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## Georgian PM notes Saint Alexi Shushania's "great contribution" to preservation of spirituality in Georgia



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on Saturday said Saint Alexi Shushania, an outstanding secular and clerical figure, who had made "a great contribution" to the preservation of spirituality, the protection of the Georgian language and national values in Georgia, was among those whose achievements and dedication to the country deserved more recognition and appreciation.

Garibashvili made a speech at the presentation of the scientific work of the Senaki and Chkhorotsku Metropolitan Shio Mujiri, the Patriarch's 'locum tenens', about the Saint Alexi Shushania at the National Library of the Parliament of Georgia.

The PM said the scientific work of Metropolitan Shio conveyed the great merit of Saint Alexi Shushania in the "dramatic period" of Georgia's history in the second half of the 19th century, when the "Russification" policy and fight against national values had been "particularly gaining strength".

The book Honourable Alexi Senakeli (Shushania), dedicated to the 100th anniversary of Saint Alexi's death, covers all areas of his life and work. It also includes archival materials that provide previously unknown details about his life.

## Deputy Economy Minister promotes Georgia's visitor attractions at World Tourism Day in Saudi Arabia



Georgian Deputy Economy Minister Mariam Kvrivishvili on Friday informed participants of the Forum of Tourism Leaders, hosted as part of the World Tourism Day in Saudi Arabia, about Georgia's preparations to host next year's edition in its capital.

With this victory [of the right of hosting the event], we have taken another step towards the recognition of Georgia, increasing its awareness and, most importantly, strengthening the tourism industry of our country", the Deputy Minister added.

Thirty-eight countries of the Commission for Europe of the United Nations' World Tourism Organisation chose Georgia as the host country for next year's World Tourism Day, with the selection made at their 68th meeting this June in Sofia, Bulgaria.

## Black Sea region of Adjara wins Europe's Leading All-Season Destination at tourism "Oscar" - World Travel Awards



Georgia's Black Sea region of Adjara and the city of Batumi on Friday won the award of Europe's Leading All-Season Destination 2023 at the so-called tourism "Oscar" - the World Travel Awards, hosted in Batumi for the first time. Batumi also received the prize for Europe's Leading Emerging Tourism Destination 2023. The city earned the same award in 2022 as well, the Adjara Tourism Department said.

The Batumi Botanical Garden was chosen as Europe's Leading Botanical Garden, competing against the botanical gardens of Madrid, Edinburgh, Berlin and other famous European cities.

Georgia hosted the 30th-anniversary gala ceremony of the tourism "Oscar" with the Georgian show programme, which demonstrated the country's culture, art, traditions and history, as well as Georgian hospitality.

## Georgian PM praises China's "incredible achievements", says strategic ties will ensure "mutual benefits, prosperity"



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on Tuesday praised China's "rich history and culture" and its "incredible achievements", while also saying the recently signed strategic deal with Beijing could ensure "prosperity and mutual benefits", in his address at an official reception in Tbilisi dedicated to the 74th anniversary of the founding of the People's Republic of China.

"I am confident our strategic partnership will further deepen, bringing prosperity and mutual benefits to our great nations", Garibashvili said, in reference to the agreement signed during his official trip to China earlier this year.

Commending China's "amazing civilisation", which Garibashvili said was "rich in tradition and symbolism" and had won "universal admiration for its infinite depth", the official added the country's progress had been driven "not only by its future ambitions, but also its ability to embrace its historical legacy as a source of strength and inspiration".

Describing his visit to China in the summer as an "important stage" in bilateral relations, Garibashvili stressed he "firmly believed" the countries' vision of "shared prosperity and sustainable development" would yield "tangible and mutually beneficial results".

He emphasised Georgia and China enjoyed "fruitful cooperation" in a number of sectors, including infrastructure, trade, economy, tourism and culture.

It is important that Georgia historically appears as a natural bridge between Europe and Asia and is an integral part of the ancient Silk Road. Today, our strategic location allows us to contribute to the revival of the route through the Middle Corridor envisioned under the umbrella of the Belt and Road Initiative", he noted.

Garibashvili claimed his Government was making "significant investments" in infrastructure to promote the country's transit potential, and added the Tbilisi Silk Road Forum scheduled in October, which he said was an international platform for high-level and multilateral dialogue, also confirmed his Government's commitment to the goal and the Chinese initiative.

He stressed the signing of a bilateral cooperation plan between Tbilisi and Beijing as part of the Belt and Road Initiative "had confirmed" Georgia's commitment to China's transit aspirations.

In his speech, the PM also said Tbilisi "highly appreciated" China's "unwavering support" for Georgia's sovereignty and territorial integrity within its internationally recognised borders, and stressed Georgia also adhered to the "one China principle".

## Georgian PM discusses strategic ties, economic prospects with Azerbaijani Minister



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on Friday discussed strategic cooperation and prospects of further strengthening economic ties with the visiting Azerbaijani Economy Minister Mikayil Jabbarov.

The officials mainly focused on economic partnership and cooperation in a Tbilisi meeting, the Government press office said.

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## Georgian PM stresses Govt's readiness to always support investors at opening of first "top-class" Radisson RED hotel in region



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili on Friday attended an official opening of the first "top-class" hotel of the Radisson RED brand in the region and said his Government was "always ready" to support the investors in implementing "such projects".

In his address, Garibashvili thanked the investing company for allocating \$28 million for the hotel, already employing 100 people and stressed this project would be "really remarkable" for Georgia and its capital city of Tbilisi.

The PM said he was happy that the historical former post office acquired "a new life" after renovation and became another 5-star hotel in the capital.

The development of tourism in Georgia, which has made the country "outstanding in the region" was highlighted by Garibashvili, emphasising "it is no coincidence that" the income from tourism in the country exceeded the pre-pandemic mark.

Direct income from tourism reached \$3.5 billion last year and this year it is expected to be at least \$4 billion, he added.

Most importantly is that this peaceful, stable period continues in the country. Investors feel this stability, support from our Government", the Head of the Government noted.

The guests of the opening event were also addressed by Tbilisi Mayor Kakha Kaladze, Husnu Tayanc, Radisson RED Tbilisi General Manager and Antoine Moubarak, Radisson Hotel Group Regional Director for Turkey, Georgia, Azerbaijan and Eastern Europe.

Radisson RED Hotel located in a 100-year-old building of the former post office. Photo via Government Administration

Radisson RED Hotel is located on Davit Agmashenebeli Avenue in a 100-year-old building of the former post office, which has preserved its original appearance after the renovation. The hotel offers customers 111 rooms, from standard to deluxe.

## PM announces increase in pensions for 2024



Georgian Prime Minister Irakli Garibashvili said pensions for pensioners aged 70 years and older would increase by ₾50 (\$18.62) and become ₾415 (\$154.58), while for pensioners under 70 it would be raised by ₾20 (\$7.45) and reach ₾315 (\$117.33).

The Government head said the budget of healthcare and social protection programmes was increasing by ₾870 million (\$324mln) which included increase in pensions and a 10 percent salary increase for primary care staff.

In total, ₾5.6 billion (\$2.9bln) will be provided for social programmes and 1.6 billion (\$0.60bln) - for healthcare programmes", he added. Garibashvili today presented the first version of the budget, while the second version will be presented by November 5, the Government Administration said.



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## Tbilisi Museums Union awarded Special Recognition at European Museum Academy Awards



The Union of Tbilisi Municipal Museums, a network bringing together nine venues in Georgia's capital city, has been awarded Special Recognition at European Museum Academy Awards this week for its "outstanding achievement" in creating a space for cooperation and innovation between its members.

In the awards ceremony hosted in the Romanian city of Timișoara on Tuesday, the Georgian institution was distinguished along with awards and mentions handed out to venues and bodies across Europe, from the Carmen Thyssen Málaga Museum in Spain to the FLUGT Refugee Museum of Denmark.

The Awards followed the annual EMA conference in Timișoara, the city which this year is bearing the European Capital of Culture title, and featured two Special Recognition titles. The other honour went to the National Museum of the History of Ukraine in the Second World War.

The Special Recognition for the Tbilisi-based institution said it demonstrated a "creative approach to knowledge generation, interpretation, and social responsibility, all while considering the complex geographical and historical context". It also noted the selection for the honour recognised the "dedicated spirit" found in the operation of the Union.

The honour was granted to the body in the DASA Award category, designed to recognise "museums that stand out in museography and educational programs, where history and heritage serve as vital educational resources and foster community engagement".

The Judges' Report recognises an outstanding achievement in creating a network of museums in the capital city of Georgia. Co-operation and innovation are the key words of their work in the context of a difficult regional geopolitical situation.

Formed in 2016, the Union brings together state-owned museum venues, most of which are memorial houses of historical figures of Georgia's literary scene throughout the 19th and 20th centuries, from the author, publicist and public figure Ilia Chavchavadze to poet Galaktion Tabidze and dancer and choreographer Vakhtang Chabukiani.

The body administers the venues with the double objective of hosting traditional museum spaces and offering educational programmes to visitors. The latter element includes programmes for those in juvenile rehabilitation institutions across the country, members of the armed forces and others, and teaches participants skills including making of hand-crafted dolls, mechanical machines and more.

The Union joined the Network of European Museum Organisations this year, joining over 30,000 venues in 40 European states.

The European Museum Academy was formed in 2009 to bring together professionals in the field, with this year's conference in Romania hosting meetings, mentoring events and workshops.

## Tbilisi, Akhaltsikhe to host folklore festival with Georgian, European ensembles



Georgian ensembles will be joined by visiting bands from Europe in the International Folklore Festival 'Sakartvelo' in a four-day celebration of folk performing arts in Tbilisi and the southern municipality of Akhaltsikhe next week.

Georgia's Culture Ministry on Monday said the festival would launch at the open-air location of Akhaltsikhe Castle with three days of shows and introduction of local folklore, architecture and cuisine.

Organised by the Anzor Erkomaishvili State Folklore Centre and with the support of the Ministry, the festival will feature ensembles from Italy, Belgium, the Netherlands, the United Kingdom and Finland.

The visiting bands have spent years learning and performing traditional Georgian polyphony, the Ministry said, adding the programme would also involve eight Georgian ensembles. Running for its fourth edition, the Festival is set to run between September 18-22.

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## Georgia's Tetruldi ski resort to host Freeride World Tour for first time in country



Georgia's Tetruldi ski resort in northwestern Svaneti region will host the Freeride World Tour in 2024 for the first time in the history of the country, alongside Canada, Andorra, Spain, Switzerland and Austria.

The competition, to be held in March 2024, will see 50 outstanding athletes competing in the freeriding, which involves sliding in untracked snow on difficult and mountainous terrain.

The Mountains Trails Agency said that Tetruldi resort "has become a new discovery" for freeride lovers and noted the World Tour, which covers 300 million spectators around the world, would be important for the development of winter sports and tourism in Georgia.

Deputy Economy Minister Mariam Kvrivishvili said the decision to give Georgia the right to hold the competition was very significant for strengthening the

tourism brand of the country.

Kvrivishvili noted that hosting the World Tour would move Georgia's mountain-ski "tourism products to a new stage, thereby increasing the awareness of our country". She added it would facilitate the arrival of "even more" international travellers to various resorts in Georgia during the winter season.

We have earned the trust and recognition of international experts, therefore, we will host the Freeride World Tour with dignity, as we did the Bakuriani World Championship. Georgia will once again be marked on the world sports map in a new direction", the Director of the MTA, Irakli Burchuladze said.

He added it was "a victory" and recognition for Georgia that the country's ski resorts "have great potential".

## Georgia's Ilya Sulamanidze wins gold at Heydar Aliyev Baku Grand Slam



Georgian judoka Ilya Sulamanidze on Sunday won a gold medal at the 2023 Heydar Aliyev Baku Grand Slam.

Sulamanidze defeated Matvey Kanikovskiy in the final of the -100 kg category of the tournament.

At the Grand Slam, which ran from Friday to Sunday, Georgian judokas Guram Tushishvili and Eteri Liparteliani claimed silver medals in their respective weight categories.

## Georgian athletes claim top spots as Greece hosts first European Championships in Georgian Wrestling



The first edition of the European Championships in Georgian Wrestling was hosted on Tuesday in an ancient Greek amphitheatre in Thessaloniki, with the three top spots claimed by wrestlers from the country.

Featuring athletes from over 25 nations competing in the absolute weight category, the event saw Georgia's Onise Bughadze claim the gold medal and the European Champion's title, followed by Saba Inaneishvili who earned silver and Levan Matiashvili for bronze.

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# The most important districts of Tbilisi



## Vera

North of the Old Town, just past Rustaveli metro station, is the grassy Vera district. Vera is in the central location of the city. There are numerous gardens and green hidden yards in Vera. Architectural buildings from the 19th century in Vera seems untouched.

If you are visiting Vera, do not leave there forgetting Vera Park. The greenery will surely absorb you, sticking to your memory.



## Marjanishvili

This region, its metro station, and the surrounding areas are some of the historical locations around Tbilisi. Marjanishvili avenue in Tbilisi is one of those beautiful areas where you can enjoy walking.

Many cafes, shops, and theatres are located in this region, and are mostly Arabic and Turkish. Make sure you visit the bank of Mtkvari River, where you can shop, go to theatres, or stop by the huge bazaar at the main square.



## Old Tbilisi

This is where the preliminary stones of Tbilisi were put on each other. The history started here. Old Tbilisi is dominated by Mount Mtatsminda, Narikala fortress, and the Kartlis Deda monument. Mtkvari River flows inside the area.

You can enjoy the religious and secular architecture of the city while wandering in the streets. The Old Tbilisi is essentially loaded with mosques, churches, synagogues, and traditional houses from the 19th century.



## Saburtalo

Saburtalo is a huge lengthy division of Tbilisi — it is 7 kilometers long — and presents no historical or cultural sight. It is located in the northwest of the Old Tbilisi containing buildings with Soviet-era styles. Saburtalo has a specific subway line you can use. If you are into shopping, take a walk in Pekini and Kostava streets. The majority of international food and clothes brands can be found here. McDonald's, Wendy's, Subway, LC Waikiki, Dominos Pizza, Dunkin' Donuts, Luca Polare, Entree, Biscoto, etc. Tbilisi Zoo can also be one of your destinations. Do not forget to spend an hour or two beside Lisi Lake, it is absolutely appealing. It is only a 10-minute drive up from Saburtalo.

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# Georgian dishes for vegetarians

## Estragon pie



It is one of the most famous and beloved dishes among Georgians. Puff dough, Spinach pie with Wensleydale cheese, and boiled eggs are its ingredients. you can add green onion as well if you like.

## Soko Kecze (mushroom in a clay pot)



This is a Georgian snack. The dish consists of baked mushrooms which can be either plain or filled with butter and Georgian Sulguni cheese, seasoned with black pepper, and sometimes a bit of garlic.

## Mkhlovani (herb-filled pie)



Mkhlovani is a Georgian pastry, similar to khachapuri (cheese-filled bread) and Lobiani (bread filled with mashed beans), but with a different filling. Its filling is a mixture of various kinds of herbs. It is usually made in the mountainous regions of Georgia.

## Red pepper stuffed with walnuts



This spicy appetizer is one of the most delicious among Georgian cuisines. The mixture of walnuts, fenugreek, dried coriander, ground red pepper, garlic, onion, and vinegar has made it so delicious; definitely, it is worth trying.

## What dishes to eat in Georgia?

### Ostri



Ostri (beef-based stew with tomato sauce)

This delicious beef-based stew with tomato sauce is very popular in Georgia. It is a spicy dish that served hot and the meat is tender when fully cooked.

### Khachapuri Adjaruli



This is the national dish of Georgia which is on the list of the Intangible cultural heritage of this country. it is very popular both in restaurants and as Street Food. You will enjoy this cheese boat partly for lunch and partly for a snack. this delicious pizza in shape food has egg on top and being meatless has made it a good choice for people with special diets.

### Kuchmanchi



Kuchmanchi is another traditional Georgian dish to eat. It can be made with pork/chicken or young beef hearts, livers, gizzards and usually garnished with pomegranate seeds and walnuts.

### Kubdari



Kubdari (bread containing beef, pork, spices and onions)

Its name is taken from Svaneti that is one of the most beautiful mountains in Georgia. The bread contain beef, pork or a combination of them, spices and onions. Kubdari was also inscribed on the Intangible Cultural Heritage of Georgia list in 2015.

### Shkmeruli:



very clear that sometimes less is better. The rich flavor of crispy roasted chicken paired with the creamy garlic sauce is just perfect. We typically ordered chicken Shkmeruli along with some silky smooth mashed potatoes".

Coming from the Racha region of Georgia, Georgians cook chicken in milk and garlic sauce, so this would be a perfect meal for travelers who don't eat lamb and beef.

As Sean and Jen – an American couple – Describe Shkmeruli “after tasting it, it is

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## Indian Minister to Visit NZ in Boost for Bilateral Relations



India's Minister of State for Foreign Affairs Rajkumar Ranjan Singh is scheduled to be in New Zealand later this month in a trip being described as a step-up in bilateral relations.

Sources say officials are working on securing meetings with senior government officials, and possibly even at the ministerial level, during the trip that will be the second visit by an Indian minister within a year.

As officials firm up the finer details, three public events involving the minister have already been announced. Singh is scheduled to attend a meet-and-greet session organised by Indian High Commissioner Neeta Bhushan in Christchurch on September 24, and in Queenstown on September 26.

The minister is then scheduled to be a keynote speaker at the India Business Summit on September 28, organised by Auckland Chamber of Commerce.

The trip comes amid a significant uptick in diplomatic and business activity between New Delhi and Wellington lately.

Indian Foreign Minister S Jaishankar met Nanaia Mahuta when he visited last year, followed by a trip to India by his counterpart early this year.

More recently, two vessels of the Indian Navy docked in Auckland and Wellington on a supply visit for four days starting August 31.

INS Kolkata and INS Sahyadri were the first naval vessels to visit New Zealand since 2016, and officials say the trip strengthened defence cooperation between the two countries.

Neeta Bhushan described the visit as "historic". "This [visit by the ships] is reflective of the fact that our bonds are getting closer and deeper across sectors, especially in the sphere of defence," she said.

Simon Bridges, Auckland Chamber of Commerce CEO, told The Indian Weekender he hoped Singh's presence at the business summit this month will ensure "there is momentum to the positive energy" around relations between India and New Zealand.

"The summit will have a diverse expert panel, and it is a great opportunity for anyone to get up-to-the-minute advice in bilateral trade and relations."

Last month, New Delhi and Wellington agreed to increase bilateral cooperation during official talks when an Indian delegation visited the capital city for the fifth India-New Zealand Foreign Office Consultations (FOC) on August 19.

The Indian team was led by the Secretary (East) of the Ministry of External Affairs of India, Saurabh Kumar; and co-chaired by Deborah Geels from the New Zealand foreign ministry.

Officials said both sides expressed satisfaction at the enhanced engagement between the two countries. "There was appreciation on both sides about the fact that a lot had been done in the last one year following up on the visit of Dr S Jaishankar," Neeta Bhushan had told The Indian Weekender.

Source: IWK RAVI BAJPAI

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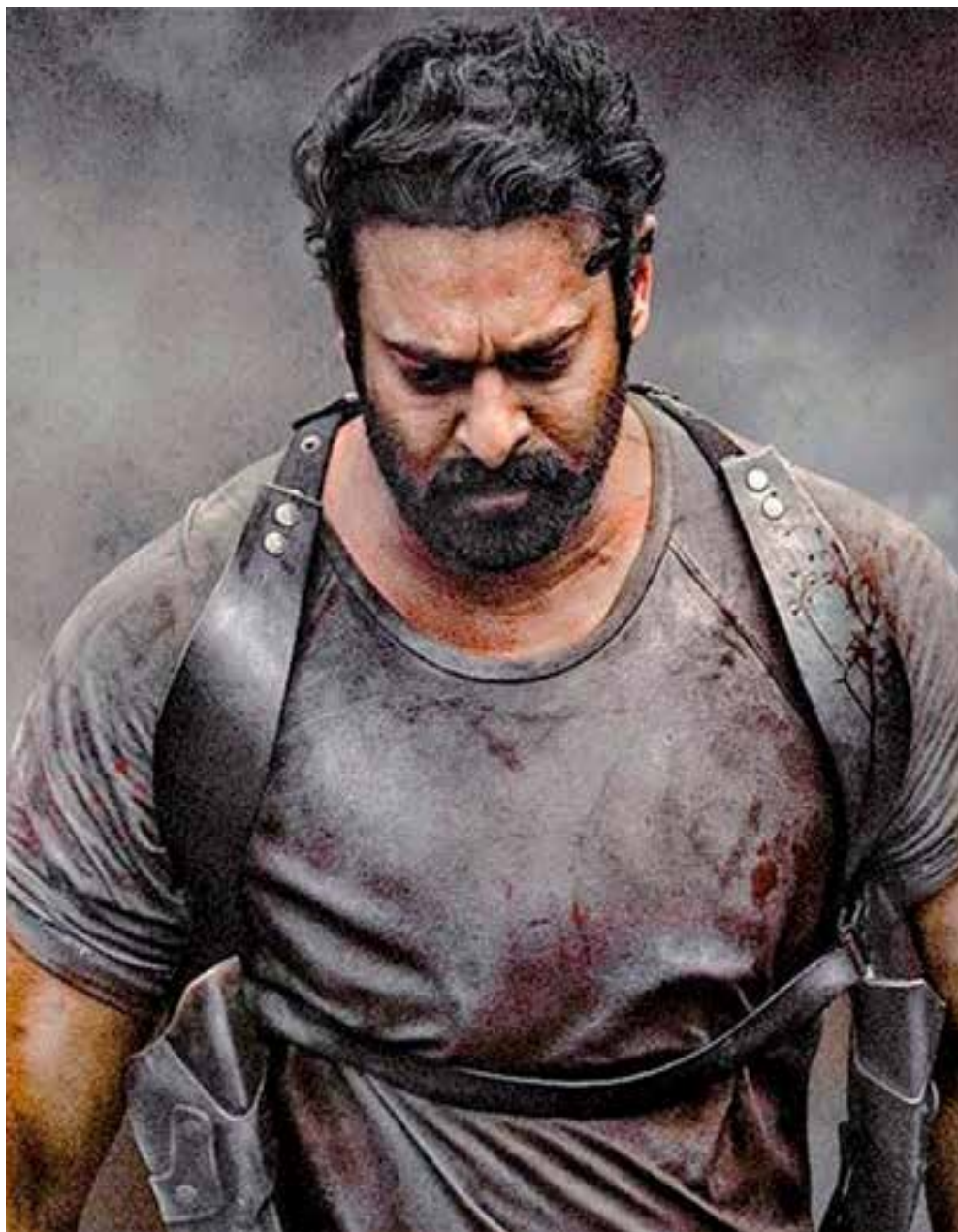
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## Salaar new release date REVEALED! Prabhas starrer to release in November 2023



The teaser of Salaar has already created a massive impact as fans of Prabhas are eager to see him in this action-packed avatar. The film is directed by KGF fame Prashanth Neel with Shruti Haasan as the leading lady and Prithviraj Sukumaran also essaying a key role of the antagonist. With a power packed star cast and filmmaker's team, the anticipation for this entertainer has always been at an all-time high. Fans of the South superstar were, however, disappointed, when reports of the film's release date being pushed further started doing the rounds a day ago. However, now ending the curiosity, it has been revealed that the film will definitely arrive in theatres this year and that too in November.

Just a day ago, a source close to Bollywood Hungama revealed that Fukrey 3 bagged the release date of September 28 as Salaar makers decided to reschedule the release date. Another source close to the project confirmed the details adding, "Director Prashanth Neel doesn't want to compromise on the final product of Salaar: Part 1 – Ceasefire. Hence he has decided to work on the post-production to prioritize every detail to be perfect despite the buzz for the film being at a time high. However, to ensure the best product to be delivered to the audience, the film will be released in November around Diwali. Meanwhile, the director is working on the post-production, the makers, Hombale Films will soon announce the new release date of the film."

Readers may be aware that the festival season of Diwali will be kicking in mid-November this year and the dates for the same are scheduled for the release of the highly anticipated movie in the YRF spy series Tiger 3 starring Salman Khan, Katrina Kaif, and Emraan Hashmi. So, it will be interesting to see which date the makers of Salaar will be finalizing for its release.

After KGF, Prashanth Neel is expected to be creating another power packed franchise with Salaar: Ceasefire Part 1. The film is expected to explore the world of international mafia and promises to be a treat for action lovers.

Source: Bollywood Hungama

## YRF launches the first poster of Tiger 3; reveals it's a follow up of Tiger Zinda Hai, War and Pathaan



Aditya Chopra is building the YRF Spy Universe brick by brick and his next offering is Tiger 3 starring Salman Khan and Katrina Kaif which is slated for release this Diwali. On September 2, YRF launched the first poster of this action entertainer, and it promises to be an insane, jaw-dropping action spectacle as two super-spies Tiger and Zoya take on their most deadly mission yet. Furthermore, the poster also makes a reference to the rest of the films in the spy universe including Tiger Zinda Hai as well as the Hrithik Roshan starrer War and Shah Rukh Khan starrer Pathaan.

Tiger aka Salman Khan is the OG of the YRF Spy Universe as Ek Tha Tiger (2012) silently put the plan in motion to create slick super-spies that Indian cinema has never seen before. It was Ek Tha Tiger and Tiger Zinda Hai's (2017) success that cemented Aditya Chopra's belief that he could incorporate two more larger-than-life agents Kabir aka Hrithik Roshan in War and Pathaan aka Shah Rukh Khan into his ambitious plans.



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