

## Akshay Kumar's Padman trailer offers glimpses of a real-life superhero



Akshay Kumar's upcoming film *Padman* has stirred people's curiosity ever since it was announced a few months ago. The buzz gathered further momentum over the last two weeks when the actor started engaging on social media with posters, teasers and interactions about his film. And now, with its trailer, launched last Friday, garnering a great response, the movie has become one of the most awaited releases of the coming year. It registered a huge number of views in a short span of time when it released and was trending in India, Pakistan, Australia and UAE.

Interestingly, though producer Twinkle Khanna and Akshay had met Arunachalam Muruganantham — the movie is based on the Coimbatore-based social entrepreneur who has invented a low-cost sanitary pad making machine — it was writer-director R Balki who insisted on the actor playing the real-life superhero. Balki says, "Akshay asked me, 'You want only me to play this role?' I told him that I was sure about casting him because I could see him fit the character perfectly."

The filmmaker adds, “Numbers apart, people really appreciate what Akshay has brought to the table with his sincerity and honesty. He has brought alive the written word very beautifully. It requires a deep understanding of the character to enact dramatic scenes without being over the top and Akshay has done that phenomenally.” Talking further, about the other aspects of the film, Balki says, “Akshay’s dialogues are very powerful, not to forget the songs written by Kausar Munir and composed by Amit Trivedi. They also deserve credit for it,” he says, adding, “This is possibly the edgiest film Akshay has done so far. While *Toilet: Ek Prem Katha* created awareness about the issue of open defecation, *Padman* is edgier in terms of its subject — sanitary pads — as there is no concentrated effort towards increasing awareness in this area.”

*Produced by Mrs Funnybones Movies, SPE Films India, Kriarj Entertainment, Cape of Good Films and Hope Productions, Padman stars Akshay Kumar, Sonam Kapoor and Radhika Apte. It has been written and directed by R Balki. The film will be releasing worldwide by SPE Films India on 26 January, 2018*