

Padma Vibhushan



SHRI DHARMENDRA SINGH DEOL (POSTHUMOUS)



Shri Dharmendra Singh Deol was a legendary icon of Indian cinema and a former Member of Parliament. He is celebrated as one of the most versatile and commercially successful actors in the history of the Hindi film industry. Popularly known as the "He-Man" of Bollywood, he has enjoyed a prolific career spanning over six decades, starring in more than 300 films and holding the record for the highest number of hit films in Hindi cinema. His exceptional contribution to the arts has not only shaped mainstream Bollywood but has also left an indelible mark on the cultural fabric of India.

2. Born on 8th December, 1939, in Nasrali, Punjab, Shri Dharmendra's journey from humble roots to superstardom began after being noticed in a Filmfare talent contest. He made his debut in 1960 with 'Dil Bhi Tera Hum Bhi Tere' and rose to prominence with critically acclaimed performances in films like Bandini (1963) and Satyakam (1969), the latter of which brought him widespread praise for his portrayal of an idealist. His role as 'Veeru' in the 1975 blockbuster Sholay remains a milestone in Indian cinema, a film that became an integral part of popular culture and held the record for the highest-grossing Hindi film for nearly two decades.

3. Beyond his cinematic achievements, Shri Dharmendra served as a Member of Parliament in the 14th Lok Sabha, representing the Bikaner constituency in Rajasthan from 2004 to 2009. During his tenure, he was known for his emotional bond with his constituents and his dedication to local issues such as cleaning public spaces, renovating infrastructure, and supporting farmers' rights. He also established Vijayta Films in 1983, a production house that launched the careers of his sons and produced the National Award-winning film Ghayal. His enduring legacy is further reflected in his spontaneous poetry, which he used to express deep reflections on life and human experience.

4. Shri Dharmendra is the recipient of numerous prestigious awards and honours for his lifelong dedication to the arts. He was conferred with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 for his immense contributions to Bollywood. In 2012, the Government of India honored him with the Padma Bhushan, the country's third-highest civilian award.

5. Shri Dharmendra passed away on 24th November, 2025.