varman said, "I would like to convey my heartfelt gratitude to

## VIDUTHALAI CHIRUTHAIGAL KATCHI PRESIDENT THOL. THIRUMAVALAVAN APPRECIATES THE TEAM OF 'DR. AMBEDKAR' FILM

Chennai, 31 January 2025: V. Palanivel, who has produced successful films including 'Vathiyar' starring Arjun, 'Oram Po' starring Arya, '6.2' starring Sathyaraj, and 'Nee Venumda Chellam' under the banner of Vaidhyathan Film Garden, is currently producing 'Dr. Ambedkar' on a grand budget.



J.M. Bashir, who played the role of P a s u m p o n Muthuramalingath Thevar in the upcoming film 'Desiya Thalaivar', will play the role of Ambedkar. The film will be directed by V. Senthilkumar and will have music composed by Thenisai Thendral Deva.

The film will be

shot in various significant locations related to Dr. Ambedkar's life, including his birthplace Mhow (Madhya Pradesh), Pune where he studied, Mumbai where he lived, Delhi where he served as a minister,

London where he earned his Barrister degree, and even in the United States.

It is well known that Dr. Ambedkar

was the chief architect of the Indian Constitution. To present his greatness to the global audience, extensive research has been conducted using historical books and insights from his followers. This has been the foundation for crafting the film.

In this regard, the 'Dr. Ambedkar' film crew met Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi (VCK) leader Thol. Thirumavalavan.

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## NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON GEOINFORMATICS FOR BEGINNERS (NWGB 2025)

Thiruvaru, 31 January 2025: The Department of Geography, Central University of Tamil Nadu (CUTN), conducts a National Workshop on Geoinformatics for Beginners (NWGB 2025) from 27th to 31st January 2025 at the GIS Lab, Amartya Sen Block, CUTN. This workshop aims to introduce participants to the fundamentals of geospatial technologies, encompassing areas such as Remote Sensing, Geographic Information Systems (GIS), Global Navigation Satellite



Systems (GNSS), and Drone Surveying.

The workshop was inaugurated by Prof. M. Krishnan, Vice-Chancellor, CUTN, in the presence of Prof. R. Thirumurugan, Registrar, Prof. Sulochana Shekhar, Controller of Examinations and Prof. Guru Balamurugan, Dean, School of Earth Sciences. During the

inaugural session, Prof. Krishnan highlighted the critical role of geospatial technologies in contemporary research, urban planning, environmental management, and data-driven decision-making processes.

Over five days, participants will engage in 18 technical sessions, covering

advanced topics such as Remote Sensing-based information extraction, high-resolution field spectrometry, spatial data modelling, Differential GNSS (DGNSS), and Total Station Surveying.

The sessions will be led by faculty members from the School of Earth Sciences, Prof. Sulochana Shekhar, Prof. Guru Balamurugan, Dr K. Balasubramani, Dr E. Venkatesham, Dr Arun Prasad K, and Dr D. Surendran as well as experts from the geospatial industry, Mr P. Arumugam and Mr M. Badrinath.

## CELEBRATE VALENTINE'S DAY WITH LOVE, LAUGHTER, AND "MADURAI PAIYANUM CHENNAI PONNUM" ON AHA TAMIL

Chennai, 31 January 2025: This Valentine's Day, \*AhA Tamil\* brings a refreshing take on romance with its new web series, \*"Madurai Paiyanum Chennai Ponnum"\*. A perfect blend of comedy, emotions, and Tamil culture, the series promises to keep audiences entertained and charmed.

\*Synopsis:\* Set against the vibrant backdrop of Tamil Nadu, "Madurai Paiyanum Chennai Ponnum" is a heartwarming rom-com that explores the cultural and personal differences between a Madurai boy and a Chennai girl. Will their contrasting worlds

collide or create sparks of love?

\*Cast & Crew:\* - \*Angeline\*, a popular influencer and anchor, makes her much-anticipated debut as the bubbly and confident Chennai Ponnu. - \*Kanna Ravi\*, known for his versatile performances, plays the charming and grounded Madurai Paiyan. - \*Director:\* Vignesh Pazhanivel - \*Director of Photography:\* Murugesh Veera - \*Music Composer:\* Saachin Raj Chelory

The series is a visual treat with stunning cinematography and soulful music, perfectly capturing the essence of Tamil romance.



\*Release Date:\* The series will premiere on \*February 14, 2025, exclusively on \*\*AhA Tamil\*, making it the perfect binge-watch for

lovebirds and rom-com enthusiasts.

Join us as we celebrate love in all its forms with this feel-good series. Don't miss out!

## TVS CREDIT REPORTS ROBUST PAT GROWTH OF 28% TO RS. 541 CRORE FOR THE NINE MONTHS ENDED DEC '24, COMPARED TO THE SAME PERIOD LAST YEAR

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: TVS Credit Services Limited, one of India's leading NBFCs, published its unaudited financial results for the quarter ended and nine months ended December 31, 2024, which reflect the Company's robust growth and financial stability.

The NBFC reported a net profit after tax of Rs. 541 Crore for the nine months ended December 31, 2024.

The Company reported Assets Under Management (AUM) of Rs. 27,190 Crore as of Dec '24, registering a Y-o-Y growth of 7% as compared to Dec '23.

Q 3 F Y 2 5



Highlights:

AUM stood at Rs. 27,190 Crore as of Q3 FY25, a 7% growth compared to Q3 FY24.

Total Income for Q3 FY25 was Rs. 1,710 Crore, a 12% growth compared to Q3 FY24.

Profit Before Tax for Q3 FY25 stood at Rs. 321 Crore, a 40% growth compared to Q3 FY24.

Net Profit After Tax was Rs. 240 Crore for Q3 FY25, a 40% growth compared to Q3 FY24.

9 M F Y 2 5 Highlights: AUM stood at Rs. 27,190

Crore as of Dec '24, a 7% growth compared to Dec '23.

Total Income for 9M FY25 was Rs. 4,956 Crore, a 16% growth compared to 9M FY24.

Profit Before Tax for 9M FY25 stood at Rs. 724 Crore, a 28% growth compared to 9M FY24.

Net Profit After Tax was Rs. 541 Crore for 9M FY25, a 28% growth compared to 9M FY24.

In Q3 FY25, credit demand increased, driven by festive fervour, increased consumption and

attractive consumer offers.

TVS Credit witnessed healthy growth during this period, particularly in Consumer Loans & Vehicle Finance with an improvement in market share. In Q3 FY25, TVS Credit witnessed its highest ever quarterly growth in customers, disbursing loan products to a record 16 Lakh new customers, taking its total base to nearly 1.8 crore customers.

TVS Credit remains resolute in its commitment to expand the product offerings, distribution, digital transformation, enhancing customer experience and operational efficiency.



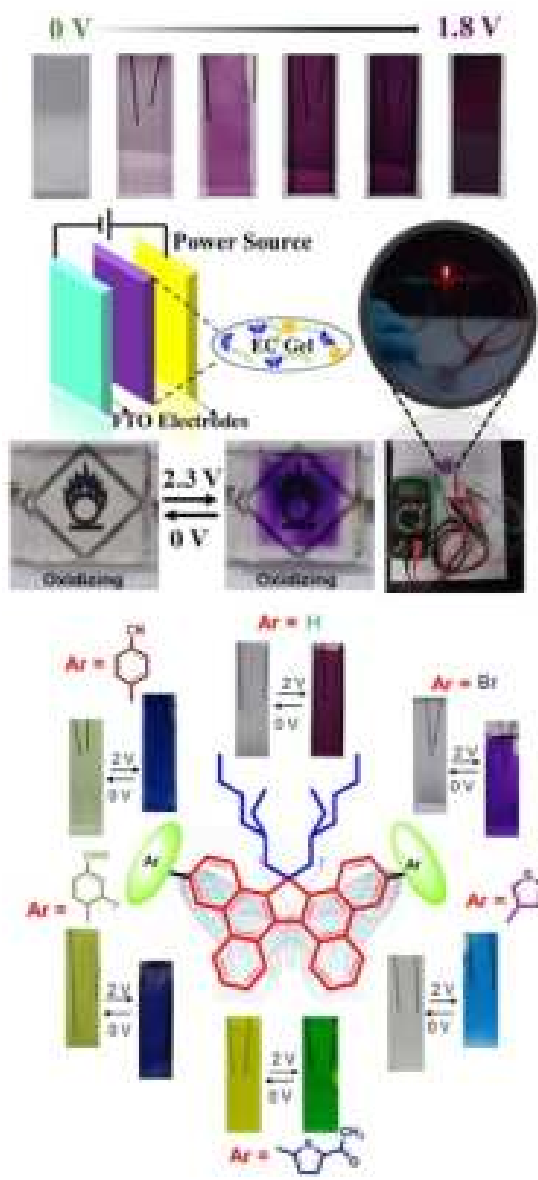
# REVOLUTIONARY COLOUR CHANGING GLASSES

Chennai, 31 January 2025: In a groundbreaking achievement in the field of materials science, Dr. Srinivasan Sampath, Assistant Professor and Ms. Navya PV, a research scholar from the Department of Materials Science at the Central University of Tamil Nadu, have invented an innovative new class of colour-changing glasses.

This remarkable discovery promises to reshape industries ranging from architecture to automobiles, offering a highly functional and sustainable solution to several modern-day challenges.

The newly developed glasses can change colour with the simple flip of an electrical switch. With just a touch, the glass transitions from clear to a spectrum of vibrant colours, including blue, purple, yellow, orange, and green. This versatile material, "Tetra Benzo Fluorene", opens up new possibilities for dynamic, responsive designs in both residential and commercial spaces.

What sets this technology apart is its multifunctionality. The



material offers protection from harmful ultraviolet (UV) radiation and infrared (IR) rays, which are known to cause various health issues, including cancer. Additionally, the glasses serve as an excellent energy-saving and energy-storage solution.

These innovative glasses can be used as supercapacitors and smart windows, smart

glasses, which can be energy efficient, making them both environmentally friendly and cost-effective.

Moreover, the potential applications extend to the automotive industry. When used in automobile windows and mirrors, these colour-changing glasses can reduce glare from headlights, providing a safer

driving experience, particularly at night.

These materials can also be utilized in personal cooling glasses, providing relief from heat while maintaining functionality as normal windows when desired.

One of the most fascinating uses of this technology is its application in battery monitoring. With these glasses, users can visually assess the charge level of a battery, as the glass changes colour in response to the battery's charge status.

This intuitive feature could simplify energy management in various devices and systems. The research work, which represents a major milestone in the field, has been published in the prestigious Advanced Functional Materials journal, known for its high impact factor of 18.5. This publication highlights the significance and global interest in this pioneering discovery. The Department of Materials Science at CUTN has been conducting research on nanotechnology, nanomaterials, solar cells, and batteries.

## ONE POINT ONE SOLUTIONS LTD SIGNS NON-BINDING TERM SHEET TO ACQUIRE INDIAN-BASED BUSINESS PROCESS CONSULTING & MANAGEMENT (BPCM) FOR RS. 261 CRORES

Mumbai, Jan 31, 2025: One Point One Solutions Ltd. (NSE: ONEPOINT), a leading Business Process Management (BPM) services provider, has signed a non-binding term sheet to acquire the India based Business Process Consulting and Management (BPCM) at an enterprise value of Rs. 261 Crores. One Point One's service offerings will be strengthened by this strategic purchase, which will also increase its presence in important industries, especially healthcare and financial services.

The due diligence process is targeted for completion by Q1 FY 2026, following which definitive agreements will be signed. Both organizations are committed to a seamless integration, ensuring continuity and growth for their clients, employees and stakeholders.

The Chairman and

Managing Director of One Point One Solutions Limited, Mr. Akshay Chhabra, commented that: "The signing of this term sheet represents a significant step in our growth journey. The target company's expertise, especially in the healthcare and Finance services, aligns perfectly with our commitment to providing innovative and industry-specific solutions. We are excited about the potential synergies this partnership will bring."

The acquisition will position One Point One Solutions Limited as a stronger player in the BPM industry, with an enhanced ability to serve the growing demands of the healthcare sector and other key industries.

### KEY HIGH LIGHTS OF THE ANNOUNCEMENT:

Enterprise Value: Rs. 261 Crores, reflecting market

leadership and robust operational framework.

Due Diligence Timeline: Targeted completion by Q1 FY 2026.

Strategic Fit: Target company expertise in healthcare and business support services aligns with

One Point One Solutions' vision for growth and diversification.

Enhanced Geographical presence: The target company's offices in Belize, Canada, UAE, and India will expand One Point One's operational footprint, offering access to key markets.

### ABOUT TARGET COMPANY:

The target company is a leading provider of business support services, specializing in customer relationship management, back-office operations,

technical support, and data management. The company caters to diverse industries, including healthcare, IT, telecommunications, retail, and finance, delivering innovative and tailored solutions to meet client needs. The target company is known for its customer-centric approach, leveraging advanced technologies and a skilled workforce to enhance operational efficiency and drive measurable results for its clients.

The company operates from its headquarters in India and has a strong presence across key locations, including USA, Canada, Belize, UAE and Malaysia.

The company's strategic location enables it to serve clients effectively across domestic and international markets, ensuring seamless service delivery and localized support.

## HDFC LIFE AND SATYA MICROCAPITAL LTD. COLLABORATE TO STRENGTHEN FINANCIAL INCLUSION WITH LIFE INSURANCE

Chennai, 31 January 2025: HDFC Life is delighted being the preferred life insurance partner of SATYA MicroCapital Ltd. which will help in improving access to life insurance in underserved areas. This collaboration underscores the importance of partnerships in addressing the financial security needs of diverse population and expanding access to life insurance in regions where it is most needed.

SATYA Micro Capital Limited operates across 26 states and nearly 350 districts with a network of over 830 branches. The organisation has been working towards bridging the financial inclusion gap by supporting a significant number of rural women entrepreneurs and fostering local economies.

The partnership seeks to build on SATYA's existing efforts by introducing life insurance as an additional layer of financial security.

HDFC Life brings a diverse portfolio of products designed to meet the needs of individuals across



different demographics, along with a proven record of delivering on its promises, as reflected in a claim settlement ratio of 99.50% for FY24.

The partnership aims to align these strengths with SATYA's grassroots presence and technology-driven approach to reach previously untapped communities.

Sharing his views on the collaboration, Vivek Tiwari - MD & CEO, SATYA Micro Capital Limited, stated,

"We are extremely ecstatic to partner with HDFC Life, which marks a significant milestone in our

empowering women entrepreneurs across India.

By integrating life insurance services into our offerings, we not only enhance the financial security of our clients but also provide them with the tools they need to thrive on their entrepreneurial journeys.

This collaboration reflects our unwavering commitment to supporting women in achieving their dreams while ensuring their families are protected.

Together with HDFC Life, we aim to create a robust ecosystem that fosters growth, resilience, and sustainability for every

woman entrepreneur we serve." Commenting on the collaboration, Vineet Arora - Chief Business Officer - Distribution, Data & Technology, HDFC Life, commented "This partnership reflects our shared vision of extending financial security to more people across India.

SATYA Micro Capital's work in promoting financial independence and inclusion aligns closely with HDFC Life's mission to make insurance accessible to all. Together, we aim to take meaningful steps towards achieving the broader goal of 'Insurance for All by 2047'."

## SCREEN SCENE MEDIA ENTERTAINMENT'S SUNDAR ARUMUGAM PRODUCES 'KARATE BABU', A GRIPPING POLITICAL THRILLER DIRECTED BY 'DADA' FAME GANESH K BABU, STARRING RAVI MOHAN AS PROTAGONIST

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: Tamil Nadu DGP Shankar Jiwal's daughter Daudee Jiwal makes her debut as heroine opposite Ravi Mohan.

Screen Scene Media Entertainment Private Limited, which has produced successful films and the web series 'Mathagam', has teamed up with Ravi Mohan for the third time after 'Agilan' and 'Brother'.

Produced by Sundar Arumugam on a grand budget, the film is directed by Ganesh K Babu, who helmed the super hit movie 'Dada'.

This is Ravi Mohan's 34th film and will feature Tamil Nadu Director General of Police Shankar Jiwal's daughter, Daudee Jiwal, as the female lead. Director K S Ravikumar, Shakthi Vasu and Nasser play key roles.

Speaking about the

film, director Ganesh K Babu said, "Although there have been many films about politicians, their personal lives, relationships and feelings have not been discussed much on screen. This film explores another side of an MLA. It is shaping up to be an emotional and realistic political thriller."

Talking about working with Ravi Mohan, he said, "We are making the film very comfortably without any tension, unlike working with a leading actor. The reason for this is Mohan Ravi's full cooperation and dedication. I feel very happy to direct this movie."

The shooting of the film began recently and the first phase is nearing completion. Shooting is ongoing in various locations.

Music - Sam C.S. Cinematography -



Ezhil Arasu K. Sankar.  
Editing - Kathiresw Alagesan. Action Director: Dhilip Subbarayan.  
Production Designer: Arunachalam Sivalingam. Sound Designer: Arunachalam Sivalingam.  
Other cast and crew details: Choreographer: Sathish Krishnan.  
Cast: VTV Ganesh, Subramaniam Siva, Kavithalaya Krishnan, Pradeep Antony, Raja Rani Pandiyan, Ilan, Sam Anderson, Sri Dhanya, Sandeep Ravi Raj, Ananthi, Sindhu Priya, Ajith Ghosh, Kalki Raja, Knife Naren, Vetri, Aravind, Dharmaraj, Nandhini Senthamizhan, Jeeva Subramaniam, Manimegala. Costume Designer: Gayathri Balasubramanian.  
Production Executive: Karthick Anandkrishnan. Executive Producer: K.S. Senthil Kumar.  
Distribution Head: Kiran Kumar S.  
Producer: Sundar Arumugam.  
Story, Screenplay, Dialogues, Direction: Ganesh K Babu



## AIRBNB REVEALS KEY INSIGHTS INTO INDIA'S EVOLVING TRAVEL TRENDS

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: Airbnb has unveiled new data showcasing the nation's evolving travel landscape, driven by a growing enthusiasm for domestic exploration as well as international adventures.

The surge in domestic travel has been remarkable, with overall domestic bookings growing by more than 30% year-over-year.[1] This growth stems from more people looking for long weekend getaways, planning road trips and experiential travel, and more recently curating trips around religious/cultural and entertainment events, like the Maha Kumbh Mela or a concert.

Leading the charge are vibrant destinations that capture India's diverse appeal. Goa maintains its position as the most-booked destination, renowned for its year-round



leisure and cultural experiences. Following Goa, urban centers including Bengaluru, Delhi NCR, Pune and Hyderabad[2] have shown impressive growth, driven by work travel, events & conferences and most importantly given the proximity of several tourist destinations.

On the international front, Indian travelers are increasingly exploring vibrant global destinations. Popular choices include Dubai, London, Kuala Lumpur, Milan, Bangkok, and Paris[3] — each offering a unique blend of culture, history, and entertainment. Whether it's the shopping and modern attractions of Dubai, the rich history of

London, or the romantic charm of Paris, these cities continue to capture the imagination of Indian explorers, further reflecting the growing global travel aspirations of Indian travelers.

The platform witnessed growth throughout 2024, with group travel (2+ travellers) in India emerging as a key trend - bookings for larger groups increased by more than 30% as friends, colleagues, and interest-based communities prioritized shared experiences.[4] Gen Z travelers from India doubled their bookings in the first three quarters of 2024 compared to 2023, while millennial

bookings surged by almost 30%. [5] Traveler preferences evolved significantly, with increased demand for Airbnb categories like stays near national parks and in iconic cities, and homes with amazing pools.

"Our platform continues to serve as a bridge between cultures, connecting travelers with authentic local travel experiences. By empowering hosts across India to share their homes and traditions, we're fostering meaningful cultural exchanges while supporting local economies.

We look forward to hosting more travelers and continuing to connect people through unique, local experiences on Airbnb." said Amanpreet Singh Bajaj, Airbnb's Country Head for India & Southeast Asia.

## SOUTHERN RAILWAY CELEBRATES 69TH RAILWAY WEEK - SR GENERAL MANAGER DISTRIBUTES AWARDS TO OUTSTANDING OFFICERS & STAFF

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: As part of 69th Railway Week Celebrations of Southern Railway, an Award distribution ceremony of 'Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar 2024', was held today at Dr.B.R.Ambedkar Arangam, ICF, Chennai today, 30th January 2025.

Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway was the Chief Guest of the function and distributed Shields to various Divisions / Departments / Workshops and individual Awards to officers and staff for their meritorious performance.

Addressing the gathering, Shri R.N. Singh, General Manager, Southern Railway, congratulated the awardees for making significant contributions to the growth and efficiency of railways. He appreciated the

divisions and workshops for their meritorious performance. He highlighted the achievements of Southern Railway, stating that the zone is a frontrunner in commissioning of projects, upgrading infrastructure, increasing sectional speed, introduction of modern coaches, improving passenger amenities and on-board services.

A short video film showcasing the achievements of Southern Railway during the year 2024 was aired during the function.

Shri Kaushal Kishore, Additional General Manager, Southern Railway, Shri Harikrishnan, Principal Chief Personnel Officer, other Principal Head of Departments, Divisional Railway Managers, Officers and Staff of Southern Railway participated in



the function.

A cultural programme, comprising classical dances and music was conducted by staff and their wards on the occasion.

Efficiency Shields and Individual Awards

The General Manager's Inter Divisional overall Efficiency Shield was bagged by Tiruchchirappalli Division. Palakkad and Thiruvananthapuram Divisions jointly bagged the Inter-Divisional Overall Efficiency Runners up Shield.

38 Efficiency Shields for outstanding performance in different areas of railway working were awarded to different Divisions/Workshops/Units.(Annexure-A)

A total of 97 Southern Railway employees that include 26 Officers and 71 staff were honoured with 'Individual Awards' (Vishisht Rail Seva Puraskar) for meritorious performance. Two students of Railway schools who excelled in Class X & Class XII exams were also felicitated with merit certificates.

## THE JOURNEY TOWARDS A VIKSIT BHARAT MARCHES AHEAD WITH FULL VIGOUR: PRIME MINISTER

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: The Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi has shared a glimpses of his month-long engagements in January 2025, reflecting his

unwavering commitment to building a Viksit Bharat.

Throughout the month, Shri Modi was actively involved in significant policy decisions, global

diplomatic engagements, and Shri Modi wrote on X;

"January 2025 in pictures..."

Sharing detailed information about his

engagements, Shri Modi wrote on X;

"January 2025 in pictures..."

The journey towards a Viksit Bharat marches ahead with full vigour!

## TOYOTA KIRLOSKAR MOTOR CONCLUDES 24-HOUR TOYOTA HACKATHON 2025 IN MUMBAI, EMPOWERING YOUNG INNOVATORS TO DRIVE ROAD SAFETY SOLUTIONS

Chennai Jan 31, 2025: Reaffirming its commitment to education and road safety, Toyota Kirloskar Motor (TKM) today announced the successful culmination of its 24-hour Toyota Hackathon 2025 held at Vidyalankar Institute, Wadala (East), Mumbai. Coinciding with 'Road Safety Month'

(January 18 – February 17, 2025), the event brought together over 400 talented students from 100+

schools across Mumbai, providing a platform to develop actionable solutions to critical road safety challenges.

The event was graced by the distinguished presence of Chief Guest Shri Atul Moreshwar Save, Hon'ble Minister for OBC Welfare, Dairy Development, and Renewable Energy, Government of Maharashtra, Guest of Honour Mr Arprit Save, President Chamber of Marathawada Industries and Agriculture and Senior leadership from TKM, including Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Governance, and Mr. Sudeep Dalvi, Chief Communication Officer, Senior Vice President & Head State Affairs.

India records the highest number of annual road crash fatalities globally. Each year, the country witnesses over 1,50,000 fatalities due to road accidents, with road traffic injuries being the leading cause of death for people aged 5-29 years. Recognizing this crisis, TKM launched the Toyota Hackathon in 2018 to integrate road safety into school and college curriculums.

The Toyota Hackathon, a key pillar of TKM's comprehensive Road Safety Initiative, is designed to address this critical issue by integrating road safety education into school and college curriculums. By fostering critical thinking, innovation, and a sense of responsibility, the Hackathon empowers youth to become proactive solution developers and 'Change Agents,' driving positive behavioural shifts within their communities.

Aligned with Toyota's global vision of achieving zero traffic fatalities, the Hackathon emphasizes digital and policy-driven solutions that address pressing road safety concerns while delivering impactful strategies to reduce accidents and



create safer roads.

Structured in five phases, the Hackathon journey began with team selection and idea submissions, progressed through a boot camp, culminated in a 24-hour final hackathon, and concluded with incubation support for the top one winner per city. Out of 100 initial teams, 28 advanced to post-boot camp, 10 teams completed in the final hackathon out of which 3 emerged as winners, earning continued support to bring their innovative ideas to life.

Participants tackled key road safety themes, including:

Road Safety Awareness and Education.

Community Engagement for Safety.

School Zone Safety.

Road Infrastructure and Pollution.

IoT/ICT in Road Safety.

Traffic Easement.

Making Roads Inclusive.

Following the success in Mumbai, the Toyota Hackathon 2025 will move to Bangalore on February 14. For the 2024-25 academic year, TKM aims to expand the initiative to 300 institutions across key cities, with over 400 innovative concepts already submitted. This initiative not only amplifies Toyota's vision for a safer future but also inspires the next generation to leverage their knowledge and creativity in addressing critical societal challenges.

Present at the occasion, Shri Atul Moreshwar Save, Hon'ble Minister for OBC Welfare, Dairy Development and Renewable Energy, Government of Maharashtra said, "The Toyota Hackathon 2025 is a remarkable initiative that truly embodies the spirit of innovation and collaboration. By bringing together students from diverse backgrounds and encouraging them to tackle pressing road safety issues, Toyota is not only fostering

technical skills but also cultivating a sense of social responsibility. These young participants are developing solutions that have the potential to make a lasting impact on our road safety landscape. It is heartening to see such commitment from Toyota in engaging with the youth and providing them with the necessary resources and guidance to turn their visionary ideas into practical, life-saving solutions. This initiative is a step forward in building a safer, smarter, and more inclusive future."

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Sharing his thoughts on the Hackathon, Mr Arprit Save, President Chamber of Marathawada Industries and Agriculture said, "The Toyota Hackathon 2025 is a transformative initiative that highlights the power of innovation and youth engagement in addressing one of the most critical challenges of our time—road safety. It is remarkable to see young minds from diverse backgrounds come together, supported by Toyota's vision and resources, to develop practical, life-saving solutions that can drive real change in our communities.

Toyota's efforts to guide these young innovators, provide them with mentorship, and support the incubation of their ideas demonstrate an exemplary commitment to nurturing the changemakers of tomorrow. Initiatives like these go beyond traditional corporate social responsibility—they create a ripple effect that inspires individuals, organizations, and communities to prioritize safety, collaboration, and sustainability. I sincerely applaud TKM for their relentless dedication to making roads safer and mobility smarter."

Speaking at the event, Mr. Vikram Gulati, Country Head & Executive Vice President, Corporate Affairs and Governance, Toyota Kirloskar Motor, said, "At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, we are driven by the belief that empowering the younger

generation with the right tools, mentorship, and opportunities can lead to transformative change. The Toyota Hackathon 2025 serves as a testament to our unwavering commitment to road safety and innovation, as it brings together young minds to ideate, collaborate, and develop solutions for safer roads.

This initiative reflects our holistic approach to fostering a culture of safety and sustainability, aligning with Toyota's global vision of zero traffic fatalities. We are proud to see these young innovators stepping up as 'Change Agents,' turning challenges into opportunities for creating a safer, smarter, and more inclusive mobility ecosystem for the future."

Speaking at the occasion, Mr Sudeep Dalvi, Chief Communication Officer, Senior Vice President & Head State Affairs said, "At Toyota Kirloskar Motor, we believe road safety is a shared responsibility that extends beyond automotive innovation. It's about fostering a awareness, accountability, and proactive behaviour across communities. The Toyota Hackathon 2025 exemplifies this vision, showcasing the creativity and expertise of India's youth as they develop real-world solutions to road safety challenges. By empowering young minds today, we are nurturing the changemakers of tomorrow who will drive sustainable mobility and safer roads for all. We are proud to support these brilliant innovators and remain committed to guiding them as they transform their ideas into reality."

The Toyota Hackathon 2025 underscores TKM's commitment to advancing road safety and sustainable mobility in India.

As a flagship CSR initiative, it complements the Toyota Safety Education Programme (TSEP), which has impacted over 800,000 students since 2007. By empowering young innovators to transform ideas into impactful solutions, the hackathon fosters creativity, collaboration, and social responsibility.

Through education and innovation, TKM continues to inspire the next generation to champion safer roads and build a secure, inclusive future for all.