

Laal Singh Chaddha

Laal Singh Chaddha is a 2022 Indian Hindi-language comedy drama film directed by Advait Chandan and written by Atul Kulkarni. The film is jointly produced by Paramount Pictures, Aamir Khan Productions and Viacom18 Studios. It is a remake of the 1994 American film *Forrest Gump*^[4] which itself is an adaptation of the novel of the same name by Winston Groom.^[5] The film stars Aamir Khan as the title character alongside Kareena Kapoor Khan, Naga Chaitanya and Mona Singh.^[6]

The adaptation of *Forrest Gump* underwent a series of changes over a period of two decades, with Kulkarni spending the first ten years adapting the script, and another ten years purchasing the remake rights.^[7] Aamir Khan bought the rights of the film in early 2018 with the help of Los Angeles-based producer and director Radhika Chaudhari and announced the film officially on 14 March 2019, with its title.^[8] The film's score is by Tanuj Tiku, while its original songs are composed by Pritam and their lyrics are written by Amitabh Bhattacharya.^[9]

Laal Singh Chaddha has been filmed in more than 100 Indian locations.^[10] Principal photography began in October 2019 and concluded in September 2021, after multiple delays due to the COVID-19 pandemic.^[11] The film was initially scheduled for cinema release during multiple dates in 2020–2022, but kept getting delayed due to the production halt caused by the pandemic, and was theatrically released worldwide on 11 August 2022, coinciding with *Raksha Bandhan* and *Independence Day*.^[12] It opened to mixed reviews from critics and audience, with praise for its adaptation to the new setting, faithfulness to the source material, depth, soundtrack, background score and emotion, but received criticism for Khan's performance. Against its ₹1.8 billion budget, the film generated a total revenue of ₹1.29 billion in worldwide box office. It was declared a *box office flop* in India, though it was successful overseas.

Plot

In 2012, on a train bound for Karauli, a Sikh man named Laal Singh Chaddha recounts the story of his life to strangers who happen to sit next to him, while eating *golgappas*. As a boy in 1977, Laal has an IQ of 75 and is fitted with *leg braces* to correct a *curved spine*. He lives in Karoli, Punjab, with his mother, who runs

Laal Singh Chaddha



Theatrical release poster

Directed by	Advait Chandan
Screenplay by	Eric Roth (original) Atul Kulkarni (adaptation)
Story by	Winston Groom
Based on	<i>Forrest Gump</i> by Winston Groom
Produced by	Aamir Khan Kiran Rao Jyoti Deshpande Ajit Andhare
Starring	Aamir Khan Kareena Kapoor Khan Naga Chaitanya Mona Singh Manav Vij
Cinematography	Satyajit Pande (Setu)

a farm and encourages him to live beyond his disabilities. He meets a girl named Rupa D'Souza on his first day at school, and the two become best friends. One day, a group of bullies starts pelting stones at Laal. When he runs to escape them, his leg braces come off, and he realizes that he is a fast runner. Rupa's father is arrested by the police as he beat her mother to death. When Rupa's mother dies, she is sent to live with her maternal grandmother, who used to work at Laal's house. Laal is happy because now he and Rupa can always be together. When the 1984 anti-Sikh riots begin, Laal and his mother go to stay at his aunt's place to be safe. There, Laal meets a young Shah Rukh Khan and teaches him dance steps and poses which he would later go on to use in his films.

To save Laal from rioters, Laal's mother cuts off his long hair and removes his turban, to hide his identity as a Sikh. Laal's mother sends him and Rupa to Hindu College in Delhi and disguises any terrorist attack to Laal as a Malaria infection. There, Laal witnesses L.K. Advani's Ram Rath Yatra. Laal takes part in track and field, and wins many prizes, whereas Rupa starts taking part in modeling competitions, as she dreams of becoming a model in Mumbai and becoming rich. Sometime later, Laal joins the army, where he meets Balaraju Bodi aka Bala, who wants to start an undergarment business. They both decide to start an undergarment-manufacturing company together, once they leave the army. Rupa goes to Mumbai to pursue her dreams.

In 1999, the Kargil War breaks out between India and Pakistan. Laal and Bala are in the same battalion. Rupa had told Laal to start running as soon as his life was in danger. When the Pakistani soldiers start to gain an advantage, he runs, but realizes that Bala is left behind. He goes back, but every time he goes back, he finds another soldier who is injured and asks for help. He also saves a Pakistani commander, not knowing he was the enemy. He is unable to save Bala, leaving him heartbroken, but is awarded Vir Chakra by the Indian Government for saving five soldiers.

Rupa never responded to any letters that Laal sent her. She had become the mistress of a gangster who took advantage of her and lied to her about fulfilling her dreams (parallels are made to the controversial relationship of the infamous gangster Abu Salem and Monica Bedi). Laal goes to meet her and sees the gangster slap her; Laal responds angrily by beating him up. Laal says that he loves Rupa, but she tells him that they have no future together and that he should forget her. Laal suddenly sees Mohammed, the Pakistani commander he had saved during the war. He had escaped from the hospital before anyone could know his true identity and has been living alone, and using a wheelchair, ever since. The two strike a friendship and Mohammed loves him for his purity and innocence, also feeling guilty of his violent acts of terrorism.

Edited by	Hemanti Sarkar
Music by	Score: Tanuj Tiku Songs: <u>Pritam</u>
Production companies	<u>Aamir Khan Productions</u> <u>Viacom18 Studios</u> <u>Paramount Pictures</u>
Distributed by	Viacom18 Studios (<u>North India</u>) <u>Red Giant Movies</u> (<u>Tamil Nadu</u>) <u>Geetha Arts</u> (<u>Telangana</u>) <u>Paramount Pictures</u> (<u>International</u>)
Release date	11 August 2022
Running time	159 minutes ^[1]
Country	India
Language	Hindi
Budget	₹180 crore ^[2]
Box office	<u>est.</u> ₹129.64 crore ^[3]

Laal finally starts the undergarment business, but doesn't know how to market his product. Then, Mohammed joins the team. Mohammed gives the idea that if the brand is named after a girl, then maybe their sales would increase. Laal knew only one girl, so he renames his company Rupa (a reference to the knitwear company of the same name). The sales start to grow, and soon the company starts selling innerwear to all of India, making Laal and Mohammed successful entrepreneurs. Mohammed invests money in Bombay Stock Exchange, which Laal thinks is "some kind of cowshed" and they become even richer. After a while, Mohammed returns to his country and opens a school for children. Laal gives half his earnings to Bala's family for having inspired the undergarment business venture. Laal's mother also passes away from cancer, leaving him alone.

Laal dedicates his time to tending to the land his mother left him. Rupa comes back to stay with him. She reciprocates his feelings and the two make love. Sometime later, the police come and arrest Rupa, as she had links with the underworld, and take her away, without Laal knowing. She is sent to prison for six months. Laal is heartbroken and decides to go running "for no particular reason". He goes on a cross-country marathon for over four years. People think that he might be running for some great purpose, and the media start covering his journey. His run covers almost every inch of the country. After years of running, he suddenly stops. Many people had started running along with him, thinking that he was running for some great purpose. They ask him why he stopped, expecting a philosophical answer. Laal says that he is tired and that he just wants to go back home.

On reaching home, Laal wears a turban again after many years. He is pleasantly surprised to know that Rupa had written him a lot of letters. He tells his fellow passengers on the train that Rupa had served her sentence and is now living in Chandigarh, and he is going to meet her. Laal reunites with Rupa and finds out that he is the father of her son named Aman. Laal is overwhelmed with emotion and the two get married. The three start living together. Soon, Rupa becomes sick and dies later in 2018 due to a disease. Laal takes care of Aman and takes him to the same school he went to, thinking his life had come full circle.

Cast

- Aamir Khan as Ex-Corporal Laal Singh Chaddha (Parachute "Commando" Regiment), Rupa's husband and widower, Aman's father, Gurpreet's son
 - Ahmad Ibn Umar as young Laal^[13]
- Kareena Kapoor Khan as Rupa D'Souza Chaddha,^[14] Laal's love interest and wife, Aman's mother
 - Hafsa Ashraf as young Rupa^[15]
- Naga Chaitanya as Balaraju "Bala" Bodi,^[16] Laal's colleague in the Indian Army and his good friend
- Mona Singh as Gurpreet Kaur Chaddha, Laal's mother, Aman's grandmother
- Rohaan Singh as Aman Chaddha, Laal and Rupa's son, Gurpreet's grandson
- Manav Vij as Mohammed Bhaji, a Pakistan Army Commander who later befriends Laal
- Aaryaa Sharma^[17] as the woman passenger sitting in-front of Laal in the train
- Arun Bali as Old Sikh Man in train
- Jagat Rawat as Father of school
- Yuri Suri as Havildar Ramon Chibb-(Parachute "Commando" Regiment)
- Gitikka Ganju Dhar as Manjeet Kaur, Laal's Aunt^[18]

- Harry Parmar as Abbas Haji, Rupa's boyfriend^[19]
- Guneet Singh Sodhi as Harry, Rupa's boyfriend
- Syed Ashraf Karim as Chota Shakeel
- Krishna Kant Singh Bundela as neighbour
- Shah Rukh Khan as himself (cameo appearance)^[20]
- Kamini Kaushal as the old Sikh woman in the train (cameo appearance)

Production

Development

In August 2018, Aamir Khan announced that he had purchased the remake rights of the 1994 American drama *Forrest Gump*, from Paramount Pictures,^[21] which produced the film, and also suggested he will play the lead role in this film.^{[22][23]} On 14 March 2019, coinciding with his 54th birthday,^[24] Khan officially announced the project which has been named *Laal Singh Chaddha*,^{[25][26]} with his ex-wife Kiran Rao co-producing the film. Advait Chandan, who previously directed Khan's *Secret Superstar* (2017), was signed in to direct the remake.^{[27][28]}

Kulkarni, who also worked with Khan in *Rang De Basanti* (2006), wrote the Hindi adaptation for the original. In an interview with Bollywood Hungama, Kulkarni said, "I wrote the script ten years ago, but Aamir took a couple of years because he did not believe that I must have written a good script. So he did not want to hurt me. After a few years, he heard the script and within 30 seconds he said I am going to do the film."^[7] Kulkarni also said that it took over seven years to get the remake rights from the makers of the original (Paramount), as the movie is solely based on the original. Once the studio confirmed with Radhika Chaudhari that the rights were available, Khan made a trip to Los Angeles in February 2018 and met with the studio heads along with Radhika Chaudhari and the process of acquisition started.

Casting

Mukesh Chhabra was assigned as the casting director of the film. Aamir Khan playing the title character, Kareena Kapoor Khan was confirmed to play the female lead role in June 2019,^[14] thus pairing up with Khan for the third time after *3 Idiots* (2009) and *Talaash: The Answer Lies Within* (2012).^[29] Manushi Chhillar was first choice for leading lady but, already signed a contract with Yash Raj Films.^{[30][31]} In August 2019, Vijay Sethupathi was signed alongside Khan, however he later opted out due to other commitments.^{[32][33]} In September 2019, Yogi Babu was approached to play a pivotal role.^{[34][35]} In November 2019, Mona Singh who also starred in Khan's *3 Idiots*, was also cast in the pivotal role.^[36] Aamir Khan lost 20 kilograms for the younger version of his role in the film.^{[37][38]} In May 2021, Naga Chaitanya was confirmed to be a part of the cast, making his Bollywood debut.^[16]

Filming

While the film's principal photography was expected to commence in October 2019, Khan and his team went on scouting location in April 2019, across Dharmasala for five days.^[39]

Laal Singh Chaddha is reportedly filmed in more than 100 Indian locations.^{[40][41][42]} The principal photography of the film was commenced on 31 October 2019, with a muhurat shot given by Khan's mother Zeenat Hussain.^[43] The first schedule took place at Chandigarh, on 1 November and was completed within 21 days. Stills featuring Khan and Kapoor from the sets were leaked onto the internet,^[44] with Khan's look featuring him with a thick beard and turban went viral.^{[45][46]} A romantic track featuring Aamir Khan and Kareena Kapoor Khan was shot at Chandigarh on 28 November 2019.^[47]

The second schedule was kickstarted in Kolkata on 5 December 2019.^{[48][49]} Aamir Khan and his team flew to Kerala in the second week of December, where Khan's photos of shooting from Thekkumbhagam, Changanassery and Kappil went viral.^[50] Khan completed the second schedule on 19 December 2019, and kickstarted the third schedule on 21 December 2019, with shooting took place in Jaisalmer, Goa and Himachal Pradesh. The third schedule was completed on 12 February 2020,^[51] and Khan headed to Chandigarh for their next schedule. The team wrapped up the last leg of shoot on 6 March 2020.^[52] The cast and crew flew back to shoot in Punjab on 16 March 2020, before production of the film got halted owing to the COVID-19 pandemic in India.^[53]

Aamir Khan cancelled the Ladakh schedule on 6 July,^[54] owing to the India-China standoff along the Galwan Valley.^[55] Later due to difficulties in shooting the film across India, Aamir decided to resume the film's shoot in Turkey, for the recce of new shoot.^{[56][57]} On 7 September 2020, Aamir Khan resumed the shooting of the film in Mumbai, with safety measures and guidelines instructed by the government.^{[58][59]} On 27 September 2020, Aamir and his team flew to Delhi to shoot some portions, with pictures featuring his younger version went viral.^{[60][61]} Some scenes were shot at the Hotel Centaur in Delhi on 7 October 2020.^[62] Kareena Kapoor Khan wrapped up her portions on 15 October 2020.^[63]

Khan suffered a rib injury while shooting an action sequence, but ensuring that there is no delay in the shoot, the actor took a few pain killers and tried to subside his injury for the time being and continued working as he knew that there were special arrangements made for the shooting schedule. Earlier, while shooting for an important running sequence, Aamir Khan had suffered extreme physical exertion due to constant running.^[64] The actor shot few sequences at a sports complex located at Noida on 28 October 2020.^[65]

In July 2021, Aamir Khan and his team flew to Ladakh, where they spent some one month and shot war sequences.^[66] After wrapping up the Ladakh schedule the team reached to Srinagar in the first week of August. In Srinagar, the shooting of the film was carried out at various places, some important sequences were shot at Delhi Public School Srinagar (DPS),^[67] Amar Singh College and Boulevard Road near Dal Lake. During shooting in the premises of DPS, a 12-year-old, visually impaired student Zainab Bilal aka RJ Zainab has interviewed Aamir Khan for the school's in-house radio station, Radio DPS.^[68] Chaitanya joined the production in July 2021 and completed shooting his portions by August 2021.^[69]

Aamir Khan, Kareena Kapoor Khan and Prakash Vaghasiya were seen resuming the shoot of the film in Mumbai on 13 September. After wrapping up portions together last year, the two of them reunited for patchwork shoot in Andheri.^[70] The film was wrapped up on 16 September 2021.^{[71][72][73]}

Marketing

The trailer for the film was launched at the final of the 2022 Indian Premier League on 29 May.^[74]

Soundtrack

The film score is composed by Tanuj Tiku while the original songs featured in the film are composed by Pritam, in his third collaboration with Aamir Khan after *Dhoom 3* (2013) and *Dangal* (2016), and lyrics for the songs are written by Amitabh Bhattacharya.^[9]

The music sitting discussion was held at Khan's Panchgani House in August 2019, with composer Pritam and lyricist Bhattacharya, working on the film's music.^[76] The title track of *Laal Singh Chaddha*, which featured in the motion poster,^[77] was recorded by Mohan Kannan of the Agnee band in January 2020.^[78] The singer didn't initially know that he was singing for Aamir's film, who "loved" the song, a studio recording person told him. He mentioned in the article that lyricist Amitabh Bhattacharya has written a "gold" song and has beautifully "encapsulated the whole story". Sonu Nigam on his official YouTube page on 13 January 2022 mentioned that he just completed a recording of a "very beautiful" and "wonderfully written" song that took about 5 hours to record.^[79] The first song of the film *Kahani* was released on 28 April 2022.^{[80][81]} Sonu Nigam's song, *Main Ki Karaan*, was released on 12 May 2022.^[82] A song sung by Arijit Singh, *Phir Na Aisi Raat Aayegi*, released on 24 June 2022.^[83] The fourth song *Tur Kalleyan* took more than 6 weeks of shoot and was shot at multiple locations across India.^[84] The song was released on 15 July 2022.^[85] A second version of *Kahani*, sung by Sonu Nigam was released on 18 July 2022.^[86] *Tere Hawaale*, a duet sung by Arijit Singh and Shilpa Rao, was released on 4 August 2022.^[87]

The songs *Kahani* and *Tur Kalleyan* had been re-recorded in both Tamil and Telugu languages prior to the release of the movie in both languages respectively. The Tamil lyrics have been penned by Muthamil and the Telugu lyrics by Bhaskarabhatla.

Track listing (Hindi)

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Kahani"	Mohan Kannan	3:28
2.	"Main Ki Karaan?"	Sonu Nigam, Romy	4:14
3.	"Phir Na Aisi Raat Aayegi"	Arijit Singh	4:43
4.	"Tur Kalleyan"	Arijit Singh, Shadaab Faridi, Altamash Faridi	5:38
5.	"Kahani" (Sonu's Version)	Sonu Nigam	4:58
6.	"Tere Hawaale"	Arijit Singh, Shilpa Rao	5:46
7.	"Kahani" (Mohit Chauhan's Version)	Mohit Chauhan	4:01
8.	"Tere Hawaale" (Arijit Shreya Duet)	Arijit Singh, Shreya Ghoshal	5:48
9.	"Phir Na Aisi Raat Aayegi (Film Version)"	Arijit Singh	4:43
10.	"Tur Kalleyan (Nooran Sisters Version)"	Nooran Sisters	5:06

<i>Laal Singh Chaddha</i>		
<u>Soundtrack album by Pritam</u>		
Released	5 August 2022 ^[75]	
Recorded	2019–2022	
Genre	<u>Feature film soundtrack</u>	
Length	54:22	
Language	Hindi	
Label	<u>T-Series</u>	
<u>Pritam chronology</u>		
<i>Bhool</i>	<i>Laal Singh</i>	<i><u>Brahmāstra:</u></i>
<i><u>Bhulaiyaa 2</u></i>	<i>Chaddha</i>	<i><u>Part One –</u></i>
(2022)	(2022)	<i>Shiva</i>
		(2022)
External audio		
 <u>Audio Jukebox</u> (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=sax1XyrYYrU) on <u>YouTube</u>		

11. "Tere Hawaale (Tushar Shilpa Duet)"

Tushar Joshi, Shilpa Rao

5:57

Total length: 54:22

[88]

All tracks are written by Muthamil

Track listing (Tamil)

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Kahani" (Tamil)	Mohan Kannan ^[89]	5:00
2.	"Tur Kalleyan" (Tamil)	<u>Sreerama Chandra</u> , <u>Shadaab Faridi</u> , <u>Altamash Faridi</u>	5:38
3.	"Main Ki Karaan?" (Tamil)	Sonu Nigam, Romy	4:15
Total length:			14:53

All tracks are written by Bhaskarabhatla

Track listing (Telugu)

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Kahani" (Telugu)	Mohan Kannan ^[90]	5:00
2.	"Tur Kalleyan" (Telugu)	<u>Sreerama Chandra</u> , <u>Shadaab Faridi</u> , <u>Altamash Faridi</u>	5:38
3.	"Main Ki Karaan?" (Telugu)	Sonu Nigam, Romy	4:15
Total length:			14:53

Music reception

Pinkvilla reviewing the track "Kahani" stated that "The 2-minute song takes you inside the world of Laal Singh Chaddha which is innocent, heartwarming, and all about creating beautiful memories."^[91] *The Indian Express* stated that "The mood and flavours of Laal Singh Chaddha are beautifully packed in its latest song "Kahani". *Hindustan Times* reviewing the track "Tur Kalleyan" stated that "The song captures the beauty of rising above everything else and walking alone."^[92]

Release

Theatrical

Laal Singh Chaddha released on 11 August 2022 alongside dubbed versions in Tamil and Telugu languages.^{[93][94]} Earlier, it was announced to release on 25 December 2020, coinciding with Christmas.^[95] However, due to production halt owing to COVID-19 pandemic in India, the release was delayed by a year to 24 December 2021, aiming for the Christmas weekend.^[96] It was later rescheduled to release on 11 February and then 14 April 2022, however, it was postponed.^[93] The Motion Picture Association gave the film a PG-13 rating for "some violent content, thematic elements and suggestive material."^[97]

Distribution

The film was distributed in India by Viacom18 Studios, while international distribution of the film was taken through Paramount Pictures.^{[98][99]} The Telugu rights for Andhra Pradesh and Telangana region of the film were acquired by Geetha Arts.^{[100][101]} The Tamil Nadu theatrical rights are acquired by Red

Home media

The digital distribution rights were acquired initially by Netflix at a cost of ₹150 crore.^[103] However, after the catastrophic performance of the film, Netflix canceled the deal. Netflix had initially offered a figure of around ₹80–90 crore. Netflix finally offered a deal at ₹ 50 crore.^[104] The film was digitally streamed on Netflix from 6 October 2022 in Hindi and dubbed versions of Tamil and Telugu languages.^{[105][106][107]} Upon release, the film ranked in the top 10 in 13 countries in its first week on Netflix, the film finished second on the global non-English movies chart, with over 6.6 million hours viewed.^[108]

Reception

Critical response

On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, 67% of 36 critics' reviews are positive, with an average rating of 6.6/10. The website's consensus reads: "It's indebted to its source material to the point of creative poverty, but *Laal Singh Chaddha* is also such an amiable retelling that it's difficult to dislike."^[109]

India

Laal Singh Chaddha received mixed reviews from critics and audience.^{[110][111]} Devesh Sharma of *Filmfare* rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Atul and Advait have invested more in the story than history. As a result, this has a better emotional core than the original".^[112] Sonil Dedhia of *News 18* rated the film 4 out of 5 stars and wrote "Aamir Khan's *Laal Singh Chaddha* is a movie that deftly grapples with the pessimism of the world, but handled in a mature way".^[113] Renuka Vyavahare of *The Times Of India* rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* holds onto the good old values that make it worthy of a family outing. You will particularly remember a crackling Shah Rukh Khan cameo".^[114] Stutee Ghosh of *The Quint* rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* is made up of many memorable, heartwarming moments. It says a lot that will leave us smiling or moist eyed".^[115] Sukanya Verma of *Rediff* rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* does not let its source down. And replacing a box of chocolates with a ready-to-eat gol gappe kit is geeeenius, like Laal's Ustad would say".^[116] Sanchita Jhunjhunwala of *Zoom* rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "The film leaves you teary-eyed, even though it doesn't make you cry, and that, we feel, makes it a job well done by the entire team!".^[117] Avinash Lohana of *Pinkvilla* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Aamir Khan and his team manage to live up to the original and present an entertaining watch".^[118] Nairita Mukherjee of *India Today* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "For the most part, director Advait Chandan's *Laal Singh Chaddha* remains faithful to the original material".^[119]

Nandini Ramnath of *Scroll.in* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Except for a few crucial changes, the film is faithful to the beats of its source material".^{[120][121]} Rohit Bhatnagar of *The Free Press Journal* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "The film is a bit too lengthy but Shah Rukh Khan's cameo will make it up for you".^[122] Sushri Sahu of *Mashable* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* deserves a watch for its special cameo alone".^[123] Mugdha Kapoor of *DNA India* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* has made a valiant effort to deliver a message of forgiveness, optimism and compassion".^[124] Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "A de-aged Aamir Khan throws all that he has into the role and comes up with a simpleton who is wondrously

loveable".^[125] Anna M. M. Vetticad of *Firstpost* rated the film 2.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "*Laal Singh Chaddha* must stand on its own sans comparisons since it is being viewed in 2022 by a whole generation of viewers to whom *Forrest Gump* is not a cultural reference that evokes nostalgia".^[126] Shubhra Gupta of *The Indian Express* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote "It's not just the pace of the film which is the trouble. It is also, centrally and crucially, Sardar *Laal Singh Chaddha* himself, as played by Aamir Khan".^[127] A critic for *Bollywood Hungama* rated the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote "Despite fine performances and lovely moments the excessive length and slow pacing goes against *Laal Singh Chaddha*."^[128]

International

Laal Singh Chaddha received mixed reviews from international critics and audience.^{[129][130]} Proma Khosla of *Indie Wire* rated the film 3.5 out of 5 stars and wrote "Kulkarni and Chandan deserve a whole box of gol gappe".^[131] Mike McCahill of *The Guardian* rated the film 3 out of 5 stars and wrote "Director Advait Chandan is too literal in his adaptation of the 90s classic but finds a warmth and political honesty the original lacks".^[132] Witney Seibold of *Slash Film* rated the film 7 out of 10 stars and wrote "Despite how corny it is, *Laal Singh Chaddha* it unexpectedly disarming".^[133] Carlos Aguilar of *The Wrap* stated "The setting and language have changed, but the story still thinks it's being uplifting about the neuroatypical even as it punches down".^[134] Siddhant Adlakha of *Joy Sauce* stated "*Laal Singh Chaddha* is an effective adaptation that not only localizes the specifics of *Forrest Gump*, but translates its relationship with its setting, swapping the self-professed peace and prosperity of '90s America for the more volatile and nationalistic climate of modern India, where the country's image of itself remains in constant flux".^[135] Nicolas Rapold of *The New York Times* commented that "The film's charms are limited by what comes to feel like a coddling conceit".^[136]

Box office

Laal Singh Chaddha earned ₹11.70 crores at the domestic box office on its opening day. On the second day, the film collected ₹7.26 crore. On the third day, the film collected ₹9 crore. On the fourth day, the film collected ₹10 crore, taking a total domestic weekend collection to ₹37.96 crore.^[137]

As of 22 August 2022, the film grossed ₹69.92 crore (US\$8.8 million) in India and ₹59.72 crore (US\$7.5 million) overseas, for a worldwide gross collection of ₹129.64 crore (US\$16 million).^[137]

Accolades

Award	Date of the ceremony	Category	Recipients	Result	Ref.
<u>Filmfare Awards</u>	27 April 2023	<u>Best Actress</u>	<u>Kareena Kapoor Khan</u>	Nominated	[138]
		<u>Best Music Director</u>	<u>Pritam</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Best Special Effects</u>	<u>Red Chillies VFX</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Best Lyricist</u>	<u>Amitabh Bhattacharya</u> – "Tere Hawaale"	Nominated	
		<u>Best Playback Singer – Male</u>	<u>Sonu Nigam</u> – "Main Ki Karaan?"	Nominated	
		<u>Best Playback Singer – Female</u>	<u>Shilpa Rao</u> – "Tere Hawaale"	Nominated	
		<u>Best Sound Design</u>	<u>Shajith Koyeri</u> , <u>M. Lakshmi Naidu</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Best Costume Design</u>	<u>Maxima Basu</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Best Cinematography</u>	<u>Satyajit Pande</u>	Nominated	
		<u>Best Production Design</u>	<u>Mustafa Stationwala</u>	Nominated	
<u>Zee Cine Awards</u>	26 February 2023	<u>Best Cinematography</u>	<u>Satyajit Pande</u>	Won	[139]

Controversy

Hindu nationalists campaigned to boycott the film with Twitter hashtags, prior to the release of the film. Articles abound on the net whereby it is said that Aamir Khan continuously uses his films to insult Hindu gods and show Hindus in general in a negative light against other minority communities of India.^[140] The boycott was a reaction to Khan's remarks in 2015 about "growing intolerance" in India, his 2014 movie *PK* that offended Hindu nationalists, his 2017 and 2020 meeting with Turkey's president Recep Tayyip Erdoğan and his first lady wife Emine Erdoğan, who had criticized the deaths of Muslims in the Delhi riots.^[141] Another controversial point shown in the film was that the lead character Lal Singh helps a Pakistani terrorist (instead of an army man of his own country which was in the original plot of *Forrest Gump*) which hurt the patriotic sentiments of some viewers leading to even more negative publicity which added to the boycott movement.^[142] Furthermore, the negative reviews given by the netizens on social media platforms caused the footfalls to decrease significantly.^[143]

Khan said that he was "heartbroken" after seeing this trend, and requested people to watch his film.^[144] An analysis by the *Hindustan Times* felt the film bombed at the box office not because of Aamir Khan's performance; but due to the changes of the original plot of the film which did not sit well with the audience.^[145]

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 - *Laal Singh Chaddha* (<https://www.bollywoodhungama.com/movie/laal-singh-chaddha/cast/>) at Bollywood Hungama
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