

CHENNAI IS TALKING ABOUT

YELLOW FEVER AT CHEPAUK!



On a musical odyssey

Internationally acclaimed singer Ameya Dabli launched his music album *Ekam Satt - One Truth, One Humanity, World Music* at the hands of global humanitarian and spiritual leader Rev. Dada J P Vaswani as part of the latter's centenary birthday celebrations in Pune. The album is available on all digital platforms through Times Music. Inspired by respected Dada's message of selfless love and service for humanity, the album features the works of legendary poets and saints such as Kabirdas, Mirabai, Narsinh Mehta, Guru Nanak Dev, Khwaja Garib Nawaz, Buddha, Tukaram, Tulsidas, Gospels and others.

Given the continuous stress and turmoil that individuals across the globe face, there is an urgent need for each of us to pause, reflect and connect with each other, cutting across our religious, social and cultural beliefs. The album's songs focus on this precise theme that eventually it is a 'one world family' and showcases the best of sufi, folk and contemporary world music across different genres. The album has foot tapping numbers covering Indian and international musical forms to appeal to audiences

across age groups. With an aim to spread the message of love and unity across cultures and society globally, Ameya Dabli and his business partner Purvi Soali quit their successful corporate careers to become social entrepreneurs.

A versatile singer, Ameya has performed over 1,500 concerts across 15 countries. The music from the album is already a rage with live renditions by Ameya across 25 locations including for large corporates like Aditya Birla Group and at the Indian High Commission in London. He is currently touring India, US and Dubai for his other musical concept 'Heart 2 Heart' covering melodious *ghazals* and folk music.

His 10 city 'Heart 2 Heart' tour covering melodious *ghazals* kicked off in Mumbai yesterday and will further move to Bangalore, Pune, Hyderabad, Kolkata and other cities.



The launch was attended by a large number of people

Pics: Praveen Tyagarajan

The second edition of TNPL started on a fun note, what with *namma* CSK thala, MS Dhoni, wearing the famous yellow jersey! Dhoni and Matthew Hayden played a friendly game of hitting maximum sixes, which made the crowd go berserk. With Chennaiites waiting for CSK's return, this massive crowd cheered their faves to the hilt!



Chennaiites couldn't control their excitement seeing former CSK captain MS Dhoni in a yellow jersey

Mathew Hayden was comfortably playing in veshti

Dhoni's smashing sixes at Chepauk

I want my movie to disturb people and make them think



Vaishnavi on the set

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A major issue Vaishnavi points out is that there is a namesake committee in several companies. But do they have all the information they require? "They have a HR and a designated committee who are supposed to meet their employees and know what steps to take. But most of these companies have half-baked information and wait for things to hit the roof before they take action. A girl has to think so much before she approaches the higher officials, or go file an FIR, because at every point people only want her to shut up. She will be judged at every step and it becomes impossible for her to believe in herself. How many companies know that there needs to be an external member in their committee, who can either be a lawyer, activist or a head of an NGO. What about people like manual scavengers? Where do they go when they face harassment issues? This is not something that only happens at offices but can happen even at small scale industries and in unorganised sectors. I will be digging that aspect as well," explains Vaishnavi.

But did a lot of women come forward to speak about these issues? "Well, yes, many of them did. And some of them don't want to reveal their identity because they still work there or work under that person. When women come and speak to me they start like this, 'I don't know if this amounts to sexual harassment.' Well, any comment that is made

not in regard of your job or is out of line can be reported," she says. But there are also fake cases and a few positive ones where the women have got justice. "I am speaking to HRs and top corporate heads, who can give me a clear picture. Some of them have made changes at the policy level. So, I will be showing that as well. But most often that is not the case is what I believe," she justifies.

and make them think. This is not a movie that will make you feel good. It is supposed to bring changes and I am not trying to make it preachy. My movie is a mirror that will reflect what is happening in the society," signs off Vaishnavi.

I AM SPEAKING TO HRs AND TOP CORPORATE HEADS, WHO CAN GIVE ME A CLEAR PICTURE. SOME OF THEM HAVE MADE CHANGES AT THE POLICY LEVEL

But why hasn't she ever approached a producer for her films? "I am a no-nonsense person and cannot take someone poking their nose into my work. I have applied for a few grants and hope to raise seven lakhs, so that I can start shooting the film. There are people who believe in your movie and fund for the work. I will primarily be paying the crew. Post production requires some money, too. I want my movie to disturb people

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