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## Light-hearted comment on the system

### Chai Pani etc

**Cast:** Zafar Karachiwala, Konkona Sensharma, Gaurav Kapoor  
**Direction:** Manu Rewal  
**Rating:** ★★★

#### Meenakshi Kumar

Films about the all-pervading corruption here can easily be categorised into two types: ones that are a more direct, melodramatic attack on the system and others that look at the issue light-heartedly. Manu Rewal's *Chai Pani etc* falls in the second category. The film is a light-hearted comment on the system as seen through the eyes of a US-returned idealist filmmaker. Satya Kumar (Zafar Karachiwala) returns to



*Chai Paani etc* is the story of an idealistic US-returned youth his roots to do something for his homeland. His idea of doing something is making a film on Jaisalmer, which will showcase the true Indian culture and heritage to a western audience. And he wants to do it without any help from his bureaucrat father. His girlfriend, Radha Joshi (Konkona Sensharma), on the

other hand, doesn't understand his need to return to India and tries to persuade Satya to give up his crazy ideas. Luckily, Satya finds a support in Radha's friend, Shanti (Konkona in a double role), an NGO worker.

As Satya sets out to make his dream film, he encounters corrupt government officials, an intimidating studio equipment owner, an unreasonable TV channel head, and a hypocrite minister. And in his personal life, he drifts closer to Shanti and moves away from Radha.

Zafar proves to be a good actor while Konkona is her usual self. A well-made film, *Chai Pani etc* is money well-spent.

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