

EX-BANGLA PM KHALEDA DIES IN DHAKA; LEADERS PAY TRIBUTES

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: Begum Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's former prime minister and a controversial figure in the country's turbulent political life for more than three decades, died on Tuesday at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka, where she had been undergoing treatment for the past five weeks. She was 80.

Her son Tareque Rahman who had gone into self imposed exile to the UK had returned on Christmas to contest elections and be at her bedside.

Her death was confirmed by the Bangladesh Nationalist Party, which she led as chairperson. She died at 6 a.m. at Evercare Hospital in Dhaka, where she had been undergoing treatment for the past five weeks.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi on

Tuesday expressed sorrow over the passing of Begum Khaleda Zia. In a post on X, PM Modi said, "Deeply saddened to learn about the passing away of former Prime Minister and BNP Chairperson Begum Khaleda Zia in Dhaka. Our sincerest condolences to her family and all the people of Bangladesh. May the Almighty grant her family the fortitude to bear this tragic loss."

Chief Adviser of the interim Government of Bangladesh, Muhammad Yunus, expressed deep sorrow over the death of Bangladesh's first female Prime Minister, Khaleda Zia, and said that with Begum's passing, the "country has lost an experienced and proven states woman."

He lauded her leadership, saying, "Through her uncom



promising leadership, the nation was repeatedly freed from undemocratic conditions and inspired to regain liberty."

Begum Zia had been admitted to the hospital on November 23 with serious infections affecting her heart and lungs, party officials said.

She was also suffering from pneumonia, and her condition had deteriorated steadily in recent days.

Begum Zia served twice as prime minister, first from 1991 to 1996 and again

from 2001 to 2006, becoming the country's first woman to hold the office through a democratic election.

The funeral of Begum Khaleda Zia, Bangladesh's former prime minister, is likely to be held at Manik Mia Avenue in the capital on Wednesday.

"Khaleda Zia's namaz-e-janaza may be held on Manik Mia Avenue in the capital tomorrow, Wednesday," BNP standing committee member Salahuddin Ahmed said as reported by Prothom Alo.

PM MEETS EMINENT ECONOMISTS AT NITI AAYOG

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi interacted with a group of eminent economists and experts at NITI Aayog, earlier today. The Theme of the interaction was 'Aatmanirbharta and Structural Transformation: Agenda for Viksit Bharat'.

Addressing the gathering, Prime Minister highlighted the core pillars for India's journey toward 2047.

Speaking about Viksit Bharat as a National Aspiration, the Prime Minister noted that the vision of a developed India by 2047 has transcended government policy to become a genuine mass aspiration. This shift is evident in the evolving patterns of education, consumption, and

global mobility, necessitating enhanced institutional capacity and proactive infrastructure planning to meet the needs of an increasingly aspirational society.

Prime Minister further stressed the need for mission-mode reforms to build global capability and attain global integration. To sustain long-term growth, Prime Minister called for mission-mode reforms across diverse sectors. He stressed that India's policymaking and budgeting must remain anchored with vision for 2047. He also spoke about the need for ensuring that the nation remains a vital hub for the global workforce and international markets.

During the interaction, the economists

shared strategic insights on enhancing productivity and competitiveness across the manufacturing and services sectors. The discussions focused on accelerating structural transformation through increased household savings, robust infrastructure development, and the adoption of cutting-edge technology.

The group explored the role of Artificial Intelligence (AI) as an enabler of cross-sectoral productivity and also discussed the continued scaling of India's Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI).

The participants noted that the unprecedented flurry of cross-sectoral reforms in 2025, and their further consolidation in the coming year, will ensure that India

continues to chart its path as one of the fastest growing global economies by strengthening its foundations and unlocking newer opportunities.

Several renowned economists and experts were part of the discussion, including Shri Shankar Acharya, Shri Ashok K Bhatta charya, Shri N R Bhanumurthy, Ms. Amita Batra, Shri Janmejaya Sinha, Shri Amit Chandra, Ms. Rajani Sinha, Shri Dinesh Kanabar, Shri Basanta Pradhan, Shri Madan Sabnavis, Ms. Ashima Goyal, Shri Dharmakirti Joshi, Shri Umakant Dash, Shri Pinaki Chakraborty, Shri Indranil Sen Gupta, Shri Samiran Chakraborty, Shri Abhiman Das, Shri Rahul Bajoria, Ms. Monika Halan and Shri Siddhartha Sanyal.



peace. We urge all concerned to remain focused on these efforts and to avoid any actions that could undermine them.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA GRACES ANTARRAJYIY JANSANSKRITIK SAMAGAM SAMAROH - KARTIK JATRA AT GUMLA

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: The President of India, Smt Droupadi Murmu, graced and addressed Antarrajyiy Jansanskritik Samagam Samaroh - Kartik Jatra at Gumla, Jharkhand Yesterday (December 30, 2025).

Speaking on the occasion, the President said that visiting Jharkhand, the birth place and workplace of Bhagwan Birsa Munda, feels like a pilgrimage to her. He is revered by all of us as a great symbol of social justice and tribal pride. She stated that Pankhraj Saheb Kartik Oraon strengthened tribal consciousness and identity in accordance

with the ideals of Bhagwan Birsa Munda. Kartik Oraon Ji dedicated his life to the upliftment of the tribal community and the nation. He worked for the spread of education and the strengthening of social unity. We should resolve to work for the overall development of society and the country by following his ideals.

The President noted that there is a long list of great tribal heroes from this region. She said that the government is making efforts to familiarize the people of India with their heroic tales through the establishment of tribal



museums. However, it is the responsibility of every individual and institution associated with the heritage of the tribal community to ensure that the contributions of these tribal heroes, from this region and all other regions, are made known to the youth and future generations of the country.

The President said that it is crucial to

connect the youth and future generations with the traditions of tribal communities. While preserving their tribal heritage and identity, our youth must move forward rapidly on the path of modern development. She expressed confidence that all members of the tribal communities will continue to move forward on the path of progress, while preserving our heritage.

VICE-PRESIDENT PARTICIPATES AS CHIEF GUEST AT PLATINUM JUBILEE CELEBRATIONS OF MAR IVANIOS COLLEGE, THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: The Vice-President of India, Shri C. P. Radhakrishnan, today participated as the Chief Guest at the Platinum Jubilee Celebrations of Mar Ivanios College, Thiruvananthapuram, marking 75 years of the institution's contribution to education and nation-building.

Addressing the gathering, the Vice-President said that institutions such as Mar Ivanios College exemplify the transformative power of education, which not only imparts knowledge but also liberates society from ignorance and inequality.

He observed that educational and spiritual institutions, when aligned with constitutional values, play a vital role in

strengthening national unity and social harmony.

The Vice-President noted that Bharat stands at a defining moment in history, with the world looking towards India for leadership and innovation. He urged the youth to uphold not only their constitutional rights but also their Fundamental Duties, including respect for diversity, promotion of scientific temper, and commitment to national unity.

Referring to the national vision of Viksit Bharat @ 2047, articulated by Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi, the Vice-President said that the youth are not waiting for the future but are actively shaping it. He emphasised that a developed India will be

built not only in corridors of power but in classrooms, laboratories, farms, factories, start-ups, and villages by the energy and aspirations of young Indians.

Emphasising the role of education in achieving the vision of Atmanirbhar Bharat, the Vice-President said that the National Education Policy 2020 marks a transformational shift towards multidisciplinary learning, critical thinking, innovation, and creativity, moving away from rote learning.

Referring to India's rapidly growing digital and innovation ecosystem, the Vice-President said that educational campuses must evolve into hubs of innovation and entrepreneurship. He

urged students to aspire not only to seek employment but also to create employment and develop indigenous solutions to societal challenges.

Calling upon the youth to embrace emerging technologies such as Artificial Intelligence, Block chain, and Natural Language Processing, the Vice-President stressed the need to use technology responsibly, guided by ethics, constitutional values, and concern for social good.

Highlighting Kerala's exemplary role in India's educational and literacy landscape, the Vice-President said that the achievements of the State reflect the collective efforts of its people and institutions committed to empowering youth through education. Governor of Kerala Shri Rajendra Vishwanath Arlekar, Chief Minister of Kerala Shri Pinarayi Vijayan, Minister for Local Self Government, Kerala Shri M. B. Rajesh, Member of Parliament Dr. Shashi Tharoor, Mayor of Thiruvananthapuram Corporation Shri V. V. Rajesh, Major Archbishop-Catholicos of Trivandrum and Patron, Mar Ivanios College, His Beatitude Baselios Cardinal Cleemis, and other dignitaries were present.

PM EXPRESSES CONCERN OVER REPORTS OF TARGETING OF THE RESIDENCE OF THE PRESIDENT OF THE RUSSIAN FEDERATION

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: Prime Minister Shri Narendra Modi today expressed deep concern over reports regarding the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation. Shri Modi underscored that ongoing diplo

matic efforts remain the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving lasting peace. He urged all concerned parties to remain focused on these efforts and to avoid any actions that could undermine them.

Shri Modi in a post on X wrote: "Deeply concerned by reports of the targeting of the residence of the President of the Russian Federation. Ongoing diplomatic efforts offer the most viable path toward ending hostilities and achieving

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AMAZON.IN LAUNCHES ‘GET FIT DAYS’ TO POWER NEW YEAR FITNESS RESOLUTIONS

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: As Indians step into 2026 with renewed focus on health and wellness, Amazon.in has announced the launch of its New Year fitness event, ‘Get Fit Days’, starting from 1 January 2026. The event brings together a wide selection of sports, fitness, and wellness products, including the latest launches from global wearable brand WHOOP, along with equipment and accessories from trusted names such as Yonex, Lifelong, PowerMax, and more.

The initiative reflects the growing importance of fitness among Indian

consumers. According to Amazon India, sports and fitness has emerged as one of its fastest-growing categories, spanning everything from home workout equipment and cardio machines to wearables and sporting gear.

Commenting on the launch, Karthik Subbarayappa, Director – Kitchen, Home Improvement and Sports, Amazon India, said that customers are increasingly prioritising fitness as part of their lifestyle.

He highlighted that Amazon continues to expand its product selection with new brand launches,

supported by AI-enabled discovery tools, customer ratings, and live shopping experiences that help shoppers make informed decisions. He added that attractive deals and fast delivery across serviceable PIN codes make it easier for customers nationwide to begin or sustain their fitness journeys.

Among the key highlights of the event is WHOOP 5.0, a next-generation wearable designed by leading human performance experts and used by elite athletes worldwide. The device offers advanced health tracking with over 14 days of battery life and continuous data

capture. WHOOP One and WHOOP Peak variants are available at special prices with bank card offers.

The event also features a range of home fitness solutions including resistance band sets, pull-up bars, treadmills, spin bikes, adjustable dumbbells, and yoga mats. Sports enthusiasts can explore essentials such as badminton shuttlecocks, footballs, and bicycles, catering to both beginners and seasoned players. With ‘Get Fit Days’, Amazon.in aims to support customers across India in turning their New Year fitness goals into lasting habits.

CHINA’S WARNING DRILLS CLOSE TO TAIWAN

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: China’s military on Tuesday carried out a second consecutive day of joint live-fire drills around Taiwan, deploying air, naval and missile units in what Beijing described as a “stern warning” to separatist forces and what it termed “external interference”. Taiwan responded by placing its forces on high alert, accusing Beijing of being “the biggest destroyer of peace” in the region. The exercises, named “Justice Mission 2025,” come amid rising tensions following reports of what could be the largest-ever U.S. arms sale to Taiwan and remarks by Japanese Prime Minister Sanae Takaichi suggesting Japan’s military could become involved if China were to take

action against the island. Beijing maintains that Taiwan must come under its rule and has repeatedly opposed any foreign involvement in the issue. Taiwan’s aviation authorities said the drills would disrupt air traffic significantly, affecting more than 100,000 international passengers due to flight cancellations and diversions. Over 80 domestic flights, involving around 6,000 passengers, were also cancelled as China declared multiple temporary “danger zones” in and around the Taiwan Strait for rocket-firing exercises. China’s Defence Ministry spokesperson Zhang Xiaogang warned countries against what he called the “illusion of using Taiwan to contain

China,” urging them not to challenge Beijing’s resolve in safeguarding its core interests. The official Xinhua News Agency quoted a government spokesperson as saying any attempts to seek Taiwan’s independence through foreign support were “doomed”. Taiwan’s Defence Ministry said it had launched rapid response drills, with troops maintaining a high level of readiness. It stated that the Chinese exercises further highlighted Beijing’s aggressive posture.

According to Taiwanese military officials, as of Monday afternoon, 89 Chinese aircraft and drones were operating around the strait, with 67 entering Taiwan’s designated response zone. Fourteen

Chinese naval vessels and multiple coast guard ships were also detected. Senior Colonel Shi Yi, spokesperson for the People’s Liberation Army’s Eastern Theater Command, said the drills were taking place in the Taiwan Strait and in areas north, south, east and southwest of the island. He said the exercises focused on combat readiness patrols, sea-air coordination, blockades of key ports and achieving “all-dimensional deterrence” beyond the island chain.

US President Donald Trump said he had not been informed in advance about the exercises but downplayed their significance, noting that China had conducted naval drills in the region for decades.

MODI TO MEET ECONOMISTS TO SHAPE STRATEGY AHEAD OF BUDGET

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025: Ahead of the Union Budget 2026-27, Prime Minister Narendra Modi is scheduled to meet leading economists and experts on Tuesday to seek their inputs, as part of the government’s consultations before key economic decisions. NITI Aayog Vice Chairman Suman Bery, CEO BVR Subrahmanyam and other members are also expected to attend, officials said.

The meeting will provide a platform for experts to share

assessments of the current economic situation. Finance Minister Nirmala Sitharaman, who is likely to present the Budget on February 1, has already held multiple consultations with economists, trade unions and labour organisations amid global geopolitical uncertainties and concerns over US tariffs.

These discussions form part of the finance ministry’s annual stakeholder engagement process. In recent days, similar pre-

Budget meetings have been held with representatives from sectors such as banking, hospitality, IT and startups, with a focus on boosting growth, employment and incomes, particularly in agriculture, MSMEs and manufacturing.

Meanwhile, industry body CII has proposed a four-pronged fiscal strategy for Budget 2026-27, centred on debt stability, fiscal transparency, revenue mobilisation and expenditure efficiency. According to CII, adhering to the



government’s debt glide path-targeting around 50 per cent of GDP by FY31-while maintaining central debt at about 54.5 per cent of GDP and a fiscal deficit of 4.2 per cent in FY27 would help preserve macro economic credibility while supporting growth.

R. MOHANA KRISHNAN HONORED WITH EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE AWARD 2025

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025 : PHYSICAL EDUCATION FOUNDATION OF INDIA, National Sports Promotion Organization, Tamil Nadu State Chapter, recognized by the Ministry of Youth Affairs & Sports, Government of India, hereby confers the CERTIFICATE OF HONOUR for EXCELLENCE IN SPORTS LEADERSHIP & GOVERNANCE AWARD upon Prof. Mohana Krishnan R, Director Sports, SRM

Institute of Science and Technology, Kattankulathur, Chengalpattu District, in recognition of his outstanding contribution, exemplary service and dedication to the profession of Physical Education and Sports. This award stands as a tribute to his remarkable career and distinguished service to the nation and is formally presented during the Award for Excellence in Sports 2025 held on 23 December 2025 at Tiruchirappalli. The award was presented



by Shri Kamal Haasan, Secretary, PEFI – Member of Parliament Rajya Sabha, and Rtn. AKS Thiru Anbil Mahesh Poyyamozhi, Minister for School Education, PEFI – Tamil Nadu Government of Tamil Nadu. With Dr. D. Prasanna Balaji, TN/AE/122025/008.

“KIKI & KOKO”: A HEART-WARMING INDIAN ANIMATED FILM BLENDING ENTERTAINMENT WITH LIFE VALUES

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025 : The global fascination with Hollywood animated films continues to grow, and animation today enjoys the same stature and appreciation as any other cinematic genre. In recent years, Indian animation has begun making a powerful mark of its own. The recent success of Maha Avatar Narasimha, which captivated both children and adults and achieved remarkable box-office success, stands as strong proof of this growing trend.

Adding to this positive momentum is a touching new Indian animated film titled “Kiki & Koko.” Designed to appeal not only to children but also to adults with a childlike heart, the film is being presented by Inika Studios, produced by Dharani, and directed by P. Narayanan. Child artiste Srinika lends her voice to the character of Koko, while Meena Chabria serves as the CEO behind the project.

Currently under production, Kiki & Koko is planned for release in theatres and on OTT platforms in nine languages, covering all major Indian languages along with several international versions. This ambitious multilingual release reflects the universal nature of the film’s themes and emotions.

The teaser of Kiki & Koko was recently unveiled at a press meet held at Prasads

Preview Theatre, Hyderabad, where the film team shared insights into the movie’s vision and message.

Speaking at the event, child artiste Srinika shared her excitement:

“I played the character of Koko in Kiki & Koko. Kiki is my best friend in the film, and I really wish I had a friend like that in real life. I love animation movies, and acting in this film made me very happy. When I grow up, I want to become a good actor.”

Creative Director Gokul Raj Bhaskar, who brings over two decades of experience from the Malayalam animation industry, said:

“Most animation films focus on fantasy. With Kiki & Koko, we wanted to show children reality instead. Through our art, we aim to convey real-life emotions in a way children can understand. Introducing this film to Telugu audiences, who deeply value cinema, makes us very happy. This film is not just about entertainment—it is about introducing emotions through its characters.”

Director P. Narayanan emphasized the film’s core philosophy:

“Today’s children are increasingly exposed to violence and fantasy super heroes. Through Kiki & Koko, we want to show the reality of life—loving oneself,



respecting elders, apologizing when we are wrong, showing gratitude, and helping others. Change must begin with us. By blending realism and humanity, the film promotes values such as goodness, humility, and compassion. Kiki & Koko is an edutainment film that encourages sharing and caring. The content is strong, and we are also considering developing it as a series.”

CEO Meena Chabria spoke about the vision behind the project:

“I love cinema, and animation offers a wonderful opportunity to reach children meaningfully. Instead of fantasy, we consciously chose to create an animation film that teaches lessons children can observe, learn, and practice in real life. In earlier times, moral stories shaped our values. Today’s children live fast-paced lives and often miss that guidance. Kiki & Koko fills that gap as an edutainment film. We also run a children’s brand called Color Pencil, through which we create apps and books.

Additionally, we

plan to release monthly merchandise based on Kiki & Koko. This film is for children, adults with childlike hearts, and parents who wish to raise better human beings.”

Producer Dharani added:

“Through Kiki & Koko, our goal is to convey emotions and values to children. We want young boys and girls to understand the importance of goodness and the realities of life. The film will be released both theatrically and on OTT platforms.”

Film Details
Characters:
KiKi – Doggy.
KoKo – Small Baby.
Technical Team:
Director: P. Narayanan, **Producer:** Dharani, **Concept & Creative Director:** Gokul Raaj Bhaskar, **Writers:** Aswin Vishal Theodore, Vismaya Mani, **Direction Department Head:** Hari Raroth, **Content Strategists:** Sri Hari P, Sri Aravind P, **Animation Studio:** Iyagi Studios, **Production House:** Insignia Creatives, **CMO:** Meena Chabria, **Creative Producer:** G.M. Karthikeyan, **PRO:** Ramababu Varma Lanka.

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Several companies moved from demonstration to deployment in 2025. Skyroot Aerospace and Agnikul Cosmos advanced private launch systems, Pixxel deployed India's first private hyper spectral satellite constellation, and Digantara launched its first commercial space surveillance satellite. Other firms showcased capabilities in propulsion, launch subsystems and imaging platforms.

THE BED MOVIE REVIEW - AESTHETIC STORYTELLING MEETS SUSPENSE IN A THOUGHTFULLY CRAFTED ROMANTIC THRILLER

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025:Hero Srikanth and his friends decide to travel to Ooty to spend their weekend holiday. They take along Sruthi Thangey, a high-profile escort, on the trip. Srikanth gradually falls in love with Sruthi Thangey and ensures that none of his friends cross their limits with her. At the same time, his friends are eager to get close to her and seek moments of intimacy.

In the midst of this, Sruthi Thangey suddenly goes missing. The following day, one among the four friends also disappears. The friends search across Ooty for the missing duo. Were they found? What is the mystery behind their disappearance? And why did Srikanth fall in love with Sruthi Thangey despite knowing her background? The answers to these questions form the rest of the film's story.

Although Srikanth plays the lead role, the situations his character goes through come as a surprise. Nevertheless, he delivers a convincing performance and does justice to the role he has taken on.

Sruthi Thangey, playing the female lead, captivates the audience with her beauty and subtle

glamour.

With restrained acting and graceful allure, she keeps the audience engaged throughout the film and makes not only Srikanth's friends on screen, but also the viewers, long for her presence.

Black Pandi, VJ Pappu, Vikram, John Vijay as the Police Inspector, Divya as the heroine's mother, and Devi Priya as the Police Sub-Inspector have all delivered measured performances that add strength and credibility to their respective characters.

Though there is only one song composed by Taj Noor, it is melodious and stays with the listener. The background score complements the narrative well and enhances the mood of the film.

Cinematographer Gokul avoids the usual tourist spots of Ooty and instead captures fresh locations that suit the romantic and thriller genres. His visuals significantly strengthen the story telling.

Writer-director S. Manibharathi skillfully balances two genres — an emotionally driven love story and an unpredictable suspense thriller. He narrates the



film in such a way that the two-hour runtime passes without the audience realizing it.

While the limited number of characters and a relatively subdued police investigation serve as minor drawbacks, the honest handling of the story overshadows these shortcomings.

Though the core theme revolves around a high-end escort, the film avoids vulgarity entirely.

The director presents the scenes with aesthetic sensibility and narrates the story in a dignified, simple, and refined manner.

Cast and Crew

Details : (The Bed)

Hero - Srikanth - Velu, Heroine - Shruti Dange - Cristy, Hero Friend - Black Pandi - Pandi, Hero Friend - VJ Pappu, Hero Friend - Vikram, Heroine Amma - Divya, Inspector - John Vijay, SI - Devi Priya, Technicians, Director S. Manibharathi, D o p: Gokul, Music: Tajnoor, Lyrics: Yuga bharathi, Art: palani Vel, Stunt: Action Prakash, Stills: Rajprabu, Designs: Sabeer, Excutive Av. Palanisamy, Productions - Aanjaneya Productions & Srinithi Productions, Producers- K. Kandhasamy, K. Ganeshan, V. Vijaya kumar, V. Logeshwari V i j a y a k u m a r , Pro - A. John.

'THE BED' FILM TEAM HOSTS A SPECIAL SCREENING FOR JOURNALISTS WITH TRADITIONAL DRUM WELCOME

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025 : Following his earlier films Vethu Vettu and Parivar thanai, director S. Mani bharathi has written and directed the film The Bed. The film is produced by V. Vijaya kumar under the banner of Sreenidhi Productions, along with K. Kandasamy and K. Ganeshan of Anjaneya Productions.

The film stars Srikanth as the male lead and Srushti Dange as the female lead, with prominent roles played by John Vijay, Black Pandi, Pappu, Devi Priya, Divya Sreedhar, and Vikram Anand.

The Bed is scheduled for a world wide release on January 2.

Ahead of its release, a special press screening for journalists was held yesterday. The journalists were welcomed by the film team with traditional Chendai Melam (drum performance). Each journalist was also presented with a white ceremonial shawl and greeted with New Year wishes.

This marks the first time in Tamil cinema that journalists have been welcomed in such a traditional manner for a special screening.

During the press meet that followed:

Actress Divya Sreedhar, who plays the mother's role in the film, said:

"I am from Kerala, and The Bed marks my debut in Tamil cinema. This is a challenging and bold character. I

thank the team for choosing me for this role. I am confident my character will generate discussion among the audience."

Actor Black Pandi, speaking about the film, said:

"This is my second film with director Manibharathi. I have played many friend roles earlier, but this film was different for me. The director has narrated the story from a unique perspective — from the point of view of 'the bed'. Manibharathi generally makes films that fall within the U/A category. Music composer Taj Noor has delivered excellent music for the film."

Music composer Taj Noor said:

"Initially, I was told this was a thriller film. However, the way the story unfolds as if narrated by the bed itself was handled very effectively."

Director Manibharathi, addressing the media, said:

"Actor Srikanth could not attend this event as he is out of town on vacation with his family. We invited actress Srushti Dange twice to attend the event, but for reasons unknown, she did not turn up. Her full remuneration has already been settled. Had there been any pending payment, perhaps she would have attended.

In Tamil cinema, there are about five well-known actresses who regularly play



mother roles. However, none of them were suitable for this particular character. Even when approached, they declined. That is why we went to Kerala and introduced a new face.

She will be seen as a new 'mother figure' in Tamil cinema for some time.

The film does not portray IT youth in a negative manner. Similar instances occur across many professions where youngsters indulge in excessive partying in the name of enjoyment. The film serves as a cautionary tale, showing where such behavior may ultimately lead.

Even the bedroom

scene involving a police officer was included to highlight the unpredictable nature of police duty and how it impacts the officer's family life. For that role, we cast a dance choreographer as the officer's wife. Just because someone is a dancer, does that mean they should only be used for dance? She had danced in my first film; in this film, I cast her as an actor."

The technical crew includes K. Gokul as cinematographer, Taj Noor as music director, Yugabharathi as lyricist, J.B. as editor, Palanivel as art director, and A.V. Palanisamy as production manager.

Public Relations: A. John.

PRESIDENT OF INDIA TO GRACE SOAR PROGRAMME AND CONFER AI CERTIFICATES

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025 : The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu, will grace a special programme under SOAR – Skilling for AI Readiness, an initiative of the Skill India Mission, on Thursday, January 1, 2026, at 11:00 AM at the Rashtrapati Bhavan Cultural Centre (RBCC), New Delhi.

The programme is being organised by the Ministry of Skill Development and Entrepreneurship (MSDE), Government of India and reflects the continued commitment of Government towards preparing India's workforce for an AI-driven future.

The programme will be held in the august presence of Shri

Dharmendra Pradhan, Minister of Education, Govt of India and Shri Jayant Chaudhary, Minister of State (Independent Charge) for Skill Development and Entrepreneurship and Minister of State for Education, Govt of India.

During the event, The President of India, Smt. Droupadi Murmu will confer Artificial Intelligence (AI) certificates upon learners, including students and Members of Parliament and launch of the national awareness campaign #Skill TheNation Challenge, aimed at encouraging more youth participation in future-ready skilling programmes. As part of the agenda MSDE will conduct a



special "AI for Beginners" session at Rashtrapati Bhavan, as a brief interactive learning module led by a globally renowned AI expert, in collaboration with Google, the Ministry's principal AI skilling partner.

The President will also virtually inaugurate IGNOU Regional Centre at Rairangpur, serving as a key hub for northern Odisha for strengthening employability through skill-oriented programmes and training support.

Artificial Intelligence is transforming the nature of work and skill requirements across sectors. MSDE has placed strong emphasis on AI skilling, with a focus on accessibility, relevance and inclusion.

Through initiatives such as SOAR – Skilling for AI Readiness, the Ministry is enabling learners to acquire essential AI competencies aligned with emerging industry needs.

MOD INKS RS 4,666 CRORE CONTRACTS FOR CLOSE QUARTER BATTLE CARBINE & HEAVY WEIGHT TORPEDOES

Chennai, 31 Dec 2025 : Ministry of Defence, on December 30, 2025, signed contracts worth a total cost of Rs 4,666 crore for the procurement of Close Quarter Battle (CQB) Carbine and Heavy Weight Torpedoes. The contracts were inked in the presence of Defence Secretary Shri Rajesh Kumar Singh at South Block, New Delhi.

CQB Carbine

The contract for over 4.25 lakh CQB Carbine along with accessories, worth Rs 2,770 crore, for the Indian Army and the Indian Navy were signed with Bharat Forge Ltd and PLR Systems Pvt Ltd. This achievement marks the culmination of an extraordinary, persistent effort to equip Indian soldiers with world-class lethality, replacing legacy systems with cutting-edge indigenous technology under the 'Aatmanirbhar Bharat'



vision.

As a cornerstone of the modern infantry arsenal, the CQB Carbine provides a critical edge in close combat through its compact design and high rate of fire, ensuring rapid, decisive lethality in confined spaces. The contract highlights the synergy between the Government and the private sector which will further give impetus to the Make-in-India initiative.

This project will also play a pivotal role in boosting overall economy, increasing employment avenues and will also empower indigenous defence industries by

encouraging Indian MSMEs through components' manufacturing and raw material supply. Heavy Weight Torpedoes

The contract for the procurement and integration of 48 Heavy Weight Torpedoes along with associated equipment for Kalvari Class Submarines (P-75) of the Indian Navy at an approximate cost of Rs 1,896 crore was signed with WASS Submarine Systems S.R.L., Italy.

The acquisition will enhance the combat capability of the six Kalvari Class submarines. The delivery of torpedoes will commence from

April 2028 and will be completed by early 2030.

These torpedoes have significant operational capabilities and advanced technological features. The acquisition underscores the Government's commitment to meet the operational requirements of the Indian Navy through the induction of niche technologies and advanced capabilities weapons.

In the Financial Year 2025-26, Ministry of Defence has signed capital contracts amounting to Rs 1,82,492 crore for the modernisation of the Armed Forces.