

Tejas is a 2023 Indian Hindi-language action thriller film^[2] written and directed by Sarvesh Mewara and produced by Ronnie Screwvala.^[7] The film stars Kangana Ranaut in the lead role, alongside Anshul Chauhan and Varun Mitra in supporting roles.^[8]

The film was released on 27 October 2023 to mostly negative reviews from critics.^{[9][10][11][12]} *Tejas* emerged as one of Hindi cinema's biggest box-office disaster within its first two days of release,^{[13][14]} with most theatrical screenings being cancelled on its opening day.^{[15][16][17]} It was subsequently released on streaming platform ZEE5 on 5 January 2024.^[18]

Plot

Indian Air Force pilot Tejas Gill is on a mission to rescue an Indian spy who has some very confidential information while also battling with her tragic past of haunted memories.


Cast

- Kangana Ranaut as IAF officer Tejas Gill
- Anshul Chauhan as Aafia
- Varun Mitra as Ekveer
- Rohed Khan as Sarqalam
- Ashish Vidyarthi as IAF chief R K Panicker
- Vishak Nair as Prashant
- Kashyap Shangari as Vivek
- Sunit Tandon as Academy Teacher
- Rio Kapadia as RAW Chief
- Mohan Agashe as Prime Minister
- Mushtaq Kak as Khatooni
- Lovlesh Khaneja as Pakistani Pilot

Production

Principal photography commenced in August 2021.^[19] Production wrapped in November 2021.^[20]

Promotion

Tejas	
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Theatrical release poster	
Directed by	Sarvesh Mevara
Written by	Sarvesh Mevara
Produced by	Ronnie Screwvala
Starring	<u>Kangana Ranaut</u> <div>Anshul Chauhan</div> <div>Varun Mitra</div>
Cinematography	Hari K. Vedantam
Edited by	Aarif Sheikh
Music by	<u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>
Production company	<u>RSVP Movies</u>
Release date	27 October 2023 ^[1]
Running time	112 minutes ^[2]
Country	India
Language	Hindi

The film was endorsed by the Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath and Uttarakhand's CM Pushkar Singh Dhami, both belonging to Bharatiya Janta Party, on 31 October 2023 after watching it in Lucknow together with Kangana Ranaut.^[21]

Budget	₹70 crore ^{[3][4][5]}
Box office	₹5.6 crore ^[6]

Ranaut remarked that Yogi Adityanath "assured us that he would protect us and our film from all our enemies and anti-national elements and motivate the nationalists to watch and connect with it".^[21] Ranaut was criticised over using politics to influence people to watch the movie.^[22]

Ranaut also visited the Israeli Embassy to promote the film amid 2023 Hamas-Israel conflict,^{[23][24]} which also drew criticism.^{[25][26]}

Music

The music of the film has been composed by Shashwat Sachdev. The lyrics have been written by Kumaar, Folk-Lore and Shashwat Sachdev.^[27]

Track listing

No.	Title	Singer(s)	Length
1.	"Dil Hai Ranjhana"	<u>Rashmeet Kaur</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	3:31
2.	"Jaan Da (Saiyaan Ve)"	<u>Arijit Singh</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	4:53
3.	"Reh Jao Na"	<u>Hariharan</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	4:43
4.	"Shiva (Prayer Of A Warrior)" (Lyrics by Folk-Lore)	<u>Simran Choudhary</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	2:37
5.	"Jaan Da (Rab Ki Dua)"	<u>Shreya Ghoshal</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	4:26
6.	"Ishq Hai Ranjhe Da"	<u>Osho Jain</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	3:59
7.	"Aag Udi (Victory Anthem)" (Lyrics by Shashwat Sachdev)	<u>Sanjith Hegde</u> , <u>Shashwat Sachdev</u>	2:13
Total length:			26:22

<i>Tejas</i>		
<u>Soundtrack album by Shashwat Sachdev</u>		
Released	6 October 2023 ^[27]	
Recorded	2023	
Genre	<u>Feature film</u> <u>soundtrack</u>	
Length	26:22	
Language	Hindi	
Label	<u>Zee Music</u> <u>Company</u>	
<u>Shashwat Sachdev chronology</u>		
<i><u>Attack: Part 1</u></i> (2022)	<i>Tejas</i> (2023)	<i><u>Article 370</u></i> (2024)
Official audio		
Tejas – Full Album (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ir7lovFYFLU) on <u>YouTube</u>		

Reception

Box office

Made on a budget of ₹70 crore (US\$8.8 million),^{[3][4][5]} *Tejas* has grossed ₹4.93 crore (US\$620,000) in India, with a further ₹0.67 crore (US\$84,000) overseas, for a worldwide total of ₹5.6 crore (US\$700,000).^[6] The film emerged as one of Hindi Cinema's biggest box-office bomb in both domestic and overseas markets within its first two days of release.^{[13][14][28]}

Critical response

The film received negative reviews from the critics.^{[10][11][12]} On the review aggregator website Rotten Tomatoes, *Tejas* holds a score of 10% based on 10 reviews and an average rating of 5/10.^[9]

Saibal Chatterjee of *NDTV* gave the film a rating of 1 out of 5 and wrote, "*Tejas* is a film that flies into rough weather from the word go and never manages to find a way out of it. An air combat thriller has never been so frustratingly airy-fairy".^[29] *The Times of India's* Dhaval Roy gave 3 out of 5 stars, writing, "As the story builds up, sequences seem abrupt, and one wishes for a more cohesive screenplay. That being said, things turn thrilling once the main rescue operation begins, and the movie offers some high-octane action scenes". He praised Ranaut for performing "action as effortlessly as emotional scenes".^[30] More positive albeit mixed reviews came from Samarth Goyal of *Hindustan Times* who described *Tejas* as film that "takes you on a rollercoaster ride through the skies and geopolitics", which "succeeds in creating moments of tension and anticipation". The reviewer labelled the first half as an "an unruly hunk of footage" but credited the film for regaining its composure in the second half where it keeps "maintaining a commendable tone that never veers into loud and jingoistic territory".^[31] Lachmi Deb Roy of *Firstpost*, who gave the film 3 out of 5 stars, appreciated Ranaut and said the film becomes interesting in the second half, but lacks appropriate depth in the research.^[32]

Anuj Kumar, reviewing for *The Hindu*, wrote that the movie is "a sloppy follow-up that neither works as an action film nor manages to sustain the emotional swell".^[33] Zinia Bandyopadhyay of *India Today* gave the film of 2 stars out of 5 and called it a bumpy ride muddled with jarring inconsistencies.^[34] *Filmfare* concluded, "while *Tejas* is a valiant attempt towards championing inclusion of women in combat roles, the half-baked nature of the film cushions the impact of its message."^[35] Shubhra Gupta panned the film as replete with "a series of eye-roll moments" but praised Ranaut "whose acting abilities shine through even in the weakest scenes".^[36] *Jansatta* described the movie in its review to be lacking plot and attempting to thrive on nationalist sentiments.^[37]

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