

RENDEZVOUS with JEETENDRA

Q.1) You must have definitely had the occasion of travelling on WR Mumbai Suburban network – your views Sir.

Ans: I used to stay at Girgaum next to Portuguese church. I used to go to Malad to meet my uncle, and the only mode of transport was perhaps Western Railway suburban trains. Even to go to school in Grant Road, I used to travel from Charni Road to Grant Road on a daily basis. At that time as far as my memory goes, trains and trams were the only two options available to the common man.

Q.2) Sir, any favourite train in which you have travelled in your childhood?

Ans: I used to always travel from Bombay to Delhi by the grand old Frontier Mail of Western Railway, in those days BB&CI. Even at that time, second and third class fares were very steep for me and it was the only the generous student's grant by the railways which made my holiday travel possible. Later when I became a hero, I used to travel a lot in the Southern parts of India, mainly Andhra Pradesh, Ooty, for my films shoots like Tohfa, Himmatwala, etc.,

Q.3) Indian Railways is a catalyst in promoting unity in diversity. Passengers of all castes, creeds, religious, class, etc., travel under one roof on rails. Your views Sir.

Ans: To be very honest, issues like caste, creed, religion are only involved if political issues are involved. Such prejudices unfortunately are ingrained in our children at a very young age. I have friends who are Sikhs, Muslims, Christians, Parsees. I have never thought on these lines. When you are in the train, travelling with different people from different parts of India, it is like a melting pot of various castes, religions and cultures. It is such a beautiful thing to travel by train without any of such inhibitions. I have met some of my best friends while travelling in the train, as in Frontier Mail, it is a long journey of two days and you can't help being talkative and friendly.

Q.4) During your shoots abroad you must have definitely travelled by rail networks abroad. How do you compare our punctuality with them Sir?

Ans: Yes, I can vouch that the services of Western Railway and Indian Railways are prompt and can be compared to the best in the world. So much so that I could even pre-plan my shoots at upcountry venues due to the punctuality of Indian Railways.

Q.5) If not acting, which other profession would you have opted for Sir?

Ans: I was a good for nothing ha, ha....! I wasn't even very good at studies. I used to belong to a very poor family and to make it big I entered the acting profession. Anyways, fortunately, with gods grace I made it big in the film industry. I really think, besides acting, I would not have fitted into any other profession.

Q.6) Like all Mumbaikars, at some time you must have got stuck in a traffic jam. Sir ever felt the urge in such circumstances to dump your car and hop into a train?

Ans: Me..... I would always prefer to take trains than travel by a car any time with such a lot of traffic jams, congestion and resultant pollution. But unfortunately as I am a well known face, there is always the fear of getting mobbed.

Q.7) Any films of yours on rail based themes Sir? Your feelings when you enacted this scene.

Ans: 'The Burning Train'. Also I have shot a song sequence in 'Ek Haseena Do Deewane'.

Q.8) Any film of yours which you would like to dedicate to Indian Railways?

Ans: 'The Burning Train' particularly, as it was an entire movie centered around Railways. It was a great experience with Dharamji during this shoot.

Q.9) Trespassing, i.e. crossing of railway tracks on the Mumbai Suburban section causes serious concern at all levels despite Western Railways various constant endeavours. Would you please have a message for the public who are jeopardizing their lives by crossing tracks and travelling on rooftops?

Ans: Aap apni zindagi se pyar kariye, Aap apne aap se pyar kariye. Apki zindagi se zyada bahumulya kuch nahi hai. Meri aap se vinamra vinthi hai, aap railway tracks ko cross mat kariye, railway ke roof par travel mat kariye kyon ki hadsa bolkar nahi aata. Aapka jeevan itna bahumulya hai ki is chhoti si baat ke liye zaaya mat kariye. Apne aap se pyar kariye, apni zindagi se pyar kariye, apne parivar se pyar kariye. In sab cheez ko avoid karke aap sidiyan, overbridges, subways etc. ka istemal kare. Thoda sa kashth bardash karke apni zindagi ko surakhshit banaiye.

Hormazd Mohta, PRO (Adm.), Churchgate
Anubhav Saxena, CPRI, Churchgate

Photo by: Prabhat Mohite, Asst. Photographer, Churchgate

The Dancing Man in White!

This time Rail Darpan gives you the dancing man in white. The 'Cuckoo' croon in Farz, the graceful dancer with Sridevi to the tune of 'Tathaya tathaya ho' in Himmatwala and a sober & solemn role in Justice Chaudhary, as versatile as it can ever get. He was the heartthrob of millions of female fans of the 60s and 70s. Let's put on our dancing shoes & cuckoo and swing with none other than Jeetendra.....

Chief Editor



★ Shri Jeetendra interacting with editorial members of 'Rail Darpan' Magazine.