

A tribute to P. Jairaj

OUR father Shri Jairajji was born in the year 1909 in Karim Nagar, in the family of Shri Achuttan Naidu a Senior Officer in the account department, PWD. He was the ninth child in the family - the youngest of six sisters and three brothers. He was born 100 years ago. He passed away in August 2000, leaving behind a legacy of hardwork and goodness. My mother Smt. Savitri Devi and he had a family of five children, 11 grandchildren and eight great-grandchildren.



Late P. Jairaj and wife Savitri Devi with their daughters Geeta Gupta, Deepa Shahi, late Jayashri Malhotra, and sons Dileep Raj and Jai Tilak

In Mumbai he met Mama Waderkar who advised him to join films, because there were very few educated people then with good physique in the film profession. Our father saw the film industry grow and grew with it. Silent films, talkie films, the new wave films, colour films and television and today we are in the international arena. Our father started as a leading man, getting a monthly salary of Rs. 300 and today a leading man gets remuneration in crores. But, he is not there to see our successful film and television industry. He was the first he - man in the film industry with a wonderful physique. He did mostly action and historical films that preached the triumph of good over evil.

On his birth centenary, we seek his blessings to prosper and live in peace and harmony.

**Dileep Raj, eldest son of late P. Jairaj
on behalf of the entire family**

Jairaj, not Dilip Kumar in *Saagar*

THIS is with reference to the article by Ms Deepa Karmalkar (Oct. 9) in which Jairaj's daughter revived memories of the golden era of Indian cinema. I would like to point out that in the film *Saagar* produced and directed by Jairaj the star-cast was Nargis, Bharat Bhushan and Jairaj himself and not Dilip Kumar as mentioned by the writer. However, Jairaj directed the film *Pratima* starring Dilip Kumar and Swarnalata, which had the beautiful song *Aata hai labon pe naam* sung by Parul Ghosh, sister of maestro Anil Biswas.

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