

# Ae Watan Mere Watan

***Ae Watan Mere Watan*** (transl. Oh Country My Country) is a 2024 Hindi-language historical biographical film about India's struggle for freedom in 1942, based on the life of Usha Mehta, a brave young girl who starts an underground radio station to spread the message of unity, setting off a thrilling chase with the British authorities during the Quit India movement.<sup>[2][3]</sup> It is written and directed by Kannan Iyer and produced by Karan Johar, starring Sara Ali Khan as Mehta.<sup>[4][5]</sup> The film was premiered on 21 March 2024 on Amazon Prime Video.<sup>[6]</sup>

## Cast

- Sara Ali Khan as Usha Mehta
- Anand Tiwari as Firdaus Engineer
- Sachin Khedekar as Judge Hariprasad Mehta, Usha's father
- Abhay Verma as Kaushik
- Sparsh Srivastav as Fahad
- Alexx O'Neill as John Lyre
- Benedict Garrett as Corrigan
- Richard Bhakti Klein as Viceroy Linlithgow
- Ashton Bessette as Cameron
- Rick McLane as Grant
- Ed Robinson as Captain Wily
- Godaan Kumar as Balbir
- Uday Chandra as Mahatma Gandhi
- Aditi Sanwal as Antara
- Pratik Yadav as Bhaskar
- Chrisann Pereira as Julie
- Sanjeev Jaiswal as Alok
- Emraan Hashmi as Ram Manohar Lohia<sup>[7]</sup>

## Production

Principal photography commenced in October 2022 and first schedule ended in December, second schedule began by April 2023<sup>[8]</sup> and the film wrapped in May 2023.<sup>[9]</sup>

## Soundtrack

### Ae Watan Mere Watan



Official release poster

<b>Directed by</b>	<span><span>Kannan Iyer</span></span>
<b>Written by</b>	<span><span>Darab Farooqui</span></span> <div><span><span>Kannan Iyer</span></span></div>
<b>Produced by</b>	<span><span>Karan Johar</span></span> <div><span><span>Apoorva Mehta</span></span><span><span>Somen Mishra</span></span></div>
<b>Starring</b>	<span><span>Sara Ali Khan</span></span>
<b>Cinematography</b>	<span><span>Amalendu Chaudhary</span></span>
<b>Edited by</b>	<span><span>Sangeeth Varghese</span></span>
<b>Music by</b>	<span><span>Mukund Suryawanshi</span></span> <div><span><span>Akashdeep Sengupta</span></span><span><span>Shashi Suman</span></span></div>
<b>Production company</b>	<span><span>Dharmatic Entertainment</span></span>
<b>Distributed by</b>	<span><span>Amazon Prime Video</span></span>
<b>Release date</b>	21 March 2024
<b>Running time</b>	133 minutes <sup>[1]</sup>

The music of the film was composed by Mukund Suryawanshi, Akashdeep Sengupta and Shashi Suman While lyrics written by Suryawanshi, Ravi Girri, Rohan Deshmukh, Darab Farooqui and Prashant Ingole.<sup>[10]</sup>

<b>Country</b>	India
<b>Language</b>	Hindi
<b><i>Ae Watan Mere Watan</i></b>	
<b><u>Soundtrack album</u> by Mukund Suryawanshi, Akashdeep Sengupta and Shashi Suman</b>	
<b>Released</b>	9 March 2024 <sup>[10]</sup>
<b>Recorded</b>	2022
<b>Genre</b>	<u>Feature film</u> <u>soundtrack</u>
<b>Length</b>	23:52
<b>Language</b>	Hindi
<b>Label</b>	<u>T-Series</u>
<b>Official audio</b>	
Ae Watan Mere Watan (Full Album ( <a href="https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywngLeqUqHs">https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ywngLeqUqHs</a> ) on <u>YouTube</u>	

**Track listing**

No.	Title	Lyrics	Music	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Qatra Qatra"	Mukund Suryawanshi, Ravi Girri, Rohan Deshmukh	Mukund Suryawanshi	<u>Sukhwinder Singh</u>	5:11
2.	"Ae Watan Mere Watan - Title Track"	<u>Darab Farooqui</u>	Akashdeep Sengupta	Romy	4:53
3.	"Julia"	Prashant Ingole	Shashi Suman	<u>Divya Kumar</u> , Shashi	3:21
4.	"Dua E Azaadi"	Darab Farooqui	Shashi Suman	<u>Javed Ali</u> , <u>Swaroop Khan</u> , Shashi	6:17
5.	"Ae Watan Mere Watan - Title Track" (Female Version)	Darab Farooqui	Akashdeep Sengupta	<u>Neeti Mohan</u>	4:10
<b>Total length:</b>					<b>23:52</b>

**Reception**

**Critical response**

A critic from Bollywood Hungama gave 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Ae Watan Mere Watan is worth watching as it presents an untold chapter of Indian history."<sup>[11]</sup>

Sukanya Verma of *Rediff.com* gave 3/5 stars and observed "*Ae Watan Mere Watan* tries to get a grasp on the mind of youngsters, shaped by the words of inspiring leaders, committed to the cause of independent India. It's significant because their support isn't based on 'andh bhakti' (blind devotion), but leadership that encourages questions".<sup>[12]</sup>

NDTV's Saibal Chatterjee rated the film 2.5 out of 5, opining in his review that, "*Ae Watan Mere Watan* makes its points with clarity and directness. It tells a tale that has meat, but the storytelling style that the film adopts stops it significantly short of being either consistently riveting or memorably rousing". He critized the lead performance, opining that, "Sara Ali Khan, playing the principal character, is way too porcelain and dainty to convey the remarkably doughty woman's fierce determination."<sup>[13]</sup>

Zinia Bandyopadhyay of *India Today* gave 2/5 stars and wrote that "*Ae Watan Mere Watan* drowns in a lacklustre script despite having the potential to be an effective story."<sup>[14]</sup>

Firstpost's Lachmi Deb Roy, in her review, rated the film 2/5 and said that "Though the film was able to weave the freedom movement with enough human stories showing Usha's contribution to the Quit India movement, but *Ae Watan Mere Watan* was unable to give us those goosebumps which a freedom movie generally does".<sup>[15]</sup> Shubhra Gupta of Indian Express called the film a "banal blur". She panned the film, opining that "nothing about this period drama breaks out of familiar moulds" and that "Sara Ali Khan leaves little impact." However, she called Sparsh Srivastav the "breakout star", praising his performance as a polio-afflicted young freedom fighter.<sup>[16]</sup>

Trisha Gaur from *Koimoi* rated the film a 3.5/5 and said "When Sara Ali Khan, for the first time, introduces Congress Radio, 'Hindustan Mein Kahin Se, Kahin Se Hindustan Mein,' you absolutely want to root for her".<sup>[17]</sup>

## References

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## External links

- *Ae Watan Mere Watan* (<https://www.imdb.com/title/tt19864942/>) at *IMDb*

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