

State of Siege: Temple Attack

State of Siege: Temple Attack is a 2021 Indian Hindi-language action film directed by Ken Ghosh, starring Akshaye Khanna in the lead role. It was made as a direct-to-video film for ZEE5.^{[1][2]} It is loosely based on the 2002 Akshardham Temple attack and the subsequent operation to kill the perpetrators.^[3] It is a standalone sequel to *State of Siege: 26/11*.

Plot

In 2001, Major Hanut Singh and his team participate in an operation to rescue a minister's daughter, where his best friend is killed during this mission. Due to this, Hanut Singh gets traumatised during his future activities. In the following year, Pakistani terrorists attack and lay siege on a temple in Gujarat. The NSG, led by Hanut Singh, neutralise the terrorists and reclaim the temple.

Cast

- Akshaye Khanna as Major Hanut Singh, NSG officer
- Gautam Rode as Major Samar, NSG officer
- Vivek Dahiya as Captain Rohit Bagga, NSG officer
- Akshay Oberoi as Captain Bibek
- Abhilash Chaudhary as Iqbal, Lead Terrorist
- Parvin Dabas as Colonel Nagar, NSG Commanding Officer
- Samir Soni as Gujarat CM Choksi
- Abhimanyu Singh as Abu Hamza
- Mir Sarwar as Bilal Naikoo
- Manjari Fadnis as Saloni
- Chandan Roy as Mohsin
- Shivam Bhaargava as Capt. Abrar Khan

Production

The film is a next installment to *State of Siege: 26/11*, a web series about the 2008 Mumbai attacks.^[4] The film is loosely based on the terrorist attack at Akshardham Temple in 2002 Akshardham Temple attack in Gandhinagar.^{[3][5][6][7]}

Reception

State of Siege: Temple Attack



Release poster

Directed by	<u>Ken Ghosh</u>
Written by	<u>William Borthwick</u> <u>Simon Fantauzzo</u>
Based on	<u>Akshardham Temple attack</u>
Produced by	<u>Abhimanyu Singh</u>
Starring	<u>Akshaye Khanna</u> <u>Abhimanyu Singh</u> <u>Gautam Rode</u> <u>Vivek Dahiya</u> <u>Akshay Oberoi</u> <u>Abhilash Chaudhary</u> <u>Chandan Roy</u> <u>Shivam Bhaargava</u>

Archika Khurana of Times of India gave the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and stated, "After 'State of Siege: 26/11', this 112-minutes combat drama is a fitting tribute to our NSG soldiers. This dramatized retelling may bring up unpleasant memories for some, but it is well worth watching."^[8] Arushi Jain of The Indian Express gave the film a mostly positive review and stated, "Led by Akshaye Khanna, this film is for everyone who likes to see a cat-and-mouse chase between ghastly, heavily armed men and brave, 'can do anything for the nation' soldiers."^[9] Saibal Chatterjee of NDTV gave the film 2 out of 5 stars and stated, "Akshaye Khanna is doubtless a talented actor. One sees flashes of his class all through the film. But he is trapped in a script that has little room for vivid character development."^[10] Soumya Srivastava of The Hindustan Times gave the film a mixed review and stated, "The 2002 attack was a gruesome blot on the history of our country. 30 lives were lost. No Bollywood masala film should be allowed to say it was too little, too bland."^[11]

Cinematography	Tejal Shetye
Edited by	Mukesh Thakur
Production company	Contiloe Pictures
Distributed by	<u>ZEE5</u>
Release date	9 July 2021
Running time	110 minutes
Country	India
Language	Hindi

Anna MM Veticad of Firstpost gave the film 1.75 out of 5 stars and stated, "*State of Siege: Temple Attack* does everything in its power to indicate that it is based on the 2002 Akshardham Temple attack. It then twists itself in knots to distance itself from that real-life story."^[12] Prateek Sur of Rediff.com gave the film 2 out of 5 stars and stated, "Akshaye Khanna is the only worthy element about this patriotic actioner."^[13] Nandini Ramnath of Scroll gave the film a positive review and stated, "*Temple Attack* is Khanna's first foray into the digital space. True to form, the maverick actor has chosen a launchpad in which he is one among many but still able to stand out because of sheer star power."^[14] Roktim Rajpal of Deccan Herald gave the film 2.5 out of 5 stars and praised the action sequences and Khanna's performance, though criticized the "middling execution" and "half-baked characters".^[15]

References

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2. Jain, Arushi (10 July 2021). "State of Siege Temple Attack review: Akshaye Khanna shines in this loosely written film" (<https://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/web-series/state-of-siege-temple-attack-review-akshaye-khanna-shines-in-a-loosely-written-film-7397043/>). *The Indian Express*. Retrieved 11 July 2021.
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4. "State of Siege Temple Attack teaser: Akshaye Khanna's ZEE5 film dramatises 2002 Akshardham temple attack" (<https://indianexpress.com/article/entertainment/web-series/state-of-siege-temple-attack-teaser-akshaye-khanna-zee5-film-2002-akshardham-temple-attack-7377305/>). *The Indian Express*. 27 June 2021. Retrieved 20 July 2021.
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External links

- *State of Siege: Temple Attack* (<https://www.zee5.com/global/movies/details/state-of-siege-temple-attack/0-0-1z51134>) at ZEE5
 - *State of Siege: Temple Attack* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt14418234/>) at IMDb
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