



Andhra Pradesh cities shine at Swachh Survekshan awards

In a significant achievement for Andhra Pradesh, cities including Visakhapatnam, Rajahmundry, Vijayawada, Tirupati, and Guntur have been recognised in the Swachh Survekshan Awards across various categories. Visakhapatnam garnered the Special Category Ministerial Award at the national level, while Rajahmundry received the Ministerial Award at the state level. Additionally, Vijayawada, Guntur, and Tirupati have been recognised in the Swachh Super League Cities category. Hyderabad restaurants Pattabhiram, Chairman of the AP Swachh Andhra Corporation, commented on



the selection of these cities, attributing their success to the Swachh Andhra initiatives spearheaded by Chief Minister Chandrababu Naidu. He expressed his gratitude and congratulations to the officials, sanitation staff, and residents whose collective efforts contributed to this significant recognition.

Every Indian elated over UNESCO recognition of Maratha Military Landscapes, says PM Modi



Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Saturday expressed delight over the inclusion of the 'Maratha Military Landscapes' in the UNESCO World Heritage List, marking the country's 44th property to receive this prestigious recognition. India is currently a member of the UNESCO World Heritage Committee for the term 2021-25. Taking to X, PM Modi said, "Every Indian is elated with this recognition. These 'Maratha Military Landscapes' include 12 majestic forts, 11 of which are in Maharashtra and 1 is in Tamil Nadu." Highlighting the significance of the Maratha Empire, the Prime Minister said, "When we speak of the glorious Maratha Empire, we associate it with good governance, military strength, cultural pride and emphasis on social welfare. The great rulers inspire us with their refusal to bow to any injustice." He also called upon citizens to visit these forts and learn about the rich heritage and history of the Maratha Empire. Maharashtra Chief Minister Devendra Fadnis also hailed the development and extended gratitude to Union Minister for Culture and Tourism Gajendra Singh Shekhawat for his support in making the inclusion possible. "Indeed, it's an amazing moment for Maharashtra and India! Thank you Sir for all your efforts and support to make this possible!" the Chief Minister wrote on X. The inscription of the Maratha Military Landscapes took place during the 47th session of the World Heritage Committee held

in Paris, France. It marks a significant milestone in global recognition of India's diverse and culturally rich heritage. The 12 chosen locations span Maharashtra and Tamil Nadu, including the forts of Salher, Shivneri, Lohgad, Khanderi, Raigad, Rajgad, Pratapgad, Suvarnadurg, Panhala, Vijaydurg, and Sindhudurg in Maharashtra, as well as Gingee Fort in Tamil Nadu. Of these, Shivneri Fort, Suvarnadurg, Lohgad, Raigad, Sindhudurg, Panhala Fort, Vijaydurg, and Gingee Fort are under the protection of the Archaeological Survey of India (ASI). The last four -- Salher Fort, Rajgad, Khanderi Fort, and Pratapgad -- are preserved by the Directorate of Archaeology and Museums of the Government of Maharashtra. The Maratha Military Landscapes were nominated under criteria (iv) and (vi) of UNESCO's World Heritage framework. These criteria acknowledge sites that bear exceptional testimony to a living cultural tradition and are associated with significant historical events. The forts demonstrate architectural and technological sophistication and are intrinsically linked with the Maratha military tradition and governance. The inclusion underscores the importance of preserving and promoting sites that possess Outstanding Universal Values (OUVs), as defined by UNESCO, in cultural, natural, or mixed categories. These shared heritage values are honoured across 196 countries.

Jana Sena expels Srialahasti in-charge from party over allegations in murder case

Vinuta, the constituency in-charge for the Jana Sena Party in Srialahasti, has been expelled by the party leadership amid serious allegations. In a statement released to the media on Saturday, the Jana Sena high command confirmed the decision, citing Vinuta's behaviour as inconsistent with the party's policies. They also noted that allegations concerning a murder case in Chennai involving her driver, Srinivasulu, known as Rayudu, had come to their attention. Rayudu, aged 24, was brutally murdered in Chennai, with locals notifying the police after discovering his body near Red Hills. Upon investigation, law enforcement contacted Rayudu's family, and his grandmother expressed suspicions regarding potential involvement from Vinuta's family, particularly due to ongoing disputes over the past three months. Following her grandmother's report, Chennai police arrested Vinuta, her husband Kota Chandrababu, and her father Bhaskar, as they delve deeper



into the investigation. Rayudu had worked closely with Vinuta for several years, serving both as her driver and personal assistant before being dismissed from his duties on June 21. The case is currently under investigation.

Godavari river overflows near Dowleswaram, water level reaches 10 ft

The flood levels in the Godavari River near Rajamahendravaram in the East Godavari district are steadily increasing. Currently, the water level at the Dowleswaram barrage stands at 10 feet, with an outflow of 500,000 cusecs of water being released into the sea. The officials are monitoring the situation closely and have indicated that further increases in the flood level are likely. A first danger warning will be issued if the water level at the Dowleswaram dam reaches 11.75 feet. Meanwhile, the authorities are urging residents to remain vigilant as conditions continue to develop.



Municipal outsourcing workers issues will be resolved soon: minister Narayana

Minister Narayana has announced that the government has made a constructive decision regarding the demands of municipal outsourcing engineering workers. He stated that Chief Minister Chandrababu has tasked the cabinet sub-committee with addressing the workers' concerns to the best of their ability. The minister revealed that the sub-committee has engaged in multiple discussions concerning the workers' demands and has now reached a beneficial conclusion. Narayana confirmed that the government's decision will be formally announced shortly following discussions with the Finance Department.



Building collapses in Delhi's Janata Mazdoor colony; 3 rescued, many feared trapped

New Delhi: A four-storey building collapsed early on Saturday morning in the Janta Mazdoor Colony area under the Welcome Police Station in North-East Delhi. While three people were pulled out of the debris many others are feared trapped. The incident occurred around 7 A.M., sparking panic in the densely populated neighbourhood. So far, three people have been rescued from the debris, while rescue operations continue in full swing. Eyewitnesses report that several individuals were inside the building at the time of the collapse. It is feared that nearly a dozen people may still be trapped under the rubble. Teams from

the Delhi Police, Delhi Fire Service, and the National Disaster Response Force (NDRF) are on-site, engaged in intensive relief and rescue efforts. At least seven fire tenders have been deployed at the location. The narrow lanes and congested surroundings pose significant challenges to the rescue teams. A resident of the colony shared, "At around 6:45 A.M., the lights suddenly went out. When I looked, I saw that a building had collapsed. Police officers arrived, and three people have been rescued so far. There's no way to enter from the other side, it's a narrow lane." Despite these hurdles, authorities are working relentlessly to clear the debris

and search for survivors. The exact cause of the collapse is yet to be determined. However, preliminary reports suggest that the building was old and structurally weak. With the arrival of the monsoon season, the heavy rainfall over the past few days may have further compromised the building's integrity. The local administration has ordered an enquiry into the incident and is surveying nearby structures to identify other potentially hazardous buildings. The incident has brought attention once again to the city's ageing and poorly maintained infrastructure, especially in densely populated localities like Janta Mazdoor Colony. The administration is

expected to launch a wider survey to assess vulnerable buildings in the region. Earlier this week, Delhi experienced widespread monsoon rains, which brought relief from sweltering humidity but also led to waterlogging and traffic snarls in multiple parts of the city. Locations such as Nehru Place, Lajpat Nagar, ITO, and Akshardham saw severe disruptions. The Public Works Department (PWD) reported receiving 29 complaints of waterlogging across areas, including New Friends Colony, Yamuna Vihar, and Wazirabad Road.



Hyderabad July:12 (Metro udayam)

Bandaru Dattatraya Honble Governor of Haryana greeted Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai Honble Chief Justice, Supreme Court of India and P. S. Narasimha Honble Justice, Supreme Court of India on Saturday 12th July, 2025 at RGIA Airport, Shamshabad, Hyderabad. Bandaru Dattatraya stated that it was a moment of great respect and inspiration to interact with Bhushan Ramakrishna Gavai Honble Chief Justice and P. S. Narasimha Honble Justice, Supreme Court and said that their contributions to the judiciary are truly commendable.



Hyderabad July:12 (Metro udayam)

On occasion 42% of BC Reservation implemented by Telangana Cabinet yesterday Himayat Nagar Division Corporator Mahalakshmi Raman Goud today paid floral wreaths to the portrait of CM Revanth Reddy. Congress state vice-presidents Mujahid Alam Khan and Congress senior leaders G. Ram Goud, Division President Nayeem, Ashok, Prasad, Om Prakash, Purnachander, Priya Raj, Pradeep, Suraj and others participated in the event.



TTD should support the digestion of ancient temples.

A letter to BR Naidu,
Under Restoration Trust of All India ancient temples



Hyderabad, July: 12, Metroudayam

The All India Ancient Temples Restoration Trust has appealed to the TTD to contribute to the digestive tract of historical and historic and mid-day. Trust Chairman RK Jain, Trustees Jasmat Patel, Ritisha jagirdar, Umesha Sharma, Venkatesh gupta and others have issued a memorandum of understanding. On this occasion they explained to Naidu about the restoration work of the temple in India and abroad. Shri Ramachandra Ashram Kanha (village) Shamshabad President Kamalesh Patel has informed the restoration of the 2 temples in Sri Lanka and the reconstruction of the Sri Balaji temple in Moinabad. After hearing detailed information, BR. Naidu responded by promising to be very happy and that there would be full cooperation on behalf of the TTD.

Ambedkar National Congress Party 27th Inauguration Day Celebrations

Hyderabad, July: 12, Metroudayam

Ambedkar National Congress Party's 27th Inauguration Day celebrations were held on Saturday under the auspices of party state president Chevuri Raju at SN Reddy Bhavan in Himayatnagar. The party's national president and general secretaries CH Asmi and Khadar Ali Khan paid homage to Dr BR Ambedkar and paid homage to the party's state committee. Jyoti Bai as the general secretary of the party and K. Anjaiah Shekhar as Vice Presidents and Vijaykumar as Advisor. Speaking afterwards, he criticized the parties that have ruled the country for the past seven years. He



warned that the government would take the past government if the Congress government did not implement the promises given to the people during the election. Similarly, Prime Minister Modi, who boasts that India is in the process of development, has ques-

tioned why they are giving free ration to 85 crore people in the country. He expressed concern that attacks on Dalits and minorities across the country would be the most dangerous for the country in the coming days. They have demanded governments to suppress the

steel foot of those who attack religion and caste in the name of caste. They have made it clear that the Ambedkar National Congress Party will contest the Jubilee Hills by-election in the upcoming Jubilee Hills.

Leadership qualities from student stage will be built by Identifying creativity in children

Personality Leadership Swearing Program at Uppal Meridian School

Medipally July 12 (Metro udayam)

Indian Air Force Retired Wing Commander Anthony said that students will achieve more success in the future if they are taught the leadership qualities and skills from the student stage. To this extent The Personality Leadership swearing-in ceremony was held on Saturday at the Uppal Meridian School in the Boduppal Municipal Corporation. Anthony Anish was the chief guest of the event. A talented student awarded gifts by him. School Director Raghavendra Reddy,



Chairperson Madhuri and Principal Shailaja Reddy said that students in their school will be teaching the future with sports, cultural and leadership quali-

ties. Our main goal is to provide good quality education to students rather than just a business perspective and uncover their creativity as good citizens

in their respective fields. On these occasions, students, school staff, parents of students participated.



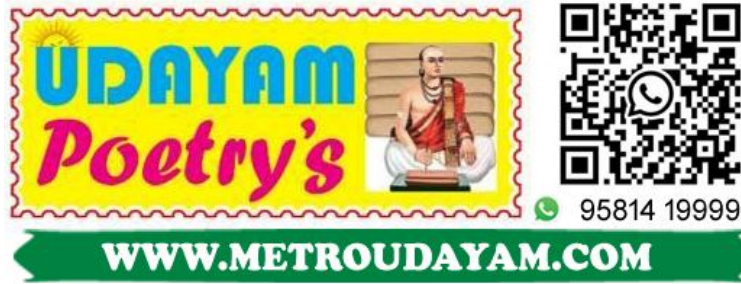
Heavy flooding reported at Bhadrachalam as Godavari river surges

Bhadrachalam is currently experiencing severe flooding as the Godavari River's water level has risen dramatically to 40.5 feet as of Saturday morning. This increase follows a substantial flood surge from upstream, coupled with rising waters from the Sabari River. Just two days ago, the river's level stood at 23 feet. The escalating waters have submerged several steps in the bathing area, with reports indicating significant flooding at Parnasala in the Dummugudem mandal. Areas affected include the linen saree zone at Sita Vagu, alongside the idol of Goddess Seethamma, which has also been inundated. Authorities have announced that they will issue the first danger warning once the water level reaches 43 feet. Residents are advised to stay vigilant as the situation continues to develop.



'There is no guarantee in life': Siraj on his tribute to Diogo Jota at Lord's

London: India pacer Mohammed Siraj, who is known for using Cristiano Ronaldo's 'Siu' celebration after taking a wicket, revealed that he felt emotional after knowing about the death of Portugal and Liverpool forward Diogo Jota and thought of paying tribute to him on the ground. Jota and his brother Andre Silva passed away in a car accident on Thursday. The accident took place in the Spanish province of Zamora. Siraj got his chance on Friday when he dismissed Jamie Smith after lunch and gestured number 20 - Jota's jersey number in Liverpool - with his hands to pay tribute to the departed soul. "After knowing about Diogo Jota's death, I felt emotional as I'm a Portugal fan because Cristiano Ronaldo also plays for that team," Siraj said in a video shared by BCCI on X. "Life is very unpredictable. We fight so hard for things, but we do not even know what tomorrow holds. There is no guarantee in life. It was very shocking. Today, I got wickets, so I wanted to make that gesture for him. It was my way of showing respect." Siraj returned with the figures of 2-85 while pacer spearhead Jasprit Bumrah bagged a fiver to bundle out England for 387 in their first innings. Bumrah credited his learnings from the last England tour to make the best use of conditions that resulted in a five-wicket haul at Lord's. "I thought about the slope on the last tour, it did not help. My lesson from that was not keep that in mind and I got the benefit of that. In these hot conditions, it is all about maximizing the new ball. It was not like that in the previous tour, that has been the major difference," Bumrah said. In response, opener KL Rahul's unbeaten 53 steered India to 145/3 in 43 overs at stumps. Rishabh Pant, who is not out on 19, and Rahul have so far added 38 runs for the fourth-wicket partnership after quick dismissal of Karun Nair (40) and captain Shubman Gill (16).



"वीर जवानों को प्रणाम"

सुन लो भारत के तुम नव जवानों...
यह तिरंगा है जान हमारा।
सभी भारतीयों ने पुकारा.....
आज गणतंत्र दिन है हमारा ।।

आप रक्षक है भारत के,
सच्ची सेवा जो दिल से करके।
तूफानों का असर आने पर,
प्राणों का बलिदान करके।।
पूरी दुनिया में किया उजाला...आज.
।।

स्वतंत्र आकांक्षा ना भूलकर,
जन्म हक्क जो तुम बना लो।
स्वार्थ लालचों से निपटकर,
देश रक्षा ही सेवा समझ लो।।
अमर वीरों का पीए हम प्याला...
आज..।।

सरहद पर कुशाग्र रहना,
क्षमता को और से बढ़ाना।
समतत्त्व का स्वागत करना,
कु नीति से बहुत दूर रहना।।
क्रांति की किरणें जो फैला...आज...
।।

विश्व शांति उद्देश्य तुम्हारा,



कुल धर्म निपटलो सारा।
मातृभूमि चरणों से लिपटकर,
अपनी खूनो की लाली चढ़कर।।
जय हिंद का लगाओ न्यारा...आज.
।।

माता-पिता बीवी बच्चे सारे,
छोड़ दिए वतन के सहारे।
हम देशवासियों की जो नींदे,
आपके कर्तव्य निष्ठा के वादे।।
कामयाबी शपथ का पहारा...आज..
।।

डॉ. मुकुंदराय राव जाधव
(हिंदी अध्यापक)
जड़ पी एच एस बेजूर
के.बी. आसिफाबाद जिला
वरवाणी ५३९२४००७९८.

vijay Sethupathi, Nithya Menen's rom-com 'Sir Madam' set for July 25 release

Versatile actor Vijay Sethupathi and the talented Nithya Menen are all set to charm audiences in their upcoming romantic comedy family drama Sir Madam, with the tagline "A Rugged Love Story." Directed by Pandiraj and produced by Sendhil Thyagarajan and Arjun Thyagarajan under the Sathya Jyothi Films banner, the film promises a unique take on modern relationships. The makers recently unveiled the film's title teaser, which begins with a traditional pre-wedding moment where the bride-to-be is being advised by her in-laws. It soon transitions into a fun-



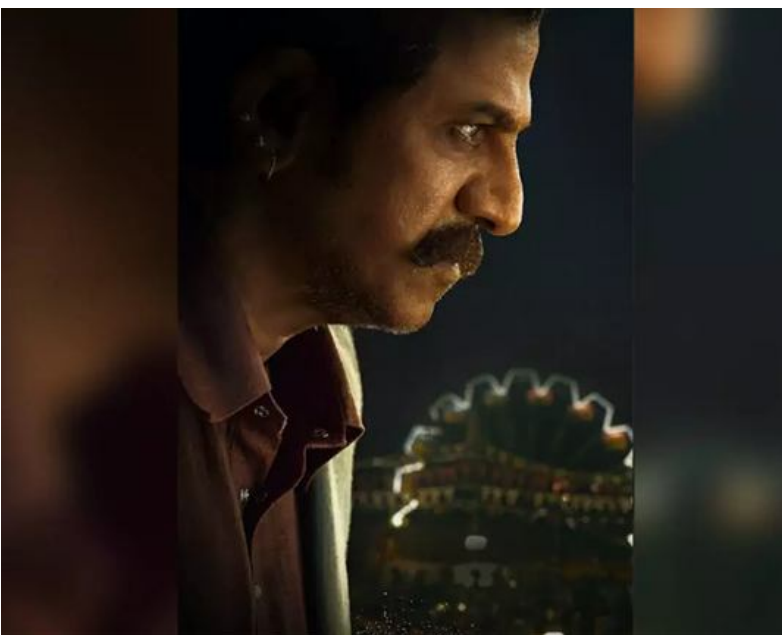
filled domestic spat between the married couple, showcasing humorous yet relatable moments. The witty banter between Vijay Sethupathi and Nithya Menen is the teas-

er's highlight and instantly connects with the audience. Adding an exciting twist, the teaser opens with Vijay appearing as a humble cook but closes with him holding a gun in a

rugged, mass-action avatar, sparking curiosity about the storyline. Santosh Narayanan's impactful background score enhances the teaser's appeal, while the chemistry between the lead pair sets the tone for a refreshing romantic entertainer. The supporting cast includes Yogi Babu, RK Suresh, Chemban Vinod Jose, Sharvanan, and Deepa in key roles. With M. Sukumar as the cinematographer, Pradeep E. Raghav as the editor, and Veera Samar as the art director, Sir Madam is all set to hit theatres on July 25.

'Peddi' promises a cinematic storm with Shiva Rajkumar's fierce FL

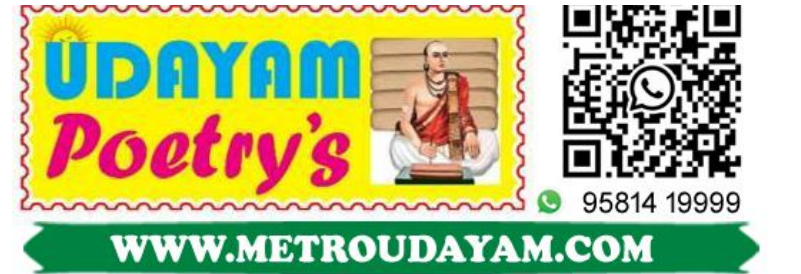
Global star Ram Charan is all set to raise the bar in action cinema with his upcoming film Peddi, a high-octane rural sports action drama that promises to merge emotional depth with never-before-seen visual grandeur. Directed by Buchi Babu Sana, Peddi is turning heads for its scale, compelling character reveals, and impactful First Shot Glimpse. Bankrolled by Venkata Satish Kilari's Vriddhi Cinemas and presented by the prestigious Mythri Movie Makers and Sukumar Writings, the film is being crafted on a massive canvas with top-tier talent from across industries. Adding to the excitement, the makers recently unveiled the first look of Kannada superstar



Shiva Rajkumar on the occasion of Ram Charan's birthday. Donning a fierce stare, thick handlebar moustache, and rugged persona, Shiva Rajkumar

as Gournaidu exudes raw power and intensity, promising a role that will leave a lasting impact. The film also features Janhvi Kapoor as the female lead,

alongside seasoned actors Jagapathi Babu and Divyendu Sharma in significant roles. Cinematography is being handled by visual genius R Rathnavelu, while the soul-stirring music will be composed by Oscar-winner A.R. Rahman. The editing department is led by National Award-winning editor Navin Nooli, ensuring every frame delivers impact. With a grand release slated for March 27, 2026, aligning with Ram Charan's birthday, Peddi is gearing up to be a landmark film in Indian cinema. From rural grit to emotional highs and power-packed visuals, Peddi is shaping into a spectacle fans won't want to miss.



प्यार का प्रतीक

गुलाब का फूल, प्यार का प्रतीक है,
इसकी सुंदरता, हर किसी को
आकर्षित करती है।
गुलाब की खुशबू, वातावरण को
महका देती है,
इसकी खूबसूरती, दिल को छू लेती
है।

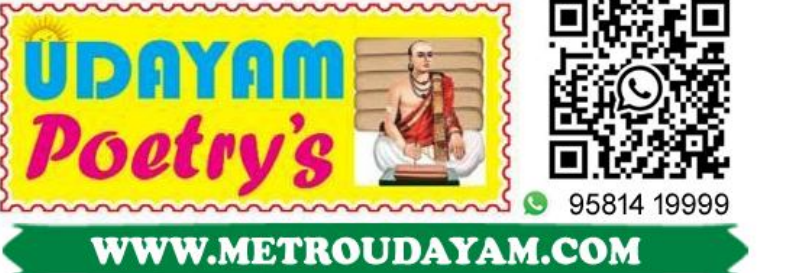


गुलाब के रंग, विविधता को दर्शाते
हैं,
लाल गुलाब, प्यार का प्रतीक है।
गुलाब की पंखुड़ियाँ, नाजुक और
सुंदर होती हैं,
इसकी सुंदरता, हर किसी को मोह
लेती है।

भूलती।

गुलाब का फूल, एक अनमोल
उपहार है,
इसकी सुंदरता, हर किसी को पसंद
आती है।
गुलाब की सुंदरता, दिल को छू
लेती है,
इसकी खुशबू, वातावरण को महका
देती है।

तीथि दुर्गावत एम. ए.



हम हमारे गुनाहों (पापों) के और
शुभ कर्मों के कारण हमारे
सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा के
उपहारों से वंचित रहते हैं और
इसका दोष तकदीर, भाग्य,
मुकद्दर को देते रहते हैं।..
(शकील उवाचा - 412)

हमें जागे हुए लोगों ने प्रार्थनाओं के माध्यम से जीने का तरीका सिखाए हैं। जागे हुए लोग हमें प्रार्थनाओं के माध्यम से क्या करना चाहिए और क्या नहीं करना चाहिए इसका पाठ दिये हैं। ऐसी दुआएँ पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम के बहुत है।

इसके व्यतिरिक्त इस्लाम साहित्य में "सहिफा ए सज्जादिया" नाम की एक पुस्तक (जिसे मफातुल जिना (जन्नत की चाबी) कहा जाता है) जो पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के चौथे उत्तराधिकारी इमाम जैनुल आबेदीन अलैहिस्सलाम की 54 दुआओं से भरी है। इन दुआओं में अत्याचारियों का विरोध ही नहीं बल्कि ईश्वरय ज्ञान के साथ साथ हमें धर्मादेशों के अनुसार जीने का ढंग भी मौजूद है।

दुआ ए कुमैल इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम की एक मशहूर (विख्यात) दुआ है जिसमें आप अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "ऐ मेरे रब! (पालनहार) मेरे उन गुनाहों को बख्शा दे (उन पापों को क्षमा कर) जिनके कारण तेरी नेमतें (उपहार) मुझ तक नहीं आती।" इस छोटी सी दुआ कहती है के परमात्मा के उपहार हम तक आने में रुकावट हमारे पाप होते है इसलिए पाप करने से बचना चाहिए।

हम हमारे गुनाहों (पापों) के और शुभ कर्मों के कारण हमारे सृष्टिकर्ता पालनहार परमात्मा के उपहारों से वंचित रहते हैं और इसका दोष तकदीर, भाग्य, मुकद्दर को देते रहते हैं। हम दुआ भी करते हैं, चीखते चिल्लाते भी है लेकिन हमारी कोई पुकार परमात्मा को मना नहीं पाती इसका कारण हमारे द्वारा किए गए पापकर्म ही होते हैं। दुआ ए कुमैल इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम कहते हैं के "ऐ खुदा! (ऐ ईश्वर!) हमारे उन पापों को क्षमा कर जो हमारी प्रार्थना तुझ तक और तेरे उपहार हम तक आ नहीं पाते।"

हम पर जब कभी कोई मुसीबत, कोई संकट आता है तो अमले खैर (शुभ कर्म) करने का भी सोचते हैं। और शुभ कर्म करने का खुद से और खुदा (ईश्वर) से वादा भी कर लेते हैं। ईश्वर से यह कहते है के, "इस संकट को टाल दे, मैं नेक काम करूंगा", और जैसे ही संकट टल जाता है फिर वादे को भूल भी जाते हैं। हमारा यह सिल. सिला पूरी जिदगी यूँ ही चलते रहता है। फिर भी हम कभी यह नहीं कहते के "ऐ रब! (ऐ पालनहार परमात्मा) मैंने अपने आप से और तुझसे किए हुए वादों को पूरा न कर सका मुझे माफ कर, मुझे बख्शा दे, मुझे क्षमा कर।"

पैगंबर साहब मोहम्मद (स्व.) के पहिले उत्तराधिकारी इमाम अली इब्न अबू तालिब अलैहिस्सलाम फरमाते हैं के, "ऐ बारे इलाहा! (ऐ पूजनीय परमात्मा) जिस अमले खैर (शुभ कार्य) बजा लाने (आचरण करने) के मैंने अपने तुझ से वादा किया था, मगर तू ने उसे पूरा होते न पाया, उसे भी बख्शा (क्षमा कर) दे।" (हैदरी कुतुबखाना, अब्बास बुक एजेंसी, लखनऊ द्वारा प्रकाशित हिन्दी पुस्तक नहजुल बलागह, खुतबा क्रमांक 76, पुष्ट क्रमांक 203)।

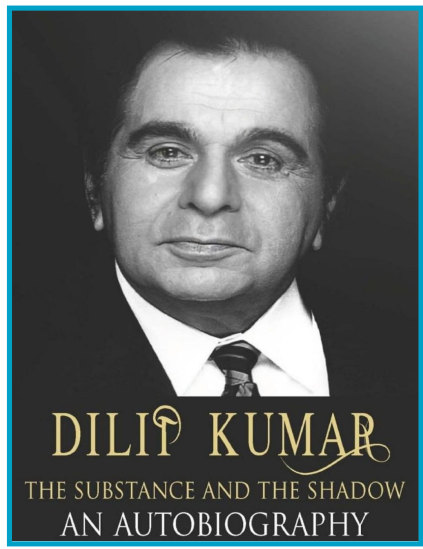
हम जब होश से जीते हैं तभी उपरोक्त बातों का बोध हमें हो पायेगा। जब हमें बोध होगा तभी अपने आचरण को सुधारने का प्रयत्न हम कर सकेंगे। होश में रहकर अगर ईश्वर को समर्पित होकर शुभ कार्य करते रहे तो यकीनन ईश्वर हमें कदम कदम पर मुक्ति के ओर चलाएगा। हम अगर होश पूर्व ध्यान देते हैं तो याद आएगा के हमने कितने ही बार गुनाहों (पापों), संकटों से बच गए हैं और बच रहे हैं तो यह अस्ल में परमात्मा की कृ पा ही होती है।

-डॉ. मोहम्मदशकील ताजमोहम्मद
जाफरी (शकील मंवर),
मंवर, पुणे (महाराष्ट्र) भारत



SUNDAY BOOK REVIEW

Born on 11 December 1922 as the fourth child of Ayesha Bibi and Mohammad Sarwar Khan an opulent fruit-merchant in the city of flowers, Peshawar, Yusaf Khan destined to become a star actor in the Bollywood of India as Dilip Kumar, a pseudonym given to him by Actress Devika Rani. This child is made for great fame and unparalleled achievements. Nobody then believed that one day these words of a fakir would become true! As a child in Peshawar, according to Dilip, he spent a free, spirited, and gleeful childhood.



EARLIER DAYS.

He was at the beginning a novice, learning the ropes of acting. He was adamant, a stickler, a perfectionist. Within no time Dilip Kumar proved his mettle and scaled great heights in his acting career, spanning over six decades. One afternoon on a sunny day in 1948 Dilip stepped into the Filmistan Studios, Bombay where the title song in the film Mela was being played. Dilip, on listening to the Director about the proposed picturization of the song, told him in the face that it lacked life and to make some imaginative changes in the situation and picturization of the song. Even in the story of the film, Dilip was very particular about making crucial changes in it that would give substance not only to his character but also to that of others. That movie paved way for friendship between Nargis and Dilip and also cemented his strong bond with Music Director Naushad. Even as a child, Dilip was fond of story telling and he also loved to listening to traders and shopkeepers in their street curiously named as Kissa Khwani Bazaar who narrated fascinating stories. This storytelling habit came handy to Dilip later in the film career. When the family was shifted to Mumbai and later to Deolali, Dilip spent his growing years happily.

He was a shy and reserved youth at college. It was in his student days at Khalsa College, that helped Dilip befriend Raj Kapoor and it in fact weaved a strong bond between their two families. Raj Kapoor was popular with girls students as a blue-eyed youth especially for his friendly and extrovert nature and Dilip made name through his performance in sports and hold on English and Urdu. Dilip was a great kite flyer and he had collected beautiful kites from different states including Andhra Pradesh.

Later after a slight tiff with his father Aghaji, Dilip left home without telling anyone and landed in Pune in search of employment. With some difficulty Dilip got the job of an assistant manager in a canteen which was frequented by British army officers. Here also within no time Dilip became a favourite with the guests for his looks and for his English. When everything seemed going well there, one day Dilip in the club made a speech supporting the on going freedom struggle and alas, it landed him in Yerawada Jail for a night.

HOW YUSAF KHAN BECAME DILIP KUMAR?

It was his chance meeting with actress Devika Rani in her stu-

dio Bombay Talkies that changed his destiny. He with Dr. Masani went to the studio to seek a job. But there something wonderful happened. The actress just had a look at Dilip. He could not believe his ears when the famous and beautiful actress herself offered Dilip the role of a hero at a big salary of Rs 1250 a month. Dilip just took a days time to decide about the life changing offer. The next day was a Friday, Dilip after lunch headed towards the studio, without telling anyone at home. And the rest is history.

For the first two months, Dilip just went to the studio and watched shootings and he was fortunate to watch the filming of KISMET and there the hero of the movie, Ashok Kumar became a life time friend of Dilip till his demise in December 2001. His days at the studio turned out to be quite eventful as Dilip befriended S Mukherjee, producer and professor of Physics and a relative of Actor Ashok Kumar. The trio had lovely times that cemented a strong bond between them. One of the big things that had happened in the Bombay Talkies Was Yousuf Khan becoming Dilip Kumar Devika Rani on her own one day decided to give Yousuf a screen name before launching him as the hero in the film Jwar Bhata to be directed by Amiya Chakraborty. She told Yousuf that his name would have a secular appeal and hence christened him as Dilip Kumar. When the first scene was explained to Dilip, he thought that acting was that simple, but at the end of the day he realized that acting was anything but simple! He was also very frank in expressing his displeasure with his own performance in the film. Then he decided to do it in his own way and to learn the ropes, he started seeing movies. Here Ashok Kumar, by then a big star, and S. Mukherjee became Dilip's gurus and taught him many things. He cherished his times with both of them and in particular, the beautiful evenings when Raj Kapoor joined the trio for a game of badminton at the spacious courts in the house of Ashok Kumar.

Dilip kept his acting as a big secret from his father for whom acting in movies was anything but respectable and dignified. But the hoardings of his third movie Jugnu at the fruit market spilled the beans to Aghaji for his much displeasure and discomfort. Dilip too couldn't face his father after that for some time. One day Prithvirajji visited on Aghaji at home and cleared the clouds and made Aghaji accept the reality.

After his contract with the Bombay Talkies expired, Dilip started working with other studios and production houses and

DEATH ANNIVERSARY SPECIAL OF
DILIP KUMAR, AN INIMITABLE ACTOR

in particular with Filmistan started by S Mukherjee. Here Dilip could give a series of box-office hits like Shaheed (1948), Shabnam (1949), with Kamini Kaushal as the heroine. In fact she was Dilip's first love, it was in fact mutual. But after certain sudden developments in the family of Kamini, she said no to Dilip with a broken heart, as she had already married the widower-husband of her sister for the sake of her two small daughters.

Dilip had great respect and admiration for actress Nargis. In fact they both were close friends. After watching the Dilip-Nargis starrer Mela, Dilip's father Aghaji asked Dilip whether he was really in love with Nargis!

WHY COMEDY ROLES?

Dilip Kumar one day felt that a series of roles like a lovelorn man and crestfallen lover got him recognition as the tragedy king but also started telling upon his mind as he was in the habit of involving too much in his roles and he started carrying the burden even to home. Then he approached Dr. Nicholas, a famous psychiatrist, who told Dilip to make a shy at light and comedy roles as an antidote to his mental illness. He contemplated on this advice for a while as he knew pretty well that comedy roles required some specially crafted skills, especially a good sense of timing. Film Azad (1955) was his first film in this genre and it gave him the much needed relief and Dilip became Azad himself from his mental illness. The film was a big hit. Another windfall gain from this film for Dilip was that it took him close to producers and film personalities in Chennai (then Madras) as Sriramulu Naidu, the producer of the film Azad gave Dilip a freehand in the production of the film.

PARTING FROM MADHUBALA.

Actress Madhubala caused some unexpected ripples in Dilip's otherwise placid life. During the production of the all time hit film Mughal-e-Azam (1960) the topic of Dilip's marriage with Madhubala started making rounds. Her father-producer, Ataullah Khan, welcomed the idea more for his business reasons as to have two great prospering actors in his business backyard. But Dilip had his own reservations about the marriage. He held a series of meetings with both Madhu and her father trying to impress upon them that the proposed marriage was not in the interest of their acting careers. Again Dilip was a family man and he had willingly accepted to shoulder the responsibility of all his siblings. But Madhu, like her father, thought that things would be sorted out once the marriage took place for which Dilip was not ready. And eventually the inevitable separation of them happened. And gossip mongers never stopped writing unsavory things again about Dilip and actress Vyjayantimala when they acted together in a series of successful films.

LOVE FOR MADRAS [CHENNAI]

Dilip loved Madras city very much and he relished a lot South

Indians delicacies with which he was treated during his stays here. He made friends with film stalwarts like S S Vasan, Nagi Reddy and others. Films like Ram Aur Shyam and Aadmi were the two big successful films, made entirely in the city. Dilip had sweet experiences and fond memories of Madras. He loved to eat items like idli, sambar and vada. It is said that even in his sojourns at Kashmir, Dilip often relished idli for breakfast.

INTEREST IN FILM MAKING.

Only few actors could show as much interest as Dilip could in every department of the film making! He took an active role in finalizing script, locations, songs, editing, and other such important aspects in all his films. The film Gunga Jumna was a blockbuster. It was Dilip who chanced upon the rugged location required for the film in Maharashtra. Later when he took the director, the cinematographer to the location, they all fell for the location. Again in making the film Aadmi the story of which demanded some subtle editing, Dilip said that Aadmi was essentially a psychological drama and I tried to give it the edge and slickness it deserved on the editing table. Even in the films he produced on his own, Dilip put in lots of work and interest in every department of movie making.

HOW SAIRA BECAME DILIP'S WIFE.

Destiny played a role in bringing Saira Banu into Dilip's life. He kept postponing his marriage and he was not ready to marry a film star. Once in Madras an astrologer told Dilip that he would marry a girl much younger than he and that too from the film industry. To this, Dilip retorted declaring that Never! I will not marry a girl from my profession.

Saira was the daughter of Mohammed Ehsan Sahab and Naseem Banuji. Naseem was an actress and Dilip knew her very well from whom he came to know that Saira and her brother were studying in London and she was cherishing a desire to act in films but her parents were against it. Dilip also came to know from his other sources that Saira had seen some of his films in London and developed a deep liking for him. After returning to India, Saira met Dilip on a couple of occasions at some family functions but nothing had happened between them.

Sometime later Saira started acting in films and soon she was in great demand as she had proved her histrionics. On one occasion when a producer came forward to make a film with Dilip and Saira Banu, Dilip politely turned down the offer saying that beside him Saira would look very young. Saira was fair and slim and already acted opposite other leading heroes like Devanand and Raj Kapur and on a couple of times she herself broached the topic of her playing opposite Dilip. Many producers lined up expectantly for a nod from Dilip Kumar. But he had some plans of casting her in a film specially written for them.

This dilly-dallying on the part of Dilip Kumar went on for quiet some time until it started telling upon Saira's patience. When she took his silence for indifference, Saira felt offended and she too started ignoring him even when

they came face to face. And at this juncture, Dilip Kumar turned down Producer Nagi Reddy's intention of casting Saira opposite him in the film Ram Aur Shyam. As far as Saira Banu, it proved to be the last straw on the camels back.

This dark period of doubt and indifference ended when Saira and her mother invited Dilip Kumar to the house warming function of their spacious house, which was located at a short distance from Dilip's house. That evening turned out to be one of the memorable times in their lives as at this event Dilip all of a sudden realized the magnetic and magic appeal of angelic Saira Banu. A few days later Dilip took Saira out for a drive where he opened up and asked her if she was ready to be his wife. At that, Saira feigned anger and disapproval before accepting his life-changing offer. Dilip and Saira married on October 11th 1966, then Saira was 22 years younger to him. Like in everybody's life, this marriage ushered in lots of changes in their lives and they also acted together in five successful films. In 1981 Dilip married a Hyderabad socialite but their marriage lasted for a couple of years only and now Dilip and Saira are in Mumbai.

LONG AND EVENTFUL ACTING CAREER.

Dilip Kumar had scaled great heights in his long acting career, acting in about 60 films and won many awards, rewards and made lots of money and fame. Perhaps he was the only hero in the industry who could choose his script, director, technicians and even the banner! After acting in the film Bairaag in 1976, Dilip had taken a short break of 5 years from his acting stint to go on holiday. Then he began his second innings in 1981 with the film Kranthi. Dilip continued to act still 1998. Unfortunately, some of his film projects were shelved at different stages for various reasons.

Dilip Kumar was a many-sided personality—a talented and gifted actor, a method artist, a complete family man—gave his six sisters and brothers everything in life, a great source of inspiration for many of his relatives, friends and co-artists. With his dignified deportment, Dilip commanded awe and respect from all, and was known for his charity. For actress Shabana Azmi, Dilip Kumar has inspired generations of actors in the Indian film industry. He passed away on 7th July in 2021 in Mumbai, at the ripe age of 99.

NOTE— THIS ARTICLE IS BASED ON THE BOOK DILIP KUMAR THE SUBSTANCE AND THE SHADOW AN AUTOBIOGRAPHY, PRICED AT 499

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