

Bollywood Mourns Legendary Actor Dharmendra Passing at 89



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Mumbai, 2 December 2025 – Bollywood icon Dharmendra, often called the “original He-Man of Bollywood,” has passed away at the age of 89. Known for his charisma, action-packed roles, and timeless charm, Dharmendra appeared in over 300 films, earning a devoted fan following in India and abroad.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi paid tribute, describing his passing as “the end of an era in Indian

cinema.” Fans and colleagues alike remember him as a talented actor, a committed professional, and a humble man who always valued his connection with audiences.

Dharmendra achieved widespread fame as Veeru in the 1975 blockbuster *Sholay*, a role he later called his finest. His pairing with Hema Malini, both on-screen and off, became legendary, and the couple married in 1980 after a celebrated romance. Over decades, he delivered memorable performances across romance, action, comedy, and thriller genres, including hits like *Phool Aur Patthar*, *Mera Gaon Mera Desh*, and *Chupke Chupke*.

Born Dharam Singh Deol in Punjab in 1935, he started his career after winning the All India Talent Contest and quickly rose to stardom. Beyond films, he briefly served as a BJP Member of Parliament from 2005 to 2009.

His legacy earned recognition with the Filmfare Lifetime Achievement Award in 1997 and India's Padma Bhushan in 2012. Celebrities like Akshay Kumar and Karan Johar hailed him as an inspiration, noting his unmatched presence and contribution to Indian cinema.

Dharmendra will be remembered as a beloved figure whose talent, charm, and dedication left an indelible mark on Bollywood and generations of fans worldwide.