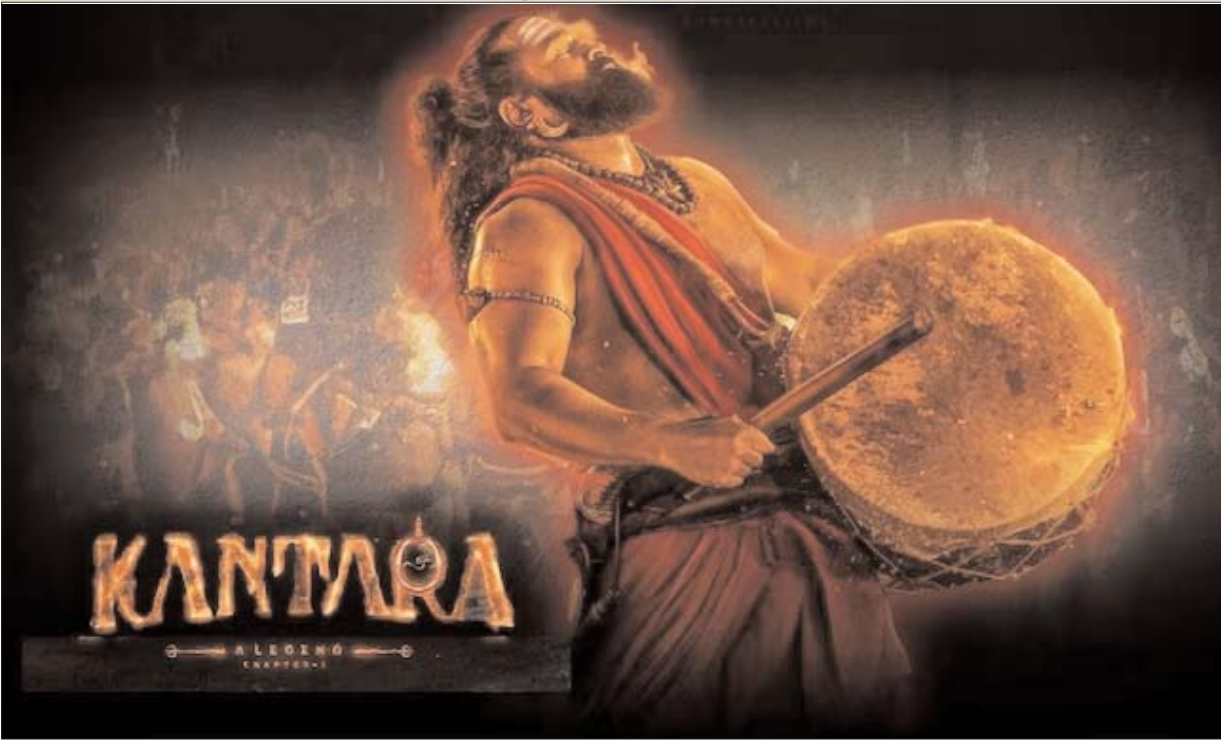


Kantara Chapter 1 Box Office: Nears 600cr Worldwide, Topping USD 10 Million Overseas



Kantara: Chapter 1 collected USD 2.40 million approx in its 2nd week-end overseas, pushing it over the USD 10 million mark. The total gross stands at USD 10.75 million (Rs. 95.50 crore), which, combined with Rs. 499.50 crore from India, gives it a worldwide gross of Rs. 595 crore approx. It will cross Rs. 600 crore today.

The film has performed best in the Middle East, which was the only territory to open well. Australia started low but has sustained the best and is now headed for a very good finish. Tamil markets, Malaysia and Singapore have done well, while Europe is also pretty good. The disappointment has come from North America, where the United States is mediocre, while Canada suffered from a poor

release due to external factors.

The film is looking to reach around USD 14 million for its full run. USD 15 million is probably a stretch, but it will be close enough. From the opening of the film last week, reaching USD 10 million seemed far-fetched, but the film has done well to reach here.

These are superb numbers for a Kannada film. Since the Kannada diaspora abroad isn't very large, there isn't much of a foundational business like other South Indian language films have. In that case, it was relying on other languages for the overseas business, particularly Telugu and Hindi. The Hindi overseas business mirrors more with North India, and this film is more of a Maharashtra thing. That left it

with Telugu. The Telugu version fared strongly in India, but overseas, it probably suffered from premium-priced ticket prices, which curbed its reach.

With these considerations, it was prudent not to have big expectations from the film overseas, but it ended up being the opposite. The film was benchmarked against films like KGF 2 and Pushpa 2, both of which broke out big in North India and Tamil Nadu. Unlike India, where the expectations were just talk, real money was put into these expectations overseas, and those who did, stand to lose heavily. For instance, North America was priced at USD 10 million for breakeven, which was insane. The film will struggle to reach even half that.

Akshay Kumar and Arshad Warsi's Jolly LLB 3 fares well in 4th weekend, cume reaches Rs 109 crore



Jolly LLB 3 recorded a roughly 20 percent jump on the 4th Sunday, collecting an estimated Rs. 1.30 crore nett. The 4th weekend cume reached Rs. 2.90 crore, with Rs. 50 lakh and Rs. 1.10 crore coming on Friday and Saturday. The total cume of Jolly LLB 3 now stands at Rs. 109.40 crore nett at the Indian box office.

The courtroom drama is sustaining well at low levels. It will be at Rs. 111 crore by the end of its 4th week. In the 5th week, there will be four days before Diwali releases arrive, which could take it to Rs. 113 crore or so to finish.

The film has done well to reach this point, especially considering that at one stage, hitting Rs. 100

crore seemed like a challenge. However, it held its ground firmly from the second weekend onward, despite facing competition from two major releases- Kantara: Chapter 1 and Sunny Sanskari Ki Tulsi Kumari. While this performance isn't enough to alter its overall box office verdict, it certainly places the film in a far better position than it would have been had it finished below the Rs. 100 crore mark.

For Akshay Kumar, this is a relatively better-performing film in a phase where box office success has been elusive. That said, it's still somewhat underwhelming given the franchise value. The previous Jolly LLB film had netted Rs. 107

crore back in 2017, which, adjusted for inflation, would be around Rs. 185 crore nett. Those were better times, considering the box office health.

The broader challenge these films face today is the erosion of the theatrical base by digital. There is an eight-week window in place, but the audiences are more than willing to wait for it for the films that lack anticipation. Jolly LLB 3 managed to get appreciation, but since the upfront interest was lacking, it simply couldn't benefit from it as much as films used to do in the past. The need is to elongate the theatrical window so much that it becomes inconvenient for the audiences to wait it out.

Amid 'not hero material' remark, Nagarjuna backs Pradeep Ranganathan, compares him to Rajinikanth and Dhanush

Pradeep Ranganathan is currently busy with the promotions of his upcoming movie, Dude. A few days ago, he was told that he is not 'hero material' and was asked whether he was copying Dhanush. While the young actor is continuously facing such demeaning remarks from the media, Nagarjuna gave him confidence by reassuring his worth and calling him 'merupu teega' (flash of lightning).

The Love Today actor recently visited Bigg Boss Telugu 9's Weekend Ka Vaar episode to promote his film, Dude. Nagarjuna, the host, was all praise for Pradeep and compared him to Rajinikanth and Dhanush, who changed cinema forever. He said, "A few decades back, a merupu teega (flash of lightning) came to the cinema and changed its fate. His name is Rajinikanth. A few decades later, there came another merupu teega who was skinny, someone who attracted the youth, Dhanush came. Now, a few decades later, I am seeing Pradeep."

Overwhelmed with Nagarjuna's words, Pradeep said, "Sir, those are really big words, and when it comes from you, it



really means the world to me." The King actor went on to praise Ranganathan's Love Today and Dragon and mentioned that he loved them. "I have seen both your films, and I really love them. They're so updated to today's youth. It's hard to tell a heart-touching story in a contemporary style. Be it Love Today or Dragon, they're the kind of films that break language

barriers," added Nagarjuna.

A week ago, Pradeep Ranganathan was questioned over his appearance. The reporter asserted that he didn't look like hero material. The reporter said, "Don't take this negatively, but you don't look like hero material. Is hard work or luck behind the kind of fan following you have?" Before the Tamil actor could answer it, Sarathku-

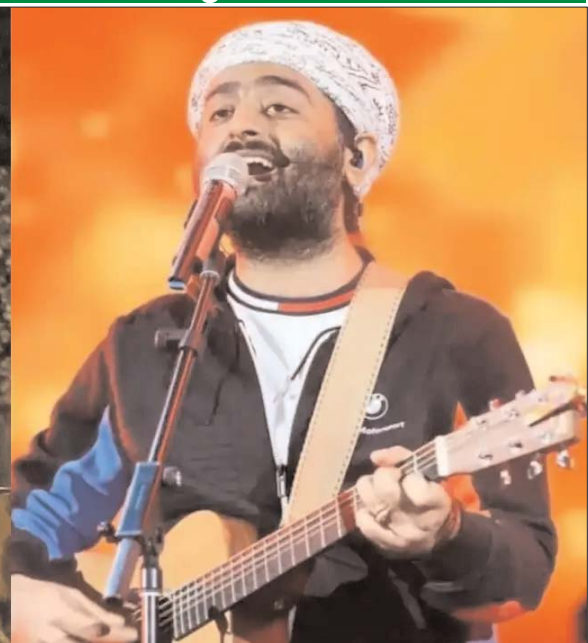
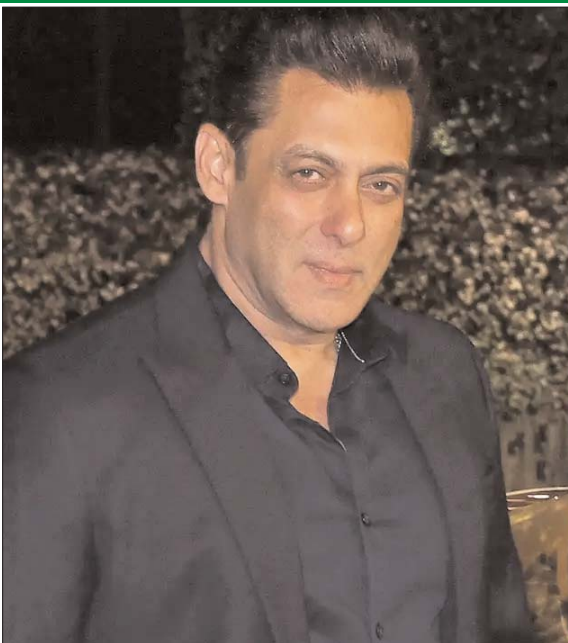
mar took the mic and replied, "You cannot say A-Z who is a hero material; everybody here is hero material. There are no specifications for what a hero must look like. A person doing any act that benefits society is a hero. The question you asked might not be negative, but you could've just asked him why he isn't a bodybuilder like Sarathkumar."

Salman Khan clears the air on Arijit Singh rift on Bigg Boss 19: Calls him a 'very good friend', admits misunderstanding was his fault

The latest Bigg Boss 19 Weekend Ka Vaar episode was packed with fun, laughter, and an unexpected moment of honesty from host Salman Khan. The superstar opened up about his long-standing misunderstanding with singer Arijit Singh, calling him a "very good friend" and admitting that the issue was "from my side."

During the episode, comedian Ravi Gupta joined the show as a special guest. While interacting with Salman Khan, Ravi jokingly said, "I was a little nervous about meeting you," to which Salman asked why. Ravi replied, "I look like Arijit Singh." The light-hearted exchange brought smiles all around, but what followed took everyone by surprise.

Salman laughed and responded, "Arijit aur main bahut acche dost hai. Jo misunderstanding thi, meri side se thi. Uske baad usne gaane bhi kiye mere liye. Tiger me kiya tha, ab Galwan me kar raha hai." (Arijit and I are very good friends. The misunderstanding was from my side. After that, he even sang songs for me, he sang in Tiger, and now he's singing in Galwan.)



His statement confirmed that all was well between him and the celebrated playback singer.

The rift between Salman Khan and Arijit Singh reportedly began in 2014 at an award show where Salman was hosting. Arijit, dressed casually in slippers, came on stage to receive his award. Salman teased him by asking, "Were you asleep?" Arijit responded, "You guys put me to sleep," which didn't go down well with the actor.

Following the incident, reports suggested that Salman removed Arijit's songs from several projects, leading to rumors of a fall-out. In 2016, Arijit publicly apologized through a social media post, requesting Salman to retain his version of a song in Sul-

tan. Despite his apology, the two didn't collaborate for years.

The tension finally eased when Arijit Singh lent his voice to Le Ke Prabhu Ka Naam in Tiger 3 (2023), marking their first collaboration in nearly a decade. With Salman's latest statement on Bigg Boss 19 Weekend Ka Vaar, it's clear that the past has been left behind.



Nayanthara looks like a goddess in bikinis. She oozes oomph in her sensous avatar and we cannot take our eyes off her.