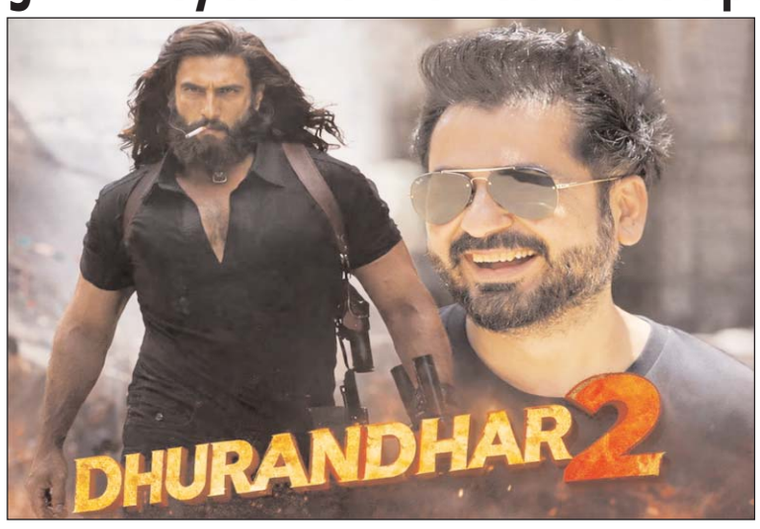
Dhurandhar 2 box office prediction: Hindi cinema's 'slow year' ends as Ranveer Singh fim eyes over Rs 150 crore opening weekend



With the massive buzz around Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge, its prequel now seems almost like a trailer for the phenomenon the sequel has turned into. The film has already sold over 13 lakh tickets for its paid previews and opening day combined — 8.26 lakh tickets for paid previews alone and 6.75 lakh tickets for opening day in India. In terms of revenue, the film's advance bookings is set to cross Rs 60 crore domestically without block seats, with paid previews alone contributing over Rs 37.09 crore and opening day advance sales touching Rs 22.76 crore. The unprecedented craze around the film has also sparked massive excitement among exhibitors and distributors. According to leading Northern India distributor Raj Bansal, son of O. P. Bansal, the industry is "over the moon".

"The exhibitors and distributors are over the moon. Their excitement cannot be controlled. Everybody is rooting for this film because if films work, only then will the business flourish."

He also pointed out that 2026 has largely been a slow year for Hindi cinema, with the Dhurandhar franchise being a rare bright spot. "The year 2026 has not been very kind to Hindi films, except Dhurandhar, which initially occupied theatres. Now Dhurandhar 2 is bringing in a fresh wave — a ray of hope. We couldn't have imagined such huge numbers for paid previews. Previously, the highest paid preview collection was around Rs 8.5 crore. With Dhurandhar 2, we are expecting the paid previews alone to go somewhere around Rs 35 crore-plus," he said. Explaining why the opening day figure may appear modest compared to the massive preview numbers, he said, "It may sound surprising after the kind of money the film is bringing in through paid previews, but the explanation is simple — many die-hard fans will watch the film during the preview shows itself." He also pointed to sky-high ticket prices as a major factor behind the preview numbers. "The ticket prices for previews have surged dramatically — going up to Rs 3,000 in some places. In cities like Jaipur, one could never imagine tickets selling at Rs 1,500. However, these prices will come down on opening day. While theatres will still run housefull, the drop in ticket prices means the opening day numbers will settle around Rs 55 crore. Also, the number of shows will be slightly limited due to the film's long runtime."

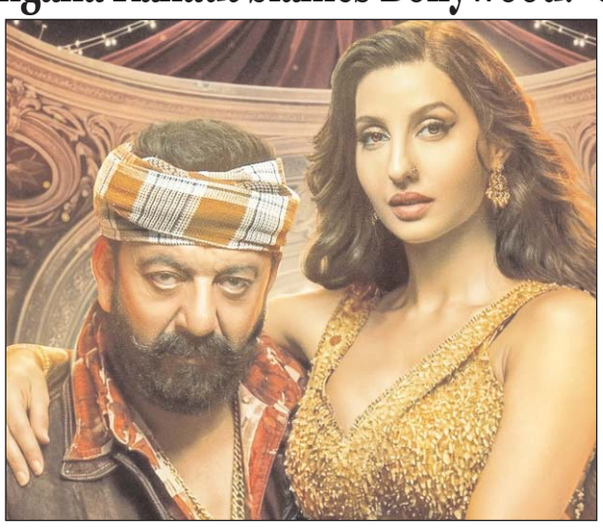
'Aishwarya Rai didn't sit for 7 hours to avoid creasing outfit': Ponniyin Selvan jeweller recalls actor's 'extreme professionalism'



Two years ago, when Sobhita Dhulipala tied the knot with Naga Chaitanya, her bridal look quickly went viral. It captured widespread attention for its dreamy yet deeply rooted approach to tradition. Recently, Pratiksha Prashant from a legacy jewellery house from Hyderabad, spoke about the very same jewellery that Sobhita had worn earlier in Ponniyin Selvan. Pratiksha had worked on those pieces, which Sobhita later chose to wear again for her wedding, adding a layer of personal significance to her bridal ensemble. "Shobhita, she wore our jewellery in the film. And then at her wedding. She was very clear from the beginning, while we were doing the film, that whenever she gets married, she told. She further added, "Even in the film, she looked incredible. She has something about her own style. She's very stylish and has a very good taste."

Pratiksha also spoke at length about the professionalism of Aishwarya Rai Bachchan, who also wore her jewellery in Ponniyin Selvan. She said, "She is not Aishwarya Rai, just like that. I have seen the amount of precision she needs, with her dress, her style, her costume. Even a single pin, she would not want it to be seen in the hairdo."

'Vulgar' Nora Fatehi-Sanjay Dutt song 'Sarke Chunar' gets pulled after NHRC notice; Kangana Ranaut blames Bollywood: 'Crossed all limits'



Nora Fatehi and Sanjay Dutt-starrer song "Sarke Chunar Teri Sarke" from the Kannada film KD – The Devil faced massive backlash from the audience due to its lewd lyrics and suggestive choreography. In the latest development, as per The Times of India, the National Human Rights Commission (NHRC) has issued a legal notice regarding the same, following which the song has been taken down from YouTube and other platforms. The backlash against the song intensified after advocate Vineet Jindal filed a formal complaint with the Central Board of Film Certification (CBFC) and the Ministry of Information and Broadcasting. The advocate urgently requested the authorities to take legal action against the song. The advocate called out the song for being "highly vulgar, sexually suggestive, and obscene expressions". He also showed discontent over the fact that it is being widely circulated on social media.

The complaint also highlighted how the song is highly inappropriate, especially for minors, due to its lyrics that are explicitly objectionable and unsuitable for public consumption. The complaint names key contributors to the song, including lyricist Raqeeb Alam, director Prem, composer Arjun Janya, and singer Mangli. As per reports, a separate criminal complaint has already been filed with the Delhi Police Cyber Cell regarding the song. The song was uploaded by Anand Audio in multiple languages—Hindi, Malayalam, Tamil, Telugu, and Kannada—on YouTube on Monday. However, after the complaint, the song has been taken down from the platform. However, copied lyrical videos of the song remain online, and some visuals continue to circulate in short-form videos.

Kangana blamed Bollywood for the Kannada film's song. She said, "Bollywood has crossed all limits with vulgarity, tactics, and attention-seeking. The entire country is condemning and reprimanding them. But I don't think they have any shame…There needs to be even more strictness about the display of such vulgarity and obscenity. It is difficult to even watch TV with family. I think some strict rein will have to be put on Bollywood." Onir also reacted to the controversy and blamed the CBFC for clearing the song. He wrote, "And the Censor board is busy with The naming of a film #GhooskhorPandat . Strange country we are becoming… opposing Valentines day celebration, interfaith marriage/ celebration while ok with this rubbish."

'Only I and Amitabh Bachchan call': Nana Patekar says have to go through 100 people to meet a star; Prakash Jha reveals actors have 28-people entourages



Many have spoken about the high entourage costs of stars in the Hindi film industry and how this puts pressure on producers and filmmakers, often leaving projects suffering due to the unreasonable demands of actors. In a recent interaction, Prakash Jha and Nana Patekar Prakash, who is known for making politically relevant films like Jai Gangaajal, Satyagraha and Raajneeti, was asked why he has avoided releasing his projects in theatres and has turned to OTT platforms in recent years. One of the reasons that emerged during the interaction was that any project releasing in theatres needs strong star power behind it. However, with time, stars are becoming more and more inaccessible.

Nana Patekar, who is seen in Jha's latest project Sankalp, jumped in and spoke on the issue. He complained about stars being inaccessible these days because of the multiple layers of management. He said, "This is because earlier you could talk to a star directly, but now it is not possible. Today we have to go through multiple people to meet the star. To meet the star, you first have to meet 100 people. You have to give the star the script and then he/she will direct you whether you should make this film or not. Releasing it on OTT is easy compared to this."

Nana also spoke about how there is no real bond between actors and directors in this generation. "Often, I ask Prakash if this actor called him, but then he tells me that the relationship between the actor and him is only limited to the film. Prakash tells me that only I and Amitabh Bachchan call him." Prakash explained how these multiple layers of management are one of the reasons behind the increased entourage costs of actors. He said, "All these layers who have been employed—the corporate, the management company, the creative company, managers—all these get a salary and which is why they have to show some work."

Prakash argued that a part of this ultimately comes from the producer's pocket. He shared an example and said, "There is an actor these days who is accompanied by 27–28 people, a new actor in the industry, whose one film has worked, aspires to have this kind of a big entourage."

He shared how an actor put a script he had received into ChatGPT and asked the AI platform to give him 10 reasons to do and not do the film. Responding to the same, Nana said, "Toh kyu tere kaan ke neeche do na lagao main puch AI se? (Ask AI why should I not give you a slap)."

'We will miss you, Dadi': Nakuul Mehta's emotional goodbye to Ishqbaaz co-star Navnindra Behl

Veteran actress Navnindra Behl passed away on March 16 at the age of 76. Her son, filmmaker Kanu Behl, confirmed the news of her demise with an emotional post on social media. "My Titan. My faith. Love. Guide. Mentor. My heart. Go well, mumma. Until you birth me again. My eyes shall always seek that irrepressible smile, that warm chuckle, that bear hug, those burning, curious eyes. Forever alight. Thank you for lighting my soul," Kanu Behl wrote on Instagram. Actor Nakuul Mehta also paid an emotional tribute to his co-star from Ishqbaaz.

Navnindra Behl played Nakuul Mehta's grandmother in the popular show Ishqbaaz. Recalling fond memories of her, Nakuul Mehta penned an emotional note on Instagram. He wrote, "The beauty of long-running television shows is that they sometimes give you the opportunity to spend time with people who may have existed in worlds very different from yours until then, and then, almost magically, they end up shaping a significant part of who you were during those years. And long after the experience ends, some of what they stood for continues to find a home within you." "We spent so many days sharing a set floor and many lunches over the three years we worked together on Ishqbaaaz. I'd often complain about the boring sabzis (read: lauki, karela) she'd bring, and she would continue to insist that we try her food. She didn't give up. I never gave in. My earliest memory of her was filming my very first scene with her on Ishqbaaaz at around midnight in Turbhe. A solemn moment between the matriarch and her grandson. There was something about her presence that made you feel so present in every scene. She liked rehearsals. So did I. It was a match written in the stars.

Akshay Kumar recalls eerie encounter at his home, wife Twinkle Khanna said 'there's something here': 'My son pointed, said go away'



Actor Akshay Kumar is gearing up for the release of his upcoming film Bhooth Bangla, set to hit theatres on April 10, 2026. The romantic horror-comedy marks his reunion with filmmaker Priyadarshan after 16 years. They last worked together in the 2010 film Khatta Meetha. The film also stars Tabu, Paresh Rawal, Wamiqa Gabbi and Rajpal Yadav. Akshay recently spoke about whether he believes in ghosts, recalling an incident that left him stunned during a conversation at the India Today Conclave while accepting that this remains scientifically unproven. Recalling an incident from a house where he previously lived, Akshay said his wife had often sensed something unusual. "We used to live in a house where my wife would always tell me, 'There's something here.' My son Aarav was around four or five years old at the time, and I would tell her, 'Tina, you're educated, how can you say such things?' But she insisted she had heard a lady walking inside the house," he said.

Akshay admitted he initially dismissed her concerns, until one day he saw his son pointing at someone.

"One day, my son was lying down and suddenly pointed somewhere and said, 'Don't stay here, go away, you leave.' I asked him, 'Who are you talking to?' For a couple of seconds, even I was shocked," he recalled.

"My wife said, 'See, I told you, there's someone. Even your son is talking to someone. There is something.'"

Akshay said he remains open to the idea of unseen energies. "So I presume maybe such things do exist, some kind of supernatural power or energy. People say that some individuals are surrounded by positive energy, while others attract negativity

Rajinikanth answers claims by Vijay's party leader that he was 'threatened' to stay out of politics: 'Time will answer'



Days after a leader from Thalapathy Vijay's political party Tamilaga Vettri Kazhagam, Aadhav Arjuna, levelled allegations around Rajinikanth shelving his plunge into politics, the veteran Tamil superstar has now issued a statement, dismissing the claims. The TVK General Secretary alleged the political party Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam "threatened" Rajinikanth and dissuaded him from joining politics in 2020.

"Recently, Mr. Aadhav Arjuna (in party leadership) made a statement about me that was contrary to the truth," read a letter posted by Rajinikanth on his X handle on Tuesday. "I thank with heartfelt gratitude all who supported me against his slander," he added. The actor then listed a few names from the Tamil Nadu political circles who defended him against Arjuna's claims.

These included Opposition Leader and All India Anna Dravida Munnetra Kazhagam (AIADMK) General Secretary Edappadi Palaniswami, Tamil Nadu Bhartiya Jana Party (BJP) President Tamilisai Soundararajan, Union Minister L. Murugan, his fellow BJP leader Kuppusamy Annamalai, and Viduthalai Chiruthaigal Katchi President Thol. Thirumavalavan.

Rajinikanth also extended his gratitude to fellow film artists, fans, and members of the media who came out in his support. "Time does not pass but waits and answers," added Rajinikanth. He concluded his note with, "Long live Tamil Nadu! May Tamil people prosper! Victory!" The actor's clarification comes after Arjuna's remark resulted in a strong backlash from the his fans and former advisor.

Salim Khan discharged after spending a month in hospital

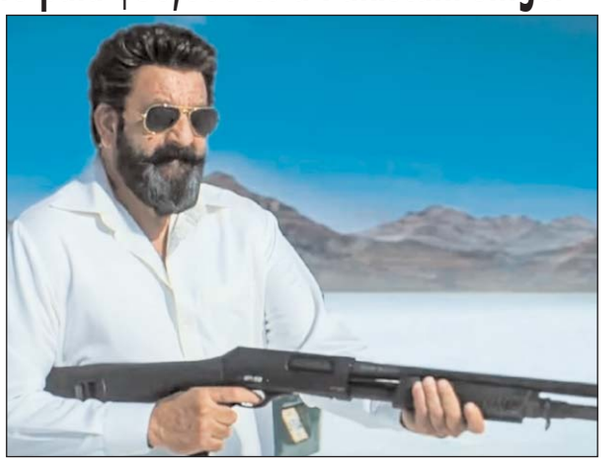


Salim Khan was discharged from hospital on Tuesday after he suffered a a minor brain haemorrhage in February. Today marks a full month since he was admitted to Lilavati Hospital on February 17. The news of his health scare quickly became a major talking point, with Salman Khan and other family members making frequent visits to the hospital. Doctors had earlier confirmed that his condition was stable and that he was under close observation in the intensive care unit (ICU). Over time, his condition has improved significantly, and was on the path to recovery. And now, SCREEN has exclusively learned that Salim Khan was to be discharged

"Salim Khan is getting discharged today. It has nearly been a month since his admission. He was under Dr. Jalil Parkar's treatment," our source said. Over the past month, several celebrities visited him and provided updates to the media. More recently, his son Arbaaz Khan addressed reporters while leaving an iftar gathering in the city. He said the veteran writer is showing positive signs of recovery: "He's better now, he's improving," Arbaaz told.

Salim Khan's longtime screenwriting partner and close friend, Javed Akhtar, also offered an update: "Salim is fine now. He's okay and recovering. He's sitting on a chair and talking, and I mean, he has improved," he said at a book launch in Delhi. Aamir Khan had also visited Salim Khan in hospital and shared his thoughts with the media: "I went to meet Salim sahab, and we are all praying that he recovers soon.

'Hawa Hawa': The iconic Sanjay Dutt entry song for which Dhurandhar makers paid $50,000 to a Pakistani singer



Aditya Dhar's spy thriller Dhurandhar 2: The Revenge, starring Ranveer Singh, is on the verge of release, fans have been revisiting the first part, which released in cinemas this past December. Shashwat Sachdev's music was one of the key highlights of that film, particularly his recreation of memorable tracks like Roshan's "Na To Caravan Ki Talash Hai", Usha Uthup's "Ramba Ho", and Panjabi MC's "Jogi".

But there were some songs that were just used as they are, one of them being Pakistani pop icon Hassan Jahangir's seminal 1987 track "Hawa Hawa", which is invoked for the entry of Sanjay Dutt's character SP Chaudhary Aslam. Now, the singer has confirmed that the makers of Dhurandhar indeed sought permission from him and even paid him $50,000 to use the song in the movie. "This wasn't the case earlier. But now, I get paid for all my songs. There was no copyright system earlier," said. The only exception he made was the Pakistani reality show, Pakistan Idol, because it's the country's pride. The singer also recalled how warmly he was welcomed in India when he visited after the release of "Hawa Hawa", which became as popular in the neighbouring nation. "I didn't know people there are so crazy for music. When I landed at the Mumbai airport, I got to know the customs officer were on the duty to escort me. There were so many big actors there to receive me.

Why Salman Khan's Battle of Galwan became Maatrubhumi: 'It was never just about a battle,' says director Apoorva Lakhia

Salman Khan's upcoming war drama, Battle of Galwan, based on the 2020–2021 India–China border skirmishes, has undergone a title change. The film will now be called Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace. The announcement was made through a newly released poster, following which director Apoorva Lakhia explained the reasoning behind the change, noting that the possibility had existed from the very beginning of the project. "Changing the title may feel sudden to SK sir's fans, but it was never an overnight decision. From the start, we had registered two titles – Battle of Galwan and Maatrubhumi. As we went through the journey of making our film, we realised it was never just about a battle. At its heart, the film is about humanity, empathy, and the silent battles our soldiers fight."

He further elaborated, "Maatrubhumi: May War Rest in Peace captures that emotion and sacrifice far more truthfully. It reflects the soul of the story, preserving humanity even in the face of conflict. There's also a song in the film by the same name, and the love it has received from audiences made the title feel even more right." However, industry reports suggest there may be additional factors behind the decision. According to a report by Bollywood Hungama, the title change may also be linked to the sensitive diplomatic context surrounding India and China. The report quoted a source saying: "Salman Khan was advised in certain official and strategic quarters to not only rethink the title of the film, but also tone down the anti-China portions.