

Akshay Kumar on 'Kesari Chapter 2': 'Want to bring actual history to people'

Bollywood superstar Akshay Kumar on Thursday said he wants to bring out untold stories of valour from across India, including Punjab, to the big screen as he believes history books have been mostly written from the perspective of the British.

The actor's latest film is "Kesari Chapter 2", which delves into an untold story of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre. The film is the second part in the "Kesari" franchise that started with 2019 movie "Kesari", which revolved around the Battle of Saragarhi in 1897.

"The people of Punjab are all very brave, loyal and filled with valour. And I want to bring their stories in front of everyone. I want to make 'Kesari 3 and 4'. There are so many chapters in Punjab and in the whole of India... I want to bring out the valour, the things which India does.

"I have done it earlier because our history books have been written according to the British. And I want to bring the actual history in front of people," Akshay said at the trailer launch event of "Kesari Chapter 2" here.

Produced by Karan Johar's Dharma Productions, the film narrates the true story of lawyer C Sankaran Nair, who fought a legal battle against the British empire in the 1920s.

The movie is based on the book "The Case That Shook the Empire" by Nair's great grandson Raghu Palat and his wife Pushpa Palat.

It details the 1924 defamation trial in which Michael O'Dwyer, former Lieutenant Governor of



Punjab and the architect of the Jallianwala Bagh massacre, sued Nair who had criticised British atrocities in Punjab in his book. Akshay said he had no knowledge about the trial before Raghu Palat's book.

"The book tells us so much that had happened, which we don't know about. In the history books, we read that there was a firing and General O'Dwyer said he only stopped because the bullets had finished.

"But the more deeper thing, we never knew about it. We never knew about the case which went on. Sankaran Nair fought the case... Let me tell you one thing, Sankaran Nair defeated their white judge in their court. And this was the only case in their rule of over 200 years that we won. It was a big thing for us." The 57-year-old actor said he feels a personal connection to "Kesari Chapter 2".

"It's a very important film. My dad was born just opposite Jallianwala Bagh. There is a street called Katra Ahluwalia and he was born there. And my grandfather had also seen all this.

"We made this film out of

anger because I listened to the stories of that incident. My dad told me, my grandfather told me," he said.

"Kesari Chapter 2", which is set to be released in theatres on April 18, is directed by first-time filmmaker Karan Singh Tyagi. It also features R Madhavan and Ananya Panday.

Johar said the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a dark chapter in history. "We're releasing this film in the same month in memory of those lives that were lost, the wounds that are still raw and the sadness that engulfs Jallianwala Bagh even today.

"It is yet a film that asks the British Empire for an apology through the brave narrative of Sankaran Nair... This film is about the battle fought by Sankaran Nair versus the crown," he said.

Panday, who plays the role of young lawyer Dilreet Gill in the movie, said the character resonated a lot with her.

"Every film that I do has pieces of me in it... I tried to channel that raw nervous energy of an upcoming lawyer... She is the only female lawyer among so

many men. So that power that she got from within while she was fighting that case, I tried to channel a bit of that from my own experience of starting my career when I was 18... So I did try to take a little bit of my life from that," she said, adding that she had to learn Punjabi for the movie.

The actor said her knowledge about the massacre was also very limited and there were many unbelievable moments during the making. "I had heard a lot of stories from my grandmother. I had heard a lot of stories about partition because my grandfather was separated from his father in the partition...

"I remember when the narration happened, I was constantly asking, 'Did this really happen?' I was shocked that so much happened and we don't even know one per cent of it. So thanks to the book and thanks to the script, I got to learn a lot. I hope that people watch this movie and they learn as well," she added.

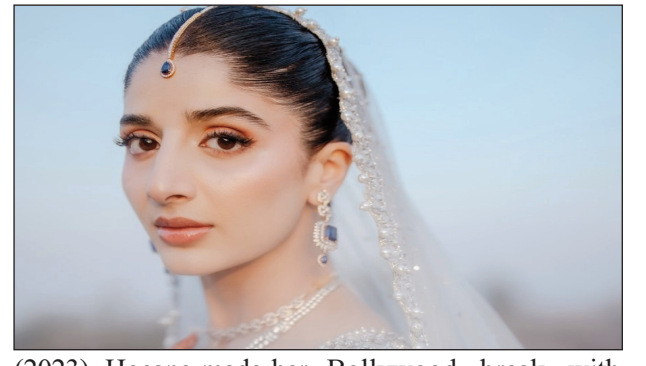
Madhavan stars as the British lawyer Neville Mckinley and he said the Jallianwala Bagh massacre was a genocide.

"I felt that this was a story that needed to be told. I don't think about whether it's positive or negative. I just want to convey the truth, even if it's harsh... That's when I'll know I've succeeded in my career," he added.

"Kesari Chapter 2" is written by Karan Singh Tyagi and Amritpal Singh Bindra. It is presented by Dharma Production, Kumar's Cape of Good Films and Leo Media Collective.

After Fawad Khan, Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane returns to Indian entertainment industry

After Fawad Khan, Pakistani actress Mawra Hocane is back to the Indian entertainment industry after nine years with a new project — a music video titled Tu Chaand Hai, featuring vocals by singer-composer Akhil Sachdeva.



Sharing a teaser of the song, Hocane announced that the music video will release on Friday. "The wait is almost over! Tu Chaand Hai arrives tomorrow, we can't wait for you all to witness this magic," she captioned her post on Instagram.

Composed by Anmol Daniel, Tu Chaand Hai is billed as a song celebrating eternal love.

Known for Pakistani television dramas like Sabaat (2020) and Neem

(2023), Hocane made her Bollywood debut with Shashank Khaitan's 2017 romcom Badrinath Ki Dulhania, in which he lent his vocals to the song Sun Mere Humsafar. Sachdeva also sang and composed the hit Kabir Singh track Tera Ban Jaunga.

Fawad Khan is making a comeback to Indian cinema after a nine-year gap with the upcoming romantic film Abir Gulaal, his co-star Vaani Kapoor announced on Tuesday.

'Panchayat' Season 4 to stream in July, Prime Video drops announcement teaser

Season 4 of Prime Video's hit rural comedy-drama series Panchayat will drop on the streamer on July 2, the makers announced on Thursday. "Meeting meeting when? watch till the end," wrote Prime Video on Instagram, sharing a video featuring Giaa Manek's Gopi bahu, Jitendra Kumar's Abhishek Tripathi and internet sensation Darshan Magdum. In the video, Gopi bahu accuses Panchayat of having a monopoly over social media memes. The show's iconic lines such as "Ek ek chai aur" and "Dekh raha hai Binod" had sparked a meme frenzy online soon after its premiere on the streaming platform in April 2020. In the video, Kumar

confirms that Panchayat Season 4 will premiere on Prime Video this year. Deepak Kumar Mishra, who has directed the previous instalments of the series, will be helming the fourth season in collaboration with Akshat Vijaywargiya. It will be produced by Arunabh Kumar, who has backed the previous seasons as well. The fourth season of Panchayat went on the floors in October last year. Featuring Jitendra Kumar, Raghubir Yadav, Ashok Pathak and Neena Gupta in key roles, the series follows the journey of engineering graduate Abhishek Tripathi, who ends up working at a panchayat office in a remote village after failing to find a job of his calibre.

Rupee pares initial losses, settles 22 paise up at 85.30 against US dollar

MUMBAI, APR 3

The rupee pared its initial losses and settled for the day higher by 22 paise at 85.30 (provisional) against the US dollar on Thursday as the greenback weakened against its major peers after President Donald Trump unleashed reciprocal tariffs on about 60 countries.

The domestic unit had witnessed a knee jerk reaction in early trade but soon gained the lost ground and ended the day on a positive note, after the US announced 27 per cent reciprocal tariffs on India, saying New Delhi imposes high import duties on American goods.

Experts, however, said that India is better-placed than its competitors, who also face increased levies.

At the interbank foreign exchange, the rupee opened at 85.77 then touched an intraday high of 85.30 and a low of 85.78 against the greenback. The unit ended the session at 85.30 (provisional) against the dollar, registering a gain of 22 paise from its previous closing level.

On Wednesday, the rupee had settled at 85.52 against the US dollar.

The US reciprocal



tariffs are expected to impact India's exports of certain sectors to the US, experts said, adding that India is better-placed than its competitors, including Bangladesh (37 per cent), China (54 per cent), Vietnam (46 per cent) and Thailand (36 per cent) who face increased levies.

Meanwhile, according to an official statement on Thursday, the Department of Commerce is carefully examining the implications of the US reciprocal tariffs on India and is engaged with all stakeholders, including domestic industry and exporters to seek their feedback on the issue.

The commerce ministry said that it is also studying the opportunities that may arise due to this new development in the US trade policy.

It also said that discussions are ongoing between Indian and US trade teams for the

expeditious conclusion of a mutually beneficial, multi-sectoral Bilateral Trade Agreement (BTA).

The BTA will cover a wide range of issues of mutual interest, including deepening of supply chain integration.

Meanwhile, the dollar index, which gauges the greenback's strength against a basket of six currencies, was trading 1.65 per cent lower at 102.09.

Brent crude, the global oil benchmark, fell 4.10 per cent to USD 71.88 per barrel in futures trade.

In the domestic equity market, the 30-share BSE Sensex fell 322.08 points, or 0.42 per cent, to settle at 76,295.36, while the Nifty declined 82.25 points, or 0.35 per cent, to close at 23,250.10 points.

Foreign institutional investors (FIIs) offloaded equities worth Rs 1,538.88 crore on a net basis on Wednesday, according to exchange data.

EPFO eases claim process; cancelled cheque, bank account verification by employers not needed

NEW DELHI, APR 3

Retirement fund body EPFO on Thursday said applicants seeking withdrawal from provident funds online do not have to upload the image of a cancelled cheque and their bank accounts need not be verified by employers.

The move is expected to fast-track claim settlement process for nearly eight crore members and ensure ease of doing business for employers.

At present, members of Employees' Provident Fund Organisation (EPFO), while applying for withdrawal of funds from PF accounts online, need to upload image of cheque leaf or attested photo copy of the passbook of the bank account seeded with the UAN (Universal Account Number) or PF number. The employers are also required to approve the bank account details of the applicant.

The EPFO has completely dispensed with the requirement of uploading an image of a cheque leaf or attested bank passbook while filing online claims, the labour ministry said in a statement.

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These two steps have been done away with to ensure 'ease of living' for EPF members and 'ease of doing business' for employers. These measures will significantly streamline the process of claim settlement and reduce grievances related to claim rejections, it stated.

These requirement were initially relaxed on a pilot

basis for certain KYC- the pilot launch on May already benefited 1.7 crore updated members. Since 28, 2024, the move has EPF members.



STOP...! MOSQUITO BREEDING PREVENT MALARIA, DENGUE & CHIKUNGUNYA

- Do not allow water to stagnate in and around your surroundings.
- Keep water tanks and other water containers tightly covered with lids.
- Get your Blood tested from Govt. Hospital/ Health Worker in case of Fever with chills, rigors and headache.
- Empty water coolers once in a week.

- Discard/destroy Junk items like old tyres etc.
- Empty air coolers, drums, flower pots and birds bath weekly.
- Use Mosquito repellent creams and Bed nets while sleeping.
- Use netted screens on doors and windows.
- Wear full body clothes to prevent mosquito bites.
- Improve basic sanitation.

Symptoms

- Dengue** : High fever, frontal headache, pain behind the eyes worsening with eye movement, muscle & joint pains, rash on the body, pain abdomen, nausea, vomiting, bleeding and low BP in severe cases.
- Chikungunya** : Fever, joint pains, muscle pain, fatigue, headache, rash.
- Malaria** : High grade fever with chills, sweating, headache, vomiting convulsions, weakness.

Visit nearby Health Institution if any of above diseases is suspected. Investigations & Treatment are free of cost in Govt. Institutions



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