

# Gupshup with RAMESH DEO

*An Indian Film & Television Actor who has worked in more than 285 Hindi films, 190 Marathi films, 30 Marathi dramas with 200 shows in his long career. He has produced and directed feature films, ad films and television serials. His talent was evident in his role as a villain in 'Saraswatichandra' and other important films like 'Aarti', 'Anand', 'Mere Apne' etc. During his long acting career he has been felicitated with many State and National Awards for his work and his contribution to the film industry. This time Rail Darpan brings you the evergreen and versatile Ramesh Deo...*

*✍ Chief Editor*



## Struggle days

**R**ailways and I share a very old and warm relationship. This strong bond has been going on since my struggle days. Those days, I didn't have money to even buy a railway ticket, so many times I travelled ticketless. It is only when I started earning, I started travelling with a valid ticket.

## First meeting with Seema

This incident was way back 50 to 55 years ago. I boarded a running train from Grant Road. When I entered the compartment, I smelt a lovely fragrance of mogra. When I saw in that direction, I found a beautiful lady was sitting with a garland of mogra in her hair. I sat in front of her because of her fragrance, I didn't look at her face, but she recognised me, as before that I worked in two to three movies as a villain. She whispered to her mother in her ear that I had worked as a villain in movies. Her mother admonished me that "why do you sit in front of us when the entire compartment is empty." Earlier trains weren't too crowded. I replied that I can sit anywhere. This fight went on for 5 years. This fight resulted in love and finally I got married with that same lady. Her name is Seema.

## 50 years of marriage, honeymoon with Indian Railways

Our Marriage took place at Kolhapur. We decided to go for honeymoon to Mysore. We took a train from Kolhapur which we had to change at Miraj station and had to take another train which comes from Pune for Mysore. When I got down at Miraj Station, the Asst Station Master of Miraj and two coolies were standing in front of my coach. The Station Master came to welcome us. I was delighted. After one and a half hour, the train came from Pune for Mysore at Miraj station. There was a coupe for us and it was decorated with lovely mogra flowers. I requested the Station Master to remove the slip from my coupe and put it on another coupe. Station Master agreed and he removed the slip from my coupe. Thus my journey began very happily and I reached Mysore. You may say that my honeymoon happened in a railway bogie ha !

## Another Train Memory

One day Seema and I wanted to go to Vasai, but unfortunately we just missed our train at Dadar station. To reach Vasai by road it takes around four hours and by train it takes just 45 mts. Station Master advised me to take the same

## Smile Awhile with Ramesh Deo



★ Ramesh Deo interacting with the editorial team of 'Rail Darpan' Magazine

train from Andheri station. I reached Andheri by road with my luggage but I missed my train at Andheri station too. Andheri Station Master asked me if it's very important for me to reach Vasai ? I said yes, we have a play. Seema & I are heroine & hero of the play, we must reach on time. Station Master told me that in 15 minutes a Goods train will come and to please sit in an engine to reach in time. I was so excited. I had travelled by Ist, IInd and IIIrd class but to travel by engine was a totally different experience for us. We boarded the goods train, sat in the engine and I blew the horn several times and put coal inside the fire and we reached Vasai station on time. The play was successful, thanks to the Railways.

### Mumbai Local

Mine and Railways memories are so entwined, that if I started it would require more than 10 pages to write.

Till recently, I deliberately made it a point to travel by Railway once in a year in a crowded train. Dadar to Santacruz I remember, the commuters were so lovable & friendly, they allowed me to get down at the enroute stations. I used to travel frequently by local trains.

### Filmistan studio – Memory

Raja Gosavi and I travelled together, he got down at Bandra and me at Dadar. One particular journey, we both slept as we were tired. We had shot the whole night. In the morning period there wasn't much rush in the trains. Many times we travelled without ticket, as we had a ticket from Goregaon to Bandra and sometimes we travelled upto Churchgate. That part of the journey we travelled without

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ticket. Railway slowly became a part of our life. 50% of my life I have travelled by railways.

### Railways, Excellent Humane Locale for Shooting

Yes, I am sorry, I did shoot in Railway's without permission because Railway's rules & regulations are very strict and charges were not affordable to us. We did many shots without permission, we didn't have a choice. After burning train, Railways became very strict. We used to clandestinely shoot with a hidden camera.

**If you were not in acting profession which profession would you choose?**

I would have become a Police Inspector. I had also completed my sub-Inspector training course. I was supposed to go to Nashik for further training, fortunately I met Raja Paranjpe and went with him by train to Pune and bagged my first role in films as a villain and my acting journey began.

### Appeal to commuters not to cross tracks

From the bottom of my heart & with two hands folded I request my fellow commuters, your life is very important & precious. Please do not cross railway tracks. Earlier there were no mobile phones. These days, you put earphones in your ear and listen to music and can't hear the train hooter. Railways have provided many FOBs and Subways to ease congestion. To cross railway tracks is not only a mistake, it's also a punishable offence. Think of your family members & loved ones before you even think of trespassing.

Interviewed by:

✍ Ajay Solanki, CPRI, Churchgate

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