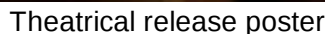


(Redirected from 12th Fail (film))

Released theatrically on 27 October 2023, *12th Fail* received widespread critical acclaim and emerged as a sleeper hit, grossing over ₹69 crore (US\$8.6 million) worldwide on a ₹20 crore (US\$2.5 million) budget.<sup>[3][5][6]</sup> At the 69th Filmfare Awards, it won five awards, including Best Film, Best Director and Best Actor (Critics) (Massey).<sup>[7]</sup>

Born in dacoit-infested Chambal, Manoj Kumar Sharma is the son of a clerk. His father, an honest man, is suspended for hitting a corrupt officer. Manoj prepares cheat slips for his Class 12 exams, as do all his batchmates. The teachers at the local school help students cheat. However, a newly transferred police officer, DSP Dushyant Singh, stops cheating at the school. As a result, all the students, including Manoj, fail the exam. Meanwhile, his father goes to challenge his suspension in the High Court. Manoj and his brother decide to run a travelling rickshaw to help out at home. Manoj's brother is falsely accused of smuggling alcohol on his rickshaw after hitting the local henchman of the MLA after he tries to get their passengers to travel on a bus; for which the police officers frame him. However, Manoj bails his brother out with the help of DSP Dushyant, who advises Manoj to "stop cheating" to become an officer like him.

One year later, Manoj passes his exams without cheating and pursues a B.A. to become a DSP. His paternal grandmother gives him all her savings as he sets out to study in Gwalior, but he loses all his belongings on the way to a woman who steals them while he dozes off in the bus he is travelling in. He then comes to know that the government has decided to stop the Group I exams for MPPSC for the next three years. This destroys his dream of becoming a DSP. He roams around the streets until he is about to



|                       |   |
|-----------------------|---|
| <b>Directed by</b>    | <u>Vidhu Vinod Chopra</u>   |
| <b>Written by</b>     | Vidhu Vinod Chopra<br>Jaskunwar Kohli   |
| <b>Based on</b>       | <i>12th Fail</i><br>by Anurag Pathak  |
| <b>Produced by</b>    | Vidhu Vinod Chopra<br>Yogesh Ishwar   |
| <b>Starring</b>       | <u>Vikrant Massey</u><br><u>Medha Shankar</u><br><u>Anant V Joshi</u><br><u>Anshumaan Pushkar</u> |
| <b>Narrated by</b>    | <u>Anant V Joshi</u>  |
| <b>Cinematography</b> | Randarajan Ramabadran   |
| <b>Edited by</b>      | Jaskunwar Kohli<br><u>Vidhu Vinod Chopra</u>  |

faint, but a local hotel owner near the local railway station feeds him. There he meets Pritam Pandey, who had also come to study for the PSC exam. Pandey's father calls him and tells him to prepare for the UPSC exam in Delhi. Manoj learns about UPSC and travels with Pritam to Delhi to study and become an IPS officer. He meets Gauri Bhaiya, a fellow aspirant on his last attempt to pass, who provides Manoj with work and a place to study. Gauri Bhaiya is unable to clear his final attempt and opens a tea shop named "Restart" and also provides guidance to other UPSC aspirants.

In his first attempt, Manoj fails the preliminary examination, but with Gauri's help, he reappears and manages to clear it the following year. During a visit to a coaching centre, he meets Shraddha Joshi, a UKPSC aspirant, and falls in love with her. She assumes him to be an aeronautical engineer, and he doesn't clarify that he is a literature graduate. Despite hard work, Manoj fails to clear his main examinations that year; his relationship with Shraddha also suffers when she learns of his deception. Disheartened, Manoj travels to Mussoorie to apologise to Shraddha and confess his love. She advises him to return to Delhi and continue preparing. Instead, Manoj visits his home and finds that his grandmother has passed away. He returns to Delhi, determined to pass the examination.

Frustrated, Gauri moves Manoj to his own house and tells him to give up working odd jobs and focus completely on his studies. He finally clears the main examinations, while Shraddha clears her UKPSC examinations as well to become a Deputy Collector. Meanwhile, Pritam, who failed his exams, spreads rumours to Shraddha's family that she has been sleeping with Manoj. Manoj becomes very angry with Pritam but realises that Pritam really wants to be a reporter, but his father pressured him to pursue the UPSC. Manoj advises Pritam to stand up to his father.

During the interview round, Manoj answers every question honestly. He reads the letter written and given to him by Shraddha before the interview, asking him to marry her, irrespective of the outcome of the interview. Two months later, the results are declared, with Manoj qualifying for the rank of IPS officer. One year later, Manoj, now an IPS officer, meets DSP Dushyant Singh at the police station in Mandsaur to thank the DSP for encouraging him. Manoj marries Shraddha, and Pritam begins working as a news reporter.

|                           |  |
|---------------------------|--|
| <b>Music by</b>           | <u>Shantanu Moitra</u>                     |
| <b>Production company</b> | <u>Vinod Chopra Films</u>                  |
| <b>Distributed by</b>     | <u>Zee Studios</u>                         |
| <b>Release date</b>       | 27 October 2023                            |
| <b>Running time</b>       | 146 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>                 |
| <b>Country</b>            | India                                      |
| <b>Language</b>           | Hindi                                      |
| <b>Budget</b>             | ₹20 crore <sup>[2]</sup>                   |
| <b>Box office</b>         | <u>est.</u><br>₹69.64 crore <sup>[3]</sup> |

## Cast

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- Vikrant Massey as Manoj Kumar Sharma
- Medha Shankr as Shraddha Joshi
- Anant V Joshi as Pritam Pandey
- Anshumaan Pushkar as Gauri Bhaiya
- Priyanshu Chatterjee as DSP Dushyant Singh
- Geeta Aggarwal Sharma as Pushpa Sharma, Manoj's mother
- Harish Khanna as Ramveer Sharma, Manoj's father
- Sarita Joshi as Manoj's grandmother
- Sanjay Bishnoi as Naval
- Vikas Divyakirti as Himself
- Vijay Kumar Dogra as Sundar

- Perry Chhabra as Rajini Sharma, Manoj's younger sister
- Neeraj Kalra as Professor Prabhakar Joshi, Shraddha's father
- Darius Chinoy as Mr. Solanki
- Radhika Joshi as Tanya
- Fasi Khan as Kishan, Shraddha's house servant
- Rahul Dev Shetty as Mr. Mehta, Manoj's UPSC interviewer

## Production

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### Development

In November 2022, filmmaker Vidhu Vinod Chopra announced the film, based on the novel *Twelfth Fail*, by Anurag Pathak.<sup>[8]</sup> The film is inspired by the real life story of IPS Officer Manoj Kumar Sharma and IRS Officer Shraddha Joshi.<sup>[9]</sup>

### Casting

In November 2022, Chopra announced that actor Vikrant Massey will play the lead, marking their first collaboration.<sup>[10]</sup> UPSC coach Vikas Divyakirti was cast to play himself on screen.<sup>[11]</sup> Many real life UPSC aspirants were cast in various roles. According to Massey, it added "authenticity" to the film.<sup>[12]</sup> Sharma and Joshi both made a cameo appearance in the film.<sup>[13]</sup>

### Filming

The film is shot mainly at various locations in Agra, Chambal, Delhi, Mussoorie and Mumbai. A major portion of the film was shot in the two education hubs for government job aspirants, Rajendra Nagar and Mukherjee Nagar.<sup>[14][15]</sup> The filming was wrapped up in December 2022.<sup>[16]</sup>

## Release

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### Theatrical

*12th Fail*'s teaser was released on 10 August 2023, while its trailer was released on 3 October 2023. The film was released in theatres on 27 October 2023 in Hindi and Kannada languages.<sup>[17][18]</sup> After the success in Hindi, the makers announced that the film will be dubbed in Tamil and Telugu languages and was released on 3 November 2023.<sup>[19][20]</sup>

### Home media

The film started streaming on Disney+ Hotstar from 29 December 2023.<sup>[21]</sup>

## Soundtrack

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The music of the film is composed by Shantanu Moitra while lyrics are written by Swanand Kirkire and Raftaar.<sup>[22]</sup> The film's background score by Moitra, with its use of sitar and flute, was

***12th Fail***

inspired by the score by Pandit Ravi Shankar in the Bengali film *Pather Panchali* (1955).<sup>[23]</sup>

Track listing

| No.           | Title                    | Singer(s)  | Length |
|---------------|--------------------------|--|--------|
| 1.            | "Bolo Na"                | Shaan, Shreya Ghoshal  | 4:53   |
| 2.            | "Restart"                | Swanand Kirkire, Shaan, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Shantanu Moitra          | 4:03   |
| 3.            | "Restart" (Rap)          | Raftaar  | 2:59   |
| 4.            | "Restart" (Rap 'N' Folk) | Swanand Kirkire, Shaan, Vidhu Vinod Chopra, Shantanu Moitra, Raftaar | 3:47   |
| 5.            | "Bolo Na" (Film Version) | Medha Shankar  | 3:52   |
| Total length: |                          |  | 19:24  |

| <u>Soundtrack album by Shantanu Moitra</u>  |  |                                     |
|---|--|-------------------------------------|
| <b>Released</b>   | 5 December 2023                          |                                     |
| <b><u>Genre</u></b>   | <u>Feature film</u><br><u>soundtrack</u> |                                     |
| <b>Length</b>   | 19:24                                    |                                     |
| <b>Language</b>   | Hindi                                    |                                     |
| <b><u>Label</u></b>   | <u>Saregama</u>                          |                                     |
| <u>Shantanu Moitra chronology</u>   |  |                                     |
| <i><u>Lost</u></i><br>(2023)  | <i><b>12th Fail</b></i><br>(2023)        | <i><u>Kadak Singh</u></i><br>(2023) |
| <b>Official audio</b>   |  |                                     |
| 12th Fail ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwckjRynMYQ">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=GwckjRynMYQ</a> ) on <u>YouTube</u> |  |                                     |

Reception

*12th Fail* received critical acclaim.<sup>[24]</sup> On the review aggregator website *Rotten Tomatoes*, 91% of 11 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.8/10.<sup>[25]</sup>

Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* gave 3.5 stars out of 5 and said "It's an original depiction of an Indian Police Service (IPS) officer's life, *12th Fail* is a thought-provoking and amusing film. A really sympathetic story is produced by the screenplay. It avoids any kind of extravagance in order to extract every last bit of drama from the bump and tumble of the man's journey."<sup>[26]</sup> Mayank Shekhar of *Mid-Day* gave 4 stars out of 5 and reviewed the film "This is the India story!"<sup>[27]</sup> Monika Rawal Kukreja of *Hindustan Times* stated in her reviews that *12th Fail* is a must-watch to understand not only the hardships and emotions that UPSC students go through, but it also sheds light on the overall education in our system, something that Chopra won hearts at with *3 Idiots* (2009).<sup>[28]</sup>

Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* gave 3 stars out of 5 and wrote that "[d]espite the background music and the occasional mood spikes, *12th Fail* stays, for the most part, a film that cleaves close to ground reality. With characters that make you feel that they've wandered off the street." She adds, "[i]t's not just the main cast, but the numbers of the young who gather in the hot-spots rife with coaching centres, such as *North Delhi's Mukherjee Nagar*: all these multitudes, crowding into tiny rooms, far away from their homes, cramming day and night to get through the exams in the hope of becoming something more than who they are, is such an India story."<sup>[29]</sup> Deepa Gahlot of *Rediff.com* praised the performance of Vikrant Massey and said "If Vikrant Massey does not win a National Award for this film, it will be unjust to an actor who has given a performance of such unalloyed brilliance."<sup>[30]</sup> Dhaval Roy of *The Times of India* gave 4 stars out of 5 and stated in his review that *12th Fail* is an excellent film that is highly recommended, with nearly every scene over its 147 minutes leaving you feeling inspired and amazed. Bravo to Chopra for making sure each character in the film is given their best chance.<sup>[31]</sup> Bhavna Agarwal of *India Today* gave 4 stars out of 5 and wrote "Vikrant Massey passes with flying colours on performance sheet".<sup>[32]</sup>

Anuj Kumar of *The Hindu* reviewed movie and wrote "12th Fail film review: Vidhu Vinod Chopra delivers yet another hug of hope that is more earnest than magical."<sup>[33]</sup> Sneha Bengani of *CNBC TV18* reviewed the film, writing "Vikrant Massey powers through this remarkable story of perseverance".<sup>[34]</sup> Gunjan D. Bidani of *Zee News* gave 4 stars out of 5, writing "Not to be hyperbolic, but *12th Fail* might be just perfect. To watch *12th Fail* properly requires fortitude. Goes without saying that the film at its root is a deep deprivation of human fundamentals. The arc of Vidhu Vinod Chopra-directorial is a daily barrage of study load, tricky social dynamics, menial jobs for sustenance and raw spillage of emotions."<sup>[35]</sup> Sajesh Mohan of *Onmanorama* in his review wrote "The soundscape, meticulously crafted by Manav Shrotriya, amplifies the aches and joys of Manoj's journey. The way Manav uses and reuses background noise fading in and out to isolate Manoj and his emotions even in crowded scenes adds a meditative focus."<sup>[36]</sup>

## Accolades

| Award           | Ceremony date   | Category                      | Recipients                                     | Result    | Ref.    |
|-----------------|-----------------|-------------------------------|--|-----------|---------|
| Filmfare Awards | 28 January 2024 | <u>Best Film</u>              | <u>Vinod Chopra Films</u> , <u>Zee Studios</u> | Won       | [7][37] |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Film (Critics)</u>    | <u>Vidhu Vinod Chopra</u>                      | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Director</u>          |  | Won       |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Screenplay</u>        |  | Won       |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Dialogue</u>          |  | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Actor (Critics)</u>   | <u>Vikrant Massey</u>                          | Won       |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Editing</u>           | Juskunwar Kohli, Vidhu Vinod Chopra            | Won       |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Production Design</u> | Prashant Bidkar                                | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Cinematography</u>    | Randarajan Ramabadran                          | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Sound Design</u>      | Manav Shrotriya                                | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Background Score</u>  | <u>Shantanu Moitra</u>                         | Nominated |         |
|                 |                 | <u>Best Costume Design</u>    | Malvika Bajaj                                  | Nominated |         |

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