

= Loham =

Loham : The Yellow Metal is a 2015 Indian Malayalam language thriller film written and directed by Ranjith , and produced by Antony Perumbavoor for the production company Aashirvad Cinemas . The film , starring Mohanlal , Andrea Jeremiah , Siddique and Ajmal Ameer , is about an elusive smuggling operation and the mysterious disappearance of 100 kilograms ( 220 lb ) of gold . Sreevalsan J. Menon and C. Rajamani composed the soundtrack and film score , respectively .

Loham opened on 20 August 2015 in over 250 theatres across India . Its release in the United Arab Emirates and the United Kingdom followed on 28 August . The film was a commercial success at the box office , setting a record in 2015 for the highest opening day gross for a Malayalam film . Loham received mixed reactions from critics , who praised the lead actors ' performances and the film 's technical aspects but criticised the screenplay . Produced on a budget of ? 7 crore ( US \$ 1 @. @ 0 million ) , the film grossed ? 15 crore ( US \$ 2 @. @ 2 million ) worldwide .

= = Plot = =

A casket containing the body of a deceased construction worker , Rafeeq ( Musthafa ) , is flown from Dubai to the Calicut International Airport in Kozhikode , then transported by ambulance to its destination . While en route , the ambulance is ambushed by criminals hired by Muhammed Unni ( Siddique ) to retrieve the 100 kilograms ( 220 lb ) of gold that he and his co @-@ smugglers have hidden in the casket . When they open the casket , they discover the gold is missing .

Around the same time , Jayanthi ( Andrea Jeremiah ) arrives in Kozhikode from Mumbai in search of her missing husband , Ramesh ( Ashvin A. Mathew ) , an Indian Revenue Service officer who frequently disappeared from home for various reasons , but is now a suspect in the gold smuggling . Jayanthi arranged for a taxi to drive her to various locations in her quest to find Ramesh . The taxi driver Raju ( Mohanlal ) appears to have an interest of his own in the circumstances surrounding Ramesh 's disappearance . At Jayanthi 's bidding , Raju drives her to the home of her mother @-@ in @-@ law ( KPAC Lalitha ) where he cooks for them and interacts in such a way to earn their trust . Jayanthi then asks Raju to drive her to Kochi to the office of her friend , Chandrasekharan ( Vijayaraghavan ) , assistant commissioner of police . Chandrasekharan promises Jayanthi he will investigate the disappearance of Ramesh . After leaving Chandrasekharan 's office , Raju drives Jayanthi to see Chandrasekhara 's wife , Advocate Rekha ( Muthumany ) , who is also her friend . During their chat , Jayanthi receives a surprise phone call from Ramesh . He explains that he is in Kovalam for an official meeting but will return home the next day , and insists that Jayanthi return home as well . Chandrasekhar later informs Jayanthi that the phone number Ramesh called from was actually in Kochi , not Kovalam . It is also revealed that Sudheer is involved in the smuggling operation .

Meanwhile , Unni , Babu , Shaji , Shenoy , and MLA meet atop an apartment building to discuss the circumstances surrounding the gold they smuggled into Kozhikode and lost to an ambush while in transit from the airport . They suspect Ramesh is involved since he disappeared right after the incident . They devise a plan to kidnap Jayanthi in order to force Ramesh to return the gold . An unsuspecting Raju and Jayanthi become the targets of their surprise attack in which Jayanthi is rendered unconscious . Raju draws his concealed handgun and foils the kidnapping by shooting at his assailants . He collects the unconscious Jayanthi and transports her to a safe place . When she awakens , she finds herself surrounded by strangers . She also discovers that Raju is not just a taxi driver rather he is part of an investigation to find Ramesh and the missing gold . Raju explains to her that Ramesh was involved in the smuggling , and has since become the target of the criminals . Jayanthi returns to Rekha 's home for safety , and Chandrasekharan begins investigating Raju who , in a turn of events , has raised suspicion .

Raju and his team , now disguised as Sabarimala pilgrims , rent a van hoping to catch Jayan . Raja 's teammate , Ameer Amanulla ( Abu Salim ) , pretends to be an informer for Arif Bahi ( Joy Mathew ) . He lures Jayan into a trap by telling him a gift from Arif is waiting for him in the van . Jayan is captured and interrogated by Raju who questions the 30 @, @ 000 Dirham Jayan received from Arif

in Dubai , as well as the circumstances surrounding the death of Rafeeq . Jayan reveals that Rafeeq was purposely pushed off a building to his death as part of Arif 's master plan to transport the gold , thinking no one would suspect the gold was hidden in his casket . The trail leads Raju to the home of Ramesh 's parents where Ramesh has been hiding under the protection of his mother , who is also aware of the smuggling . Raju takes Ramesh into custody along with others involved in the crime but he lets Ramesh go . It is eventually revealed that co @-@ smuggler Azhagar Perumaal ( Ajmal Ameer ) , a young politician had deceived Unni and took the gold for himself .

After Raju and his team retrieve the gold , they are detained by local police . Raju identifies himself as a RAW agent and his team as intelligence officers from various agencies of India . He discloses his real name as Rajeev Sathyamoorthy . The police release them so they can complete their investigation and allows them to go back to Mumbai . Near the end of the film , it is revealed that Raju and his team are the actual smugglers .

= = Cast = =

= = Production = =

= = = Development = = =

In 2013 , Ranjith announced plans to produce a film for Aashirvad Cinemas , starring Mohanlal and Manju Warriar , which was scheduled for a 2014 release coinciding with the annual Vishu festival held in Kerala , India . Production was slated to begin in December 2013 . The announcement of Loham received considerable media attention as it was Manju Warriar 's return to the screen after leaving the film industry to marry actor Dileep . The media coverage was further heightened when Prithviraj Sukumaran joined the cast . However , the film was shelved soon after its official announcement . Ranjith explained it was dropped because the film 's story resembled that of another film in the same language released during its pre @-@ production time . It was Prithviraj who noticed that the ending sequence of the planned script was similar to that of Thira ( 2013 ) .

Later that year , the director planned another film with the same production company starring Mohanlal , which was titled G for Gold . Filming was scheduled to begin on 10 January 2014 in Kozhikode and Kasargode , but production did not begin on schedule due to Ranjith 's dissatisfaction with the screenplay . He revised the screenplay and re @-@ titled the film as Loham . Loham was announced in February 2015 .

= = = Casting and crew = = =

Loham is the fifth film directed by Ranjith in which Mohanlal was cast in the lead role . Ajmal Ameer and Andrea Jeremiah were confirmed during the pre @-@ production period . Gauri Nanda received boxing lessons to help her prepare for her role . Niranjana Anoop , a daughter of one of Ranjith 's family friends , made her acting debut in the film as Mythri , a badly behaved youngster . Loham is the second collaboration between Ameer and Mohanlal , following Madampi ( 2008 ) . Ajmal 's character 's looks were modelled after popular young politicians in the country , who are often spotted in the white kurta @-@ jacket outfit . In March 2015 , it was confirmed that Aju Varghese would play a guest role . Also Deepak Parambol who came to see Mohanlal in the filming location ended up in a guest role . In April , Srinda Ashab , Manikuttan and Parvathi Menon were also signed for guest appearances in a musical performance . The Hindu wedding song was shot in Kozhikode . Several media outlets reported Pearle Maaney was to perform an item number in the film but the report was determined to be incorrect after a selfie of Maaney dressed in a wedding outfit was leaked online . She appeared in a cameo role . Maaney 's scenes were filmed in three days . Salim grew a beard and shaved his head for his role . He said , " My getup in the movie is similar to that of Dwayne Johnson " .

Kunjunni S. Kumar , son of cinematographer S. Kumar , was hired as Loham 's cinematographer . Kunjunni had first worked with Ranjith as an associate director during the production of Indian Rupee ( 2011 ) while his father worked behind the camera . Earlier , he was supposed to debut as a cinematographer on Ranjith 's Leela in 2012 , but the project was shelved ten days before production . In an interview with the Deccan Chronicle , Kunjunni said that after the script narration , Ranjith told him to avoid gimmicks in framing and shots in order to make it more realistic . Mythili , who was cast by Ranjith in her debut film , acted in and served as an assistant director for the film which was her debut behind the camera . She also sang a duet song in the film 's soundtrack . Sreevalsan J. Menon was selected by Ranjith to compose the film 's original music score . Renji Panicker suggested Menon to Ranjith during the film 's pre @-@ production stage . C. Rajamani composed the film score .

= = = Filming and promotions = = =

Principal photography began on 8 March 2015 , at the Calicut International Airport in Kozhikode . M. D. Sasidharan , managing director of Gold Coin Motion Pictures , performed the switch @-@ on , and K. R. Pramod , chief manager of Mathrubhumi , made the first clap . The film was shot in various locations including Kozhikode , Kochi , Delhi and Dubai . Production moved to Kochi after the shoot in Calicut . Willingdon Island and Fort Kochi were some of the shooting locations on the Kochi schedule . Filming wrapped in May 2015 . Loham 's production budget was estimated to be ? 7 crore ( US \$ 1 @.@ 0 million ) .

On 18 March 2015 , the first image capture from the film was released , featuring Andrea , Ranjith and Mohanlal on location in Calicut . The first @-@ look poster featuring Mohanlal was released on 29 June 2015 . More detailed posters were released during the first week of August . The first poster showed an ensemble cast with Mohanlal in the centre ; their facial expressions indicative of the film 's thriller genre . Other posters showed Mohanlal wearing army @-@ style camouflage pants .

The first teaser of the film was 44 seconds long and was released on 12 August 2015 . It received positive reviews in various media outlets with regard to Mohanlal 's acting , and for the film 's plot as a thriller . The teaser received over 200 @,@ 000 views within 24 hours on YouTube , and over 400 @,@ 000 views within three days . An official trailer 1 @.@ 37 minutes long was released on 18 August 2015 .

= = = Soundtrack = = =

The film 's music was composed by Sreevalsan J. Menon , and all lyrics were written by Rafeeq Ahammed , Manoj Kuroor and Rajeev Nair . The first song , " Kanaka Mayilanchi " , sung by Mythili , was released by Mathrubhumi Music on 13 August 2015 . Mythili also sang a duet with Shahabaz Aman . The Times of India called it " a melody that remind [ sic ] listeners of the golden era of Malayalam cinema " . The audio CD comprising three songs was released on 17 August during a function held at Kochi .

= = = Release = = =

Loham was initially scheduled to be released in July 2015 during Ramadan , but it had to be postponed until 20 August because of delays in post @-@ production . The film was then scheduled to open in India on 20 August 2015 as a festival release during the Onam season .

The film was distributed to 250 theatres across India , resulting in approximately 1000 screenings daily . On 20 August 2015 , the film was released on 141 screens in Kerala , and to other theaters in India on 21 August 2015 . The film 's debut in the Middle East took place on 27 August 2015 . It also opened in theaters in the UAE and UK on 28 August 2015 . Rights for television broadcast was sold as a joint venture to Asianet and Kairali TV for ? 6 crore and ? 1 crore respectively . The film was released on DVD in India by Central Home Entertainment on 2 December 2015 .

### == = Box office == =

The film grossed ₹ 3 @. @ 5 crore ( US \$ 520 @, @ 000 ) on its opening day in India , with ₹ 2 @. @ 20 crore ( US \$ 330 @, @ 000 ) from Kerala box office receipts alone . Loham created a new opening day record in Malayalam that surpassed the previous record set by Casanovva in 2012 . The national gross was ₹ 13 crore ( US \$ 1 @. @ 9 million ) within 22 days of the film 's initial release , with ₹ 11 crore ( US \$ 1 @. @ 6 million ) from Kerala . Special screenings were arranged by some of the major releasing centres of Kerala . By the end of the first weekend , distribution of the film was increased to include more cities . The film collected ₹ 12 @. @ 2 crore ( US \$ 1 @. @ 8 million ) from Kerala in its final run , generating ₹ 15 crore ( US \$ 2 @. @ 2 million ) in box office revenue worldwide .

### == = Critical reception == =

Loham received mixed reviews from critics . Rejath R.G of Kerala Kaumudi said , " Renjith has beautifully conceived the film " , and praised the technical aspects with special mention to Kunjunni 's camera work and the three " beautiful " songs composed by Sreevalsan . He summarized it as " a watchable good film that could have been much better if the director paid a little more attention to the screenplay . The problem is that it loses steam here and there particularly in the post @-@ interval sequences " . Deccan Chronicle rated the film 2 @. @ 5 out of 5 and said , " Any of [ Mohanlal 's ] fans , who are exposed to thrillers of Hollywood and Bollywood like Ocean 's 11 and Special 26 will lose the thrill soon . There is nothing commendable about the script or cinematography or music " , but he praised Mohanlal 's action sequences and car chasing scenes , Siddique and his companion 's performances , and Mythili and Musthafa 's " heart touching " moments . He called the message of the film " socially relevant " and " effective " . Akhila Menon of Filmibeat.com also gave the film 2 @. @ 5 out of 5 stars . He praised the performances of Mohanlal and Siddique , but was less enthusiastic about the script , observing that " Ranjith 's craft as a filmmaker is visible throughout the movie . But what Loham lacks is his brilliance as a writer " .

Pramod Thomas of The New Indian Express commented , " Mollywood has been in an experimental mode of late . Unfortunately , movies like Loham are many laps behind . . . . When Megalomaniac directors decide to live in the shadow of their past glory , films like Loham happen " . Veeyen of Nowrunning.com gave the film 2 out of 5 stars and wrote " Loham has none of the shine or shimmer that was expected of it . At best it looks like an antique bronze piece that has taken some fine patina all over it " , but he praised Mohanlal and Siddique 's performances . Parech C. Palicha of Rediff.com commented , " Loham lacks lustre , and is not original at all " . Sify praised the performance of Mohanlal and the humour of Siddique and Soubin Saheer but criticized the script , saying , " Loham is about a topical subject , but it is far from engaging " . Raj Vikram of Metromatinee said that technically the film is slick with well shot sequences . " Mohanlal is the lifeblood of the movie , and he pulls off an easy role by his standards with characteristic panache . . . Loham is not among the best works of director Renjith but is far better than some of his forgettable duds . "