



Sheo Khetan has degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Business Admin. He has been retired since 2005. He has been writing books on pictorial filmography of Hindi films, he has published four books.

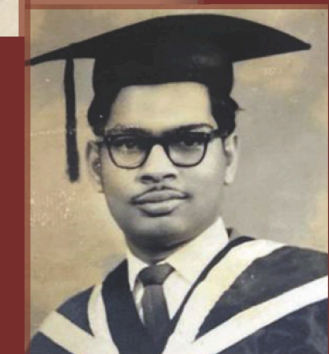
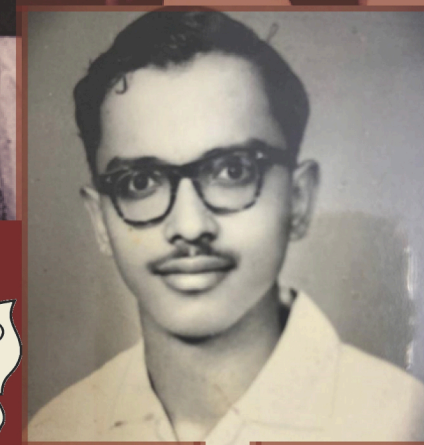
This autobiography is his fifth book.

From Jhunjhunu to New York, My life

Sheo Khetan

FROM JHUNJHUNU TO NEW YORK

Story of My Life, Part 1



Sheo Khetan

SHEO KHETAN

From Jhunjhunu to
New York:

*Story of My Life,
Part 1*

Sheo Khetan

MY LIFE

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Cover Design: By Sameer Khetan

Remarks about the Cover:

In the center am I, as I looked during 1970. In the bottom are my elder brothers, the strong pillars responsible for my coming to New York. The right hand picture is that of Sri Banawari Lal Agrawala, who supported us in schoolwork, getting Rs 100 per month from his salary, while at IITK(1965-70) and was responsible for my trip to NY. On the left is Dr. Raghunath Prasad Khetan, who was with me all times, from childhood to High School, to IITK, to the State University of New York at Stony Brook. Basically he showed me the path, And I kept following. On the middle left is our School logo. Its saying "Atta Deepo Viharath" kept me straight and showed me the path of IITK and New York. Our character was built at this place. The logo of IITK, is on the middle right. The logo is the representation of IITK's philosophical approach To give each student the maximum technical training. Now the picture on top, represents all our childhood friends, specially sorted in one picture by the Photoshop tricks of my son, Mr Sameer Khetan. It shows pictures of Prahlad Hisaria, Ramnath Agrawal, Krishna K Bhowinka, Purushottam Hisaria. Gopal Saraogi and Kailash Shroff. They are alive today, except Prahlad and Purushottam, who have expired, and we are in constant chat with each other.

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DEDICATION

I would like to dedicate this book to Sri Ramballabh ji Khetan and Srimati Bhagwati Devi Khetan, now both divangat, for bringing me in this world.

THANK YOU

I must acknowledge my eldest brother Mr Banwari Lal Agrawala and my Bhabbi Mrs Bimla Devi Agrawala for countless occasions of various incidences in all parts of this book.

Then I must acknowledge my elder brother Dr Raghunath Prasad Khetan who critiqued the part 4 and part 5 of this book.

Then my younger sister Mrs Shanti Devi Boobna, who with her fantastic memories provided me all kinds of corrections specially in the early part of this book and my brother-in-law Mr. Shankar Prasad Boobna.

Then my younger brother Gopal for the Mamaji's residence and photos.

Then my younger Sister Mrs Sharda Chaudhary for providing her photos and her husband Mr Suresh Kumar Chaudhary for provide me the photograph of Mamaji's house

Then my son Saurabh for providing sketches of my homes in India

And finally my eldest son Sanjay for going thru the complete book and editing it

ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

I would like to Thank my wife Nirmala and children, Sanjay, Saurabh, Sameer and Sudhir, two daughter in laws, Deepa (Sanjay's wife), and Sarmili (Sudhir's wife) and 4 grandkids Jaiden and Dilan (born in Covid), Deepa's children and Shreyashi and Kaushik (born in Covid), Sarmili's children for their support.

Then I would like to express my gratitude for my son Sri Sameer Khetan, who has designed the cover of this book.

Lastly I would like to thank all of childhood friends, whose dedication to the book and providing me with a lot of details of activities of vacation times spent in Sitamarhi.

And, of course, my heartfelt thanks for Dr Surjit Singh for taking this book and publishing.

Sheo Khetan

Martinsville, NJ, USA

September 2022

PREFACE

First of all, why write this book?

This was for my 4 grand children Jaiden (8), Shreyashi (5), Koushik (2) and Dilan (2); who have very little knowledge about where their ancestors come from, how their Grandpa and Grandma came to this country, what is Sitamarhi where I grew up (just like they are growing up in this country now), what is **Netarhat** and how I went to school there, how I ended up in **Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur**, and how I came here. This, despite our financial condition, we got into **The Best High School** and **The Best Technical Institute** in India due to our passing the qualifying examination and qualifying for the **Government's Educational Scholarships**. It was all due to our **EDUCATION** which made it possible for us. There is nothing better than **EDUCATION**, and with good education, there is no goals you could not achieve, no matter how affluent your childhood was.

I was just organizing my thoughts on this subject. Since the **STROKE** that I suffered on May 17, 2005, I had recorded everyday's account in my private notes. But I had no notes of India, just photographs of the stuff after I left India. The photography was not common in India at that time. So first I started working on my ancestry. I knew that, my family was from Jhunjhunu. Rajasthan. **My Dadiji** came from Jhunjhunu, she came to Calcutta and from there, she came to Sitamarhi during World War II. At Sitamarhi they (my father and his brother-in-law) established a beautiful business in grain trading, and built our house and had all brothers.

But with all the details had to be filled in.

1. Our ancestor's nameI had visited one old Mandir for Khetans in Jhunjhunu, I got from there
2. Ancestors living, from Sri Khetasidas ji (1666), to Sri Shyamlalji Khetan (1854), I guessed their times and some India conditions from Internet
3. Shyamlalji Khetan, is the man who built the Khetan Haveli in Jhunjhunu, I got from memories of dadi as recalled by my eldest

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brother Mr Banwarilal Agrawala, and my sister Mrs Shanti Boobna (whose photographic memory I give salute to)

4. Dadiji spending time at Jhunjhunu and the coming to Calcutta, upon her father's insistence, my father's marriage, and my Bhua (My father's Sister) marriage, Shanti's memory as confirmed by my eldest Brother
5. Sitamarhi good times....my brother Mr B L Agrawala, and sister Shanti. Jodhpur...by brothers including Dr Raghunath Prasad khetan, Gopal, Shanti , and my brother-in-law #1 Mr Shankar Prasad Boobna, and by my brother in law #2 Mr Suresh Choudhary and sister Sharda Choudhary
6. Sitamarhi Bad times.....somewhat my memory, boosted by my triumvirates (my 2 brothers and sister), plus some of my Sitamarhi friends especially Ramnath Agarwal, Kailash Shroff, and Gopal Saraogi
7. Netarhat school... My memory, internet research, my friends from Sitamarhi, especially from Ramnath, whose ability to remember all place and all events are as sharp as ever, Schools head master Dr Santosh Kumar Singh and specially
8. My classmate Sri Nalin Ranjan, who spent countless hours with me researching all info on Netarhat, specially all the teacher's photographs
9. IITK information, mostly as I remember---but researched by my IITK buddy, Mr Vinay Aditya, who provided a lot of materials

Then Early 2020, the effort on my part, which was initiated on leisurely time, getting all the information, got a boost by available time. In this Kovid times all of my normal activities got a jolt. My weekly Bridge game, my monthly OTH (Over The Hill) parties at alternate rotating home etc. came to a stop. Then this project became a **junoon** to me. Meetings with all the folks with this project became a weekly subject of interest to me.

During this period anyone who could get me anything related to this subject, became a priority to me. Firstly, all the family members got busy with finding all the pictures about smallest light on our activity become important to me became important to me. . The casual research on this subject became a project with timelines

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Then came a day, early in 2021, when my doctor, who was treating for **Prostate Cancer** told me that the cancer had spread beyond the prostates, to the Nodes, and it was the toughest medical job to treat it, Since at that time no treatment existed to control it., My life was limited to a 1-3 years duration.

This pronouncement made my job of publishing the book (finishing and publishing) my main priority. This required for me search and gather all Sitamarhi friends as a group of getting together on a weekly 'ZOOM' meeting. Then, through their inputs on a weekly basis provided me all the documents, dates, all of our associates, all the Photographs etc., which became a major chapter in writing this book, I started gathering all the information, compiling it and soon, it took a shape of the book you see in front of you.

Some people wonder, why my autobiography is in 2 parts? My justification is that it is important for the India crowd to see this as soon as possible. I am writing the second part now and more or less up to 1985 is finished. But rest of it (God Willing), will be finished in a year. But I cannot wait for that long. If it can be finished in my lifetime it would be a **big bonus**.

PART A: ANCESTORS

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ANCESTORS: From Jhunjhunu To Calcutta To Sitamarhi

It was the year 1658.

It was the Moghul dynasty's rule in India. Shah Jehan was the emperor, but he was bed ridden. His eldest son Dara Shikoh was slowly getting the rule under his capacity. Dara Shikoh was extremely liberal and believed in equal rights to Hindus as well as Moslems. This was not okay with his younger brother Aurangzeb who fought a war against Dara and defeated him and had him killed. Aurangzeb had his father Shah Jehan imprisoned in Taj Mahal. In 1658 Aurangzeb, in the battle of Dharamputr, fought and defeated the combined armies of Raja Raj Singh of Ajmer and Maharaja Jaswant singh, about 20 km from Ujjain on the banks of Narmada river. Shah Jehan died in 1666.

Aurangzeb Ruled from 1659-1707. It was during Aurangzeb's time, that two brothers were born in Jhunjhunu, Khetasidas (B 1666) and Rungadas (unknown). The descendants of Khetasidas were called Khetans and Rungadas'swere called Rungatas. Khetasidas had a son born in 1687, Mohandasji Khetan, who had a son born to him right after Aurangzeb's death in 1707, named Chabildasji Khetan in 1708.

Then it was the emperorship of Aurangzeb's son Shah Alam.

Chabildasji had a son Born in 1729 named Rajaramji Khetan, under the emperorship of Mohammad Shah (1719-1748).

Rajaramji had Devkikaran Das Ji Khetan in 1750, under Emperor Ahmed Shah Bahadur (1748-1754).

Devkikaran Das Ji gave birth to Harkarandasji Khetan in 1771. It was Shah Alam II 's rule (1759-1806). Harkirandasji had Polansidasji Khetan in 1792.

In the meanwhile Marathas and British East India Company were rising in India. From 1757-1858. East India Company was slowly building its empire in India and in 1858 they became the rulers of India. During 1857 the

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British empire crushed the Sepoy Mutiny Uttar Pradesh and defeated and martyred Jhansi Ki Rani.

During this uncertainty Polandasji had Jaganramji Khetan in 1813, who had Premrajji Khetan Born in 1834. These were under the emperor Akbar Shah II (1806-1837).

The last Moghul Bahadur Shah Zafar was deposed and sent to Burma in Exile in 1857.

Premlalji had Shyamlalji Khetan in 1858. This was under British Empire as the last Moghul had been deposed and sent to Burma for exile in 1857.

Shyamlalji can be said to be the modern chief of the Khetan clan. He was born in 1858, and grew up during British Raj.

He built the Jhunjhunu Haveli with its vast expanse which 3 generations after him enjoyed living in.

It had approximately 6, 000 square ft on each floor. It had Ground floor with rooms on four sides with big angan, a side 'nahara' --a small court yard with cows, four 'gubarias' in the backside of Haveli, small 'Kotharis' (quarters) for the employees, servants; outside sitting room (baithaks), and bathrooms. Inside the haveli it had eight rooms on each floor, four kitchens and 4 parindahs for storing drinking water

I had a good luck to observe it in its dilapidated condition, when I visited Jhunjhunu in 2012

Shyamlalji had Makhanlalji Khetan in 1875, who did not have any kids. Thus he adopted my grandfather Sri Brij Mohan ji Khetan (born 1898) and married him to my Jeevni Devi in 1917. Dadiji was only 14 years of age at the time of her marriage. They lived in the Jhunjhunu haveli. According to Dadiji's memory, at the time of wedding they bought 50 khatias-beds, bartan- utensils for four kitchens, may be for cooking for 100 people at a time.

They had 2 kids born to them, Parvati devi (1918) and Ram Ballabh (born 4-1- 1921). My dadaji died in young age of 25, when my father was only 2

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years old. My dadi lived until 12/12/84.

My dadiji continued to live in the Haveli till 1934 with both Babooji and Bhua. In 1933 Bhua got married to Sri Makhanlal Lakkad, who lived in Mukundgarh with his family through her Nanaji's connection. Phoofaji and Bhua immediately moved to Sitamarhi, Bihar where Phoofaji's cousins were living.

My dadiji with my 13 year old father stayed in Haveli till 1934. My father had his basic education in Jhunjhunu (elementary/middle). My Bhua had no education

During this time, in India some technological changes were going on. The film industry was going from silent to talkies. In 1931, India produced its first talkie 'Alam Ara' a second grade movie by Ardeshir Irani with Vithal, Zubeida and Prithviraj Kapoor in the lead roles.

1930's were a generation where a lot of changes were going on in India. The Congress declared 26th January as the Independence day of India in 1930 in Poona. Mahatma Gandhi started the Salt satyagrah on 12th March, 1930. On 10th January 1931, New Delhi was declared as the new capital of India. On 23rd March, 1931 Shaheed Bhagat Singh, Rajguru and Sukhdev were martyred. In 1932 India won Olympic Gold in hockey in Los Angeles. In December of that year JRD Tata flew an aircraft from Karachi to Bombay, starting civilian aviation Industry. Gandhiji was put in and out in jails several times. On 15th January, 1934 there was a Maximum Intensity earthquake in Monghyr (Bihar). In 1937, The provincial autonomy began with the Congress winning majority in many provinces. The province of Burma was separated from India in 1937. On January 29, 1939, Subhash Chandra Bose officially became the President of Congress, which he quit in favour of Rajendra Prasad on 29th April due to internal dissent. He formed a new 'left' block on April 29. In 1940 the Moslem League demanded a separate state for moslems.

In this decade George V and George VI were the emperors of India and Lord Irwin, Earl of Willingdon were the Viceroys of India.

During 1930's Indian Films were also going through a change. V Shantaram was a terrific director, producer and actor. K L Saigal was a great actor, he

was a great singer. His Puran Bhagat, Chandidas, Karwan-e-Hayat, Street Singer, Devdas, and President were made in this decade only. Devdas was a social based on a jilted lover who lost everything due to getting hooked on drinking. The theme changed from stunt and mythological to a lot more social types: Lal-E-Yaman, Amrit Manthan, Karwan-e-Hayat, Miss Frontier Mail, Hunterwali to Pukar, Aadmi, Duniya Na Mane, Vidyapati, Achhut Kanya, Janmabhoomi, and Mukti etc. Ashok Kumar's Achhut kanya where a brahmin boy and an Achhut Kanya (Devika Rani) loved each other was a very powerful story. V Shantaram's Duniya Na Mane, tells us a story of a 19 year Old girl's (Shanta Apte) marriage to a 48 year old Keshavrao Date.

During 1930's Sunil Dutt, Geeta Dutt, Arjun Singh, Abul Kalam Azad, Natwar Singh, Shammi Kapoor, Meena Kumari, Mehmood, Madhubala, Nimmi, Amritya Sen, Dheerubhai Ambani, Dharmendra, Pranab Mukherjee, Vyjayantimala, Manoj Kumar, Jaswant Sinha, Ratan Tata, Shashi Kapoor, Sanjeev Kumar, Sheela Dixit, Mulayam Singh Yadav, R D Burman, and Sharad Powar were born.

In 1934, my Dadiji's father, Sri Ramnarayanji Agrawal who used to live alone in Satyanarayan Park (bada bazaar) Calcutta, brought Dadiji with Babooji from Jhunjhunu to Calcutta. Dadiji on the way to Calcutta stopped in Kanpur with her Devar's family for a few days

In Calcutta babooji was working with his nanaji. His nanaji Sri Ram Narayan Agrawal was a speculator in bullion and grain. He had his home in Bhagalpur, Bihar

Babooji got married on 1-9-1940 to Ma. Ma's name was Shrimati Bhagavati Devi and she was born on 10/4/24. My Babooji's Nanaji arranged the marriage.

Ma used to live in Tarnau, Rajasthan with her father Laxminarayanji Parshurampurua and Mom Muli Devi. Ma's elder brother (Mamaji) Brijlalji and Mami Krishna Devi were living there. They later moved to Jodhpur. Ma also moved to Jodhpur after her parents passed away.

In the year 1942 when World War II was going on, people started running here and there. So Dadiji with Babooji and Ma left Calcutta and moved to Sitamarhi where bhua was living. On their way to Sitamarhi, they stopped in

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Dadi's peehar in Bhagalpur. They first stayed with Ranglal Chaudhary, where they rented a quarter.

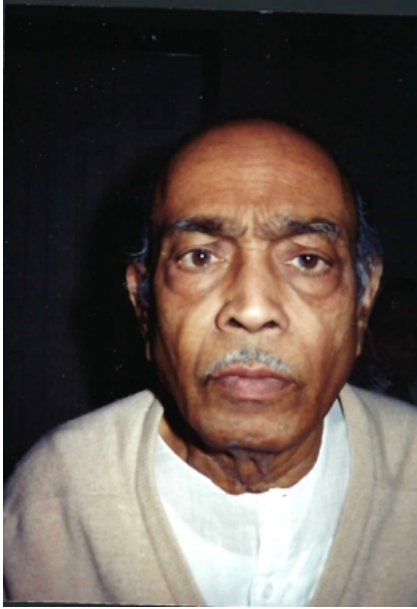
I have their pictures, but only doing later years.



Figure 1: Dadiji Srimati Jeevani Devi Khetan (1903-1984)



Figure 2: Bbua Srimati Parvati Devi Lakkad (1918-1986)



*Figure 3: Babooji Sri Ramballabh Khetan
(1923-1996)*



*Figure 4: Ma Srimati Bhagamati Devi
Khetan (1924-2005)*



*Figure 5: Mamaji Sri
Brijlalji Parashurampurua
(xxxx-xxxx)*



*Figure 6: Mamiji Shrimati Krishna
Devi (xxxx-1994)*

SITAMARHI....GOOD DAYS

In 1942, Congress started 'Quit India' movement, Mahatma Gandhi was arrested, under these trying circumstances my Dadiji left Calcutta. In 1942. Indra Gandhi married Feroze, despite objection of her father Jawahar Lal Neheru. In 1942 Amitabh Bachchan, Rajesh Khanna, Jeetendra and Asha Parikh were born.

In 1942, Movies like Basant (Ulhas, Mumtaz Shanti) and Khandan (Pran, and Noor Jehan) came to completion.

Dadiji, Ma and babooji finally arrived in Sitamarhi from Calcutta in 1942. They first came to Bhagalpur, where dadiji was born and her father Sri Ram Narayan ji Agrawal lived. In Sitamarhi, they first rented a place in Ranglal Chaudhary in court bazar.

Dadiji was looking for something for Babooji to do. So she worked out the partnership deal with Phooofaji. She gave 40 tolas of her jewellery to Phufaji, with which he built a business and our house. Foofaji used to have clothing shop earlier. Later he got an agency for Rallis India. He immediately worked on getting the business of grain trading started, while at the same time built the house with 'gola' and gaddi in court bazar location.

Sometime in 1943 or 44, Dadiji moved to Sitaramji Khaitan's house, another rental. It was a big place on the Main Road in Sitamarhi. The front of the house was their medicine shop. In the house besides Dadaji (Sitaramji), and his wife Srimati Iaxmi Bai---AKA Baraf wali Dadiji as we called her, (she had a refrigerator at home, which made ice from water---long after we left her house, we as children were fascinated by it and the name stuck), with 4 sons and 4 daughters lived. The name of Dadiji was Srimati Lakhshmi Devi and their children were Bhagwati Devi, Shanti Devi, Sushila, Savitri Devi, Shankar, Mahaveer, Om Prakash and Shri Bhagwan. Their daughter Savitri Bhua has a son married to the daughter of my good friend Mr Gopal Saraogi. They live in San Diego. Their names are Shiv Ratan Keyal and Alka.

On September 14, 1944 in this house the first child was born---BANWARI

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LAL.

His birth was celebrated by 21 days 'chaupad', a game of dice and luck including all the Marwari celebrities. The chaupad has now been replaced by 'teen patti' a card game, very popular in India. This would start in the evening after dinner and to be followed by snacks and tea.

In 1943, movies like Kismet, which broke all records, (Ashok Kumar, Mumtaz Shanti) and Tansen (K L Saigal, Khurshid) were released. The movie Rattan (K Deewan, Swarna lata) opened in talkies.

In 1943 Japan bombed Calcutta, Subhas Chandra Bose started a pro-Japanese Indian Government in Port Blair, on December 30. In this year Bengal was going through a heavy famine. Tanuja was born.

We were staying in Sitaramji Khaitan's place on the second floor. We stayed there till 1947 sometime.

In 1944, Gandhiji was out of jail. Kasturba died. Rajiv Gandhi, Sharmila Tagore and Saira Banu were born.

In 1945 Subhash Chandra Bose died in a plane crash in Taiwan. Nehru / Gandhi were arrested for demanding the British to vacate India. Azim Premji, and Vinod Mehra were born. Indian Film industry made the movie Zeenat with Noor Jehan and K Deewan. The movie was very popular with a first in Indian film Industry, an all female qawalli "Ahen na Bhari, Shikwe na Kiyeh"

RAGHUNATH was born in Jodhpur Sept 10- 1946 as Ma had gone to Jodhpur. Ma went in company of one of Mamaji's friends, who worked for the railways and Ma travelled free of charge.

In 1946 Nehru was elected Congress President. Hindu Moslem riots broke out. Narayan Murthy, Sanjay Gandhi and Sonia Gandhi were born. In this year Indians saw two star studded movies : Anmol Ghadi (Surendra, Noor Jehan, Suraiya) and Shah Jahan (K L Saigal, Ragini).

1947 was India's golden letter year. On August 15, 1947 first Prime Minister Mr Jawahar Lal Nehru was installed. A lot of Hindu Moslem riots broke

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out. India was broken in two countries. In October Kashmir King decided to join India. He signed a peace treaty with India. A tribal army invaded Kashmir. They were defeated, but took a piece of Kashmir called Azad Kashmir. This year Salman Rushdie, Rakhi and Simi were born. Air India became international.

Soon after 1947 or 1948 we moved to a third rented house. It was Laxmi Narayanji Lakkad's 'gola'. Later this gola was broken and a Dharamshala was built here. We were in this gola for little time, as our house was being built.

1948 was truly a sad year for India. An anti national Hindu Fanatic, Nathuram Godse killed Mahatma Gandhi with three bullets. In 1948 Dr Rajendra Prasad was elected as the first Indian President. Various kings, from small and large riyasats to Hyderabad (nizam) were overtaken under government control via Sardar Vallabh Bhai Patel.

In 1948, Jayalalita, Jaya Bhaduri and Hema Malini were born. Dilip / Kamini Kaushal starrer Shaheed was released this year.

We moved to our newly built, brand new house (a mansion) sometime in 1949.

In this house I was born on July 5, 1949. Those were good days and our grain business had picked up. Again there was another 21 days chaupad celebration to celebrate my birth.

In 1949 the Consulate General of India, Lord Mountbatten finally handed over the title to C Rajagopalachari. In 1949 Nathuram Godse and Narayan Apte were hanged for the murder of Mahatma Gandhi.

In this year Ghulam Nabi Azad, Pramod Mahajan and Gopinath Munde were born.

In 1949 three superstarrer movies were released, Barsat with Raj Kapoor and Nargis, Andaz with Dilip/Raj with Nargis and Mahal with Ashok Kumar and Madhubala

In the year 1950 Constitution was passed. India became a full constitutional

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republic on 26th January. Narendra Modi, And Shabana Azmi were born.
Maharishi Aurobindo and Sardar Patel expired.

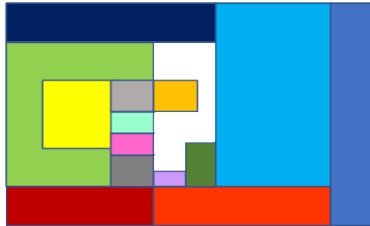


Figure 7: Dad's Sitamarhi House

Sitamarhi House put together by my son **Saurabh Khetan**

	5 rooms with a bathroom outside
	8 bedrooms inside house
	"Angan"
	Kitchen 1
	"Poly"
	Water Tank
	Kitchen 2
	Warehouse ("godown")
	Outside Rooms
	Backside - 2 toilets and 5 brick toilets
	Water "Tubewell"
	Entrance to the house
	Stairs with roof access
	Garden

In 1950 Samadhi with Ashok Kumar and Nalini Jayavant opened, In 1951

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Ma went to Jodhpur, where she gave birth to Krishna. In 1951 Awara (Raj Kapoor, Nargis) was released.

India hosted its first Asian games. And Nitish Kumar was born.

In 1952 we all went to Rajasthan for hair cutting (jadoola).

At that time all of us kids, Raghunath, myself, Krishna (1) and Banwari came down badly with small pox. It was the most trying period of our childhood. We had no pills, or doctors. We just struggled with small pox, especially Raghunath. The main person helping us was our dadaji's village's (Dadaji was an adopted son) khati (carpenter), Khetaramji. All of us suffered badly for 3 weeks. Khetaramji was totally, singlehandedly helping us, taking care of us all. We were saved due to Khetaramji's service and God's good grace. Then we came back to Sitamarhi.

1950 to 1954 were good days for our business.

A mehatrani (a woman from the lowest caste of Hindus) would come to the individual homes. She would carry a metal carrier on her head. The latrines would have another can which would collect all that shit to the metal carrier and transport it on her head. She would also clear the 'brick kids shitpots', with the metallic hose and remove shit that way. There was no sewers, no sanitation.

1952 First Lok Sabha was constituted. First Elections were held with Congress winning most seats easily. Yogananda Paramhansa Expired. Rishi Kapoor was born. In 1952 Aan (Dilip Kumar, Nimmi) and Baiju Bawara (Bharat Bhushan, Meena Kumari) were released.

1952-54 were very good years for us. Business was running good. We were all enjoying. Bhaiyyaji was 7-9 yrs old, Raghunath bhaiyya, 5-7 years old, I 3-5 years old and Krishna 1-3 years old. Then in 1952, a younger sister was born, Shanti on 15th July. Although she was the only girl born in the family, we didn't celebrate much because at that time in India people did not take girl's birth as something to celebrate.

In 1953 Air India was Nationalized. In 1953 Anarkali with Pradeep Kumar and Bina Roy was released.

So we were 5 of us. Bhuaji on the other hand did not have any. In those days she was desperately looking to adopt someone. She first adopted a kid Ramesh from nearby village, but he did not like staying at our family. And after a short while, he ran away. Bhuvaji seriously thought of Banwari Bhaiyya as an adopted kid. Also my Mamaji did not have any kid. He was also interested in adopting Banwari Bhaiyya or Raghunath Bhaiyya. I do not remember foofaji's face. But he was always smiling and jovial. My impression of him is that he was different than typical Marwari businessmen of that time. I remember at one time he had 2 lion cubs from one his customers. The other thing I remember is his illness in 1955. I used to be a very naughty child. In 1955 when I grew up to be 5, the family tried to put me in some school, but I was rebellious and won't go to any school with their trying best. One reason I gave was that I would go to Jodhpur schools as they were better than Sitamarhi's.

In home, probably, I remember a couple of scenes that remind me of those days I was coming out to 'gola', dressed in knicker and t-shirt. At that time we had no control of our looks. One thing that was quite common with me was my runny nose. I would run outside to 'paldars' (the godown workers), and played a game with them. I would take my tongue with which I used to would lick the runny nose and dance in a childlike way. They were thrilled and would encourage me.

In 1954 Dadra Nagar Haveli were annexed from Portugal. Kamal Hasan was born. Nagin with Pradeep Kumar and Vyjayantimala was released. Its one Song "Man Dole Mera Tan Dole" is fan favorite even now.

Then in 1955, suddenly foofaji was starting to feel sick. I remember him resting in his bed with dadiji and bhuaji attending on him. He was totally unlike his superjovial self. Previously he was always joking around. He was my favorite. I remember a bedpan sitting by the cot. He must have been really sick. His cousins were always come day and night. Later on I learned that he had a bad case of heart problems. People were discussing all kinds of things. Later on I was sent to Jodhpur---against my wish. Part of the reason was for Mamaji, who would not mind adopting me.

In 1955 State Bank of India started. Hindu Code Bill was passed making one wife only for the Hindoos. Before that many film personalities had

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Several wives. For example the Indian film director Mr V Shantaram had 3 wives. Smita Patil was born. And Raj Kapoor's Shree 420 was released.

In 1955 Phoofaji had an ulcer, and bedridden for a few days. Then he Recovered and Babooji, Ma, Banwari Bhaiyya, I, Krishna and Shanti left To go to Jodhpur to see mamaji. Only Raghunath Bhaiyya was left behind, because he was Dadiji's favourite child.



Floor 1



Floor 2

1955, Mamaji's home, the sketch is attached. It was a comfortable home, unlike our Sitamarhi home. (outline given by SKC during trip in 2018) and drawn by **Saurabh Khetan**

I do not recognise his face, but Mamaji's habits I distinctly remember. One thing I remember very vividly was that every morning he would sit down in the 'angan' with a thali on one end on his toe nails, then he would pour hot tea in his thali and he would have his breakfast with suhali in the tea. Till today, the morning breakfast of suhali I remember, and till some time back suhali would be my favorite for breakfast. I saw mamaji's house in 2003 (about). It did not look like the one I remember. We were not able to enter the house as the owner was still sore with all the events when Gopal was trying to get the house extracted from him, or the tenant before the house was sold (to him).

I give details of the house from my memory and as described to me by Sri Sursh Kumar Chowdhary

. At that time my cousin Sulochana was visiting mamaji. I and Sulochana were going on the second floor bedroom looking outside, and played

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together. Outside a few things I remember are

1. A baarat was going through the street. That street sometimes had Bichchoos and a Bichchoo stung some barati. The sting was so painful and the barati lying on the streeta scene so vivid that even today it causes me to have shivers in my spine.

2. looking outside from our house the next door on right was a family, where a boy 2-3 years older than I lived. I do not recall his name but he became my first childhood friend.

3. If you continue going to right, a little bit distance there was town's common water center, where all the women carrying their utensils came to fill water. There was no water in the house, so a man would everyday with his Bhisti (a bag made of cow meat which would carry water), and deliver water to every house. I used to wonder that, in a society like ours, where cow's meat was banned, how would they allow this practice? But today I analyse that the basic need for water would outsmart the objections based on society's beliefs.

4. A Mehatarani who came to carry the latrines, had unusually golden ornaments on her. A woman with that kind of jewellery and then carrying shit from the house in a pot on her head –It did not make sense to me.

5. on left of the house, a street with the front being a semi circular shape, a play ground for us kids was present.

6. On the right hand a house there was once a celebration of 'ghooghary" At that time I accompanied my mom to this place not knowing what a Ghooghary was. Now I know, it is a sort of Baby Shower ceremony .

At that time, five people were added to my family, whose pictures I show in this writeup. Unfortunately, the pictures are of a future age. Since no cameras were in use at that time in our household.

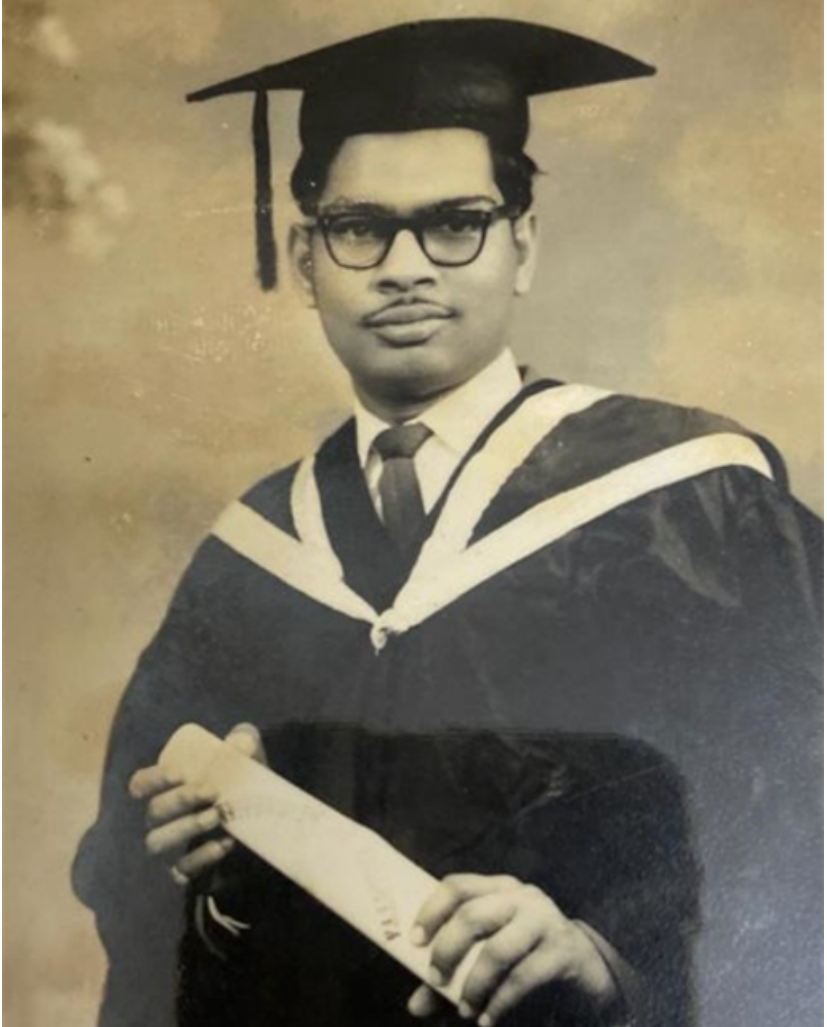


Figure 8: Bamvari lal Agrawala , Graduation 1960

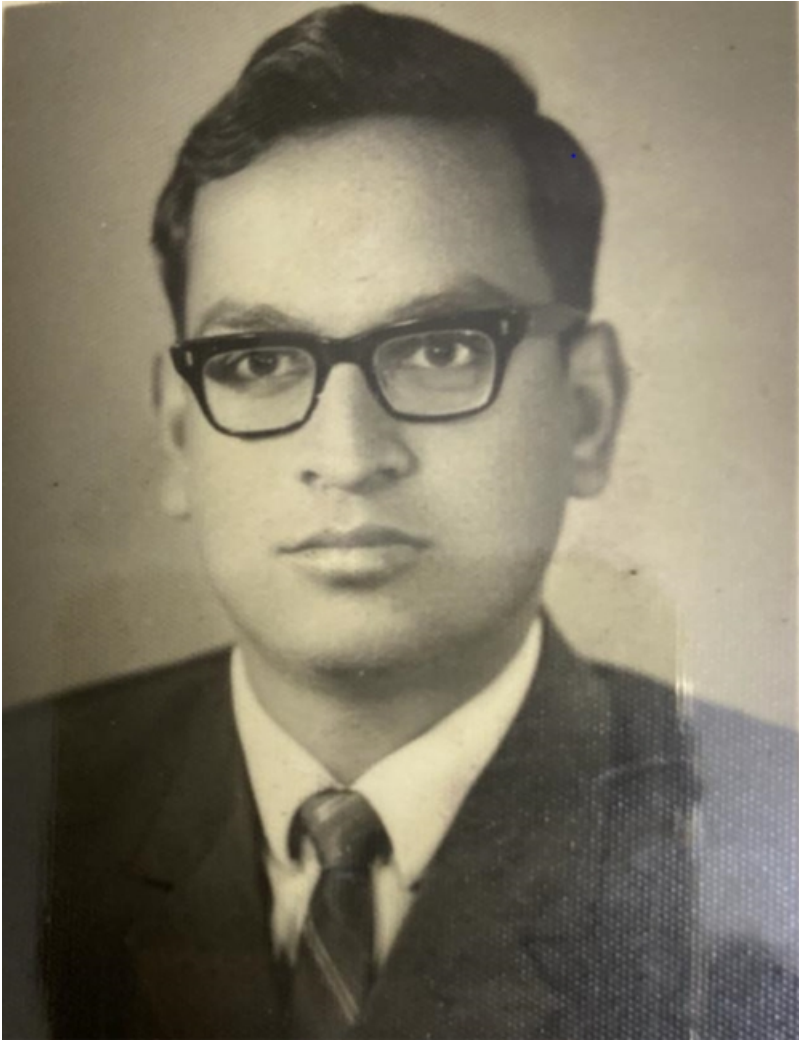


Figure 9: Raghunath Prasad Khetan before going to USA 1969

SHEO KHETAN



Figure 10: Sheo Kumar Khetan Ready for USA 1970



*Figure 11: Krishna Kumar
Khetan 1971*



*Figure 12: Shanti Kumari
Khetan 1971*



*Figure 13: Shrimati Lakshmi Bai
Khaitan, Baraf wali Dadi (xxx-1992)*



*Figure 14: Sri Seetaram
Khaitan (xxx-1969)*

SITAMARHI....BAD DAYS

When in 1955 we all came back to Sitamarhi, Where Raghunath Bhaiyya, Dadiji, Bhuaji and Phoofaji remained behind us (Ma, Babooji, Bhaiyyaji. I, Krishna and Shanti had gone to Jodhpur, it was a big shock to us, as phoofaji was not there.....

I was uncontrollable not to see him. To calm me, I was told that Phoofaji was gone to some other town. But the signs were there, our business was closed, the 'gola' was shut down, and there was just a gloomy look at every face. The 'gola/gaddi' were shut down and grass was growing everywhere.

As per Raghunath bhaiyya, we learnt later that the death of phoofaji was due to heart ailment, which he suffered in his trip to Calcutta. He went to Calcutta trip with his brother in law, the husband of bhua's sister Kamli bai, and while on this trip he lost a sum of Rupees 10k, which he did not have on him and took a loan from his brother-in-law. He came back with some illness to Sitamarhi, which after examination, the doctors pronounced that he had an incurable (that time) heart disease.

Within a day or two his condition kept getting worse, and he was forced to lay in the cot there. Upon listening of his condition, his sister and brother in law came down to our home. His brother in law came from Arrah. He was worried about his loan to Phoofaji, and who will pay the loan back to him, if something happened to phoofaji. As Per Raghunath, bhuaji was standing in 'kothari' as the brother in law demanded something in return for his credit of ~10k Rs and he was satisfied when phoofaji wrote the whole house in his name. In his end stage he was forced to do this. Bhua did take this very deeply and was often heard cursing them endlessly.

Later on the whole gola/gaddi was sold by babooji to Laxminarayaji Lakkad for mere ~23k Rs. And the loan to brother in law was returned. Laxminarainjee later gave the rest of the gola complex as a rental to the post master of Sitamarhi, after making a brick latrine for the family.

In 1955 Nehru, and Dr Rajendra Prasad led India in their roles of Prime minister and President, respectively. State Bank of India was started.

My initial education was in Hanuman Guru's school in 1955. I was very

reluctant to go to any school. My argument used to be that Jodhpur's schools were much better, so I would go there. Anyway after much convincing I was put into Hanuman Guru's school, where Hanuman Guru and his son used to teach. There were two other schools in Sitamarhi,

1. Gudari Master's School and
2. Jugeshwar Master's School.

However, Hanuman Guruji's School was the preferred School in our Marwari community. I remember three things about the school. One, every day, they would have Arithmetic exercise. All kids would stand in a line, and upon teacher's starting, repeat after him and loudly recite, in unison, the "Pahada Ginti" like, "Do akam do" (Two multiplied by 1 is two) and "Do duni Char" (two multiplied by 2 is four). This would go on up to 20 by 20 or so. This would go for an hour. The one thing Hanuman Guru was known to very strict was his discipline in the class. Even slight bit of laughter would enrage him and he excelled in using his 'cane' made out of Khajur (dates) on the students. One other thing, when he was upset, was his phrase "aiyan ko rappat lagaunga ke Sato anglayan uppad aassi" (you will get a beating with my palm, so that all 7 fingers will clearly be stamped on your face). Even today we wondered how all 7 fingers would leave their impression, when only 5 fingers are there? Did he have 7 fingers in hand?

We were at the same time very devoted to our teacher, and used to make short poems like "chay garam chay garam, chay nahin hai---Gudaria Beta mar gaya, parwah nahin hai." [hot tea, we enjoy, Gudaria (master) is dead, we don't care]. One other thing about Hanuman Guru was that once a woman in his household had breast cancer. Bhua took me there. She had the womenfolk there, showed her the woman with the cancer. Till today that scene is very vividly clear in my mind----they surgically removed breast and replaced it with some topping (a banana leaflike something) on it.

I was in Hanuman Guru's school for only a few months. Then I was transferred to Banwari Master's School in our neighborhood. It was an outer section of a neighborhood godown where some wooden desks for our sitting were thrown. Banwari Master, by that times standard was a progressive guy. He was a press reporter and believed in 'no dowry' for

marriages. But one thing, his classroom had about 20 or so students, any kids not doing any homework, or did not perform well or was rowdy would be disciplined. That kid would have to become a 'Murga' on top of the seat. The kids who would be good in the class were encouraged to go and slap these 'murgas'. Being the best in the class was always an advantage to me and my prestige among boys was very good.

Once Banwari Master was rough with me (I do not know the reason), I came home crying. Bhua asked what was the reason. When I told her that Banwari master was rough with me, she dragged me to the school and in front of the class took Banwari master to task. Any way this toughness should be balanced by her feeding the Master with homemade papads and pickles, she was very good with those.

I stayed there for 1/2 year and then got into Marwari Middle school, straight into third grade by 1956, where Raghunath Bhaiyya was in the 4th grade already.

In 1956, India continued to be governed by Dr Rajendra Prasad and Jawaharlal Nehru. LIC (Life Insurance Corporation of India) was started. Sri Sri Ravishankar (the spiritual Guru), Sunny Deol and Anil Kapoor were born. The great creator of Indian constitution Dr Bheemrao Ambedkar died. The film world created the movies like CID (Dev Anand, Shakila and Waheeda Rehman) and Ek Hi Rasta (Ashok Kumar, Meena Kumari and Sunil Dutt).

In 1956 our means of income had dried up.

So we started renting our house to various people. First was a Gujarati family, who we rented half of inside house. The Gujaratis were two families and a couple of young bachelors. They had moved to our towns to do business in Beedi Pattas, where the main Gujarati businessman who controlled the jungles (where these were grown) and was a big man. He put Gujarati people all over Bihar to get the business going. The renters Dahya Bhai and Savita Ben Patel, as well as Ramji Bhai and Indira Ben Patel. The bachelors that joined them were Maize bhai and Moti bhai patel. I have good memories of them. Dahya bhai was a strict man, but his wife Savita was a beautiful quiet lady. Ramji bhai was nice man. He used to keep to his

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business. But his wife Indira ben though nice to us children, sometime would drive Bhua very crazy. All men would try to get the fights over and nobody took their fights seriously. Sometime Indira would laugh and comment as Bhua would cajole Babooji to get soap on the full body and sometimes would rub the soap on his body.

In 1955 at one time I was very sick. Dada and ma were standing by my bedside with a hand fan whole night.

Dahya bhai saw us play cricket and taught us the rules of American 'cricket' (baseball). Sometimes they would get the treats from their town in Gujarat. Those days they would share the treats with all of us kids. They taught us some commn Gujarati words or slangs like 'otlo per kotlo Khadyo chai' meaning that a dog was standing on our outside verandah. Or 'tani mani chokri' means great little naughty girl. They taught us that in Gujarat, all the men would be called 'bhai' and all the women be called 'Ben'. They were the first non Biharis or non Marwari we knew. Once the Gujarati man called Maizebhai was standing on the roof and chatting, while holding the weak wooden strip, and he fell down in the angan.. He broke his leg bones and had to be hospitalized for that once

In 1956 I fell over in our toilets and my head hit the pointed thing on the floor. It was very painful as my head was bleeding. It took a few days to heal up. Even today my head has that bump.

We were quite friendly with Kailash (Shroff Our best Friend) and his Family. His father Govind chachaji and Chachiji were related to our old landlord Sri Sitaram Khetan. Actually Kailash's nani was Sitaramji's sister. She was married in the 'Tharrad' family, who were living in a place we would call Fulwari. In 1959 Kailash's Nani died in Fulwari. I was there with Kailash and his cousin brother Prabhashji. There was a photographer who took our snap. That is first photograph of my life---about 10 years old.

In 1956 Raghunath was very sick and all of us were around him. Somebody suggested to get ice cold water for him. But I could not find ice anywhere. All the shops in the area, even hotels too, I looked all over. Then Dadiji had to give water without ice to Raghunath.

I was in Marwari School from 1956-58. Marwari Middle school was our

way to make friends. We remember Ramnath, Gopal, Kailash, Bhowsinhkajee and Prahalad. The only non-marwari we were close to, was Parmeshwar, who lived near our house in Koat Bazar itself. I remember a couple of things in Marwari School. Once there was a diwali or holi celebrations, and a party at the school. I remember sitting on the school grounds with all the students in a line and the food being served. The TASMAI (Bihari word for Kheer), was served. It was a treat for all of us as we rarely got kheer at home.

There was a Khumchawalla (street vendor) who would come outside the school and sell his 'delicacies' to kids during school lunch time break. I never bought anything from him as I had no money. (We had become poor so we did not get any routine allowances). Ghoghni Choor, Peas daal etc. he would sell. He used to be very rough with those who would crowd his stall, where he would sit with those that would just watch him sell to others. Often he would throw a line for those "Cxxdeke na chadeke...Bxr per baith ke padeke'.

Once there was a running competition from school. I was chosen from School to participate in Mathematics Race where you would run from one side, and at the other end you will get a mathematics puzzle and you would come down while on the way, solve the problem. Mathematics problem was easy, but nothing else was. Because I came with rarely worn full pant (instead of usual knickers that I would wear to school) to school, without any belt (there was no body at home to guide us). The final result was during the race my pants kept falling and I was the last one to complete the race, although I alone had the correct answer to problem given to me.

In 1957 there was no change in top membership in India. But the Congress party was losing its grip in state politics. The first ever non-Congress elected party in Kerala, the Communist Party of India was installed with E M S Namboodiripad. as chief.

Jackie shroff and Deepti Naval were born. In this year three all time favorite films were released. Mehboob's Mother India (Nargis, Rajendra Kumar and Sunil Dutt); Gurudutt's Pyasa(Gurudutt, Mala Sinha and Wahheda Rehman), and Shantaram's Do Ankhen Aur Barah Hath (Shantaram, Sandhya).

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In 1957, the first ever satellite was sent to orbit the earth, the Sputnik by Soviet Union. Also this year the Indian Government launched a "Naya Paisa" equaling 1/100 of one rupee.

In 1957 Raghunath was going to school and near 'gudri' he was hit by a metal rim, that got loose from a bullock cart wheel. Raghunath lost two teeth as a result of that.

In 1958 Raghunath received a paper from Narayan Master about a school in Netarhat which was opening and its examination was happening. Raghunath filled the form and was admitted in for Netarhat. The examination was in Dumra and the physical was done in Muzaffarpur. Raghunath passed the examination, being 2nd in whole Bihar state. He had to join Netarhat in fall of 1958. In the meanwhile, he had completed the middle school and joined the 8th grade in 1958 in Laxmi High School.

In 1958 India's top political leadership continued. Sprinter Milkha Singh gained popularity with winning Gold Medal in 100 Meter race in Asiad and all kinds of International races, but could not win in 1960 Olympics. Jayaprada was born in 1958. This year three movies hit the market. Chalti Ka Naam Gari (Ashok Kumar, Kishore Kumar, Anoop Kumar and Madhubala); Madhumati (Dilip, Vyjayantimala) and Yahudi (Dilip, Meena Kumari). In the film world Dilip, Raj Kapoor and Dev Anand and aging Ashok Kumar were supreme. So were the actresses Madhubala, Vyjayantimala and Meena Kumari.

Just as Raghunath was clearing the 8th in high school and going to Netarhat I went through the exams in Dumra and then Muzaffarpur, and in 1959 got admitted to Netarhat scoring 2nd in Bihar. By this time I was in high school, due to jumping the 7th and got in 8th grade and got into the same old Raghunath Bhayya's classmates Gopal, Kailash, Ramnath, Prahalad and Bhowinka as my classmates and friends.

I was going to Dumra with our munshiji on a bike. I remember a student getting mad at me in Dumra for God knows what, but due to munshiji's involvement that matter was calm. After that I too went to Muzaffarpur for final and health check. I was very shortsighted (my glasses number was very high (-10) and I could not see from a distance. But in the eyesight checking

time I remembered the total list of the letters that were on the list. I recited the letters without any difficulty and thus cleared the eye exam without any problem.

Laxmi school experience was good. I stayed there in 8th grade with my friends, who actually were 1 year senior to me, but due to me skipping class 7 were with me. Laxmi school I remember a few things

1. In 1956, Banwari Bhaiyya participated in a students cultural program in which he recited one of his own poem "Apni ghrina ko samhelo sathi, mera pyar bikhar jane do, Aao banoon mai krishna bano tum Radha, Is duniya ka sara vaibhav kar len ham dono adha adha". I did not understand why he used the word Samhelo instead of Samhalo but thought it was a case of poetic license. There I went there as a guest of Banwari bhaiyya.

2. Once in 1959 after I was in class 8, Raghunath Bhayya had come to school, off from Netarhat. He was standing in front of some rowdy kids. Our master Paresh Baboo, with a very 'lachili khajur bent' in hand came there and ordered the kids to calm down and sit at their place. Everyone else sat down except Raghunath. So Paresh Baboo came to him and hit him several times with the sharp 'Bent'. Later he apologized for it.

3. In 1959 August 15, there was a parade for India's independence celebration. We were all standing in the superhot sun outside field. We were there for a long time, because the SDO was late in his raising the flag. I could take the sweltering heat only so much. I almost fell down and had to be removed from there.

4. Another time there was program where we kids had to prepare a song and present it. I had the privilege to go to our Music Room (at that time a music room in our school was wonderful). We were taught to sing with full company of Harmonium and tabla the song "Himalaya Ke Angan Me use pratham kirnon ka uphar. Usha ne jhat abhinandan kiya aur pehanaya Heerak har". Actually it was a beautiful poem written by the renowned poet Jayshankar Prasad

5. The name of teachers, I remember Nandlal Baboo who was a very serious science teacher. When he taught Chemistry in the class, his first few minutes were spent in beautifully drawing a picture of a flask, test tube etc

on the board.

At this time at home we had the task of renting outside rooms to other renters. First a room that was given to a masterji, who was widowed with a young son living with him. The masterji was very nice to us Every month, I would go and collect the rent from him.

The second was a Zamindar from Majholia, a crackpot, with anger on his mind. He had come for his treatment. He brought with him 3 or 4 servants who would live in the outer three rooms. He would every minute call his servants with Hindi's choicest curse words. Once sleeping at night his bed caught fire---due to fact that he slept with a burning 'sigdi' under his bed. Due to his clever servants he was saved.

His son Umashankar Singh was Bhaiyyaji's (our calling name for our brother B L Agrawala) age and his friend (per Ramnath not concurred by Bhaiyyaji Himself). He was lazy, drank a lot of liquor and smelled badly.

Another tenant was (or freeloader) Ramesh who used to sell Papads. He would carry a bag and a burning 'sigdi' in hand and would troll through Sitamarhi Bazar, 'Garem Garem Papad'. Later on he switched over to selling 'kulfi' which would be in his 'haandi with ice in it. Once we gave him the contract to make kulfi for our household. His mother Sankahiya Dai used to be a sort of a nurse and would help woman to give berth. Those days women would give birth at home, with Dais (midwives) like her providing the services including cutting of newborn's umbilical cord. I remember a few more things:

1. A master would come to our house to teach me, . Sometimes it would be dinnertime to eat rotis as Ma would cook them. Once in a while, I pretended to have a whole lot of hunger, while the master waited. I would eat 7-8 rotis slowly such that the master's time would be over and I will be saved from the avoidable boring deal

2. Dr Roy..a medical doctor (probably the only degeed doctor in Sitamarhi) who treated me from 'mumps',at my age 5 or 6. When I repeated what I had (the mumps), he was visibly shaken, and told dad that your kid is a genius, please definitely send him to Science

3. Doctors in Sitamarhi were either the earlier doctor's compounders or compounder's compounders. There was one famous Dr (some compounder) Kamal, who would come on his Bike and give the Injection. He was very popular in the Marwari Community. Other was a Homeopath doctor Devendra who had opened an eye testing shop at the 'Gudree'. Besides these there were also well respected Homeopathic physicians who had their own shops in the town

4. When electricity came to Sitamarhi, our brother, Sri Banwari Lal Agrawala, pulled the electricity from pole in our house with a few light bulbs, he made the whole house illuminated, probably in 1959.

5. Before this our house will be lit with lanterns. Occasionally petromax was used It was my dadiji's job to maintain all the lanterns. She used to do the job daily in the evening (dusk), we used to do any studies in those lights for any leftover lessons.

We had a total of 9 people in the house. My father, my mother, my Dadiji, Bhua, Banwari Bhaiyya, Raghunath Bhaiyya, Krishna and the little sister shanti until 1958. In 1957 we got another sister Sharda in our life.

The basic jobs were like this. Cooking food was Ma's main job. She would cook the food for everyone. The kitchen was full of smoke and no escape from fumes from the cooking woods. Sometime, when mom was unable to cook, Dadiji substituted, but dadiji's cooking we all hated because she would use too much salt.

Dadiji was a religious person. She would do her pooja and her 'mala phero' each day.

But if any kid would do any naughty thing, she would immediately jump on him, even though her eyes were closed during 'mala'. We could not figure out how she could spot us while her eyes were closed.

She would go to the neighborhood temple everyday for bhajan, where other ladies of our town would assemble. We would go with her, but noticed that hardly 10 minute of bhajan time would go for bhajans. Rest of the time would be gossip like whose bahu has misbehaved with whom, and what's the hot topic of the day for our township. Because of this, I never

developed high regard for bhajans till I became a grandpa later on.

My dadiji had a regular knack of healing some muscle cramps, or kids neck twisting and lot of known and unknown people would come to her for relief from these ailments.

Our food was simple. Breakfast we would have yogurt (freshly made, Mom used to make it every day) and previous night's paratha. Lunchtime we had rice, dal and subzi and then nighttime we would have roti and subzi. We used to get fresh milk about 6 kilo for a rupee, which the gwalan from the back of our house would give to us. Drinking milk was reserved for Babooji only. Subzies we sometimes got from the vendors which would sell their vegetable from one house to another. Sometimes us kids would go to the goodrie and buy the subzie. Provisions like wheat, rice or daal etc, babooji would get us from goodrie, usually for three months at one time. All grains were carefully looked for small 'kankads', vendors would usually mix them in the grain they sold to increase its weight. After carefully getting all the wheat cleaned, we would take them to the local Chakki shop where the wheat was ground into Atta. While Ma's job was to make daily food, bhujaji's job was like all the grains / spices to be put in nice canisters and periodically heat them under sun. Another job was for her to have Achars and Papads to be made for the whole year. This was Bhua's job, To make papad she would hire 2-3 strong 'Paldars' who would get the papad mixed well with 'hathoda' and the tub under it. That mix was converted into small 'Peris', which would then be rolled with a wooden rollers. At one time, one year papad would mean several thousands of them. The rolling was passed on to 10-12 families, who would each get a job of several hundred papads to roll. Of these a dozen or so he would keep for their own consumption. This rolling would be a big occasion for us. We would roll the papads with our names in it, or several 'pedis' together make 'Gunja' with Rings or necklace imprinted.

The other time would be annual 'Achar' making. Again 'paldar' would be hired to cut green mangoes in 4 pieces. Then all the cut pieces would go through thorough cleaning. Then with all the spices it would go through and achar would ready in 3-4 days. Porcelaine "Martbans" were used to house them. It was bhua's job (hobby too) to get periodically take achar out of these 'Martbans', to spread them in the sunshine.

Bhuaji used to make enough papads and achar at one time to last us the whole year, and enough left over to give to special people like our teachers or police etc from time to time.

Besides these, Bhua was in charge of Chakki in the house. Any chakki thing like, when we were getting dal soaked in water to make Pakora or Vada out of it, she would be there.

One thing that was Bhua's specialty, that she was short tempered with servants and neighbors. We remember when she came out of our house and would fight with a Tai (a lady in the home opposite us) with hours with specially chosen curse words for her.

Our mom was mainly in charge of food. Dadiji would be busy in Pooja Path, being the back up for mom or disciplining us to keep us in line. Bhua on her part used to be the source for all the things we desired like once in a while getting money from her or would save from Dadi's disciplining by interfering.

We had enough rooms in the house, after giving the half of house for rent to Gujaratis. One would be Dada's (dadi's) room, where dadi had her own Pooja also. Dadi's closet was a keyed one and she kept the key with her. We, kids would often wonder what dadiji kept there. One corner room would be our mom and dad's room, where she would keep all kids clothes. Third room was bhua's room, which was special, it was painted in green. Next to it was a small Kothari, which was occupied by Banwari Bhaiyya which he would decorate with calendars (obtained from cinema halls) or nice pictures of stars. He had a small National Ecko radio also, where we used to listen to old songs. Two rooms were reserved for all the rationed provision.

The neighborhood food person, our favorite food specialist was Noojah, who had little shop of ghunghani Kachari, Moorie kachara etc. We (my brother Bhaiyyaji and babooji) loved his food especially ghoonghany. We daily bought ghoonghany for 2 paise (< 1 cent) and it would continue till the lunch and sometimes dinner also. Sometimes if we got additional money we would get his Pakori, or Kachri which were in our way of thinking the best in the world.

In the town we had three cinema halls, which at 6 pm would have well lit

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stalls of roasted Moongfali, rewadi, Soan papadi and khoa burfi also. Our bhuaji was fond of moong fali and sometimes would send Raghunath Bhayya to go get the 1 Anna (1cents) worth of moongfalis. We would sometime get money to buy rewadi or soan papadi--but never khoa Barfi, which was too expensive. Sometimes a vendor would come down selling Malai Rabdi. That was too expensive, 6 annas or 1 dime. that treat would sometimes we would get, probably once in our life.

This is how our days were spent. Bhaiyyaji used to teach us in our school work and it was strict time at that time. It was Babooji and Dadiji's instruction that no one was to absolutely disturb us---even if we were beaten by bhaiyya if it was during at that time. Raghunath was a good adherent to this rule, but I could rebel against this. Once I wanted to get even with Banwari Bhaiyya by lifting a 'Dhaiyya' (a steel item made for weighing things it was equal to roughly 2.5 kg or 5 lbs). It was bhuaji who held me down.

In these circumstances our life was running, when one beautiful young sister came in our life. On July 18 1957 Sharda was born in our home.

We had daily started playing various games in Parmeshwar Prasad's pathari (kacheri gachi or para bazar), in 1958, with our friends Ramnath, Gopal (sometimes), and Parmeshar. Football which we played, was managed by Ram Singhasan, who lived in the back of our house, where a 'Kuan' was there. We played badminton where Parmeshwar was in charge of all badminton and strings. Pathary would be used to have picnic or small parties Para bazaar was a place where every weekend there would be a market for 'paras' (young buffalo Calves..). I, Ramnath, Parmeshwar etc were daily players there. Sometimes Gopal would also join us. It also had many palm trees, where a group of experienced climbers would go up to the full length of the tree and break the ripe fruits. This ripe fruit would be used to make 'tadee' (Desi liquors).

There was one 'Kuan' (well) there. Once when playing football, our football went in the 'kuan'. We started the use of pathari some time in 1958 and continued using until 1963.

In 1958 we (me and Raghunath bhaiia) would play a game of shop

ownerships, where we would keep 'fake sweets', like rossogullahs made of chalk. We had a famous story from our text book, 'Vrich ki gawahi' which we play in a drama format.

We were heavily into 'Patang (kite flying)'. For effective patang flying and cutting other patangs . We were using Manja, sort of coating our patang strings with all kind of things---like crushed glass, which would go on top of strings with some glue or cooked rice.

Once I tried to open a club. I do not remember what was the purpose or the goals for it. I tried to raise funds for it. I remembered, I got 1 rupee as a donation from Gopal, which was a big sum at that time. But the money vanished in flood waters, coming from school to my home. I was so ashamed and embarrassed that I did not tell anyone and I am still so sorry for it.

Once I decided to make kulfi. So where to get milk for it. I went to Bhaiyyaji's friend Laxmi for it. At home I mixed some water and some sugar stolen from home, but then how to freeze it. ultimately that project had to be dropped and milk, water and sugar mixture we had to drink

There were three talkies near our home. Once I went to see 'Apradhi Kaun' a movie, in 1958.. Then the whole way, coming to the home "Kali Chhaya" would follow me.

In 1959 there was no change in political leadership at top. Bajaj Auto was given First license to make scooters in India. India's first automobile. Sanjay Dutt and Kapil Deo were born. The Dalai Lama was given an asylum in India, as Chinese took over Tibet. Anari (Raj Kapoor, Nutan) and Paigham (Dilip, Vaijayantimala) were released and became most popular.

In 1959 when I finished the middle school. Coming first in 6th grade and jumping to 8th grade my parents celebrated the event by distributing laddoo's to all the friends. I remember going to Chuck Mahila, a nearby village to give them to Ram Ashray Yadav, the kid who came in second. This was my life from 1955 to 1959 at Sitamarhi. At the end of this I followed Raghunath Bhaiyya and went to Netarhat. The story will continue from 1960 to 1965 (I was 11 to 16 years of age). Photo cameras were not very popular those days, so most of the photographs were taken later and

shown here.



14 August 1959 Kailash's Naniji's Death.

1st row: Bishwanath's mom, Minto, Radheshyamji Third, Sri Bhagwan, Sri Bhagwan's mother (Baraf wali Dadi), Kailash, Kailash's mami, Prabhash

2nd row standing: Kailash's mom Chanda Bhuvaji, Usha, Shambhoo, Kiron, and SHEO.



Figure 15: Group photo 1968

1968 KAILASH, Bijay-- Gopal's younger brother, RAMNATH, GOPAL, BHOWSINKA, PURUSHOTTAM (TANDONJI)(to make a combined photo of our group only taking Ramnath and Bhowsinka from here) and join with this)



Figure 16: Group photo

1964 photo , Base for this photo, while Ramnath and Bhowsinka jee from prior Gopal's marriage photo created the combined photo together)



Figure 17: Gobind Shroff, Kailash's father, Shradhbha's granddpa



Figure 18: Chanda Bhuaji (chachiji) Kailash's mom, 14 August 1989

MY LIFE



Figure 19: Sharda 1970 (Born 1958)

PART B: NETARHAT, FORMATIVE YEARS

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NETARHAT: The Formative Years I

So, it was our story at Sitamarhi, which I left for Netarhat in November 1959. Babooji came with me by bus to Muzaffarpur. There we rested at Inter State Transport Agency office. ISTA was an established company in East India, which was owned by Kailash's uncle, Sri Satyanarayan Shroff, whom we called Satyanrain Tauji. We got good reception at Muzaffarpur, after which we left by train for Pehlezaghat to reach the water steamer to cross Ganges River to come to Patna. On the steamer they served the aloo chop (a salty pastry made out of Potato and gram flour, that I thought to be world's tastiest treat). This was my first time away from Muzaffarpur, where I had come for Netarhat entrance examination. The steamer took us to Mahendru Ghat, Patna.

The capital of Bihar State was an eye opening city, with tall buildings, wide roads, a bunch of people crossing the roads, the bustles of people, traffic, street lightsall of them running smoothly. It was my first exposure to a big city, Patna. It probably had 10-15 running movie halls. From there we took a train to Ranchi to meet my new Masters for a new journey on the path to enlightenment. In between the journey on the train an alarming thing happened to me. I was sleeping well wrapped in Babooji's dushala'. In running train an outside man tried to pull my dushala. But due to me being wrapped in it he was not able to complete his steal. Babooji in the meanwhile tried to grab his arm, but the man quickly escaped from there.

We reached our destination in Ranchi, THE BINOD ASHRAM HOTEL. There 55-60 of our new classmates had gathered with Sri Jeevan Nath Dar, the Principal of Netarhat. We stayed there for lunch and then left with all in a big bus for Netarhat school. At Binod Ashram Hotel we had a meal. We clearly remember that the dry potato(called BHUJIA) subzi was the highlight of Binod Ashram Hotel.

The bus trip to Netarhat was very adventurous. The 96 miles took 5 hours to complete.. The trip was very much interesting, the bus going through the plains and Ghatis, thru clear open areas as well as winding ghaties with narrow roads, with a lots of turns and twisting areas. This bus trip was quite scary.

As soon as we reached the school, we were immediately assigned to an ASHRAM to stay in. We in the first year were all assigned to the first set of Ashrams. Basically each Ashram had 20 beds and a Set would have 3 Ashrams in it. Each set of Ashrams would have its own 'mess' where all the food for three Ashrams, would be cooked. We, the first years students were assigned to set #1 consisting of Arun, Shanti and Gautam Ashrams.

MY LIFE

Each Ashram would have one of the teachers assigned to it, as Ashramadhyaksha, who would be assigned a living quarter in the Ashram. When we got there, there were 15 Ashrams in total.

Our ashram was Arun Ashram, headed by Sriman Sahdeo Prasad Singh 'Dev', a Hindi teacher. When we reached the Ashram, we got the bed assigned to us with essential clothing like Bed Sheet, Mosquito net, Towel, Night suit and morning Physical Training clothes. We also got a steel trunk and shown the ashram. The ashram had 2 bedrooms (10 Chowkis and cots), A 'Parivartan Kach' with 20 almirah. I was assigned one Almirah in which we placed our belongings (steel Trunk and clothes). Then there was a dining room. It had all around a raised pedestal...about 2'-3' away from walls. In between wall and the pedestal a 'durrie' was installed, where we could sit and eat the food. This room was used for our daily 'swadhyays', so we could do our studies, Then there was a kitchen gully, through which our cooked food would be supplied thru the kitchen. Next to it were Bathrooms (cold water....no hot water) and toilets. In the center was the 'baramada'. on the other side was the ping pong (Table Tennis). In one corner was the 2 bedroom apartment with all the essential things like a drawing room, apartments bathroom etc. for housemaster and his family. So we were asked to make our beds and were to take showers and our night suits. After this, we were served from kitchen, in our "Bhojan Kacch" our first meal. After that we went into our housemaster's drawing room and the following was explained Housemaster Sriman Dev Saheb told he was in charge of the house, so anybody who had problem of any type would bring to him. He welcomed us and introduced us to his wife. She told us that She would be called 'Mataji' and he would be called 'Shrimanji'. From this point on, they would be responsible for our well beings. All the seniors would be called with Jee to their names. All the employees will be treated with Jee to their names like kitchen Cooks, Darji, etc. All teachers will be called Srimanji and Professor Jeevan Nath Dar would be addressed as Pradhanji. He also told us that the house where we will be living is called Arun Ashram. All the kids live in these Ashrams. There are 15 different Ashrams and each houses 20 students. There is an in-charge in the Ashram, Ashrahamacharya, who is generally one of our teachers. For Arun Ashram our teacher (Ashramadhaksha) was Sri Sahdeo Singh Dev, who taught Hindi in the school.

Then it was time to retire for all of us. We had our cot, chadar, pillow, rajai and closed the switch and went to sleep. Before retiring we were given a daily routine to follow. Next morning a 'tun tun' sound was coming from somewhere and woke all of us to Morning P.T.

Daily Routine:

नेतरहाट आवासीय विद्यालय
नेतरहाट

सूचना संख्या- 05/21-01-19

दिनांक-22.01.2019 से विद्यालय मे निम्नलिखित दिनचर्या लागू होगी।

समय	मिनट	दिनचर्या
प्रातः 05:20-6:20	60	जागरण एवं व्यक्तिगत सफाई
06:30-6:50	20	व्यायाम
07:05-7:45	40	स्वाध्याय
07:45-8:00	15	अल्पाहार
08:15-8:30	15	सम्मेलन
08:35-9:15	40	प्रथम पाठ
09:20-10:00	40	द्वितीय पाठ
10:05-10:45	40	तृतीय पाठ
10:50-11:30	40	चतुर्थ पाठ
11:30-11:45	15	अवकाश
11:50-12:30	40	पंचम पाठ
अपराह्न 12:35-01:15	40	षष्ठ पाठ
01:20-02:00	40	सप्तम पाठ
02:10-03:00	50	भोजन एवं विश्राम
03:00-04:00	60	स्वाध्याय
04:00-04:10	10	दुग्धपान
04:15-05:15	60	खेल
05:25-06:05	40	स्नान एवं सफाई
06:15-06:20	05	मौन बेला
06:20-08:30	130	स्वाध्याय
08.30-09.15	45	भोजन, सफाई
09:15-09:45	30	मनोरंजन
रात्रि 09:50		दीपशांति

नोट : एन. सी. सी. क्रिया- कलाप रविवार एवं सोमवार खेल के समय होगा।

ह०/-प्राचार्य
नेतरहाट आवासीय विद्यालय।

प्रतिलिपि :-समस्त सह-शिक्षक/शिक्षक/प्रशिक्षक/प्रयोगशाला सहायक/व्यवस्था/चिकित्सालय/
पुस्तकालय/मुख्य भंडारी/वस्त्र भंडारी/पुस्तक भंडारी/लेखाशाखा/मुख्य सूचना पट्ट/
आश्रम सूचना पट्ट।

Figure 3: Daily Routine

MY LIFE

1. **Jagaran aur Vyaktiget safai** : Get ready, Eat Chana Gud supplied by the house Set's Mess go in the
2. **Vyayam**: OVAL (the central oval shaped maidan) and perform everyday Vyayam (exercise), Supervised by one of the teachers
3. **Swadhyay**: Self studies in the eating room, daily class's exercise
4. **Alpahar**: come back to Ashram, and do the days Ashram Assignment, and the eat the breakfast provided by Mess
5. **Sammelan**: Assembly, principle (pradhanji) would discuss the important issues, one Gramophone would play songs, daily all the teachers including the principle would sing some song, A student would read all the important news of the day, outside all the people's shoes would be examined by one person, any person- failing in that task would be punished by "chakkar"=" in the school's oval (not the big oval)
6. **First to fourth 'Path'**:Morning lectures for Math, Science, Hindi, English, Social Studies, geography, Vashtushala, Agriculture etc
7. **Avakash**: rest
8. **5th to 7th 'Path'**: More Classes
9. **Bhojan aur Vishram**: come back to our Ashram, and eat lunch provided by mess,
10. **Swadhyay**: Rest Self Study
11. **Dugdhan**: come to Ashrams and eat milk and other food provided by mess.
12. **Khel**: Go and play the sports (assigned daily football, hockey, athletics etc) . Each person assigned to a team, and particular game each day, supervised by the teachers
13. **Snan and safai**: home, get personal work done, Bath, get all the housework assigned done
14. **Maun Bela**: quiet time
15. **Swadhyay**: swadhyay, self study
16. **Bhojan, Safai**: Food, Assigned work,
17. **Manoranjan**: free time, play games (table tennis, carrom etc)
18. **Deepshanti**: sleep

This daily routine has been taken from a Notice Board in an Ashram. The amazing thing about it is that despite 60 years, it is still the same routine.

15 Houses and Housemates

House	Ashram Set	Housemate	Subject
Arun		Sahdev Prasad Singh "Dev"	Hindi
Shanti	Ashram Set 1	Mangal Dev Pandey	Hindi
Gautam		Robert william Joel	Vashtukala
Ananda		Mahesh Narayan Saxena	Music
Arjun	Ashram Set 2	Manoj Khmar Dey	Mathematics
Prem		Prem Agrawal	Mental Psychologist
Ashok		Kailash Narayan Mehrotra	Georaphy
Kishore	Ashram Set 3	Birendra Kumar Sinha	Science
Saket		Mithilesh Kanti	Hindi
Takshsheela		Bishweshwar Dutta Pande	Physics
Nalanda	Ashram Set 4	Dwarika Prasad Singh	History
VikramSheela		Ramdeo Tripathy	Sanskrit
Ramkrishna		Ram Krishna Verma	Mathematics
Pradeep	Ashram Set 5	Hare Krishna Asthana	Physics
Arvind		Radhika Raman Prasad Sinha	Hindi

Ashram work and Chakra

In every Ashram all the regular cleaning, arranging except cleaning of Clothes and food Cooking was done by students. This would be done by all the work in 20 portions and one of the tasks would be performed by each student. This was accomplished by a Circle where each student will know what his assignment is. Every day the Circle would move one slot, so that the person gets a different task. Over a 4 weeks period each student will get all the cleaning etc, and the cycle would start again. It was the responsibility of Ashram Prabhari (one student who will be chosen by the students) to maintain the chakra.

The tasks will be: Cleaning bedroom 1, BR 2, Changing room and toilet, food serving breakfast, Food Serving Lunch, Food serving late afternoon,

Food Serving dinner, Clean pedestal after food Breakfast, Lunch, Afternoon, Dinner, Clean common area with Jhharoo, Clean central portion etc.



Figure 3: Netarbat: student cleaning the toilet



Figure 4: Netarbat : A student cleaning the 'Farsh'



Figure 5: Netarbat: Student cleaning utensil



Figure 6: Netarbat: a Student sweeping dirt with 'Jharoo'

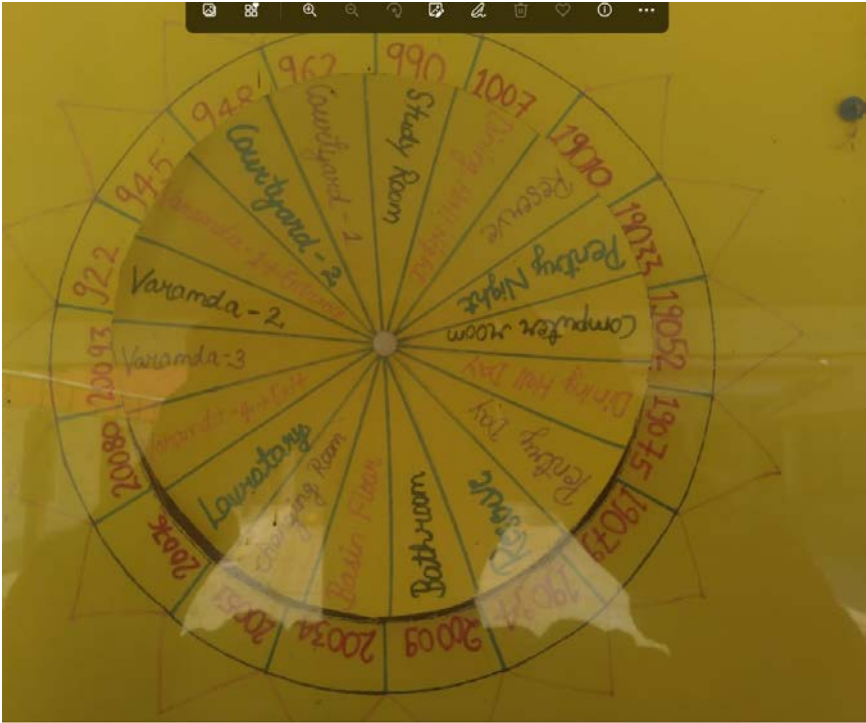


Figure 7: Netrabat the Sanitation Chart

Provided by Pradhyapakji S K Singhji

MY LIFE

ROLL NO	Name	Year
922	Amardeep Kumar	5 th
945	Kalpesh Kumar	5 th
948	Kamal Raj	5 th
962	Nikhil Nishant	5 th
990	Satyam Kumar	5 th
1007	Utkarsh Kumar	5 th
19010	Saket Kumar	4 th
19033	Aditya Shekhar	4 th
19052	Nirajitirrey	4 th
19075	Bhudev Rajak	4 th
19079	Omant Raj	4 th
19094	Rohit Raj	4 th
20009	Arun Kumar	3 rd
20034	Siravan Kumar	3 rd
20051	Ankit Oradn	3 rd
20076	Manjit Kumar	3 rd
20080	Piyush Thengwar	3 rd
20093	Panraj Gupta	3 rd

Figure 8: Netarbat the Sanitation Chart

Provided by Pradhyapakji S K Singhji



Figure 9: Asbram student living rooms



Figure 10: The raised pedestal in Asbram used for eating food and "swadhyay"



Figure 11: Student carrying cooked food from set kitchen to Ashram



Figure 12: Food prepared by Mess cooks for students to take

SHEO KHETAN



Figure 13: Food being served to students with person whose duty is serving



Figure 14: Sleeping quarters in Ashram



Figure 15: Some time we would play table tennis, ourselves or our Ashramadhyaksha also



Figure 16: Eating Ashram food on the same raised pedestal during 2004

SHEO KHETAN

My Batch Mates:

Note: S=Shanti Ashram, A=Arun Ashram, G=Gautam Ashram

Roll Number	Name	Ashram	If deceased, Yes.
301	Badri Nath Pande	S	
302	Sheo Kumar Khetan	A	
303	Nalin Ranjan	G	
304	Uday Shankar Mitra?	S	Yes
305	Bhagawan Singh	A	
306	Inder Nath Jha	G	Yes
307	Gurpinder Saluja	G	
308	Anoop Kumar Saha	S	
309	Gauri Knat Jha	A	
310	Kishan Kumar Roy	G	
311	Kashi Nath Chatterji	S	
312	Tara Chand Jain	A	
313	Surendra Kumar Rai	S	Yes
314	Subhash Dutta	A	
315	Amlendu Shekhar Mitra	A	
316	Ramendra Kumar Singh	G	Yes
317	Shankar Prasad Doknaia	S	
318	Suresh Sharma	A	

MY LIFE

319	Amitabha Sarkar	G	
320	Nemichand Lal	S	
321	Mohan Chaudhary	S	
322	Sachidaanad Thakur	A	
323	Umeshwar Prasad Singh	G	
324	Kedar Prasad	S	Yes
325	Jyotindra Thakur	A	Yes
326	Nisar Ahmad	G	
327	Bal Mukund Sahu	S	
328	Shiv Prasad Bagachi	A	
329	Murli Mohan Pd Sinha	S	Yes
330	Lilanand Jha	A	
331	Munindra Kumar	A	
332	Dinesh Tripathy	S	
333	Laxman Singh	G	
334	Ambika Prasad Singh	A	
335	Brajesh Kumar Singh	G	
336	Ghanashyam Saha	S	
337	Indu Shekhar Sinha	A	Yes
338	Sheo Mangal Prasad Singh	S	
339	Hridayanand Singh	G	
340	Bahura Ekka	A	Yes

SHEO KHETAN

341	Nobel Junus Jo Jo Bar	S	
342	Sushil Chandra Thakur	G	
343	Laxmi Narayana Pandit	S	
344	Dinanath Bhagat	G	Yes
345	Girish Prasad Singh	A	
346	Shekh Muztaba Husain	G	
347	Arun Kumar Chaudhary	A	
348	Diwakar Tripathi	G	
349	Vijay Kumar Singh	S	
350	Awadh Prasad Singh	A	Yes
351	Muhammad Irfan	S	
352	Gauri Shankar Mishra		
353	Hit Lal Kisku		Yes
354	Shiva Prasad		
355	Lal Bahadur Singh		
356	Shyam Pad Saha		Yes
357	Aziz Ahmed Khan	A	
358	Madan Mohan Singh		Yes
359	Kalimul Hussain		
360	Kaushal Kishore Kumar		

MY LIFE

361	Binod Kumar Singh		
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Figure 17: With my best friend Nalin Ranjan Jamsbedpur during my visit to Netarbat in 2004



Figure 18: With B N Pande ,the most competing guy, in 2004 at my home



Figure 19: With Late Indra Narain Jha with my wife Nirmala and my friend from IITK in 2004, the guy, who beside me beat Badri Nath Pande in Board Exam



Figure 20: Neeru, Sheo and Kaushal Kishore Kumwar in 2004

Reference: The video 'The Last Gurukul

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kRHqRIId2VUI>

NETARHAT: The Formative Years II.1

Teacher's Names and their Ashrams

Name	Subject	Ashram	Deceased
Shriman Sahdeo Prasad Singh 'Deo'	Hindi	Arun Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Robert Willam Joel	Dhatu/Kashrh kala	Gautam Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Manoj Kumar dey	Mathematics	Arjun Ashramadhaksha	Yes
Shriman Birendra Kumar Sinha	Chemistry	Kishore Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Mthilesh Kanti	Hindi	Saket Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Dwarka Prasad Singh	History	Nalanda Ashramadhyaksha	
Shriman Bishweshwar Dutt Pande	Physics	Takhsheela Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Ram Deo Tripathy	Sanskrit	Vikram Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Ram Krishna Verma	Mathematics	Ram Krishna Ashramadhyaksha	
Shriman H K Deogharia	Geography		Yes
Shriman Krishna Swaroop	Mathematics		
Shriman H K P Sinha	Physics		
Shriman V K Vasudevan	Biology		Yes
Shriman Chaturbhuj Pande	Social Studies		Unknown
Shriman Mangal Deo Pande	Hindi	Shanti Asramadhyaksha	
Shriman Kailash Narayana Mehrotra		Ashok Ashramadhyaksha	Unknown
Shriman S N Chatterjee	Music		Unknown

MY LIFE

Shriman Asthanaji	Biology	Pradeep Ashramadhaksha	Yes
Shriman Shivdas Pande	Hindi		Yes
Shriman Jaiswal	Drawing/ painting		Unknown
Shriman M N Saxena	Music	Ananda Ashramadhyaksha	Yes
Shriman Jeevan Nath Dar	Pradhanji (principal)		Yes
Shriman Ram Krishna Bhatnagar	English		Yes
Srimati Monica Tiru	Nurse		Yes

Photos of Teachers



*Figure 21: Pradhani Jeevan Nath Dar,
Principal*

*Figure 22: Shriman Birendra Kumar
Sinha, Chemistry*



Figure 23: Srimati Monica Tiru Nurse

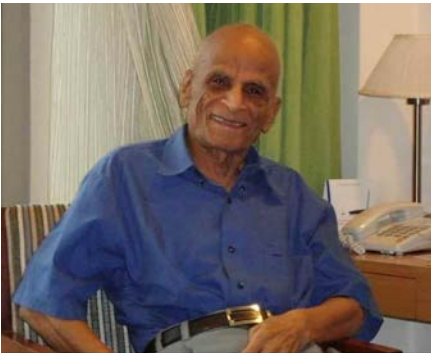


Figure 24: Shriman Ram Krishna Bhatnagar, English



Figure 25: Shriman Mithilesh Kanti, Hindi

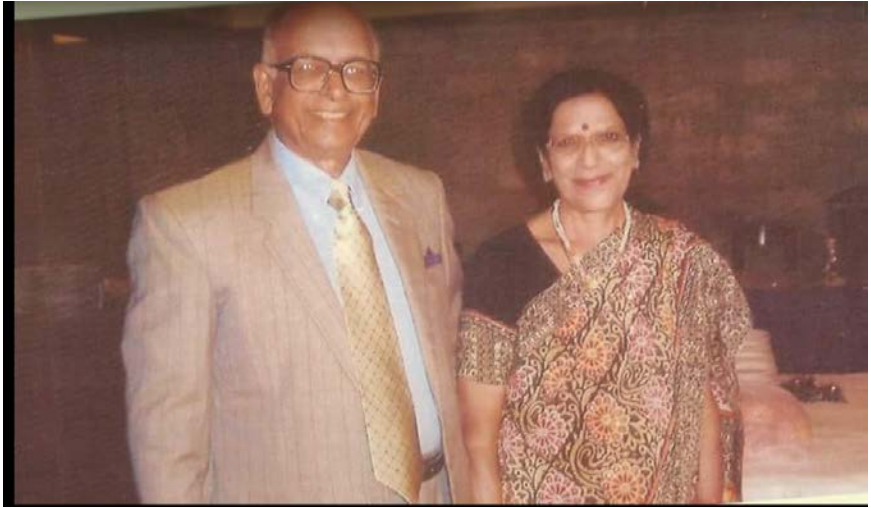


Figure 26: Sriman Kailashnarayan Mebrotra, Ashok Ashramadhyaksha



Figure 27: Shriman M N Saxena, Music Singh. History

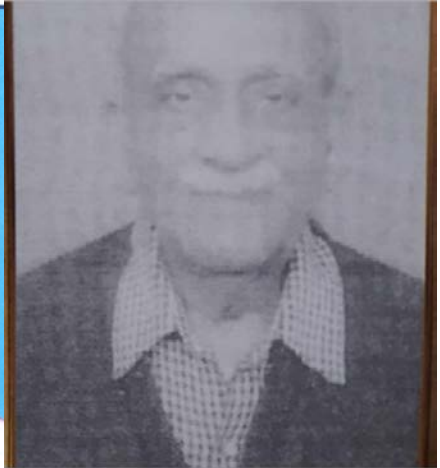


Figure 28: Shriman Dwarika Prasad



*Figure 29: Shriman Chaturbhuj Pandey,
Social Studies*



*Figure 30: Shriman R K Verma, Mathematics,
My (Ramkrishna) Ashramadhyaksha*



*Figure 31: Shriman Sabdeo Singh Deo
Hindi, My (Arun) Asbaramadhaksha*



*Figure 32: Shriman K N Vasudevan,
Biology*



Figure 33: Shriman H K P Sinha , Physics



*Figure 34: Shriman Krishna
Swaroop Prasad ,
Mathematics*



Figure 35: Shriman Kalicharan Deogbaria Geography



*Figure 36: Shriman Ram Deo Tripathy
Sanskrit*



*Figure 37: Shriman Mangal deo
Pandey Hindi,
Ashramadyadhyaksha SHANTI*



Figure 38: Shriman S N Chatterji Music



*Figure 39: Shriman B D Pande
Physics*



Figure 40: Shriman Dr Param Veer Shashtri Hindi



Figure 41: Shrimanji Manoj Kumar Dey Mathematics, and my (Arjun Ashram) Ashramadhyaksha



Figure 42: Shriman Shivdas Pande Hindi



Figure 43: Shrimai Asthanajee Pradeep Ashramadhyaksha



Figure 44: School Motto "Atta Deepo Viharatha"



Figure 45: Netarhat Amasiya Vidyalay----Main Building plus Attadeepa Viharath



Figure 46: Netarhat Anasiya Vidhyala---Main Bulding



Figure 47: Kashtkala (where daily sammelan is held in place of main Building)



Figure 48: Classrooms



Figure 49: Classrooms



Figure 50: Netarhat School, main building., Oval, The left side classroom Building and right side classroom Building

MY LIFE

Perhaps, the best of Netarhat's education system, is reflected in the central government's education minister Mr V K R V Rao in 1970

What has struck me most is that it is possible, through the media of our own Indian languages, to train students who can make a mark in various fields of sciences and technology. The Netarhat School, which has Hindi as the medium of education, has proved it beyond any doubt. Its students have got the maximum number of positions in the Board results. Its alumni, from the reports available, have done exceedingly well in various walks of life.

Figure 51: V K R V Rao Statement

NETARHAT: The Formative Years II.2

Start of the Netarhat School

Netarhat was started in 1954, by the first Principle with the help of a team of teachers. It was during the administration of Chief Minister Sri Krishna Singh to open a unique public school in Bihar. Its qualities were that

A. the students entering it on Merit basis, regardless of their parents ability to afford it.

B. It will be on par with any school in the world. It will have the best teachers, best equipment, best facilities, all students will be treated equally irrespective of their cast creed or financial capability.

C. The purpose would be create future Nagariks of high morals and capabilities.

Due to strong support from Sri Krishna Singh and his education minister Acharya Badrinath Verma the planning for school started.



Figure 52: Sri Krishna Singh, Chief Minister



Figure 53: Acharya Badrinath Verma, The Education Minister

Mr Sarjoo Prasad Sinha, the MLA of Bihar had the proposal to construct a school passed by Bihar's Legislative Assembly. Then First

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scheme was prepared by Mr Ali Akbar Kazmi. This scheme was too expensive.

Then the task was given to Mr. F G Pierce. F G Pierce, The dreamer of the School and its first Pradhanji (President) of Netarhat School, Mr Pierce was a well known educationist. He was ex-Principal of Rishi valley school, an ex-Principal of Scindia High School and creator of The Indian Public School Conference. Bihar's Main secretary (Sachiv) and Bihar's Education Secretary, with the help of these great people, Pierce scheme finally came into its acceptance. It was initiated in 1954, with Mr Pierce as the first Principal.



Figure 54: Netarhat's Motto "*Atta Deepo Viharatha*", which means '*you become light to yourself*'



Figure 55: F G Pierce, The dreamer of the School and its first Pradhanji (President) of Netarhat School



Figure 57: L. P. Singh, Chief Secretary



Figure 58: Shri Jagdish Chandra Mathur, Bihar's Education Secretary

The first team was India's best teachers with those the first batch was chosen, 60 top students from a total group of >50,000 students. By the time we started, the third Principal Mr Jeevan Nath Dar (Pradhanji) was at Netarhat. Throughout our residence he was the Principal.

Netarhat's Motto was "Atta Deepo Viharatha", which means 'you become light to yourself'. First three years were common, then we were divided (based on test) in the Science and Mathematics, Biology or Arts and our studies upto higher secondary would be different.

School Fees

These rules were followed.

1. School admission depends on student's merit alone. Even poorest student can get admission.
2. School does not create a feeling of neglect among poorer students. Once admitted every one is treated the same regardless of caste, religion or financial wealth
3. Monthly fee depends on the student's parents income. It is a fact that some students have to pay zero rupee for school fee, including Ashram, education, clothing etc., yet he is treated the same I was the beneficiary of this rule.

Curriculum

The school's studies was in the classroom daily. Every Month the teachers would give a report on student showing his progress in the class. Then a copy was sent to the Ashramadhyaksha and students parents also. The report looked like thus.

Student Name		Year and month							
	Hindi	Eng	Sci	Soc	Math	Geo	Sans	Vastukala	Agri
Prayas									
Progress									
Success									
Nishtha									
Signnature									

The subjects were Hindi, English, Science, Social Studies, Mathematics, Geography, Sanskrit, Vastukala (metal work, woodwork), Agriculture and Music. A few examples of the activities are shown below:

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Figure 59: Some small equipment made in Vastukala



Figure 60 Krishikala



Figure 61 Drama 1



Figure 62 Drama 2



Figure 63 Drama 3



Figure 64 Drama 2004 trip



Figure 65 Drama 2004 trip



Figure 66 Boy playing music

NETARHAT: The Formative Years III

1. Vidyalay Gaan, Mahesh Narayan Saxena

वन्दे! वन्दे हे सुन्दर मम सखा नेतरहाट सदा,
वन्दे हे सुन्दर मम सखा नेतरहाट।

धन्य महाप्रांगण यह विंध्य प्रकृति क्रीड़ा का;
वन मे वनपशुओं का विचरण स्वच्छन्द यहाँ;
विहगों से कंठ मिला गाते नवगान सदा,
वन्दे! वन्दे हे सुन्दर मम सखा नेतरहाट सदा।

उषा के साथ जगें, प्रतिदिन मंगलमय हो;
कार्य पूर्ण प्रतिपल हो, ज्ञान वृद्धि जनहित हो;
अंतरतर का मधुमय गाये संगीत सदा,
वन्दे! वन्दे हे सुन्दर मम सखा नेतरहाट सदा।

साधक हैं समता के, सत्य न्याय करुणा के
हिन्द प्रेम संबल है, विश्व प्रेम साध्य बना
जन जन में ज्योति जगे, सत चित्त आनंद सदा
वन्दे! वन्दे हे सुन्दर मम सखा नेतरहाट सदा।

2. Adhyatmik Milan, stanzas 1, 3, 4.

रागिनी हूँ मैं तुम्हारे कंठ की
(आध्यात्मिक मिलन)

- महेश नारायण सक्सेना *

(1)

रागिनी हूँ मैं तुम्हारे कंठ की,
गूँजती झंकार बन जो विश्व में,
कल्पना हूँ मैं तुम्हारे स्वप्न की,
हो रही साकार सारी सृष्टि में,

भोर की लाली तुम्हारी मैं बनूँ,
रात के गहरे तिमिर की चेतना;
सूर्य की हूँ चिलचिलाती धूप तो,
चाँद की मैं चमचमाती ज्योत्सना।

Figure 67: Adhyatmik Milan Gaan written and tuned by Srimanji Mahesh Narayan Saxena

(3)

खोजती फिरती बयार बसंत की,
प्यार प्रिय का प्रकृति के श्रृंगार में,
मुखर होते ये मन्दिर स्वर कौन से,
प्रणय पीड़ित भ्रमर के गुंजार में,
साज कर अभिसार आज वसुन्धरा,
हार अम्बर के गले में डालती,
भाव के वह टिमटिमाते दीप ले,
मौन प्रियतम की उतारे आरती ।।

(4)

सोचती हूँ मैं तुम्हें खोजूँ कहाँ,
सिंधु तल में या गगन के गर्भ में,
वन विजन हिम श्रृंग के एकान्त में,
कर्म झंझा क्रान्ति के सन्दर्भ में,
बेबसों की आह में खोजूँ तुम्हें,
या शहीदों की चिता की आग में,
क्या अभागिन के रुदन के राग में,
या सुहागिन की सिन्दूरी माँग में।

Figure 68: Swagat Gaan and Kawayad Geet both written and tuned by Srimanji Mahesha Narayan Saxena.

स्वागत गान

आओ हे नव बन्धु हमारे,
हम सब मिलकर, स्वागत करते आज तुम्हारा।
मन मन्दिर को आज सजाकर,
भावों के मधु दीप जलाकर,
प्राणों के स्पन्दन से निर्मित,
मधु स्वर लय से, गाते आरति गान तुम्हारा।
तन मन में उत्साह जगा नव,

जन जीवन ने गति पाई नव,
हुए तुम्हें पा धनी धन्य हम,
शक्ति नई ले, गाते मंगल गान तुम्हारा
आओ प्रिय पग मिला बढ़ें हम,
नव युग का निर्माण करें हम,
कोटि स्वर्ग धरती पर लायें,
'शिव' जिससे अब, हो यह जीवन सा

कवायद गीत

(आधार : सा; ताल : दादरा)
ओ धरा तू सँभल, हो दिशाओं सजग;
सावधान आसमाँ सावधान!
आज वीर बालकों का लौह काफिला चला,
मानो काल खुदगरज दुश्मनों का चला;
साथ हैं ये कदम, एक हैं भी ये दिल,
ये शहीदों से लेकर दुआयें चला;
मर मिटेंगे वतन पर ये शोरे बब्बर,
हों, ये प्रलय का है तूफ़ाँ, सावधान!
सो चुके हो सूर्य चाँद अब न सो सकोगे तुम,
चल पड़ो मिला कदम अब हमारे साथ तुम;

प्यार चाहता जहाँ, न्याय चाहता जहाँ,
फौज पाप की जला के स्वर्ग लायेंगे यहाँ
इन्कलाब जिन्दाबाद ये है नारा हिन्द
हाँ, बढ़ रहा है कारवाँ, सावधान!
अब न रुक सकेंगे बस बढ़े चलेंगे ह
आँधियों को भी हजम करे चलेंगे हम;
रोड़े राह के गलेंगे देखकर हमें,
माँ की आन में हमारी शान है सदा;
वन्दे मातरम्, वन्दे मातरम्।
वन्दे मातरम् ये है गाना हिन्द का,
हाँ, गा रहा है आसमाँ, सावधान!

Storeroom

Storeroom where Daily clothing, studies material pen, pencil, copies, books etc would be assigned, the first day we were provided Shirts, Half pants, underwear, Ganji, bathroom towels, socks, Shoes. Then we were provided copies for each subject, pens, Text books for courses.

Outings

Outings included magnolia pt, sunrise, rest houses, various springs water falls, and Hundru. A special trip to falls, where once a classmate died;

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Another where I learned the word Pullao. The most prominent places in Netarhat were Sunrise point and Sunset Point. Sunrise was seen from the Chalet (principle's residence) or Palamau Dak Bunglow and Sunset we had to walk 2-3 miles to Magnolia point, which was named after the daughter of earlier British Governor.



Figure 69: Sunset at Magnolia point

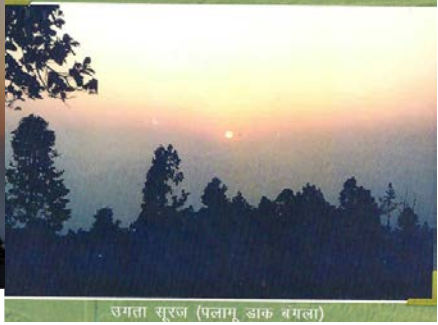


Figure 70: Sunrise as seen at Palamau Dak Bunglow

Besides these there were several beautiful waterfalls near our schools, where we would go as a group with some Shrimanjis with us. The most prominent being Lower Ghaghri and Upper Ghaghri. They were both less than 5KM from school. We would go marching to them in a group. Sometimes we would have a picnic there



Figure 71: Lower Ghaghary Falls



Figure 72: Upper Ghaghary Falls



Figure 73: Lodh Falls (boorah ghagh falls, 143 meters high)

There was also a big, probably the tallest, fall nearby. It was close to 60KM the school. Once in a while (actually twice in five years while we were there). There we went twice in the school bus as a year or from the ashram set, for picnic. Its name was Boorha Ghagh or Lodh Falls.

Sports Competition

School had Football, Hockey, Volleyball and Athletics programmes at everyday at 4:15 PM at the school's fields for every student Schools had a total of 8 or 9 fields, one of them being a big one named 'THE OVAL'. Each student participated in every sport. The teams were fixed and daily basis a student would play its assigned sport with the supervision of one shrimanji. Every day teams would play each other, with scores in the direct supervision. With these daily tournaments, there were interset tournaments in the sports during the weekends. Each tournament would last about 3 months and record for each tournament were kept and at the end of each tournament a trophy would be given to 1st and 2nd teams. These tournaments were completed in Football, Hockey, Volleyball and Athletics.

Besides these tournaments, the Stockroom also kept equipment for Cricket, Badminton and Basketball. Any students, during his/her off time on weekends could get the kits issued in his name and could enjoy these games also.



Figure 74: Giving trophy to inter year sports winner during 2004

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Culture functions

Every month we will have a central cultural function, on stage in kashthahkala building. These programs would include Dramas, Poetry, Songs, Qawwali, etc. These would be well rehearsed, supervised by some members of our faculty. The scenes would be created on the stage...like fire, or lighting effects. One drama presented by me was "Hindi, Anglabhasha and Sanskrita Bhasha shikshyakamwartalap", a play in Sanskrit, in which I played the Hindi Teacher and My classmate Badri Nath Pande was English Teacher, and another classmate Swargiya Inder Nath Jha played a Sanskrit teacher. Besides these I may have participated in some English plays and some Hindi plays too. I also remember one Kavi Darbar, which was led by Swargiya Shrimanji Shiv Dutta Pandeyji who led a group of our enthusiastic teachers to participate. Similarly, there was a Maithily drama created by Famous Mathily writer, which our workers association (the group including all the clerks, cooks, dhobis etc) prepared for us and presented. It was 'Loha Singh' written by Rameshwar Singh Kashyap.

Apart from this every house would typically had a cultural function, typically once a week. These functions were more informal. After dinner one day, all the students will get together with the Ashmramadhyaksha and have a session, where kids would perform, without any preparations, whatever came to their minds

Morning Exercise



Figure 75: Morning Exercise

Several teachers would lead us, in the open. It was very very cold, and sometime some kids would come with frostbite. It was part of a daily routine.

Chikitshalay (pharmacy)

Netarhat School Pharmacy

Swargiya Srimati Monica Tiroo was our first Registered Nurse. When the students would have anything, they would go to her. She would do whatever was necessary. We all felt like our mom at home was taking care of us. This is beautifully discharged her work and made students comfortable. I completely agree with the article written by Sri Ramnath Singh of 1st batch

Once I was in 3rd year, I had a nail penetrate my foot and Mrs Tiru got very involved. She made a cotton 'salai' and put in inside my foot. The procedure was very painful, and each day the new 'salai' would need to be put in so the wound not get Septic. It was very painful, but Mrs Tiru worked it and consoled me daily. I was hospitalized for four days in the hospital bed (a room in the Chalet at that time), but got cured.



Figure 76: Chikitsalay

श्रीमती मोनिका तिड्डु-एक याद



रामनाथ सिंह

लगभग चार दशक पूर्व, नवम्बर १९५४ की याद बरबस ताजी हो जाती है—श्रीमती मोनिका तिड्डु का जब जिक्र आता है। नेतरहाट विद्यालय उस समय मूल रूप से शैले में ही केन्द्रित था। आरंभ के कुछ महीनों में कक्षाएँ भी शैले के निचले कमरों में हुआ करती थीं! कालान्तर में कक्षाओं के स्थानान्तरित होने के बाद, शैले के निचले हिस्से को अस्पताल में बदल दिया गया और वहीं हमारी तीमारदारी और स्वास्थ्य रक्षा के लिए रखी गई—श्रीमती तिड्डु। शुरु में हम लोग उन्हें सिस्टर कहा करते थे परन्तु बाद में हम लोग ने निर्णय लिया कि उन्हें 'बहनजी' कहा जाए।

स्नेह और ममता तो जैसे उनमें कूट-कूट-कर भरी थी! हमारी माताओं के प्यार—में यदि कुछ कमी रह जाती थी, तो 'बहनजी' उसे पूरा करती थी। ऊपर से तो इतनी सख्त थी कि चिकित्सक से अधिक उनका अनुशासन चलता था। और जैसे अस्पताल में समय से दवा पीना दूध और पानी बाली और पथ्यखाना अनिवार्य था। उसे किसी भी हालत में छोड़ नहीं सकते थे। कहती थी, देखो, दवा नहीं पियोगे, तो कैसे ठीक होंगे और फिर तुम्हारी पढ़ाई का भी नुकसान होगा, तुम्हारे माँ-बाप भी चिंतित होंगे। उस समय ऐसी परंपरा थी कि तीन दिनों से अधिक बीमार रहने पर इसकी सूचना हमारे घर भेज दी जाती थी।

मुझे याद है, एक बार मैं बीमार पड़ा। बुखार तो जैसे छूटने का नाम नहीं ले रहा था। तीसरा दिन आ गया था, और मुझे लग गया था कि आज सूचना घर भेज दी जाएगी। रोज की तरह उस दिन भी डॉ० साहब ने "MILK & BARLAY" लिखा था। कोई उपाय नहीं था पीना ही था। श्रीमती तिड्डु मेरे पास आई और बोली बेटे, आज पी लो तो ठीक हो जाओगे। फिर डॉ० डी. के झा देखने आए और "F.D." लिखकर चले गए, मुझे कुछ समझ में नहीं आया। मैंने 'बहन जी' से पूछा भी, परन्तु उन्होंने कुछ बताया नहीं, लेकिन अंदर-अंदर कुछ मुस्करती रहीं। मैं हैरत में था, कि यह कौन सी बला है? राज उस समय खुला, जब आश्रम से मेरे लिए पूरा भोजन आया तब F.D का अर्थ Full Diet बताया गया! बीमारी के उन तीन दिनों में मुझे ऐसा कभी नहीं लगा कि मैं अपनी माँ के पास नहीं हूँ। इतना अपनापन का एहसास उन्हीं के सान्निध्य में मिल सकता था।

श्रीमती तिड्डु को हम बच्चों के प्रति कितना लगाव एवं वात्सल्यमय मय प्यार था, इसका वर्णन करना मुश्किल कार्य है। हम लोगों को रोज शाम को दूध खेल से पूर्व पीना पड़ता था। शुरु के दिनों में पी. टी. से पूर्व भी पीना पड़ता था। जो कालान्तर में अंकुरित चना में परिवर्तित हो गया था। शुरु के दिनों की बात है। कुछ छात्रों ने बहन जी के समक्ष एक प्रस्ताव रखा कि हम लोगों को कम से कम एक सप्ताहांत एक दिन दूध से छुटकारा मिले, और हमें उसकी जगह 'आइसक्रीम मिले' शुरु में प्रशासनिक स्तर पर दिक्कतों के बावजूद वे मान गई और हम लोगों को आइसक्रीम मिलने लगी। उन्हीं की पहल से यह कार्य संपादित हुआ। आज भी उन दिनों की याद करके उनका वात्सल्य भरा प्यार एवं दुलार भुला नहीं पाते।

आज श्रीमती तिड्डु हमारे बीच नहीं हैं। हम उनको नमन करते हैं। हमने उनके सम्मान में उनकी याद को एकस्वरूप प्रदान करने के लिए १९९४ से श्रीमती

Figure 77: Shrimati Monica Tiddu

Antyakhshari

The Antyakhshari program was very popular. It was in Hindi. Students would memorize poems of various writers like Pant, Nirala, Jayshankar prasad, Mahadevi Verma, Dinkar and Harivanshrai Bacchan etc. Only the published poems from these would be acceptable. No tukbandi from

MY LIFE

unknown poets. In Antyakhshari one poem, 'Nacho He Nacho Natwar" by Ramdhari Singh Dinkar sung with all the Mudras by our antyakhshri champion, Sri Vinod Pande, from 1961 batch is very vivid.

Pooja Celebrations

Some religious functions were celebrated. In Diwali, every ashram will do their decoration. As kids we would go and visit other Ashrams for their decorations The functions will be celebrated, for all religions. For instance, Eid will be celebrated with special foods like Sewais would be served from the Ashram mess. Saraswati Pooja was also celebrated.

Pranks

From time to time, we were able to do our pranks. the most popular was an internal discussion with the boys and something will be eaten in excess, like Poories. One of the records was that one student ate 20 poories in one shot. Everyone eating poories in excess will give the cooks a challenge.

One item we would do was in 4th year. Our kashtashala had a baanana tree where bananas were riping. Our teacher would be very protective (Mr Robert William Joel) of the banana tree. So I with another student Sri Nalin Ranjan hatched a plan together. One time in the evening, we planted a note on it, "Sab Dekhate Reh Jayenge, Le Jaunga Ek Din" Next evening we cut that bunch of banana. Needless to say, the expression on Shriman Jee sab's face was something to behold and enjoy. Needless to say ,we were not caught in the act.

English/Hindi

While the education was Hindi based, there was great emphasis on English speaking. We were allowed to speak Hindi, but only in the morning. As soon as 12:01 PM, all the communication converted to English. Anybody, not speaking in English was subject to a fine.

Ranchi Trips

Ranchi trip, for everything we needed that was not available at Netarhat like my Eyeglasses we will periodically go in a bus to Ranchi , Vinod

SHEO KHETAN

Ashram horel with one of our Shrimanji. During these trips we would go to local Firayalal stores, Shrimanji would take us to the Firayalal shop. (A department Store) We were surprised at the massive size of it, and it sold everything, Sometimes we would go Madras Coffee house where we ate dosa for the first time In Vinod Ashram we were treated to its famous 'Bhujia' or Aloo Bhaji,

In spare time; we would also be taken to Ranchi's famous falls, Hundru and Jonha falls



Figure 78: Jobna's falls



Figure 79: Hundru falls

I remember going to these falls at least once, even though Ranchi trip was 4-5 times, during our stay (1959-65) for eyeglasses.

Food

Food was cooked in the Ashram set messes only. One of the Ashram Mata would be in-charge of it. Daily Buses from Ranchi would bring the food. The food list would be like this Morning pre physical training Kala Chana (soaked and Sprouted, with good or jaggery) morning breakfast toast, gehun (wheat) daliya in warm milk and some (15-20) Cashewnuts, eggs for all who ate, that . Lunch was Rice, Roti, Daal, 1 sukhie subzi, 1 geelie subzie . Evening will be Milk and Fruits. Nights will be Rice, Subzie, Daal, 1 Sukhi subzie, a Geele subzie and some time Kheer On some special days(diwali holi etc.) we will get a feast of Poories and sweets also. On Bakrid we would be treated to Saivaian. It was a necessity that we were required to eat all the food, otherwise we were accountable to not only the Ashramadhyaksha but Pradhanji. One vegetable that I could not eat was KARAMKALLAH. For

MY LIFE

that I had to tolerate Pradhani's chiding also. It appeared to me that Karamkallah was made almost 2-3 times a week. It was probably made to check on us. We called it "BOCA'.

ACC/NCC

We had regular ACC and NCC on the weekends. Not being very athletic minded I remained in the ACC all 5 years.

Dress

We had different dress for each task. Khaki pants/yellow shirt, for PT/games, Full Pants, with belt, shocks, blue sweater, Winter Bund gala coats + pants for studies.

Miscellaneous

Netarhat had a provision shop, which carried TOFFEE our favorite candy. At the beginning of the year, my father would deposit Rupees 10 with my housemaster. The housemaster would sign the slip, and we could get TOFFY (1 Chattak) issued it to us. The money was with housemaster. His signing of my request was dependent on how was I doing in academic work and my being a disciplined resident in his house.

There was a Canteen shop of the campus. It would make sweets like Kashmiri Khaja, and Lavang Lata, which I had never heard before. Bur these were good and I had several occasion of tasting them there.

Of course how can we forget the Pradhanji's niwas at Chalet. It was historically made for the Government of Bihar and in summer the whole Government moved to Ranchi, the governor would stay here



Figure 80: Pradhanji House



Figure 81: Chalet Visitors

In the background of Chalet there was a tennis court, where several of Shrimanjis used to play Lawn Tennis. Behind the tennis court was Chalet's garden, where us students would come and 'steal Amroods (guavas)'

Some time we would walk to the place, where the prime resident of Netarhat plateau (adivasi; munda or oraon) use to live. There, they would sell us some Bhoonja or some hand made sweets for a paisa or two paisa.

Examinations

For six years we had examinations every year, I was always second in my class. Always behind Badri (Nath Pande). After third year we had one specialty to choose, Science with Mathematics, Biology or liberal arts. The top students will generally choose Science. Both Badri and I chose Science. Once Pradhanji called me to his Chalet House and told me to do better. He said he was sure, I could beat Badri. In final Higher Secondary Exam. It was conducted through the Government of Bihar, I scored, as well as Inder Narain Jha beat Badri Nath Pande. The result of Bihar Higher Secondary Examination is attached here

H. S. Examination

Merit List

PATNA, June 11:

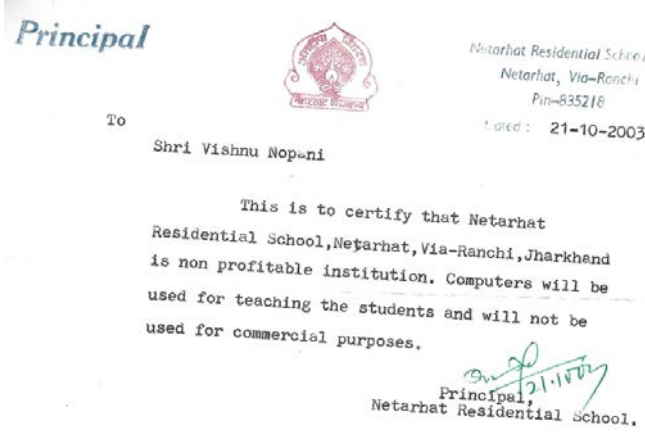
The following is the Merit List of the First class candidates passing the last H.S. Examination who have been provisionally selected for award under the National Scholarship Scheme. The figures in brackets indicate the aggregate marks secured.

1. Arun Kumar Mukherjee (741),— H.S. School, Giridih (Hazaribah);
2. Sheo Kumar Khetan (728), — Residential School Netarhat (Palamau);
3. Indra Narayan Jha (719) — Residential School Netarhat (Palamau);
4. Badari Nath Pandey (717),—Residential School Netarhat (Palamau);
5. Prabhat Kumar Bhatta Mishra (714),— Mrs K.M.P.M. School, Jamshedpur (S.B);
6. Kashi

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By the way, the student who scored 1st position went to IIT Kharagpur, and I went to IIT Kanpur. We both came to State University of New York at Stony Brook for higher studies. That student, Arun Kumar Mukhrji was expelled in the first year for cheating in an examination!!

Trip to Netarhat's Golden Jubilee, Donatation of 100 computers



Sheo Khetan in Netarhat for Golden Jubilee celebration and Donatation of 100 computers to School in 2004 published in Prabhat Khabar of 16th

November 2004. Wife Nirmala, Sheo Khetan and sister Smt Shanti Devi Boobna.



नेतरहाट विद्यालय का गोल्डेन जुबिली समारोह आज तैयारी अंतिम चरण में, सक्रिय है प्रशासनिक महकमा

सुनील कुमार नेतरहाट (लातेहार), 14 नवंबर: श्रद्धा प्रसिद्ध नेतरहाट आवासीय विद्यालय के स्थापना की 50वीं वर्षगांठ आयोजित गोल्डेन जुबिली समारोह तैयारी यहां अंतिम दौर में है। समारोह की तैयारी को अंतिम रूप देने लिए पलामू के प्रमंडलीय आयुक्त खंडेलवाल, लातेहार के उपायुक्त लक्ष्मण सोन, पुलिस अधीक्षक विदर सिंह भाटिया, अनुमंडल अधिकारी संग्राम बंसरा समेत कारियों का दल आज दोपहर यहां I. समारोह का उदघाटन राज्य के मंत्री अर्जुन मुंडा करेंगे। विद्यालय ल मेदान में हेलीपैड का निर्माण गया है एवं उसके पास ही

20 आश्रमों में नोबा सदस्यों व अतिथियों के भोजन व आवासन की व्यवस्था क्री गयी है। वहीं अमेरिका, इंग्लैंड, जापान समेत कई देशों से आनेवाले नोबा के सदस्यों एवं अतिथियों को प्रभात विहार होटल में ठहरने की व्यवस्था की गयी है। नेतरहाट के छात्र रह चुके सीबीआई के पूर्व निदेशक तथा ओएनजीसी के वर्तमान सुरक्षा सलाहकार विनाथ मिश्रा यहां आ चुके हैं। उन्हें पलामू बंगला में ठहराया गया है। नोबा के पदाधिकारी कैदरनाथ लाल, विद्यालय की पूर्व मेडिकल आफिसर डा मंजू समेत कई नोबा पदाधिकारी यहां समारोह की तैयारी में जुटे हुए हैं। अमेरिका से आनेवाले

बीएस उपाध्यय तथा आरके प्रसाद, (1959-65) के शिवकुमार खेतान, 1966-72 सत्र के डा दिनेश रंजन, 1962-68 सत्र के पारस कुमार चौधरी, 1964-70 के रमेशचंद्र मिश्रा, पीसी झा व वीसी राय, 61-67 सत्र के रामचरित शर्मा, (1961-64) सत्र के डा बीके वर्मा, (1960-66) के मेहरदेव शर्मा, आइएएस अधिकारी विजय प्रकाश, (1977-83) के रामजे कुमार, (1980-86) के संजय भारती, (1954-60) के डा शशिरंजन, (1970-76) के डा ब्रजेंद्र मिश्रा, (1970-73) के एसएन चौबे व डा प्रभात रंजन भी यहां आ चुके हैं।

प्राचार्य का प्रतिवेदन, राज्यपाल फ वितरण, विद्यालय की पत्रिका सृज का विमोचन, अतिथियों का आशीर्वाचन, विद्यालय परिसर आयोजित प्रदर्शनी का अवलोकन पुरस्कार वितरण विशिष्ट अतिथि द्वारा पुरस्कार प्राप्त करनेवाले : केशव झा चलचसक, पंचम वर्ष के सर्वोत्तम छात्र को (साहित्यिक क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता के लिए), राजीव चतुर्थ वर्ष के सर्वोत्तम छात्र को आकाश समृद्धि पदक (साहित्यिक क्षेत्र में उत्कृष्टता के लिए); स्व अभिनय स्मृति पदक पंचम वर्ष के सर्वोत्तम छात्र को, एचके स्थानापदक चतुर्थ वर्ष के

Prabhat Khabar 15th November 2004

Vacations

Twice a year vacations

Babooji took us from Mahendru Ghat. Rainy days June 18 to August, Winter vacation Dec 20-Jan 22 We were divided by what our destination was. My group was Barkakana group, where we would go as a group in a

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bus. There we would catch a train and go to Patna. In Patna babooji will pick us up, and would bring us to Mahendru ghat(at that time there was no 'Bridge' made to go over river Ganges. We would cross the river by steamboat to come to Pahleza ghat. There we will get train to Muzaffarpur. From Muzaffarpur we will get a Bus to Sitamarhi. Then our days of vacation would be spent with Sitamarhi friend. The description of these will be later.

NETARHAT: The Formative Years IV

Vacation

We had twice a year vacations Rainy days June 18 to August, Winter vacation Dec 20-Jan 22. We were divided by what our destination was. My group was Barkakana group, where we would go as a group in a bus. There we would catch a train and go to Patna. In Patna babooji will pick us up, and would bring us to Mahendru ghat(at that time there was no 'Bridge' made to go over river ganges). We would cross the river by steamboat to come to Pahleza ghat. There we will get train to Muzaffarpur. From Muzaffarpur we will get a Bus to Sitamarhi. Then our days of vacation would be spent with Sitamarhi friends

1960 Summer Vacation

In 1960, June 18-August3, my first vacation trip started. I was so happy to see all my friends, Ramnath Gopal, Bhowsinkaji, Kailash and Prahald. We continued our games at Para Bazar, like football, Badminton, Atto Pattoo, Gilli danda, Bak Dilloh (which we played in old dilapidated buildings only) We were also involved in a new game of falling off of ' Cigarette's wrapper's covers with filled dirt' Our Netarhat routine which Raghunath Bhaiyya had already described to our friends was enough. One thing I was especially asked for my being upset at Netarhat, for which Babooji had to rush off to Netarhat. I explained, that that was nothing due to Netarhat. The leaving of such loyal friends and all the fun games, we were having was the reason for my being upset. At home one thing I noticed was Bhaiyyaji was no longer there. Sri B L Agrawal had already cleared his matriculation examination (with First Division) and set off to Sri Narainjee Shroff's office in Calcutta for further studies and apprenticeship in Sri Narainjee's office In Sitamarhi township we heard the sad demise, due to heart attack, of Sri Keshar deoji Bajoria He used to be known as Sitamarhi's "Jawan Mard" at that time. He used to maintain a woman on side besides his own wife. He was a regular card playing member and played cards with Babooji and Gobind Chachaji

1960 winter vacation

Our vacation (winter time) again started (dec 22-january 22) This year, there was a special pen, "Wing Sung" ---a chinese pen that I found to be totally fascinating. I at my ashram found 7-8 friends, who would be interested in it. I wrote to Kailash a letter to ship 8 pens for me, I will pay back the cost to him later. Kailash was the right candidate for it, as he was rich and also had connections to Janakpur Dham where these pens were sold. Kailash sent them to me and I paid Kailash for it. By now it was a time that we were getting out of para bazar to Ramnath's gali for our games we got together at his gali to play Bakdillo, Satami tali. Kabaddi and other games.

Indian leadership at top continued. Gujerat separated from Maharashtra. Goa, Daman and Diu were annexed from Portugal. Air India flights to US started and Bajaj Auto went public This year was a premier year for Indian Films industry. Barsat Ki Rat (Bharat Bhooshan, Madhubala) was top grosser. The second most liked film was Mughal E Azam (Dileep Kumar, Madhubala) was another movie breaking all kinds of records. Then there was Jis Desh Main Gunga Behti hai (Raj Kapoor, Padmini) and Chaudaween ka Chand (Guru Dutta, Wheeda Rehman) which made the year 1960 memorable

1961 summer vacation

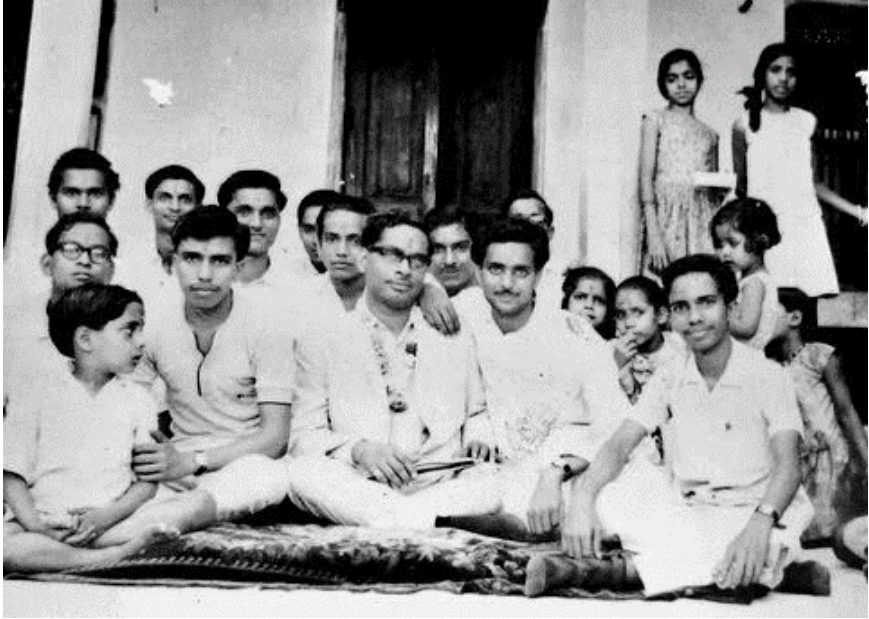


Figure 82: 1967 Summer (My brother Sri B L Agrawala's wedding photo, where my youngest brother born in 1961, is showing, 1st on left)

We came home and found situation to be completely different. Savita Devi and Motibhai were both dead! They had killed themselves in immolation due to the reason--unknown to us. First Savita devi herself came running from inside to the pykhana with kerosene oil and immolated herself. Then Motibhai himself came and let her and wrapped himself around her burning body.

In 1961, on January 10th our home was blessed with a new Child, Gopal. The photograph of his was nor taken at that time. I happened to have his photograph from a 1967 clip, Gopal being 6 years old then, at our elder brother Banwari Lal Agrawal's wedding

1961 winter Vacation

We came after finishing 2 years at Netarhat In Sitamarhi the drama was played by various entities. The Sitaram chowk at that time was the center it.

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A big tent was established for it by the committee's head, Sri Munnilal Arya, who was none other than Sri Laxmi Prasad Sah's mausa. Mr Munnilal Arya himself would act and sing in the dramas. He had a shop there, but was known to be a local poet. He had son Suresh who was with ourselves in the high school. Tandonjee (Purushottam Hisaria) came from Vikas Vidyalay, Ranchi in winter. He had a bad accident. in handling some of his 'fireworks'. Tandonji by accident, was on fire himself. It was a bad accident which required him to be hospitalized for 3-4 months. He recovered, but due to delay decided to not go back the Vikas Vidyalay.

The political leadership at the top continued The first aircraft carrier of Indian Navy, INS Vikrant was commissioned. Domestically Anti Dowery Bill was passed New paragraph

The Indian Film Industries passed two superhit films Gunga Jumna (Dileek Kumar, Vyjayatimala) and Jungle (Shammi Kapoor, Saira Banoo).

1962 Summer vacation

In 1962, Babooji developed severe urine problem and he had to be immediately transferred to Laherisarai Hospital, Darbhanga. Banwari Bhaiyya came from Calcutta overnight and stayed with him until he was released. Then onwards Babooji had to routinely go for Diltation to Hospital.

At 7.05 AM Indian Standard time, a "Doomsday period" (as predicted by Hindu Astrollogers) began. The Hindu astrologers predicted that on Saturday, Sunday, and Monday the earth would face a 'catastrophic event that would be like bathing in the blood of thousands of Kings", because the alignment of six planets. In Britain, Aethanius Society director Keith Robinson spent February 4th awaiting disaster. He had predicted that "75% of the world population will be killed" But Nothing happened We in our home, came out of the home and slept outside in the open grounds next to our 'Gola'.

We would still play in Kachehri gachchi or Ramnath's Gali. Sanwarmal Chamadia's fulwari was next to Pathari (Kacheri gachchi or Pada bazar), where We played 'Atto Patto', 'dol patti' or Kanche in it.

MY LIFE

Our going to Netarhat was through Muzaffarpur. Once in a while, Babooji would take us to Bharat Jalpan for breakfast, which would be first time we had eaten outside our home food. Their Khasta Kachri was out of this world--at that time I thought

1962 Winter Vacation

Jhanbarmal Dhandhanian had largest and most respected gaddi. He was a big Businessman from Calcutta. In 1958, he had an Ambassador car. 2nd was Mahant Janaki Mandir Raghunath Das and third was Rajopatti's Varishtha Adhikai Bachcha Khan He had the best moorti pooja stall in Sitamarhi. In 1962 we started going to his stall in 1962 we went for 'moorti bhasan'. We hired a truck, and 7 or 8 people were in truck, including Tandonjee also, with Moorti in the truck. Those days their used to be competition among all Moortis as to, which one is going to be first one in 'Bhasan'. Another truck crossed our truck for first spot. We were all upset and got involved in driving the other truck out of its way. A tussle broke out, but our "ice man" Bhowsinhkaji got in the middle and had both the Murti men calm down and the tussle was broken. We did not know then, but other truck was hired by the famous anti-marwari gang (rouniyar group) of Sitamarhi and their gang had the Sheo Shankar Prasad urf Ramanand, the top gunda of that time.

In the top leadership team, Nehru stayed, But Rajendra Prasad retired. Instead India's vice-president, Sri Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan continued in the President's role The first sino-Indian war occurred and india was beaten badly. India lost Aksai-Chin to China, Otherwise Chima returned to Mchmohan line. Mr Karan Kapoor, Ram Gopal Verma and Ravi Shastri were born in 1962, while Bidhan Chandra Ray, singer K C Dey, and actor Chabi Biswas died indian film Industry finally becoming free of the triumvirate Dilip, Dev Anand and Raj kapoor and Bis Sal Bad (Biswajit, Waheeda Rehman), and Ek Musfir Ek Hasina (joy Mukherjea, Sadhna) were the top films.

1963 Summer Vacation

Holika Dahan was a ceremony in Sitamarhi, which was celebrated by society's 'chanda' Geegraj Lohia and Rambhagat Sunderka were two

SHEO KHETAN

clothes merchants in the society. They never gave the 'chanda' (contribution) The townfolks started not go to their homes to collect 'chanda'. They had created a limmerick, which was circulated amongst the towns people " Chai garem chai Garem chai Nahin hai, Geegraj Beta Mar gaya parwah nahin hai". Once in front of the Sunderka's shop they would land the "arthis" themselves. In the holitime, we had one trick perfected. In our roof and adjoining roof (our tai's roof) two of us stand with a long rope hanging through. In the middle of the rope. was the third small string with two mini hooks attached. So during the holitime, if any person was walking a third person would attach the hooks downstairs to whatever this person's upper body had...a short 'gamcha' (towel), a cap, etc. By the time the passerby realized what was happening, the two friends on the roof pull the rope and Shouting "Holi Hai"

1963 Winter Vacation

One day we learned that one resident living in Kali Gali, by the name Ramnath Gupta had changed his religion to Islam. We recently learned that his religion was changed as he liked a muslim girl. His new name is Muhammad Abdullah and he buys oil from kailash's depot and sells it to local users

Sometimes we were experimenting with Chemistry stuff. The sole source was a merchant in gudari, that's where we bought Ammonium Nitrate from him, We wanted some flasks and glassware. That we bought from a shop in Patna.

Indian political leadership on top remained unchanged The first President Sri Rajendre Prasad died in Bihar on February 27, 1963.

The first ndian space rocket is launched and ISRO is launched with Viktram Sarabhai Sridevi and Navjot siddhu were born Indian Film Industry launched the two movies Mere Mehboob (Rajendra Kumar, Sadhna) and Taj Mahal (Pradeep Kumar, Beena Roy)

1964 summer vacation

Govardhan Pooja used to be big in Sitamarhi.. All the townspeople would install the stalls in front of Gaushala. All restaurants (Society, the Jalebi and

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Kachori from Sitaram Halwai)would be there. Besides making use of such precious culinary preparation, we would also do some selling and promotions of Kailash's shop of goods. For instance, Eveready batteries was running a promotion campaign and we would run it

Jai Prakash, son of towns richest man Sri Laxminarayan Tauji had a different image. He used to wear fancy clothes and hair upkeep, he would look like a filmy star. He had once shown on a movie camera some x-rated images of some Hollywood stars.

One time in Kailash's fulwari we had all gotten drunk with Thandai and Bhang In one another Picnic, one person had lost a lot of money to Jai Prakash.. Jai Prakash demanded his watch as he did not trust gambling on loan

In 1964, before the higher secondary examination, Kailash, Gopal, Bhowsinkaji and Prahlad decided to stay away from home to concentrate on their studies. They rented a house: Their food would come from home, They stayed there for 3 months and came home after their Higher Secondary examinations 1964 was the year when Raghunath and some other students cleared the Board exam. Raghunath scored I class second, while Gopal and Bhawsihka in first divison. Others also passed the exams.

In May, 1964, Prahalad, unk, Tandonji, Gopal, Kailash visited Netarhat.



Figure 83: Prahalad, unki, Tandonji, Gopal, Kailash Visiting Netarhat in 1964

1964 Winter Vacation

In the final holidays from Netarhat I came to Sitamarhi, and enjoyed the largest of Mela to sell 'oxen (male bullocks)' in India.

Babooji got hurt in going for 'taqaza'. Babooji was in hospital, Yassen compounder at the hospital took good care of him.

This year saw the passing of Sri Jawahar Lal Nehru on May 27 1964. Gulzarilal Nanda was named the Prime Minister, then Lal Bahadur Shastri was elected as the Prime minister. Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan continued as the President

Vishwa Hindu Parishad started, National film Archive in Pune was started

MY LIFE

Farid Zacharia was born . Raj Kumari Amrit Kaur and Gurudutt expired

Sangam(Raj Kapoor, Vyjayantimala) and Ayee Mila Ki Bela (Rajendra Kumar and Saira Banoo) were the best pictures of the 1964.

PART C: IIT, KANPUR

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I I T Kanpur Part I

I went to IIT Kanpur after high school at Netarhat for engineering studies in September of 1965 I had no idea what was in IITK engineering. At that time we had no television or regular newspapers would hardly cover IITK studies. There were no cell phones or internet either, which would give us the information. I had two benchmarks. First was my older brother Raghunath Khetan, who one year prior to me had qualified the entrance examination. joined the Mechanical Engineering at Indian Institute of Technology, Kanpur. Second, I understood that after doing B Tech from IITK, It would be easy to get a job in the industry.

So in 1965 January (or there about), I went for a joint entrance examination for IIT admission. After clearing the examination and scoring good marks, such that my expense at IIT was covered by getting Merit-cum-Means scholarship. My eldest brother who at time was working in an office (actually in my uncle's firm, Interstate Transport Agency, Calcutta) would cover the rest, coming from his salary. 100 Rs/month for me and 100 Rs/month for Raghunath bhaiyya from a meagerly salary of 500 Rs/month.

After passing the examination, we were called for an interview to Kharagpur, where the lead IIT existed. My brother Sri Banwari Lal Agrawala came with me for the interview. For IIT interview, we got another candidate in the compartment. He was Braj Mohan Agrawala, and his Bhaji. We talked in the train, and right then decided that we will be roommates if we both got into IIT Kanpur

In our compartment, some IIT Kharagpur students also got on. As soon as they knew, we were new students going for our interviews, they immediately jumped in their senior mentality, and got to ragging us. The fact that our elder brothers were with us, it did not make any difference. One of them dropped a coin on the train floor and had Braj carry it with his nose from one end of the compartment to the other

At the interview, I was the first day candidate, based on my marks in the examination. I do not exactly recall, but on the first day, there were about

MY LIFE

74 candidates. We had to choose our place (there were five IITS (Kharagpur, Kanpur, Delhi, Bombay and Madras and We also had to choose the Department), which I had no idea, but Mechanical at Kanpur was my choice. In fact the form had 3 choices, I had the Mechanical on all three places. In the interview, the interviewer was amused to see all three choices the same. My reason was simple that the food at the Kharagpur was a Bengali type, whereas the Kanpur food (as reported by Raghunath Khetan) was much more like Sitamarhi. Mechanical was my choice since that was the top department and 70 out of 74 chose that department. For Kanpur The other secret reason that I knew in my heart was that having my brother already there, I would probably get off by Ragging, if I went there.

Any way my interview was done and a few weeks later, I got a letter giving me Mechanical in Kanpur, and was asked to join sometime in August In August 1965, I had to join IITK. My brother Sri Banwari Lal Agrawala accompanied me to IITK. The journey was, we went from Sitamarhi to Muzaffarpur by bus, the Bus being an old piece of equipment, its smoke from exhaust would come in the bus directly, causing us to cough throughout, in a 2.5 hours for a 25 mile journey, mainly because the condition of the road. In Muzaffarpur we got a seat in the Kanpur Train. The journey took some 12 hours, we were sleeping in the tier III, which had a sleeping coach. The train reached Kanpur and we got off the train and at the Station, we got on an auto-rickshaw to take us to IITK, which was about 10-15 miles from station.

At IITK, Raghunath Bhaiyya received us. We were assigned to Hall 3. I had a double room 1 where I had a roommate. I had chosen Braj Agrawala as my roommate, whom I had met during the interview. Braj was a nice and considerate man. He came from a rich family. I was a totally poor person, with very limited resources. Braj never minded my poverty and always used to treat me to the local eateries. I had a very special relation with him. He was my first friend at IITK, which lasted till today in USA.

Braj was very studious. But he never saw me in the room studying. He was always envious, how I always got good grades despite not studying I do not remember the details, but we got the keys to the room assigned. At the same time our house warden was assigned to us. His name was Baba Karunesh (Bannerjee). His role was similar to an ashramadhyaksha in

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Netarhat. We got into dormitory #3. From what I remember there were 5 dormitories, including one for students of Post Graduates (hall 4) We settled down in our double bed in room. We had 2 tables and chairs, 2 closets for keeping our clothes etc. The next to our room were Manhar Lal Shah (now



Figure 1: Braj Mohan Agrawal



Figure 2: Braj during my marriage Reception 76

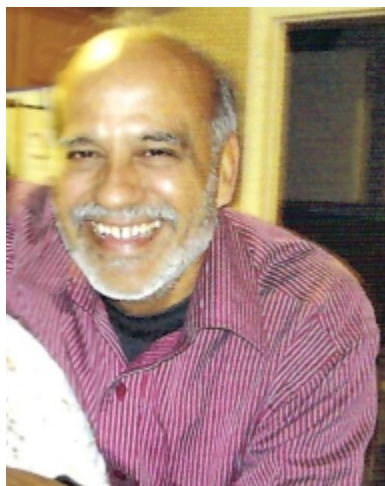
Diwangat) and Ashok Kumar Shah. The other side one of the students was Jayant Gadre, who left IITK after two years, other name I do not know now. Before the second day's work started, we had to go through the "Ragging". It was a leftover technique from the British days, which after 20 years of Independence the country had not gotten rid of. Basically it was a way of Old gang (senior students) to learn about new group coming in the school. Senior guys would get together, gang up on the younger kids and in the name of "getting to know them better", and would cause them to all kind of torture. This would include verbal abuse, get the younger ones to perform all kind of tasks....some very tough and senseless. The extreme treatment some kids could not tolerate and run away from School. One student committed suicide and one senior was thrown out of school, because of it. Anyway my ragging was less severe, partly because my older brother already was in the school. Some of my classmates after one week, ragged the new post graduates (PG). These were unassuming student from south India who we called MENDHAKS(this word stuck because most of them would just stay in their rooms, heads buried in books) One student of our batch Mr. Natrajan ragged a PG student. As it happened the PG student

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was Natrajan's teacher (tutor for chemistry classes)



*Figure 3: Manhar Lal Shah
(Divangat)*



Ashok Kumar Shah

At set time we went downstairs, to the cafeteria. The cafeteria was a long room It had the cooking food side (hidden from the view) and long tables and chairs for students. The seating arrangement was open. It would take at least 2 turns to seat all the students. By set time the waiters will serve us round thalis and glasses and cups. Then the waiters will bring us the cooked food and serve us the food. They had rice, roti and 2 subzis, 1 dal etc. and feed us nicely. One thing I noticed, that they were too quick to take away your plates, if you were not there or your plates were empty. At this time you were to ask for new plates.

Soon we realized that the cafeteria arrangement was in the hands of Student in-charge. the student in charge (or prefects), were chosen by the students. I remember the first prefect's selection, which was Satish Bhalerao. The student prefects (there were four or 5 such elected prefects) collectively saw the buying all provisions, set every day's menu The menu was alright, like home, we did not miss anything. Sometimes Rajmah would be on the menu, it was new thing for us, but gradually we got used to it.

MY LIFE

Our favorite food would be Chole and Bhatoore. Sometime during special days like Diwali, they would offer special food, including mithai, kheer etc and which we liked very much. Eating Bhatoore, as well as Rajmah, we learnt for the first time.,

In eating habits Raghunath Bhaiyya was very selective. He only ate potatoes, and some how convinced the mess waiters to make special potatoes for him. They were made especially for him, at a particular time. Since some of our friends took note of it and started (e.g. Harendra Dev Sharna), following him in the time.

We were very much aware of the fact that IITK was a clearly two different type of students. One would be those that came from Senior Cambridge, studied in convents, spoke English very well and were advanced in getting anything done. Second group was people like me, who did not come from privileged backgrounds. We came from small towns, were dehati type and managed our money in very miserly manner. The two were roughly 50 -50. So our friends used to be those that were from our type of upbringing.

All the students, got an initial test in English and's how the students were ranked and put in different sections, 25 a section, 12 sections (300 total). Those in A1 were all the top scores from exams, while C4 section was for the students with lowest scores in English. I, coming from the background scored relatively well in the test. I was put in the section B1 which was a rather on the high scoring people. We had in our section Sr Cambridge people. My English was pretty solid, but I was not that good in verbal English.

So our education started. It was a semester system, where every year consisted of two semesters. First semester would be from August 1 to December15 and second semester started January 1 to May 15. There were 2 vacation periods of 2.5 months and 15 days Between June/July and December every year, where we could go to our home, Sitamarhi for vacations. Our Sitamarhi friends did watch calendar dates, and as soon as our vacations started, they would come to our homes for playing, They were Kailash Gopal(sometimes), Ramnath, Bhowsinkaji, Tandonji (Purushottam) and Prahalad

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So the first semester started in August.. We were with our B1 class. Some of the classmates were Vinay Aditya, Nigam, Aneja.....I remember them, due to one teacher took attendance every day, and he would go "Nigam, Aneja, etc" in his unique way. Our courses were taught for 5 years, First 3 years were general, essential for everyone and last 2 years were Mechanical Engineering specific courses. In the first semester, I had 5 courses, English, Chemistry, Physics, Mathematics and Engineering Graphics. The first semester, I as a new Engineering student, wanted to do well. I had a 4 A's and 1 B as my grade. The English I received a B, which was a smart accomplishment for me as 60% of students in my class were from Senior Cambridge students. The English teacher was a female and our special course book was "Down and Out in London and Paris" by the famous English Author George Orwell, who was incidentally born in India. It was showing the poor and desperate people in cities like London and Paris. The second book was "Moon and Six Pence' by the famous English (born in France) author Somerset Maugham... a biographical account of Paul Gaugain--the famous Painter. In Chemistry, Physics and Mathematics, I do not recall my professors. In Engineering Graphics, our teacher was Mr B L Dhoopar, who was a strict follower of Rashtriya Swayamsewak gang. He most likely went to jail for his political beliefs.

During first year I became friendly with Ashok Kumar Kulshrestha, Krishna Chandra Misra, Prem Kishan Gupta, Ramesh Rastogi, Vinay Aditya, Mukesh Tayal and Harendra Dev Sharma. A K Kulshreshtha, whom we heard the stories of his teaching the younger students. After a few years in HAL he finally came to USA, Did his MBA from Carnegie Mellon and is today a Professor at a University in MI. He had a good knowledge of Indian movies and songs We used to call him Kullu then.

MY LIFE



*Figure 5: Asbok
Kulbreshtha visiting
my home during
Christmas*

On just a jovial thing, we decided to have a 'Chapati Eating Contest'. After a while we all gave up and only Kullu and BM (Braj) were left in it. Finally, at the end Kullu was the winner, as he ate 1/2 more chapati (29.5) than Braj. We declared him the champion and gave the title of "CHAPATY BHOOSHAN".

Braj was the star Goalkeeper of our school team. Kullu was belittling his role as a goalkeeper, and said that he could keep the goal better than Braj. In the dormitory itself Braj fetched the football high for Kullu to defend. In order to defend, Kullu jumped and dove right into the bed's rods. Harendra Dev Sharma was a poor student. Yet he tried to impress us all with the knowledge of Indian Films, but was never successful. His presence brought a sense of "khushhali" amongst us. He was a student who took 6 or 7 years, and no trace of him was found Krishna Chandra Misra was from Gorakhpur. He had little knowledge of anything but acted as an elder person, who knew everything. His typical statements were "I have a fatherly advice for you" and Saigal is the best singer in the "WORLD' and those were thrown on us with thumping fists on chair. Sometimes we listeners would be pitiful for that furniture. I don't know where he is now.

Mukesh Tayal and Prem Krishna Gupta were intelligent and good in studies, While Prem was quite fluent in sports (tennis, Badminton, and all sports) and would share the sports with me, when I came to USA after

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1970, Mukesh Tayal's interest would make him a very good player in Bridge, when I became the IITK indoor Games captain and started the Bridge tournament at IITK. Both came to USA and retired after working lifelong in Exxon (P K Gupta) and Nuclear Energy Field in Canada (Mukesh).



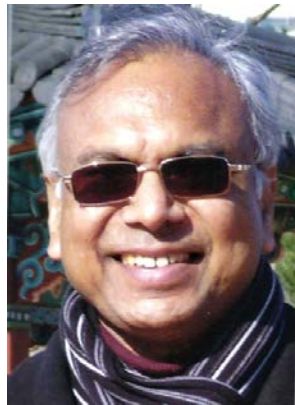
*Figure 6: P.K. Gupta
at IITK*



*Figure 7: P. K. and Jaya in New Jersey,
2019*



*Figure 8: Mukesh
Tayal at IITK*



*Figure 9: Mukesh Tayal
in Toronto, 2019*

MY LIFE

R K Rastogi was a good conversationalist. He lives in Delhi and runs a company well.

This leaves my best and second loyal friend Vinay Aditya. He lost interest in engineering field, graduated after 6 years, did some jobs but pursued his real interest in Palmistry. He developed the interest so much that he taught courses in US on Indian Palmistry. He stayed with me several times. He came to NJ every year to teach the Vedic Palmistry and stayed with me for one day until The Covid phenomenon killed the course.



Figure 10: Vinay Aditya in IITK



Figure 11: Archana and Vinay on his 60th Birthday

So this way living in dormitory, with Braj being my roommate, we completed the First Semester at the IITK with a score of 9.6 as the SPI (semester performance index) as well as CPI (cumulative performance Index) with 4 A's and one B in English. The semester ended and we came home, sometime in December 1965 The 1965 ended on a high note for me.

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End of first semester brought us to Sitamarhi back to our Friends. Kailash, Ranmnath, Purushottam Hisaria, and Prahladji were there, almost all day throughout our 15 days of vacation. During this time we were doing the same things we always did except playing in the streets. We were indoors, playing cards, going to movies, or to sit on the Ramnavmi mela. Gopal had transferred to Sindari and we hardly saw him Bhowsinkajee also was in MIT Muzaffarpur and hardly ever came

Lal Bahadur Shastri was Prime Minister and **Sarvapally** Radhakrishnan was the President, Hindi was declared National Language, but after Nationwide protests, it was withdrawn English remained the National Language and was used to be a language of official communication with the center. Indo-Pak war began in March, UN president calmed both sides. Then Alexi Kosyghin the USSR president invited both India and Pakistan to Moscow and the war stopped. As a result, India started a border security force. In 1965, the three Khans, Shahrukh, Amir and Salman were born, so was Baba Ramdeo. Geeta Bali and Motilal expired.

On film Scene, Waqt (Balraj Shahani, Sunil Dutta, Sadhna and Sharmilla) and Jab Jab Phool Khile (Shashi Kapoor and Nanda) were the highest Grossers in India. Another movie, Guide (Dev Anand and Waheeda Rehman) also was released. We got to see the Waqt and Guide at IITK only. For movies we with a few friends used to take a rickshaw from our dorm to Kanpur city to Imperial Talkies. Going back we would take a tempo The whole expense of this Movie outing was a few Rs. This included the extremely delicious chat at the Imperial Talkies, and milkshake of the vendor, who used to sit at a 'pan' shop and would make us fresh shake. This treatment would be out of this world. Sometime we would hire a taxi, so that cost would go down we would fill the taxi with many people. I remember a taxi in which we were a total of 25 people sitting in one cab.

The IITK 1st year, second semester started in mid-January 1966. This year we were old enough to go to IITK by ourselves---the same routine...trip to Muzaffarpur by the same old, screeching bus which due to improper maintenance throughout bringing the toxic exhaust fumes in the bus, from Muzaffarpur the train to Kanpur, brought night sleeper seats, which we were lucky to get at a discount for being students at IITK, and finally catch a rickshaw to our dormitory. My roommate Mr B M Agrawal was still with

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me. The second semester I took 5 courses, General Chemistry, English, General Physics, Engineering Mathematics, and Introduction to design. The English, our special book was "A train to Pakistan" by the eminent writer Khushwant Singh. The book was a charming love story about two persons each from the two different counties, amid the whole gruesome scenes of India's partition. It was a well written and graphic story. We enjoyed it thoroughly. The second English book was '1984' by George Orwell. It was a satire of soviet union style of totalitarian government, and Germany's Hitler and loss of personal freedom.. The Physics was a course, which was similar to the one I took at Netarhat. Chemistry and Mathematics were ok. The most trouble I had with Engineering Design course. I somehow managed to score an A in Physics, B in Mathematics, Chemistry and English, C in Engg Design. My SPI dropped to 7.7, but my CPI continued to at the value of 8.7

Sports and entertainment like Bridge, Carrom, Playing cards (teen patti) and Volleyball and Gilli danda and Aalok publications. took too much of my time First Bridge game, which we were aware of from Netarhat days itself. Our teachers Sriman Vermaji and Sriman Swarupji used to play it after school hours. We were aware of its existence, were not familiar with its rules. At IIT we learned through some professors and Students that it is a card game of 4 players, with two players being partners. 13 cards were dealt to each player and one player (the dealer) was expected to 'BID'. The player will say the name of the trump i.e. Club, Diamond, Heart, Spade and No trump. 1C is the lowest bid. It means he will make (his side) 6+1 hands if he wins this bidding contest. But that's unlikely since others will contest for points, little slam 300 or 500 depending on Vulnerability; a grand slam 500 or 750 (depending on vulnerability) Little slam means taking 12 tricks and Grand slam means bidding and making all 13 hands. A game means making 100 or more points. Spade or Heart making 4 (10 tricks) scores a game. Diamond and Clubs mean bidding and making 5(11 trick) to make a game. Once you have made a game you become Vulnerable. Basically, these were the rules of game. Others like downs, double, redoubles etc. can make total game a full, challenging and interesting. Anyway, this is basically available in a book written by Eli Richardson or Goren and many others that are published and are available for readers. My brother and I learnt and started Bridge in 1965-66 second semester. In IITK there was a Bridge Club and

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we were committed players. Others were Sangat Tek Singh Johar (my partner) and Sunil Chandra (Raghunath Bhaiyya's) partner. Our familiar faces in this game of bridge were also Prem Gupta and Mukesh Tayal.

Second activity where my time was spent was in Volleyball and Gilli Danda. In Volleyball I joined my year's team. In Gilli Danda, my team won the championship, though it was not much of an achievement, as the participation was barely 8 teams.

In our common room several good quality Carrom Boards were there. In a carrom tournament, Me and my partner, Mr P K Gupta were totally transparent. If you cannot take your coins, you can get the opponent's coin directly in his underhand corner. We used this technique successfully in our early matches and won them, such that we reached semifinals. The other teams were my brother Sri Raghunath Khetan and his partner, who came in the finals. Our opponents in Semifinals were Kitcha Ganpathy (a PG student, or a Mendhak as we called him, since most of the PG students were always studying like a frog) and his partner Khan. Kitcha did not put our coins directly in our underhand locations. But he had a personal 'striker' so big that most of our coins would be placed behind us. It was to be noted that his striker was allowed in the game and our directly putting opponent's coins (though it was considered unsportsmanlike) was also legal. We played quite well, but lost to them. Then the finals were between two teams, which were both professional. But Kitcha's monstrous striker was the difference, and my brother, despite being the best player, lost the match in an exciting fashion. We would play carrom every day.

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Figure 12: Kicha as he looked soon after IITK



Figure 13: Kicha's striker



Figure 14: Kicha in 2022

Teen Patti (a card game like poker) I learned in the school dorm itself. Since I did not have enough money, so I played it sometimes only And the last activity was AALOK. At that time an English periodical named, THE SPARK which was started by our seniors a couple of years ago had acquired quite a reputation...it was run by high earners of our class, the English gang. As a counter to it, AALOK was started in Hindi, by some Hindi enthusiasts I and Vinay Aditya became interested and became part of the committee. Second semester, specially during Examination times our electricity would go off. The kids were in their rooms, studying hard with their books, but with no electricity and no fans. So all kids would come out and there was spontaneous barrage of all 'Galis'. This was an item to behold. It was like a 'Galiyon ki bauchar' from one corner of the hostel to the other corner.

There was a cafeteria that was run by students only. Once in a while, they would order from "Chung Fa", a favourite Chinese restaurant.

From IIT we would go out to city and eat Kanpur's favorite ice cream, "Badnam Kulfie"

Once I fell in the local bathroom due to lack of sleep and P K Gupta took care of me

This continued, but 3 month of this preoccupation had a pretty negative

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effect on my academics. My grades suffered and the semester CPI dropped to 7.7. This is how my first year ended.

After 1966 summer break (Ju)y) we came home to the waiting friends with a new technique on hand, how to play Bridge. As Ramnath, Kailash, Prahaldji and Tandonjee would come to our home, we started teaching Bridge to them. Initially it was quite difficult to teach Bridge, but soon they became good at playing Bridge. We devoted our entire vacation to playing bridge with them Only Prahald was a bit adventurous, He would make a bid not supported by our convention and he would suffer a penalty

The second year, I had to concentrate on my studies. I took Thermodynamics, Logic, Mathematics, Physics and Manufacturing Process. This year, I had to devote all the time to study, as well as some time to my extracurricular activities First a little talk about my courses. Thermodynamics was taught by Dr M M Oberoi an America returned professor (since IITK was an America Aided Technical Institute, under a KIAP scheme, most of our courses, books and some of the professors were America returned.-IITK was an Institute supported by a cluster of 10 top universities in U.S. like MIT, CALTECH, Univ. of California Berkeley etc, so at least some of our instructors were Americans.) with beautiful American, yet a little bulky wife. We easily got interested in a dry and boring subject like thermodynamics. The Logic was a very interesting subject, both because of its content as well as the instructress, who was pretty young teacher, very well dressed instructor whose name was Karuna Misra. She was the wife of another teacher Professor Misra and they were recently married. Her name before marriage was Karuna Shukla. Amongst us students, She was called MISHRI due to her sweetness. Regardless, because of her teaching style I found the course very interesting and easily scored an A in it. Physics, Mathematics and Manufacturing, I did ok and received a B. Thus I scored a 8.7 on my SPI, while CPI stayed at 8.7 Second semester I made more friends, Virendra Kumar, Vipin Kumar, Anil Ohri, Anoop Swarup, Upendra Rohatgi and Dhaval Balkrishna Moghe.



*Figure 15: Anoop Swarup
IITK*



*Figure 16: Sheo, Dhaval Moghe, Vipin
Kumar, Virendra Kumar visiting me in
Stonybrook 1971*

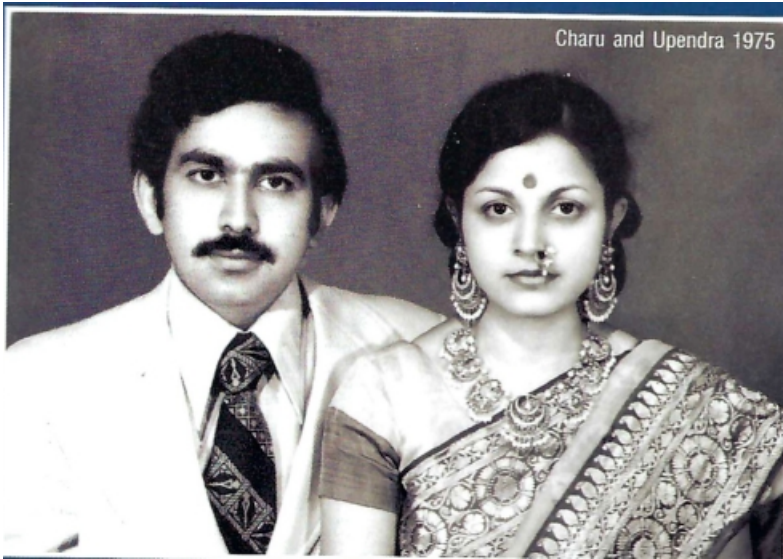


Figure 17: Upendra and Charu Robatagi 1975 Stonybrook

First Semester of year ended in December and we came home to our friends, waiting for us. We played Bridge with them

In India it was a year for change in top political leadership, .Prime Minister died on January 11 . 3d January India signed the Pakistan-India peace pact in Moscow and 11th January he expired due to heart attack Interim PM was Gulzarilal Nanda, Indira Gandhi took over as PM January 24, Sarvapally Radhakrishnan stayed as President Indira Gandhi visited Washington and Moscow

Shiv Sena was founded by Bal Thakre 24 th January,

Air India flight had an accident, all 117 people including Homi Bhabha perished

Lal Bahadur Shastri, Homi Jehangir Bhabha and Veer Savarkar expired.

MY LIFE

Phool aur Patthar (Dharmendra, Meena Kumari), Suraj with Rajendra and Vyjayantimala were the top grosser, Suraj we saw in Kanpur, using our cheap-transporter technique

In January 1967, my 2nd Semester started. I took Mechanics of Solid. Manufacturing Process, Psychology, Chemistry and Mathematics. My mind was quite distracted, and I spent a lot of time playing Teen Patti, Carrom and Bridge. Results were obvious. I had become the editor in charge of Aalok, Campus' Hindi magazine. Naturally, I with Vinayadiya were the AALOK's editors. While this was a little satisfaction for us, the ill effects of this was obvious on our academic results. I did manage an A (Mechanics of Solids), two B's (Psychology, and Manufacturing Processes), but Chemistry and Mathematics, my score was a C I managed to get an SPI of 7.6, however my CPI managed to stay at 8.5 due to pervious semesters. This really got me worried and decided to do better in my courses.

Then in 1967 there was a student strike in IITK. All kinds of reasons emerged as to the root cause of the strike, but soon it became clear that root cause was the uneven student treatment by Dr Muthana, our Deputy Director. The students were very angry with Muthna and strike turned into a package of perceived charges toward students. His famous question to everybody " what is your CPI" was not a way to make him popular amongst all his pupils. Anyway, the strike lasted for a few months, and we became media people and came back with an issue of Aalok with fabulous coverage. We interviewed a whole bunch of professors, students and workers. We were really proud of our work. The Aalok became known on par with the well established Spark and obviously we, Myself and Vinay Aditya became the Chief Editors of it.

That summer was a month of grand happiness for us. My brother Mr B L Agrawala's Marriage had been announced for June 23. From my memory it was a first marriage ceremony that I was a part of. The marriage expenses, where it came from, I do not know. Marriage was to Ms Bimla Devi Adukia of Jhajha, Monghyr, Bihar. Our Barat left Sitamarhi on the bus plus one car with Bhaiyyini, his friend Sri Satyanaraji Jalan of Durga Fancy Stores and I, came driven by his driver. Then Sitamarhi to Jhajha was about 10 hour journey. Almost 120 people barat including all our friends, Friends of Banwari Bhaiyya and all the marwari men from Sitamarhi were involved. At

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Muzaffarpur , on the way, Gobind Chachaji's (of my friend Kailash's father and my father's employer) sister's((Kunti Bhuvaji) sasural was there. Kunti Bhuvaji and her husband Sri Bishambhar Chachan made the arrangements. So all baratis got real treatment and got good food and-our treatment was superb. At that time was the first time I saw the food and drink being served in Paper goods. That was a real eyeopener for me. At Jhajha there were Sitaramji Adukia and his four brothers with open hands to welcome us We were taken to the village Dharmashala, where our staying arrangement was done. The beds everyone had brought from their homes. The temperature was hot and at nighttime the mosquitoes were there. But all these the baratis were used to it and no one complained.

In the morning as all the Baratis tried to get ready, There was one water 'Kooan' (well). Well water was full of small, white looking Creatures. The barati would fetch their water from the well, separate the creatures and the remainder of waters was for their use. There was no complaints and the barat was ready for marriage. The Breakfast was brought in the Dharamshalla, and the baratis were served. The only thing I remembered was the ROSOGOLLAHS. Some of the Baratis decided to eat Rosogollahs. It was the rosogollas, that the youth gang kept eating but the Adukias had a Halwai who kept making more Rosogollahs and finally we gave up on them. It was indeed that Jhajha's Rosogollahs were the best!!!

That evening the barat moved to Bhabhi's home. There was a a team of women singing, ' Yeh Bala Main Dudh se pali, Iski tum Kario Rakhwali... tumko lakhon Pranam'--a song that touched my heart. Suddenly, a terrible thing happened. Bhagwan Bhaiyya, Bhagwan lal, a dear friend of Banwari Bhaiyya, who happened to be our photographer was pushed by one of the chachas of bhabhiji, and asked (rudely) to get out the way, as he was getting in the way of the barat. RAMESH Karnani ,my brother's college friend at this 'Tauheen' of the Barati dal took it upon himself to put up a show against this He organized a group of us teenagers and decided that we wont let the Barat move Finally with a lot of pleading and hand folding by Gobind Chacha as well as Adukias, did he calm down and let the barat proceed.

Next day we all came back in the car to Sitamarhi, 6 of us, Bhaiyya, Bhabhi, Sri Satyanarain ji Jalan, driver, Shobha Karnani and I. The whole way we

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kept singing, (Shobha was a good singer). 8 or 9 hours later when we completed the car tour, Bhaiyya and Bhabhi , we transferred to the Kothdi next to Bhua's room.



Figure 18: Bhabiji Srimati Bimla Devi Khetan (Adukia)--the Newest member of our family

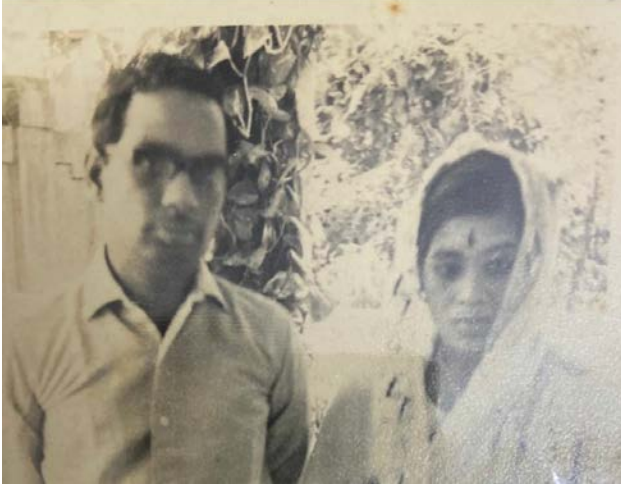


Figure 19: Mr and Mrs Banwari Lal Agrawala



Figure 20: Mrs Bimala Devi Agrawala today



Figure 21: BR B.L and Bimladevi Agrawal today

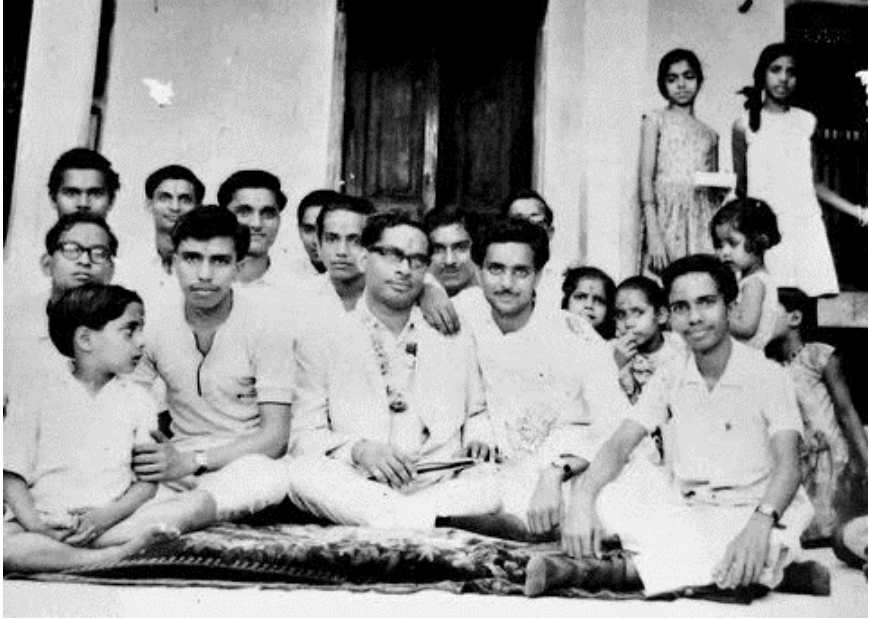


Figure 22: 1967 Bhaiyyaji's marriage, from left to right, Gopal (5 yr old), Raghunath, Kailash Ramesh Bhaiyya, Bhaiyyajee, Bhagwan Lal, Shambhu

That vacation time was spent at home partially with Bhabhi only. Bhabhiji stayed at home for 5 days then she went to her father's house for 45 days for the 'Puthmora' ceremony. But while at Jhajha, her buaji expired so She extended her stand up to December During the time (6/29-8/30), we again went back to our friends and had good games with them----mostly Bridge.

We would some times go for a picnic Once Jai Prakash asked Mahavir Dhandhaniania to open his watch as Mahavir had lost some money to him, in Teen Patti.

In this year some rogue elements from the Goyanka college (they were supporters of Bihar Chief Minister Mahamaya Prasad Singh) attacked Laxmi School, and some local shops were also destroyed; one Marwari Businessman's home destroyed, They entered his home and ill-treated even women Lal Baboo and Laxmi shah involved in this hoodlum.

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Dhadhaniajee had the best Murti pooja in Koat Bazar

Thus, two years of IITK were completed. We went into the third year, Now in third year, two changes happened. First my roommate Mr B M Agrawala went to MIT USA, which was pretty difficult in those days. Second it was time for us to get a single room in hostel 1.

This year I was determined to do better in academics, since the Last year my CPI dropped to 8.5. So this year I took Electric Science, Fluid Mechanics, Introduction to Modern Philosophy, Physics and Computation I did better and my SPI to go up to 9.6, as I got 1B and 4 AS. Only Fluid Mechanics I got a B in, Electric Science was quite good and Computation was great. In IITK at that time we had a IBM 1744 computer installed. It was a first Computer in any university, being that IITK was the first US-based supported Technical University. The computer by today's standard would not equal to a handheld computer or cell phone of today. The data was fed by Punched card machines. But at that time I found it quite interesting a tool and I got an A in this as well as Electrical Science. When I look back, I should have been a Computer Engineer or Electrical Engineer. The Physics was a routine course. I found Modern Philosophy to be very interesting with the debate between great philosopher Bertrand Russel and a famous Indian spiritual leader quite interesting. I was happy with my CPI, which had climbed to 8.7.

This year we had an unusual thing happening. We had no swimming pool so the Higher ups decided to use us students, as a Physical Training exercise, as an National Cadet Corps (NCC) requirement. Of every Tuesday and Thursday, we were digging the swimming pool. It was not dug fully till we were at IITK.

The second thing was in the Aalok publishing, I had to go to Kanpur and get a good publisher there. In this connection I ran across a bunch of people who were members of the Kanpur Bridge Club. This group I had to pick on next year when I became IITK Indoors Captain and ran an open Bridge Tournament

Hall 4 (reserved for Post Graduates or Mendhaks as we called them), had the most delicious Aloo Parathas on Sunday breakfast. We as a routine went

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there skipping our Halls breakfast, despite the fact that we had to pay for the breakfast. We used to wonder, why couldn't we have that good parathas in our hostel.....

This year at IITK, my time apart from studies, was mostly spent in Carrom, Bridge, Teen Patti, Alok and with new friends namely Pitamber Dwiwedi, Prafulla Kumar Sinha, Kuber Nath Shukla, and K M Khshatry Pitamber Dwiwedi was an acerbic guy, always ready to remark on anything you say. Kuber Nath Shukla was a quiet helpful guy. who was always involved in studies. Prafulla Kumar Sinha was a student from Bihar (like me) and always smiling. Dhaval Balkrishna Moghe was involved in Gymnastics Krishna Mohan Khshatry was a member of Merut group. He was a cards fan and he sang beautifully. Unfortunately, I do not have any photos of them except Moghe.

Indira Gandhi was Prime Minister, Sarvepalli Radhakrishnan as President until 13 May then 14th May Dr Zakir Hussain was the new President

Naxalite movement started in Naxalbari Several times Chinese clashes started

Akshay Kumar, Madhuri Dixit and Juhi Chawla were born

Upkar (Manoj Kumar, Aasma Parekh), and Ram aur Shyam (Dilip, Waheeda Rehman, Mumtaj) We saw Both movies in Kanpur theaters

On 12/16/67 I went to Jhajha, by train, in the cheapest seat, which was third class seat. It was crowded and hot, but in that time I had no difficulty in the train. I reached Jhajha, well received by her father, uncles and young brothers. They played the carrom, with me. the condition that the loser opened one button on his shirt every time a game was played. Having a good experience in Carrom, I had no difficulty in playing and held my ground. I had no buttons to lose but those younger boys all had to open their buttons, such that one had to lose all buttons of his shirt---his name was Dinesh or Mahesh. At that house I also met, Bhabhi's younger sister Manju, who was pulling water from the well. I had nice food and next day I left Jhajha on the train with Bhabhi and her belongings. I was too ashamed to bring her home in the III class, so I bought II class seats. I do not remember but Darbhanga station, we both ate food, that was packed by her

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parents. We became best friends. Between both we spent our time together

This year was a good one for me. In studies I had good achievement, and other things were also going great and the biggest thing---our bhabhi was with us. We brought from Nooja the Ghoonghani every morning and consumes with bhabhi. Every once in a while, we had some paise with us that we could also bought Rewadis, Papari or even khoa mithai from the picture halls. I do not remember; we could have gone to film to see with her. At nighttime, I was sleeping in Bhua's kothadi and bhabhi and I were talking till late. Our talking was not appreciated by Bhua. During the daytime, the same routine would be followed with our friends who were getting experience in Bridge

So was 1967.

Next January 1968 I would start my 3d year, semester 2 I was determined to do even better in studies. I took System Dynamics, Nature and Properties of Materials, Electrical Science, Mathematics, and Measurement techniques and got 'A' in all the courses. I was flying high based on the success of the first semester, and on bhabhi's being home. The second semester's achievement was based on my being fit for academic success. I got a 10 in SPI, which was the first and last time in IITK ,which raised my CPI to 8.9. Based on topics, I do not remember anything in the Courses. Only Mathematics and Electric Science I vaguely remember. The other thing I remember was a technician in one of the courses (Materials probably) whose name was AVSSSR Sarma (a long name---probably from Kerala) I would spend the rest of my time, in Bridge, Teen Patti, Aalok, and carrom Bridge games I started playing with some professors like L S Srinath, Mr B G Khubchandani etc. Teen Patti games we involved new players like Ish Sud and Shashank Rohatgi. We used to play Teen Patti a lot. Once I remember getting caught in Teen Patti against Ish Sud. I had a sequence and we both started playing our bids. I moved one rupee, he turned into two rupees, I raised to 4 and he turned into 8. This continued until we reached Rs 128. I had 2 choices either match him to 128 for a show or fold. I was always sweating inside. A move of Re 128 was well beyond my means, so I folded. Even though I never saw his card but he was bluffing (reportedly) I recall Sowinder Singh, probably he was playing Bridge too. Lastly I met Ajay Jain, an Electrical Engineering candidate, but we became

good Friends.



Figure 23: Ish at IITK days



Figure 24: Ish and Anu Sud in 2019



Figure 25: Ajay and Asha Jain 2019



*Figure 26: Sowinder
Singh at IITk*



*Figure 27:
Sowinder
Singh 2015*

Thus the semester ended, and we came to Sitamarhi. At home we found out that our friend had married recently. We missed his marriage because it was in the middle of our semester. Here is the photograph with Gopal's marriage.



Figure 28: 1968 Kailash, `Bijay, Ramnath, Gopal, Bhomsika, Purushottam...Gopal's Marriage, Marriage date 2/6/1968



Figure 29: Gopal and Urmilla Saraogi

During summer vacation we played Bridge with our friends (Ramnath, Kailash, Prahalad and Purushottam).

Kanpur had a bumper yield of grapes that year. The grapes were so cheap that year, such that we could bring them home. That year we brought Grapes from Kanpur and family and friends enjoyed them very much

.We also heard that a (rare) aeroplane was trying to land in Dumra, but it crashed. We went to Dumra to see the downed plane

Bhabhi was still at Sitamarhi and we spent enough time with her, playing cards (non-Bridge), eating Nooja's ghooghany and other specialties etc.

1968 August, we started our Mechanical Engineering Courses. This semester only Mechanical Engineering students were in the class in this first semester of 4th year. The 6 courses I took were, Energy Conversion, Advanced Mechanics of Solids, Fluid Mechanics, Machine Elements, Experimental Analysis and Social Psychology. In these Psychology, and

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Energy Conversion I got a 'B'. Experimental Analysis I got a 'C' My overall PSI for the semester was 8.5 which no effect on the CPI which was 8.9 I do not remember what was in courses and who taught us, but I was happy with the results. Besides studies I was involved in going to NCC camp somewhere near Lucknow. The camp was for a week. Some miscreants just stole the 2 tents of the students at nighttime, such that in the morning, they found themselves sleeping under open sky!!

The only thing I did was to sneak out of camp one day and go to a good restaurant in Allahabad City and have food of our taste (Aloo Paratha was our favorite) and luckily sneak in in the camp, without being caught.

At another All IITK table tennis tournament, I participated in. Being the friend of tournament in charge, Mr Prem Gupta, I pleaded with him to assign me to a D (novice) status So for mixed doubles I got assigned to a very good (A grade) player and we won that tournament. That was my first tournament cup (Novice tournament..Doubles TT Tournament)

In one of the classes we went out for a tour of Panaki Power Plant (probably Energy Conversion course). The main thing was that the plant was raised from the floor and there were narrow stairs (which were made of Aluminum rods. Throughout the upwards climb, the whole underneath was visible to the naked eye. I am not too brave and the open air climbing left me without any breath-. I wondered at the condition in which daily workers would go through on a daily climb would feel.

Besides our regular participation in Carrom, Bridge, Aalok, Teen Patti etc. continued.

When we came home that year, for 15 days we played cards and went to Vivah Panchmi mela. There Shooting was going for the movie 'Alexander aur Chanakya' By famous Director P L Santoshi. The film was never completed. We also visited a Nepali shop, where a girl was selling clothes at a discount. I bought a warm jacket from her which continued to USA with me. Ramnath had her number, and he possibly did some correspondence with her too.

That year there was no change in central top leaders. Mrs Gandhi was the Prime Minster and Dr Zakir Hussain continued to be President. Beatles and

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Mia Farrow came to the Ashrams of Maharshi Mahesh Yogi in Rishikesh. Auroville started in Pondicherry. Tata Consultancy started. Rajiv Gandhi and Sonia were married at Dr Hariwansh Rai Bachchan's residence. From Film world Ankhena (Dharmendra, Mala Sinha) and Do Kaliyan (Biswajit, Mala Sinha) were the most successful movies.

In 1969 I was in the second semester of my IITK Mechanical Engineering program. In this semester I took the courses in Heat Transfer, Engineering Design I, Experimental Analysis II, Arts Analysis, Energy Conversion II and Industrial Engineering. I had a lot of extracurricular activities, so my mind was always distracted from studies. Anyway, I did well in first two courses, getting an A in them. The next two courses I did so-so and got a B in them. But in Energy Conversion and Industrial Engineering I did poorly and scored a C. An SPI 8.0 was received and that brought my CPI down to 8.8

During this period, I became friends with Akhilesh Maewal, Anil Agarwal, B. N. Jain, Rajendra Mehta, Laxmendra Shankar Shankar Saxena, and Mahendra Pratap Agrawal

Akhilesh was a serious student in Mechanical Engineering, Often seen in our hostel during my teen patti or Bridge sessions. He later moved to University of San Diego and settled down there

Anil Agrawal, whom we called Chuhya due to his short (5' I believe) structure, who became an expert in the Environmental Activism and earned first Padma Shri and Padma Bhushan before dying at very early age (55). He was also the 'Karta Dhurta' of the IITK's Cultural Festival involving the great authorities in India, in next semester.

B N Jain was An Electrical Engineering student and we just met at a function in hostel. He later came to the Stony Brook University (where I came too). Later he went into academics and was Deputy Director of IIT Delhi and Director of BIT Pilani

Rajendra Mehta, I became a friend with his involvement in ALOK where I was chief editor and he joined us. He had true idea of international media. He introduced us to the pre-polling as in the US Presidential Polling and introduced us to the pre polling. He as a member of ALOK introduced

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IITK to its first poll in First Gymkhana Polls. He later on moved to Stonybrook, NY

L S saxena was my IITK Mechanical Engineering co student. He later moved to Bridgewater, NJ, same town as me

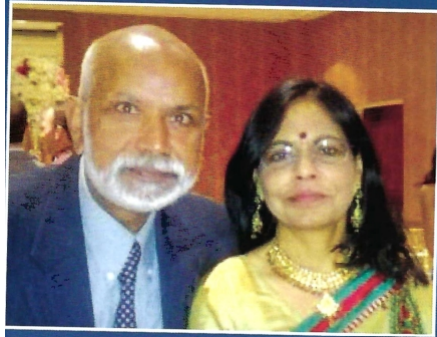
M P Agrawal was an Electrical Engineering student. I remember him as one of the passenger coming home in a 'overloaded tempo" from Kanpur to IITK campus. He later moved to San Jose, California.



Figure 30: Anil Agrawal



*Figure 31: Akhilesh
at IITK*



*Figure 32: Akhilesh with wife Vineeta
now at San Diego*



*Figure 33: B N Jain
at IITK*



*Figure 34: B N JAIN with wife
Madhu now*



Figure 35: Rajendra Mehta with wife Sunanda 2019



*Figure 36: L S Saxena with wife
Manju 2019*



*Figure 37: M P
Agrawal at IITK*



*Figure 38: M P Agrawal with wife
Mukti and grandson 2015*

This semester, the biggest IIT gathering of big personalities in cultural, intellectuals fields from all over India was organized by Anil Agrawal in January 1969. The Chooha or Anil Agrawal, who had become Gymkhana President that year, gave it a name "this nonconformist movement---where does it take India to" or some other nice 'catchphrase' meaning the same

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thing, invited all the personalities to give their presentation on this in our Gymkhana Festival, which I believe lasted for 2 weeks.

The people he was able to get for this festival were India's greatest personalities of that time. Some of the names I remember the leading journalist and filmmaker Khwaza Ahmed Abbas; the great artist Mr Maqbool Fida Hussein, Vikram Sarabhai, Mrinalini Sarabhai, Sonal Mansingh, Bismillah Khan, Pandit Ravishankar, Dr C V Raman, Anita Desai, Subhashini Sehgal (daughter of Laxmi Sehgal, an associate of Netaji Subhash Chandra Bose). Justice Khosla (who had pronounced the hanging judgement for Nathuram Godsey), Bhisam Sahani, the great 'new wave' film maker Sahdeo, and Don Moreau the journalist who resided in England and was a son of the great journalist from Calcutta, India

On this occasion, he had organized a special photographic contest, where all the students were encouraged to display their photographs. In this contest my AALOK partner, Vinayaditya had one picture that won the contest that was Judged by none other than the famous painter Mr Maqbool Fida Hussain This year my brother Mr R P khetan was appointed IITK Indoors Games Captain. As such my participation in Bridge, Carrom, and Chess increased

This year IITK decided on sending the students for a 1-month training to various places There were 3 or 4 places, which offered free stipend. The student names were drawn from a blank lottery system, in which my name was one of them. That's why I was chosen for an Auto Parts Supply Company in Bhandup, Bombay, for training in June. I was most excited to accept it.

Without the offer of free trip to India's biggest city Bombay, it was not possible for me to go. For a month I stayed in quarters provided by my host company and was provided the food in their impressive mess, A supervisor was assigned to my completing the training. On a daily basis, I used to go in various departments of manufacturing like Forging, Heat treatment, Machining, Coloring etc. The weekends used to be free, and through my limited money I saw various parts of Mumbai. The most I remember was Firozeshah Kotla Gardens, Hanging Gardens where hordes of young bachelors gathered for activities not suitable for other places, Chowpatty's

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chat, Gateway of India, The Taj Mahal Palace Hotel and Juhu Beach area and other less famous parts of Bombay. From the point of outside living, I got as much education in Bombay as I got throughout my stay in IITK.

In June, when I came to Sitamarhi for remaining 1.5 months of vacation I learned that one of my friends, Kailash Bihari Shroff was already married. His marriage took place on 4/19/69 which was during our school year, so we could not attend. Kailash's wife's name was Shrimati Lila Devi. I quickly met her and made myself familiar with her. Since this was the first bhabhi for us (our friends, because Gopal who was married last year to Urmilla bhabhi, but lived in other town) in Sitamarhi, so I took enough liberty in the next months' vacation to see her 2-3 times. My own bhabhiji was in Calcutta with my bhaiyya.



Figure 39: Kailash and Lila Shroff



Figure 40: Shiv Khemka, Netram, Mahavir Dhandhania, Kailash Soni, Prahlad, Jayprakesh in black, Kailash, Gopal, Ramnath, Om Saraogi, Prabbash

IIT Kanpur Part II

Our last year at IITK started after our summer vacation was complete in August 1969: In this year I took Automatic Controls, Power system 1, Industrial Engineering II, Experimental Analysis III, Industrial Psychology and Operations Research. I do not remember much about the courses except the Automatic Control I, where our instructor was a newly returned person from USA and whose English accent was very funny (almost English as spoken in the South India). Any way we cleared the semester with an SPI of 8.1 (two A's in Industrial Engineering, Experimental Analysis, 3 B's in Operation Research, Automatic Controls, and Power System, and the final course Industrial Psychology I scores my only D of my student life. Thus my CPI slipped down to 8.7.

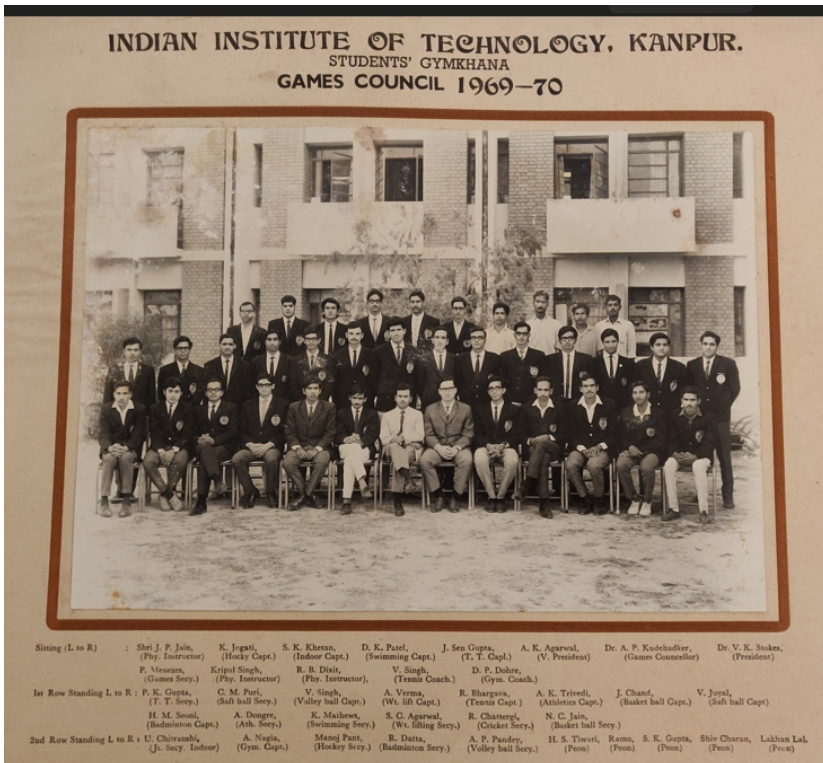


Figure 41: Games Council 1969-70

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Besides studies, the major thing that changed in my life, was the getting the title of INDOOR GAMES CAPTAIN. I was in charge of Bridge, Chess and carrom. The previous captain was my brother Sri R P Khetan and he made me the captain for 1969-70

As a captain I did 2 things, one of which was done for the first time in IITK history. I organized a All IITK and Kanpur's first Duplicate Bridge Competition. I had made the contacts in Kanpur in the past year, so we got 12 or so teams from Kanpur in this competition--each team consisted of 4 players. From IITK also similar number of teams participated. One cafeteria was assigned for the tournament where 24 teams participated. There were 12 teams playing on one side and other 12 teams on the other side. It was a great success. I don't remember as to who won that championship, probably one of Kanpur teams

The other thing I did was to have the Carrom Vendors come to IITK with their carrom boards and displayed them (in the cafeteria). We got rid of old Carroms and bought new carrom boards at a deep discount

In this semester, my involvement in teen patti (probably for my getting a D in Industrial psychology) was getting more involved. I had picked up Mr Shashank Rohatagi as a new friend. My involvement as Indoor Games Captain generated a new interest in Pradeep Kumar Mittal, as he had started to play Bridge and we will go to various folks in Professors or Administrative officers to play. One such example was Mr B G Khubchandani whose kids Kailash and Veena became very friendly with us. I also became a friend of my batchmate Prafulla Kumar Sinha who was a delightful Chap.

This semester at IITK we had an all India Competitive championship of Table Tennis . Boys and Girls from all over India's Universities came to IITK. The competition lasted some 15 days. My Involvement was to watch the players and their tricks with the bats.

On October 2, 1969 we had a grand dinner festival organized in hall 1, where all campus participated. This was 'Shatabdi Samaroh" dinner especially in the 100th birth anniversary of our National Bapu, Sri Mohandas Karamchanda Gandhi.



Figure 42: Pradeep Mittal(mithu) in IITK



Figure 43: Pradeep and Neeru Mittal in 2015



Figure 44: unk, unk, Tejpal Shroff (Kailas's uncle), unk, unk, Ramnath Agrawal, 3 unk, Bhowsinkajee Ramnath with Prabha Agrawal

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Then while we were still in the college, another friend got married.
Ramnath Agrawal got married to Shrimati Prabha Devi on November 25,
1969



Figure 45: Ramnath with Prabha Agrawal



Figure 46: Ragbunath's trip to USA 1969 l-t- r Krishna Khetan ,unk,unk, Shobha's niece, RPK with unk in hand, unk,Ramesh Karnani,Ramji Bharatia

And finally, it was time for My Brother Sri R P Khetan, who had finished his Bachelor of Technology in May 1969, and who had got his admission for higher studies at State University of New York, at Stony Brook, made an Aeroplane Flight to New York, Sometime in September, all due to My brother Mr B L Agrawal 's efforts. In those days, it was very rare to travel by air, but our seniors from IITK had traveled before, so it was not a 'rare' phenomenon for us.

In India the scene was like this.

The Prime Minister was still Indira Gandhi, But President's was changed. Zakir Hussain expired in office on May 3, VV Giri was given the temporary assignment till July 20, Mohd Hidayatulla the temporary assignment till 24 th August. then VV Giri from August 25

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Congress was split into two, one Indira's, other Morarji Desai's Indira Gandhi nationalized 14 Banks, India was almost insolvent Vishwanath Anand was born, Zakir Hussain, Madhala, Dr sampooranad expired

Aradhana (Rajesh, Sharmilla), and Do Raaste (Rajesh, Mumtaz) were the highest grossers Aradhana and Do Raastey we saw while at IITK

The final semester began in January 1970. In the last semester I was determined to well enough to save my Distinction success which had dropped to a CPI=8.7. I was to score a mark of CPI of 7.0 or better to get the Bachelor of Technology with Distinction which required a CPI of 8.5. I chose the following courses, Engineering Materials, Engineering Design II, Engineering Design III, Operation Research II, and Theory of Elasticity. In the two design courses I scored an A, in the Engineering Materials a B, but the other two courses I scored a C. Thus my SPI was 7.9 and CPI was 8.6 thus passing the IITK with distinction (CPI =8.6) And Engineering Design was by our Mechanical Engineering Department's best teacher, Dr. L S Srinath. In this course I had to design and Produce a prototype. I had (with one partner) designed a Air Dead Weight Tester, A pressure calibration equipment. Even though I don't have the equipment with me, It looked something like.



Figure 47: Air Dead Weight Tester

In order to have it made I went into Kanpur to have the prototype molded. I enjoyed the project very much

In 1970 I became Friends with Satish Bhalerao and Robin Sen. The others from our batch that I became friends after coming over to USA were, Ajit Dongre, Anupam Rae, Ashok Saxena, Atamvir Rao, Deepak Devraj, Navin Chandra Sharma, Ranjit Sahani, V K Anand, Vijay Kumar Stokes, Vinay Mehta, Rajiv Sahay, Surojit Sen, Vrajesh Lal and Uday Mahagaonkar.



Figure 48: Satish Bhalerao with Subha and their Daughter Sachi



Figure 49: Robin Sen in iitk



Figure 50: Robin Sen with Swagata in 2015

This year I (and all the students) were involved in two things. One was

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going away Parties and other was applying for US universities and getting recommendation letters from our professors.

At the same time there were interviews from one employer to another almost every day (very management savvy our Professor Arakere Vasudev). The major employers were L and T, Hindustan Liver, Metalbox, Tata etc. I also went for these interview and was given a job by "Synthetics and Chemicals" for Rs 400 per month

Then let me come over to applying to US Universities. In order to maximize chances for getting into one university, it was decided for each one of us chose 4 universities. Each Professor to not give a student more than four letters of recommendation. The universities were to be decided by students by their CPI. The first student will choose a university, then second one would choose. This will go on until all the students have chosen a university. Then it will start again till all the students have chosen an university. I was 15 in my CPI rank, and was fairly certain of getting to choose STONY BROOK, as it was not a big university. But Upendra Kumar Rohatgi who was higher in the list chose STONYBROOK. I had to plead with him to let me have his choice. In order to obtain this I was willing to give him all four of my chances, such that he could get 7 university to choose from. Thanks to him, he relented, and I was able to get this university, which was open to giving student stipend to all students, along with free tuition and housing. I was happy with this selection and got to apply to this University and received a letter congratulating me of my selection by the end of semester and ask to join in September.

The last thing was a celebration of students getting a nice job or acceptance of their application to one US university or the other. I must have attended some 15 such parties. The one I remember is the party at Moti Mahal Restaurant in Kanpur. I was introduced to NAAN for the first time there.

I came to Sitamarhi and then to Calcutta. In Calcutta I stayed in a Building in Shobha Bazar, where my Bhaiyya and Bhabhi lived. On a floor one step up, Ramesh Bhaiyya and Shobha Karnani and family lived. I became very familiar with their family. In 1970 on September 27, I came to USA for higher studies.



Figure 51: Bhaiji (Ramesh Bhaiyya's elder Brother), Bhaiyyaji, My father, Me, Ramesh's Father Ramesh Bhaiyya, unke

SK on way to USA September 26-27, My day of flying to USA.



Figure 52: kids unknown, Bimla Bhabhiji, Bai (shobha's mom), SK, Shodha, Ramesh Bhaiyya, Ramesh's Bhabhi, Ramesh's Wife, Bhaiyyajee, Ratan Bai

My day of flying to USA



Figure 53: Ramnath, Prushottam, Kailash, Anil(mamoo), Tejpal chachaji and Krishna Kumar Bhownsinka

Bhowsinhka's marriage. **Bhowsinhkajee** married **Shrimati Gita Devi** after I left for USA.



Figure 54: Krishna Kumar and Geeta Bhowhsinka

This year India's seen was like this Indira Gandhi was the Prime Minister, and VV Giri the President

Rahul Gandhi was born, Saif Ali Khan born: C V Raman expired

Johny Mera Nam (Dev Anand, Hema Malini) and Sacha Jhutha (Rajesh, Mumtaz) were the top hit movies of the year.

Indian Institute of Technology Kanpur



ABOUT THE AUTHOR

Sheo Khetan has degrees in Mechanical Engineering and Business Admin. He has been retired since 2005. He has been writing books on pictorial filmography of Hindi films, he has published four books.

This autobiography is his fifth book.

OTHER BOOKS BY THE PUBLISHER

For more information please visit

<https://hindi-movies-songs.com/joomla/index.php/published-books>

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12. Illustrated History of Punjabi Cinema (1935-1985), by Bhim Raj Garg (2019)
13. Unsung Junior Artists of Hindi Cinema Who Debuted Before 1961, by

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Upendra Samaranayake and Prof Surjit Singh (2019)

14. Beete Hue Din (Forgotten Memories of Hindi Cinema) by Shishir Krishna Sharma (2020 English)
15. Beete Hue Din (Forgotten Memories of Hindi Cinema) by Shishir Krishna Sharma (2021 Hindi)
16. Hindi Films: Pictures of the Cast II (1938-1940), by Sheo Khetan and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
17. Unsung Junior Artists of Hindi Cinema Who Debuted After 1959, by Upendra Samaranayake and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
18. Master Ebrahim: The Forgotten Ace Clarinetist, by Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
19. Censor Certificate Information of Hindi Talkies (1931-2010), by Har Mandir Singh 'Hamraaz' and Prof Surjit Singh (2021 English)
20. Censor Certificate Information of Hindi Talkies (1931-2010), by Har Mandir Singh 'Hamraaz' and Prof Surjit Singh (2022 Hindi)
21. Background Dancers in Hindi Films (1952-68), by Edwina Violette, Narsingh Agnish and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
22. Films Showing in Madras Theatres (1941-1947), by MV Surender, N Ramaswamy and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
23. Rainbow of Emotions, by Lalit Berry (2021)
24. The Caliginous Light, by Rashmin Bhardwaj (2021)
25. Witnessing Wonders, by Ali Peter John (2021)
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30. Hindi Films: Pictures of the Cast III (1941-1942), by Sheo Khetan and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
31. Early Hindi Film Advertisements (1935-39), by N Ramaswamy and Prof Surjit Singh (2021)
32. WITH YOU, MAA, WITHOUT YOU, OH MAA! by Ali Peter John (2021)
33. The Bitter-Sweet Cocktail, Movies, Music, Wine, Women, The Life and Times of C. Ramchandra by Dilip Shripad Phansalkar (2022)
34. Hindi Talkie Filmography (1951-1960) by Har Mandir Singh 'Hamraaz' and Prof Surjit Singh (2022 English)
35. Tujhe Mere Geet Bulate Hain – Pt Bharat Vyas Filmography by Sanjeev Tanwar (2022)
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38. The Story of The Rainbow Bunch Dr Amit Sur (2022)
39. India: A Reckoning With History by Dr Sanjay Sood (2022)
40. Hindi Films: Pictures of the Cast IV (1943-1946), by Sheo Khetan and Prof Surjit Singh (2022)
41. Hindi Talkie Filmography (1951-1960) by Har Mandir Singh 'Hamraaz' and Prof Surjit Singh (2022 Hindi)
42. Hindi Film Song Picturizations (1951-1960) by Prof Surjit Singh and Har Mandir Singh 'Hamraaz'