

India: Famous Comic and Actor Turned 'Health Ambassador' Dies 2 Days After Receiving Vaccine



Vivekh, a 59-year old comedian and actor died two days after taking Covaxin, India's homegrown COVID-19 vaccine. He took the injection during a public televised event for the purpose of removing fear of vaccination among the public. Last month, an analysis of 79 Indians who died after a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine found that around half suffered strokes or heart attacks. The Commissioner of Chennai Municipal Corporation, the civic body that governs the city of Chennai, said that Vivekh was the brand ambassador for many of the city's events and always supported the government's initiatives. He said that people who speculate on the death of the actor will face legal action and that his death had nothing to do with the vaccine. One man reportedly has been arrested under this rule.
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Vivekh, an Indian actor and health ambassador for the Indian state of Tamil Nadu, died two days after receiving a COVID-19 vaccine dose earlier this month.

The well-known actor and comedian was admitted to a local hospital on April 16 for cardiac arrest after being vaccinated with Covaxin, an Indian coronavirus vaccine, the day prior. The 59-year-old was brought to the hospital unconscious and underwent a coronary angiogram and angioplasty before his

death the following morning, *GreatGameIndia* reported.

The hospital said that Vivekh suffered acute coronary syndrome with cardiogenic shock and 100% blockage of a blood vessel.

The actor had taken his first dose of Covaxin on Thursday at a televised event with the health secretary of Tamil Nadu to encourage vaccination. Covaxin is still being tested in clinical trials and may result in "serious and unexpected side effects," according to the fact sheet for the jab.

Vivekh had been designated health ambassador for the Tamil Nadu to help convince people in the region to take coronavirus vaccines and abide by government health guidelines.

Vivekh's death is latest cardiac-related fatality after COVID-19 vaccination reported in India in recent weeks. Last month, an analysis of 79 Indians who died after a dose of a COVID-19 vaccine found that around half suffered strokes or heart attacks.

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