

= Chak De ! India =

Chak De ! India ( English : Go For it ! India or Go ! India ) is a 2007 Hindi @-@ language Indian sports film , directed by Shimit Amin and Rob Miller ( sports scenes ) , produced by Aditya Chopra , with music by Salim ? Sulaiman and a screenplay by Jaideep Sahni . It explores religious bigotry , the legacy of the partition of India , ethnic and regional prejudice and sexism in contemporary India in a fictional story about the Indian women 's national field @-@ hockey team which was inspired by the team 's win at the 2002 Commonwealth Games . The film stars Shahrukh Khan as Kabir Khan , former captain of the Indian men 's national field @-@ hockey team . After a disastrous loss to Pakistan , Khan is ostracized from the sport and he and his mother are driven from the family home by angry neighbors . Seven years later , to redeem himself , Khan becomes the coach of the Indian national women 's hockey team and aims to turn its sixteen contentious players into a championship unit .

Chak De ! India won a number of awards , including the National Film Award for Best Popular Film Providing Wholesome Entertainment . On 30 August 2007 , the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences requested a copy of the film 's script for a place in its Margaret Herrick Library . When the Indian Hockey Federation was reorganised in April 2008 , former player Aslam Sher Khan said that he wanted " to create a ' Chak De ' effect " in Indian hockey .

= = Plot = =

Chak De ! India opens in Delhi during the final minutes of a fictional Hockey World Cup match between Pakistan and India , with Pakistan leading 1 ? 0 . When Indian team captain Kabir Khan ( Shah Rukh Khan ) is fouled , he takes a penalty stroke . His shot just misses , costing India the match . Soon afterwards , media outlets circulate a photograph of Khan shaking hands with the Pakistani captain . The sporting gesture is misunderstood , and the Muslim Khan is suspected of " throwing " the game out of sympathy towards Pakistan . Religious prejudice forces him and his mother ( Joyshree Arora ) from their family home .

Seven years later Mr. Tripathi ( Anjan Srivastav ) , the head of India 's hockey association , meets with Khan 's friend ? and hockey advocate ? Uttamaji ( Mohit Chauhan ) to discuss the Indian women 's hockey team . According to Tripathi , the team has no future since the only long @-@ term role for women is to " cook and clean " . Uttamaji , however , tells him that Kabir Khan ( whom no one has seen for seven years ) wants to coach the team . Initially sceptical , Tripathi agrees to the arrangement .

Khan finds himself in charge of a group of 16 young women ( each representing a different state ) , divided by their competitive nature and regional prejudices . Komal Chautala ( Chitrashi Rawat ) , a village girl from Haryana , clashes with Preeti Sabarwal ( Sagarika Ghatge ) from Chandigarh ; short @-@ tempered Balbir Kaur ( Tanya Abrol ) from Punjab bullies Rani Dispotta ( Seema Azmi ) and Soimoi Kerketa ( Nisha Nair ) , who are from remote villages in Jharkhand . Mary Ralte ( Kimi Laldawla ) from Mizoram and Molly Zimik ( Masochon " Chon Chon " Zimik ) , from Manipur in North @-@ East India , face widespread discrimination and sexual harassment . Team captain Vidya Sharma ( Vidya Malvade ) must choose between hockey and the wishes of her husband Rakesh 's ( Nakul Vaid ) family , and Preeti 's fiancé ? Abhimanyu Singh ( Vivan Bhatena ) , vice @-@ captain of the India national cricket team ? feels threatened by her involvement with the team .

Khan realizes that he can make the girls winners only if he can help them overcome their differences . During his first few days as coach he benches several players who refuse to follow his rules ? including Bindia Naik ( Shilpa Shukla ) , his most experienced player . In response , Bindia repeatedly encourages the other players to defy Khan . When she finally succeeds , Khan angrily resigns ; however , he invites the staff and team to a farewell lunch at McDonald 's . During the lunch , local boys make a pass at Mary ; Balbir attacks them , triggering a brawl between the boys and the team . Khan , recognizing that they are acting as one for the first time , prevents the staff from intervening ; he only stops a man from hitting one of the women from behind with a cricket bat , telling him that there are no cowards in hockey . In an about @-@ face , after the fight the women

ask Khan to remain as their coach .

The team faces new challenges . When Tripathi refuses to send the women 's team to Australia for the World Cup , Khan proposes a match against the men ? s team . Although his team loses , their performance inspires Tripathi to send them to Australia after all . The tournament begins with a 7 @ - @ 0 loss to Australia , followed by victories over England , Spain , South Africa , New Zealand , Argentina and South Korea . They are again matched with Australia for the final ; this time , they defeat the Hockeyroos for the World Cup . When the team returns home their families treat them with greater respect and Khan , his good name restored , returns with his mother to their ancestral home .

= = Cast = =

Shortly after the film 's release the media began referring to the 16 actresses who portrayed the players as the " Chak De girls " . The panel of judges at the Screen Awards also used the term , awarding the 2008 Screen Award for Best Supporting Actress to the " Chak De girls " .

= = = Team = = =

= = = Additional cast = = =

Anjan Srivastav as Mr. Tripathi , the head Indian hockey official

Vibha Chibber as Krishnaji , assistant coach for the Indian women 's field hockey team

Javed Khan as Sukhlal

Mohit Chauhan as Uttamaji , Kabir 's former hockey teammate and friend

Vivan Bhatena as Abimanyu Singh , Vice captain of the Indian national cricket team

Nakul Vaid as Rakesh , Vidya 's husband

Joyshree Arora as Kabir 's mother

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

A brief article about the victorious women 's team at the 2002 Commonwealth Games inspired screenwriter Jaideep Sahni to create a film about the Indian women 's hockey team , and he modeled Kabir Khan on hockey coach Maharaj Krishan Kaushik . After listening to the storyline Kaushik suggested that Sahani meet hockey player Mir Ranjan Negi , who faced accusations of throwing the match against Pakistan in the 1982 Asian Games . According to Sahani , he was unaware of Negi 's plight while he wrote the script and any resemblance to Negi 's life was coincidental . Negi agreed , saying that he did not " want to hog the limelight . This movie is not a documentary of Mir Ranjan Negi 's life . It is in fact the story of a team that becomes a winning lot from a bunch of hopeless girls " . Responding to media reports equating Kabir Khan with Negi , Sahani said : " Our script was written a year and a half back . It is very unfortunate that something , which is about women athletes , has just started becoming about Negi . "

= = = Title = = =

Shah Rukh Khan stated in a speech delivered at the University of Edinburgh that the phrase Chak De ! was originally " an inspirational martial cry that Sikh soldiers used while lifting logs in order to make bridges across rivers on their campaigns against their enemies . It implies the will to get up and get on with it . "

= = = Casting and filming = = =

Although Salman Khan was initially signed for the lead role , he later withdrew due to creative differences with the director . Shah Rukh Khan ( who had originally declined due to a scheduling conflict with Karan Johar 's Kabhi Alvida Naa Kehna ) was later confirmed as Kabir Khan . Khan accepted the role partly because he used to play hockey in college : " I feel hockey as a sport has been monstrously neglected in our country . I used to play the game during college . In fact , I was quite a good hockey player . So the role was a lot like going back to my past . " Some media sources called the actor 's role offbeat , since it departed from his usual romantic image and included neither lip synched songs nor a single female lead . Casting of the 16 actresses as the hockey players took over six months . Amin described the process as " very , very difficult " and " very strenuous because the requirement was they had to play ? and act " . A four @-@ month training camp was held where the girls learned the rules of the game , took acting lessons and followed a strict diet ; safety precautions were also taken . According to Amin , " Learning hockey is very tricky unlike , say , football . You have to know how to hold the stick , how to manoeuvre it , so it doesn 't look fake on screen ... For those who were originally players , we had to make sure they were able to act as well . The dialogue was weighty ; it isn 't frivolous . It has to be delivered with a certain tone , in a certain manner " . The actors , including Khan and the rest of the supporting cast , participated in a number of rehearsals and script readings before principal photography began .

Kaushik and his team taught the crew " all [ they ] knew about hockey " . In an interview , he later said that he " taught him ( Sahni ) everything about the game , starting from how the camp is conducted , how the girls come from different backgrounds and cultures , the psychological factors involved . Also how the coach faces pressure to select girls from different states and teams " . After Negi was suggested , the latter assembled a team of hockey players to train the actors . He later said that he " trained the girls for six months . Waking up at 4 , traveling from Kandivili to Churchgate . We would retire around 11 in the night . It was tiring . But we were on a mission ... They couldn 't run ; couldn 't hold the hockey sticks . I ensured none of them [ would have to ] cut their nails or eyebrows ( as the players do ) . The girls have worked very hard . I salute them " . Some of the actors , such as Chitrashi , Sandia , and Raynia , were cast because they were hockey players . Rob Miller was the Sport Action Director , and worked with Negi to train the actors . About working with Khan , Negi recalled that everything was planned " including the penalty stroke that SRK missed . That shot alone took us nearly 20 hours as I was keen that it should be very realistic . I took the help of a lot of my former teammates . But more importantly , it was so easy working with SRK . He is unbelievably modest and was willing to do as many re @-@ takes as we wanted " . Chak De ! India was filmed in India and Australia ( Sydney and Melbourne ) , with ReelSports Solutions casting 90 hockey players and 9 @,@ 000 extras .

= = Release = =

= = = Box office = = =

Chak De ! India premiered on 9 August 2007 at Somerset House in London to an audience of over 2 @,@ 000 during the Film4 Summer Screen and India Now festivals . It was released globally in theaters on 10 August 2007 , playing on only 400 screens in India because of the commercial failure of Yash Raj Films 's two previous films .

Due to the film 's strong critical response , theaters reported 80 @-@ percent occupancy for its opening weekend . Chak De ! India topped the Indian box office during its first two weeks , and played to full houses during its first two months . The film was particularly successful in large cities . By the end of its theatrical run Chak De ! India was the third @-@ highest @-@ grossing film of 2007 in India , with domestic earnings of ? 50 @,@ 54 @,@ 00 @,@ 000 .

= = = Critical response = = =

Review aggregator Rotten Tomatoes gave Chak De India a rating of 91 percent based on 11 reviews ( 10 " fresh " and one " rotten " ) . On Metacritic , the film had a score of 68 from four critics , indicating generally @-@ favorable reviews .

In an NPR interview via affiliate WBUR @-@ FM , Mumbai Mirror columnist Aseem Chhabra called Chak De ! India " an example of a film that 's been made within the framework of Bollywood and yet it is a very different film . It does take up some realistic issues , and what I really liked about the film was that the women who acted , you know , who are part of the team , each one of them got a chance . Their personality , their characters , were very well @-@ written , and so , the superstar in the film was Shahrukh Khan , who was the coach of the team ; he doesn 't sort of take over the whole film . Every supporting character gets a role , and it 's a very inspiring movie that really changed the mood in India . People loved it " . Nikhat Kazmi of The Times of India gave the film four out of five stars stating that it was a film of " great performances by a bunch of unknowns . " India Today called Chak De ! India " the most feisty girl power movie to have come out of Bollywood ever . " Sudhish Kamath of The Hindu wrote , " At another level , Chak De is about women 's liberation . It is one of the best feminist films of our times . " Rajeev Masand of CNN @-@ IBN gave the film four out of five stars , saying " Chak De 's ... a winner all the way . " Shubhra Gupta of The Indian Express called the film " the most authentic , meticulously researched sports movie India has made " . In Kolkata 's Telegraph , Bharathi S. Pradhan wrote that the film combines " an extremely well @-@ knit screenplay with unrelentingly deft direction , 16 unknown , and not even glamorous , girls simply carried you with them , with one single known actor compelling you to watch Chak De India without blinking " . Jaspreet Pandohar of the BBC gave Chak De ! India four out of five stars stating that " while the tale of the sporting underdog is hardly new , Jaideep Sahni 's screenplay offers a rare look at a popular Indian sport often overshadowed by cricket . " Andy Webster of The New York Times wrote that the film gave a fresh look to the conventional underdog sports film , comparing its premise to the U.S. victory in the 1991 FIFA Women 's World Cup . Derek Elley of Variety called Chak De ! India " a patriotic heartwarmer that scores some old @-@ fashioned entertainment goals . " In The Hollywood Reporter , Kirk Honeycutt wrote that the " technical credits are first rate with excellent cinematography , quicksilver editing , musical montages of practice and a fine use of locations . "

Michael Dequina of themoviereport.com was more critical of the film , giving it 2 @.@ 5 out of four stars and calling it " a very familiar , very formula underdog sports movie with nothing to distinguish it from similar , equally slick Hollywood product . " Maitland McDonagh of TV Guide gave Chak De ! India two stars out of four , writing that the film uses " sports @-@ movie conventions to address larger cultural and political issues , and while it doesn 't miss a cliché , it also invests every one with vigorous conviction . " Although Subhash K. Jha gave the film 3 @.@ 5 stars , calling it " a fairly predictable story " with dialogue " quite often the stuff bumper stickers are made of " , he wrote that " Chak De India is an outright winner " and " one of the finest sports @-@ based dramas in living memory . " Khalid Mohamed gave the film 3 @.@ 5 stars in the Hindustan Times stating that the film " may be predictable but compels you to root for a team of losers whom only an earth @-@ angel can save from disastrous defeat " .

Apart from critics , Chak De ! India tied with Taare Zameen Par for the Best film of 2007 according to various Bollywood movie directors such as Madhur Bhandarkar , David Dhawan , Rakeysh Omprakash Mehra , Anurag Basu , and Sriram Raghavan .

= = Social impact = =

Chak De ! India has become an influential film . The title track song " Chak De ! India , " now doubles as a sports anthem in India and is played at numerous sports events . According to Salim Merchant , the song " almost became the sports anthem of the country , especially after India won the Cricket World Cup [ 2011 ] . It was no longer our song but the country 's song " . After India 's World Cup victory , Indian team player Virat Kohli " sang ' Chak de India ' to the crowd " . When India defeated South Africa at the 2015 Cricket World Cup , Nitin Srivastava of the BBC noted : "

MCG has erupted with " Vande Mataram " ( the national song of India ) and " Chak De India " ( Go India ! ) slogans in the air ! And there 's no age barrier for cricket fans who came and enjoyed the match " .

In addition , the suspension of the Indian Hockey Federation in April 2008 also indicated the film 's influence . India Today used the title to label the event in two articles , titled " Operation Chak De impact : Jothikumaran resigns " and " Operation Chak de impact : Furore in Lok Sabha " . The Indiatimes , in an article titled , " Five wise men set for a Chak De act " also argued , " It looks like Indian hockey has done a real Chak de this time around " . In addition , former hockey player Aslam Sher Khan , who was appointed by the Indian Olympic Association to head a committee which will replace the IHF , pointed to the film as a model to work towards . He stated in an interview , " We have to make a Team India as you have seen in Bollywood blockbuster Chak De ! India . There are players from several parts of the country . We have to unite them to make a powerful force . " In another interview , he emphasised that he wants " to create a Chak De effect " on hockey in India .

= = Soundtrack = =

Chak De ! India 's soundtrack , composed by Salim ? Sulaiman with lyrics by Jaideep Sahni , was released on 1 August 2007 .