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Ministry of Information and Broadcasting
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Interview of Stunt King Ganpatrao Bakre

Speaker : We look upon you as of first Stunt King of Maharashtra, or rather as one of India's (Hindustan) and if today, if you look at the model of Hindi Film or rather model of Indian Film Industry then you will notice mostly these films are packed with stunts. But you are always hailed as the first stunt king. Can you briefly touch upon your personal information such as where you were born, whether in Kolhapur or out of Kolhapur, etc., before coming to the film industry?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I was born on Kartik Shuddha Chaturthi on 14.11.1901 in Kolhapur. I was born in Shimpi Caste.

Speaker : What was your father doing?

Ganpatrao : My father had a cloth shop in Kolhapur

Speaker : Okay

Ganpatrao : There he used to sell cloth.

Speaker : There were 2/3

very big cloth merchants in Kolhapur.

One of them was Mr. Bakre. Was he your father?

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Ganpatrao : Yes. He was my father, Mr. Bakre

Speaker : How was your academic progress in school? Did you participate in sports?

Ganpatrao : I studied in an English medium school. Primary education was done in Marathi medium school. Then from 4th std till Matriculate, I studied in English Medium school

Speaker : Ok. Did you pass your matriculation or you are non-matric?

Ganpatrao : Non-matric. I mean, I was more into sports so not attentive in my studies. I was more attentive in sports.

Speaker : Ok. What all games you used to play?

Ganpatrao : Football, Hokey, Ring... Even other games like; full jump, high jump, all types.

Speaker : ok.

Ganpatrao : Wrestling. I was continuously champion for five years in wrestling.

Speaker : Can you give me the names of other wrestlers who played wrestling with you?

Ganpatrao : Yes. Yes. At that time, Mr. Vaze, the wrestler was with me. He and I used to wrestle in Guru Maharaj Wrestling centre. I defeated him. Afterwards, Mr. Daware was there. Mr. Daware and I used to wrestle in Maharashtra Boarding school. I defeated him also.

Speaker : Who was there with you in other sports?

Ganpatrao : other sports means

Speaker : Like football

Ganpatrao : Football had eleven players.

Speaker : Who was more important amongst them?

Ganpatrao : Mr. Prasad Jadhav. Even Mr. Shinde was there but he has gone abroad.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : There was one Mr. Jamdar. He was Muslim. Like this, there were eleven people. One more person was there, Mr. Pardeshi.

Speaker : That means, related to Papa Pardeshi?

Ganpatrao : His son

Speaker : Ok. You were playing all these games. Does your school promote sports? At that time, Kolhapur Sansthan was in power, did you receive any encouragement or support from it or did Maharaja of Kolhapur encourage you?

Ganpatrao : No. Shahu Maharaj had encouraged us.

Speaker : Ok. Tell me something about Shahu Maharaj.

Ganpatrao : Shahu Maharaj was an interesting person. He was well built. He used to buy cloth from our shop. He was so broad that he needed three and a half hands long cloth.

Speaker : You have mentioned Shahu Maharaj's aspect that he was a strong person with great vision but how did he help you in sports which encouraged you? Did he invite the coach from outside to train you? Or did he send you to play and get trained there? Or was he giving you any particular food to improve your strength?

Ganpatrao : Shahu Maharaj had a big room (Kothi) in the old palace. We used to get a high diet of Badam from him. At that time, Mr. Penshe was his personal secretary, which means Divanji.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : He started giving us this high protein diet. At that time there was one teacher at high school, named Mr. Bhole.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : So it was a good place for us to work on our bodies. Even there were some other people also.

Speaker : Ok. Whatever sports you were playing, it was only in the school or you were going out to play like, at Pune or Mumbai?

Ganpatrao : No

Speaker : At Miraj or Sangli?

Ganpatrao : No. My next-door....

Speaker : Bodybuilding centre (Talim)?

Ganpatrao : There was a Bodybuilding centre (Talim) in my neighbourhood. Mr. Gopal Parikh was the head of that centre and there we learnt body exercise and wrestling. We learnt all the tricks of wrestling. After that, we used to come to Deccan Gymkhana to play.

Speaker : Deccan Gymkhana means Pune?

Ganpatrao : Yes.

Speaker : That means for wrestling?

Ganpatrao : No, they called us for sports.

Speaker : You were called at Deccan Gymkhana for sports.

That is for one particular person or team?

Ganpatrao : They had called our entire team. Afterwards, Shahu Maharaj had come and also our Governor.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : In Pune 1920.

Speaker : Ok... There was something known as Dasharath sports. Did you take part in that?

Ganpatrao : continuously 5 years I took part there.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao : At bright school, I received a trophy at the hands of Shahu Maharaj at the prize distribution ceremony held at Dashrath Sports.

Speaker : What was exactly Dashrath Sports?

Ganpatrao : Dashrath Sports means

Speaker : who were the participants?

Ganpatrao : Tukhane Master, Dixit master

Speaker : No I mean to ask, only Kolhapur teams were taking part or even teams from Pargaon also participating? Based on these competitions, the best person was chosen.

Ganpatrao : Yes. Teams used to come from Pargaon, Miraj and also from Sangali.

Speaker : What all games used to play?

Ganpatrao : Football. Mainly, football.

Speaker : ok. So you had given reference about this price distribution. Guests like _____ or Dr. Alikha Zend used to come for price distribution. Can you brief me on this? What did Dr. Alikha Zend say about you?

Ganpatrao : Dr. Alikha Zend said that I have seen many sportsmen but not like this. I have not seen such a sportsman who can secure the first rank in a variety of sports at a time.

Speaker : Ok. Was Alikha Zend spoke in Marathi or was speaking in Hindi or English?

Ganpatrao : Hindi, but was not fluent in Hindi.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : How did you come in contact with Film Industry?

Ganpatrao : Baburao Painter had come to see Dashrath Sports.

Speaker : In which year this has happened?

Ganpatrao : 1916-17. Maybe around 1920, he had come. I was well built. When he saw me, immediately engaged me in acting.

Speaker : Actually, when exactly you entered the Film Industry?

Ganpatrao : In the year, 1915-16.

Speaker : In 1915-16? And then...

Ganpatrao : At that time, Tilak was present.

Speaker : What did Baburao tell you?

Ganpatrao : You should act in the film. I told him that I will do it.

Speaker : Ok. Which was that film?

Ganpatrao : First I acted in Sanshay Kallol/ (revise name) as Kritika's brother.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : After that,

Speaker : What was the name of Kritika's brother?

Ganpatrao : No, I don't remember.

Speaker : ok... How big this role was? Who were the other casts?

Ganpatrao : That one, Zunzarrao Pawar.

Speaker : Which role did he play?

Ganpatrao : Of Kritika?

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : Balasaheb Yadav, Bhimaji Dhonde.

Speaker : Ok.. and Draupadi?

Ganpatrao : Hmmm... This one .. Shashiram.

Speaker : Ok. And of Dharmaraj, Arjun

Ganpatrao : hmmm... Bhaskar Master played the role of Dharmaraj.

Speaker : Ok and Arjun?

Ganpatrao : Chimasaheb had become Arjun.

Speaker : Chimasaheb? Someone by the name of Shankarrao Bhosale was there.

Ganpatrao : He was in Sinhagad of Prabhat.

Speaker : In Sinhagad of Prabhat studio? How come Maharashtra Film Company studio was there at that time? Where was that studio?

Ganpatrao : That studio was in Mumbai. There is a statue of Gandhiji, on the same road.

Speaker : Ok... How big it was and how was it?

Ganpatrao : It was of tins. There was a big shed like godown, made of tins.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao : They used to throw reflections of the mirror as light.

Speaker : There was no artificial electrical work at that time. Then how you used to shoot? How you were taking indoor shots?

Ganpatrao : It was in sunlight.

They used to take sunlight on a mirror and reflection of that sunlight was used as artificial lights.

Speaker : how they were focusing?

Ganpatrao : Mirrors were fixed on the top.

Speaker : How was the direction of Baburao? Which was your first shot?

Ganpatrao : First shot was that of Kichak's brother and acting...

Speaker : No. I am asking you about the first shot that means the first scene when you stood in front of the camera.

Ganpatrao : The first scene in front of the camera was the hunting of a tiger. And I had to sit on a tiger. After killing the tiger....

Speaker : This tiger was killed and bought by Kichek or you bought it?

Ganpatrao : me..

Speaker : Did you hunt the tiger? To do this scene, what direction Baburao had given you?

Ganpatrao : I think they had bought a dummy and rehearsal was taken before. Sneeze..... I sneeze liked this and...

Speaker : How continuously Baburao was taking rehearsals?

How he was explaining the scene to you?

If he has to explain the shot, how he used to explain it?

Ganpatrao : He used to get it done.

Speaker : What exactly he was doing?

Ganpatrao : He, nowhere... sit down. Here _____ like this _____ and then this is here and there.. Calculation... one minute...

Speaker : Ok... You told me that your first movie of Maharashtra Film Company was Sairandhri, which was the next film?

Ganpatrao : Hmm.. The second film was Mathura. After Sairandhri, the next film was Mathura rang.

Speaker : ok... In that..

Ganpatrao : In that, I have played the role of Abhimanyu. And at that time, I became very famous.

Speaker : ok. Was there anyone by the name of Surekha?

Ganpatrao : Surekha!!!

Speaker : Lover of Abhimanyu.

Ganpatrao : Yes. At that time, no young girls were allowed.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao : Their parents were allowing only boys. So I played the role of Abhimanyu, Balasaheb played the role of Ghatotktach and Shantaram Babu played the role of Krishna.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : Like that his mother's Subhadra's role was played by Gulab.

Speaker : I heard that there were lots of trick scenes in Baburao's film. How these tractions were done?

Ganpatrao : For trick scenes, he used to tie the black thread. This side tree branch was kept there and that side tree branch was kept here.

Speaker : ok...

Ganpatrao : Then I used to pull up and down the traction from the sky. That onelike swing, tying the cradle.. Like how we tie wheels to motor..

Speaker : Yes, Yes

Ganpatrao : like that...

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : and expose background two times at the back.

Speaker : Ok.. We heard that Baburao had created the first camera. The camera which Baburao had created, did you help him?

Ganpatrao : No. At Konkan...

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : By the name, Dada.

Speaker : ok

Ganpatrao : I think, there was someone by the name of Mishri, Gyanba Mishri.

Speaker : By the name, Gyanba Mishri?

Ganpatrao : Yes. He was taking trials. With trial and error, he had created his own equipment. Even for that, he was buying material from foreign countries.

Speaker : Ok.. I heard that before starting this film industry, all artists; like yourself, like Zunzarrao Pawar, like Balasaheb Yadav, like Amesh Yadav, Like Gulbab, were working on making of Camera. To make that camera you all were engaged in activities like; heating the furnace, grinding, spinning the wheel, giving shape to iron. This kind of work, you had to do. Am I right?

Ganpatrao : Yes, you are right.

There were workers. Even a few servants were doing simple work. Everyone was doing their work whole heartedly. There was no differentiation between owner and servant.

Speaker : Ok.. How many people were working in your Maharashtra Film Company?

Ganpatrao : At that time...

Speaker : All together including owner and workers, how many were there?

Ganpatrao : Near about 25 to 30.

Speaker : Around 30 people were there and how they were getting their salary?

Ganpatrao : Salary was very meagre. It was equal to no salary.

Speaker : How much salary you were getting.

Ganpatrao : I worked there on my own. I never took a salary.

Speaker : You have not taken any salary?

Ganpatrao : No. I never had.

Speaker : How about other people? How much salary they were getting?

Ganpatrao : They were getting Rs.15, 12,10 and for heroine Rs.5/-.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao : This is the way we were working.

Speaker : At that time, who all were with you? You told me that Shantaram Babu had acted. That means Shantaram Babu was with you.

Ganpatrao : Yes. Baburao Pendharkar was there.

Speaker : What was he doing?

Ganpatrao : He was manager.

Speaker : Who all were there?

Ganpatrao : One more by the name of Vasant Rao Deshpande. He was also manager.

Speaker : ok

Ganpatrao : Baburao Painter.

Speaker : At that time, Fattelal, Damle _____

Ganpatrao : Damle, Fattelal were _____ and cameraman _____

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : Damle Fattelal _____

Speaker : Was there anyone by the name of Purane, Nanasaheb Purane?

Ganpatrao : Yes. He was there. He was a story writer.

Speaker : Ok. Bhalji Pendharkar was there?

Ganpatrao : yes. He was there.

Speaker : What work he was doing there?

Ganpatrao : He was in Baji Deshpande talkie.

Speaker : That one came later. We are talking about silent films.

Ganpatrao : Bhalji Pendharkar was not there at that time.

Speaker : He was not there? Ok. Then who, all were there? Dada Torane was with you?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : Bajinath Arsekar was with you?

Ganpatrao : No. Dada Pedane, Baburao Pawar these people were with our Maharashtra Film Company.

Speaker : ok

Ganpatrao : The office was at Bombay and he...

Speaker : Ok. Ok. We were talking about Vatsala Haran. After Vatsala Haran, which movies you did with them?

Ganpatrao : After Vatsala Haran, I did Markandey with them.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : Markandey was not completed.

Speaker : Why what was the reason?

Ganpatrao : Studio caught fire.

Speaker : Studio caught fire?

Ganpatrao : Yes

Speaker : What happened exactly?

Ganpatrao : Suddenly there was a blast.

Speaker : What was the reason for the blast?

Ganpatrao : Three/four reels were lying in the studio. It suddenly caught fire.

Speaker : When this Markandey studio caught fire and the company suffered heavy loss, does the entire studio was down into ashes? Was it built again? Or there was little fire and was cooled down and proceeded with further shoot.

Ganpatrao : It was not a big fire. A fire caught where the raw material was lying in the corner of the room. It was controlled down with water.

Speaker : Ok. What all facilities were there in your studio, as you told us that developing, editing of films used to take place. Any other work took place in the studio like a chemical procedure or technical procedure? What all was done at the studio?

Ganpatrao : Yes. We were developing the films. There was a printing machine. So developing negative films into positive films was done there. I had done little work of it.

Speaker : Ok. There was no artificial electricity at that time.

So how you did developing work?

Ganpatrao : It was done physically. We were doing that work by hand.

Speaker : If the negatives are exposed to light then it will turn black. Then when was it done?

Ganpatrao : At night. It was done in the dark.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : We used to close the door and create darkness.

Speaker : ok. That means processing on negative was done at night. Who was doing this work?

Ganpatrao : Fattelal Saheb was doing this work along with 2/3 people like Keshavrao.

Speaker : Ok. You told me that your role of Abhimanyu in the film Vastala Haran was a big hit. What was the people's reaction?

Ganpatrao : means what?

Speaker : You told me that your role in the film Vastala Haran was a big hit. It was a big hit in what sense? What was people's opinion on it? Or only general people liked it? Or were there any famous political personalities? Or were there any leaders from other fields? Any Sansthanik was there? By whose hand, you were awarded?

Ganpatrao : At that time, Bal Gangadhar Tilak was there.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : In his speech, he said that every Indian student should play the role of Abhimanyu like this. He gave me the title of Abhimanyu.

Speaker : Were you felicitated?

Ganpatrao : Felicitation means they gave shawl and Coconut.

At that time, there was someone by the name of Mr. Gokhale. He was

Speaker : Editor of Kesari.

Which year was that? 1919? Because Lokmanya Tilak expired in 1920.

Ganpatrao : That means must be 1918.

Speaker : yes as he expired in 1920.

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : That means this all happened before 1920. What did Tilak say? Did he praise you?

Ganpatrao : Yes. He patted me on my back.

Speaker : What did he say in person?

Ganpatrao : He said that you have developed your body very well. He patted on my back.

Speaker : On the back! Hmm

Ganpatrao : At that time, there was Gangadhar Gokhale. He was Babu's friend. He was a higher authority.

Speaker : That means from political personality.

Ganpatrao : Yes. A person from a political background.

Speaker : Revolutionary?

Ganpatrao : He was the right hand of Tilak.

Speaker : ok

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : How you were felicitated for Vastala Haran like that who else was felicitated?

Ganpatrao : no. Nobody was felicitated.

Speaker : Of Baburao Painter?

Ganpatrao : No. No. There was no reason.

Speaker : The reason was to felicitate Baburao Painter because he had produced that movie. That is why you could act in that movie.

Ganpatrao : Right.

Speaker : As you acted in that movie, the world could see your body. That is the reason you were felicitated. But the movie was produced by Baburao Painter, and he...

Ganpatrao : Movie? No no. I was not felicitated for the movie, it was for my built.

Speaker : Alright. Who else was there in Vastala Haran?

Ganpatrao : In Vastala Haran, Balasaheb Yadav played role of Ghatotkch and _____ as Arjun. Even Chimsaheb Bhosale, Gulabai Sarojini, and Shah were there.

Speaker : Did Shantaram Bapu acted in that movie?

Ganpatrao : Yes. Shantaram Bapu was in that movie.

Speaker : Which part he had done in that movie?

Ganpatrao : He had played the role of Krishna

Speaker : Alright. After Vastala Haran you acted in Markandeya.

But the movie was not completed.

Ganpatrao : No

Speaker : Studio caught fire and must have suffered heavy loss. What happened after that?

Ganpatrao : After that, I played the role of Badal Sinha in Padmini Picture. It was also a big hit. There was a Muslim person in that movie that was to kidnap Padmavati. We had wrestling.

Speaker : ok

Ganpatrao : Because ...

Speaker : Alright. In how many pictures of Maharashtra Film Company, you have acted? At that time, Sinhagad was produced, Kalyan Khajina was produced, Rana Hamir was also produced...

Ganpatrao : No. not in that.

Balasaheb acted in that movie.

Speaker : Which are the movies you have acted in?

Ganpatrao : Sinhagad

Speaker : What was the role you have played in Sinhagad?

Ganpatrao : Jagatsingh.

Speaker : Jagatsingh! Means Rajput?

Ganpatrao : Yes. Rajput Deval Devi.

Speaker : who acted as Deval Devi?

Ganpatrao : Gulab

Speaker : Gulab. Who had become Shivaji?

Ganpatrao : hmm... Baburao.

Speaker : Baburao Painter acted as Shivaji? Did he act as Shivaji? Who acted as Tanhaji?

Ganpatrao : Tanhaji..... Balasaheb had done.

Speaker : Who had become Shelar Mama?

Ganpatrao : That one

Speaker : Alright. Did Shantaram Bapu act in any of the films?

Ganpatrao : Yes. Shantaram Bapu had acted.

Speaker : Which was that part?

Ganpatrao : May be as Suryaji.

He played the roles whatever was allotted to him.

Speaker : Ok. Ok. How much importance was given to Shantaram Bapu at that time?

Shantaram Bapu entered the industry during Vatsla Haran. As what did he enter?

Ganpatrao : He had come to learn Film joining. (Editing)

Speaker : alright.

Ganpatrao : So he was in the film joining the department.

Speaker : that means editing.

Ganpatrao : yes, editing.

Speaker : hmmm and how was he looking at that time? What was his age?

Ganpatrao : He was around 25-30 years old.

Speaker : ok..

Ganpatrao : Maybe above 25-30

Speaker : When did you see him? What was your impression of him? I mean, what did you feel about him?

Ganpatrao : I felt for him.

He was a gentleman from Kolhapur.

He said that he is coming so I informed Baburao Painter of his interest.

Speaker : Alright. .

While working with him, what uniqueness did you find in him?

Ganpatrao : Like...

Speaker : When you were the main Hero and Shantaram Bapu was in-crowd, at that time, did you feel that this boy will rise high?

Ganpatrao : At that time, we did not feel anything about him. But as he is in joining the department, we thought, he will be of great help. He will produce a good movie. And Shantaram Bapu...

Speaker : Ok. Ok. You were recognized as stunt king. When you were in Maharashtra Film Company, have you done any stunts or fighting?

Ganpatrao : yes

Speaker : When did you start this?

Ganpatrao : I started with the film Baji Deshpande

Speaker : Alright

Ganpatrao : In Baji Deshpande, at that time

Speaker : You were tied up to the ceiling.

Ganpatrao : Yashwant..

Yashwant Gupte

Speaker : Yashwant, yes?

Ganpatrao : After jumping from the ceiling I had run very quickly.....

Speaker : That means whatever effects you had done as Stunt King that _____ To do that smoothly what exactly you had done?

Ganpatrao : I was regularly doing body exercises.

Speaker : Not like that.

To do those stunts what tricks you were using? Why were you called Stunt King?

Ganpatrao : They called me Stunt King because no other hero had done these stunts.

Speaker : What were those tricks you applied to do the stunts?

Ganpatrao : Go running and climb on the tree.

Speaker : Is it like, if there is a tree just go running towards the tree...

Ganpatrao : No... When the Muslim enemy chases you from behind...

Speaker : yes yes

Ganpatrao : If they are chasing then just run fast and climb on the tree. Then sit on the tree..

Speaker : ok ok. And...

Ganpatrao : And... I used to run through Rajwada as if the enemy is chasing me. On a single backside, just raise your leg and the enemy used to pass through that.

Speaker : That means you used to hang on the tree?

Ganpatrao : Not on the tree..

Speaker : in the Rajwada?

Ganpatrao : Yes, in the Rajwada..

Speaker : You used to stand high up and used to jump high?

Ganpatrao : No, not like that.. Fix Jet jack and raise your leg high...

Speaker : With the help of Jet Jack, you used to raise your leg up..

Ganpatrao : Yes....

Speaker : Ok.. What all tricks you did?

Ganpatrao : I had jumped in the water from the top of the hill. It was to chase the enemy.

Speaker : Ok. Does that mean they were not using a dummy?

Ganpatrao : No, at that time, they were not aware of the dummy.

Speaker : That means if you have to jump into the sea from a high hill, it was done by you?

Ganpatrao : yes. I have done it.

Speaker : Can you brief me on such kind of incident?

Ganpatrao : Yes. At....

Speaker : Not there. Tell me anything happened in Maharashtra Film Company.

Ganpatrao : In Maharashtra Film Company, at Panhala...

Speaker : What had happened? Which was that movie?

Ganpatrao : Baji Deshpande

Speaker : What had happened at that time?

Ganpatrao : At that time, I was riding the horse and the horse stumbled and fell down. I also fell down..

Speaker : Ohh .. Were you hurt or break your bones?

Ganpatrao : I had not broken my bones. Though my horse fell down and I was thrown down, I kept on crawling and managed to stand on the ground.

Speaker : Ohh. I heard that you have done stunts like while the horse is in running motion you would jump on the horse and stand on his back, and also when the horse is running fast, you would climb on him and sit. This kind of tricks you have done.

Ganpatrao : I have done these kinds of tricks. Even I had done scene of me chasing by riding the horse. While chasing by riding the horse, I had jumped from my horse onto his horse and pushed him down from the horse.

Speaker : which was this movie?

Ganpatrao : At Bangalore.

Speaker : Ok. But we are still talking about Maharashtra Film Company.

Ganpatrao : Yes Yes.

Speaker : After Vastala Haran you did Shahla Shah, was it in that?

Ganpatrao : Yes.

Speaker : What was your role in that movie?

Ganpatrao : Of Shivaji.

Speaker : Role of Shivaji?

After that, Rana Hamir?

Ganpatrao : Not in Rana Hamir.

Speaker : in Kalyan Khajina?

Ganpatrao : I had done small role in Kalyan Khajina.

Speaker : Small role of Padmini?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : So, we can see you had acted in 7/8 movies of Maharashtra Film Company. You were with this company right from the beginning. Then what was the reason to leave the company?

Ganpatrao : I got the chance to work in Bangalore. Here I was not getting any salary.

Speaker : Why were you not getting your salary?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : When other actors were getting a salary, why you were not getting your salary.

Ganpatrao : I was from the sound family background.

Speaker : That was the reason you not getting the salary. Ohh..

Ganpatrao : Baburao Painter was very close to me.

Speaker : So...

Ganpatrao : So keeping in mind the relation we have, I worked there whole heartedly.

Speaker : Ok. That means you worked there on your own. Roughly, how many years you worked there?

Ganpatrao : From the year 1915-16 till 1928.

Speaker : ok.. and.

Ganpatrao : Everyone was aware of that.

Speaker : When did you join Surya Film Company?

Ganpatrao : Surya Film Company.....

Speaker : You left Maharashtra Film Company and joined Surya Film company.

Ganpatrao : in the year 1928..

Speaker : In 1928. Why Surya Film Company? Who was the owner of Surya Film Company?

Ganpatrao : Shri Haribhai Desai.

Even someone by the name of Ghogir Das

Speaker : Was he a partner?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : hmmm and what all movie you had done with them?

Ganpatrao : Heart of the king, Kishori, Jaive khare, Tayran, Rambik. Rambik was the villain. He was.....that is why his name was Rambik.

Speaker : Ok... In that movie, you were a hero?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I was the hero.

Speaker : Alright. Heart of the king was their first movie. You were the hero and who was the heroine?

Ganpatrao : Someone by the name of Garbo

Speaker : By the name of Alluanjan Garbo and the villain was Rangrao. How were their movies? Was it like Maharashtra Film Company, historical?

Ganpatrao : Historical and natural also.

Speaker : It was main..

Ganpatrao : And here it was different. They had an imaginary story.

Speaker : Ok. That means this film had an imaginary story.

Ganpatrao : They used to do the imaginary story.

Speaker : To whom?

Ganpatrao : To Surya Film company.

Speaker : Do you remember any?

Ganpatrao : Heart of the King.

Speaker : Heart of the king was the story of Baba. Then how come this story was imaginary? That is the reason in Baba's movie...

Ganpatrao : The story of the movie used to be as per the owner's demand.

Speaker : The language used in Baba's film was like Swadesh, Swadharna. Then how can it be an imaginary story?

Ganpatrao : like that he was a saviour of poor people.

Speaker : Ok. That means how rich people harass poor and ...

Ganpatrao : Give them trouble.

Speaker : That means Rich man was harassing poor people and to save them from that harassment, a saviour comes. That role you had played. What was his name?

Ganpatrao : Heart of the king.

Speaker : No, What was the name of the director. What was the name of that film?

Ganpatrao : It was.....

something like that.

Speaker : Ok. And he saves them from the harassment and then he...

How come that Anglo Indian actress, Garbo, entered the film industry?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : After Heart of the king which was her picture? Important film?

Ganpatrao : Chavani Chanchal.

Speaker : ok. Who all were there in that film?

Ganpatrao : I acted in that film.

Speaker : You acted in Chavani Chanchal?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I had done the main role.

Speaker : You had done the main role.

Ganpatrao : There was Mr. Jeena ...

Speaker : Who?

Ganpatrao : Jeena..

Speaker : Ok.. Who was Villain?

Ganpatrao : Jeetenrao.

Speaker : Rangrao was there in that film?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : ...

Speaker : Ok. Was there any Hemlopa with you?

Ganpatrao : ...

Speaker : ...

Ganpatrao : Keshavrao was there with us.

Speaker : Was he with you?

Ganpatrao : ...

Speaker : Did Zunzarrao Pawar worked with you?

Ganpatrao : Yes. He has.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao : ...

Speaker : How many days you were with Surya Film Company?

Ganpatrao : Around three years.

Speaker : Ok.

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : That time, the movies were silent. So no advertisement was shown on Radio or Television like how it is shown. Then how Maharashtra Film Company or Surya Film Company was doing the advertisement of their film?

Ganpatrao : That was done by Surya Film Company. Did they use to distribute advertisement flyers by aeroplane?

Speaker : For which movie this was done?

Ganpatrao : Same, Heart of the King.

Speaker : They were distributing flyers by aeroplane? You had done stunts for that? Anyway, was there any other way? Was there any other means of advertisements?

Ganpatrao : Yes. One of them was a newspaper.

Speaker : Ok. Did they ever call Hero for the promotion of the film?

Did it happen?

Ganpatrao : No. They never did like this.

Speaker : Any publicity or stunts had done for advertisement?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : Roughly, how many weeks these movies used to run in the theatre?

Ganpatrao : It used to run for many weeks.

Speaker : Approximately.

Ganpatrao : At that time, there was the importance of stunts.

Speaker :ok

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Alright. After quitting Surya Film Company, where did you go?

Ganpatrao : After that.. I joined Saroj Film Company.

Speaker : That means after quitting Surya Film Company you joined Saroj Film?

Ganpatrao : Yes.

Speaker : In Saroj Film Company what all you did?

Ganpatrao : In Saroj Film Company, I did the same thing what I was doing in Surya Film Company.

Speaker : Which picture you had done in this company?

Ganpatrao : I had done “Mishra Ka Khajana”.

Speaker : Mishra ka Khajina, and which else?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Who was the heroine of Mishra Ka Khajina?

Ganpatrao : Saudamini

Speaker : Saudamini. Who else?

Ganpatrao : Zebunnisa was also there.

Speaker : In which movie Zebunnisa was?

Ganpatrao : In the same movie.

Speaker : In the same movie?

Ganpatrao : Yes...

Speaker : That means two heroines in the same movie.

Ganpatrao : Yes..

Speaker : It was a crooked world. (Farebi Duniya: film name)

Ganpatrao : Yes, Crooked world....

Speaker : Ok and which was the third movie you said you acted in?

Ganpatrao : Jasmine Princess.

Speaker : Jasmine Princess!

Ok. Who was the heroine in that movie?

Ganpatrao : At that time, there were two heroines in that movie.

Speaker : There were two heroines? In Saroj movies! What was that year?

Ganpatrao : 1935..

Speaker : Not possible since it was the silent film of Saroj Film Company.

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : When you quit Surya and came down to Mumbai, at that time Talkie Film had started. Which was your first Talkie Film?

Ganpatrao : My first Talkie Film was "Mishra Ka Khajana" with Saroj Film Company.

Speaker : The movie you are saying "Mishra Ka Khajana" with Saroj Film Company, which was done after 3-4 movies.

After that, which movie you had...

Ganpatrao : In 1937..

Speaker : In 1937?

Ganpatrao : After that, Baji Deshpande, Balasaheb Rajvani..

Speaker : It's Chhatrapati....

Ganpatrao : Yes. Baburao Painter had acted in the movie "Shalini".

Speaker : Baburao Painter had acted in Shalini that means that must be 1936-38. At that time, Prabhat Film Company had started in Pune and even Samrat Cinetone,

Chatrapati Cinetone had started. Afterwards, Marathi Cinetone also started there. One Marathi movie was released. Did you act in both the movie?

Ganpatrao : Whose was it?

Speaker : Cinema by the name “Chatrapati” of Balasaheb Yadav.

Ganpatrao : Yes. In that movie, Balasaheb and I did the role of Peshwa.

Speaker : At that time, Baji Deshpande was not released. Then which one was there?

Ganpatrao : It was Baji Deshpande.

Speaker : Was it Baji Deshpande?

Ganpatrao : Yes.

Speaker : Balasaheb Yadav was there in that movie?

Ganpatrao : Balasaheb Yadav was there in Baji Deshpande.

Speaker : Did you act in

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Viki Pawar had directed that movie? Where was it done?

Ganpatrao : That one.....

Speaker : At Mumbai....

Ganpatrao : It was done at Mumbai and film name was Kailash.

Speaker : Alright. You had done this movie after quitting from Saroj? Kailash movie?

Ganpatrao : No, before that..

Speaker : That means after returning from Bangalore?

Ganpatrao : Yes. After returning from Bangalore, I had done this Kailash movie directed by Viki Pawar.

Speaker : ok..

Ganpatrao : We had purchased many pictures of Baburao Painter.

Speaker : What was the name of your company?

Ganpatrao : Kaiser picture.

Speaker : Kaiser picture!

Was there any connection with German actor, Kaisangi?

Ganpatrao : No connection.

I had done stunts in that.

Speaker : alright..

Ganpatrao : hmm.. A detective was sent by the Government..

Speaker : What was the reason?

Ganpatrao : **The government** had sent a detective to check how they manage their finance in Dahisar Pictures. What these Germans are doing in India? How are they managing?

Speaker : That means Government also felt about you. He sent detective means they were curious as your company was financed by Germans.

Which was that movie?

Ganpatrao : Same one, Kailash.

Speaker : Kailash? Did Lalitabai have acted in that movie?

Ganpatrao : Yes, Lalitabai was there, even Indrajeet Shamrao was also there.

Speaker : So, you were a hero? What about your own company? Were there any partners?

Ganpatrao : Yes. There were partners. Pawar was a partner.

Speaker : Ok, Pawar was a partner. And how this movie has done?

Ganpatrao : No. At the time of Talki, Silent did not work.

Speaker : Was it silent?

Ganpatrao : Yes, it was silent.

Speaker : Around which year it was done?

Ganpatrao : Hmmm

Speaker : No, what was the year?

Ganpatrao : Around 1932-33.

Speaker : Ok, that means after returning from Saroj. You thought it was done before Saroj Films.

Ganpatrao : Yes. Dinkar Dhere had acted in that.

Speaker : Dinkar Dhere had acted? Ok...

Ganpatrao : Our Indu, now she is the wife of Madgulkar, had worked in that movie.

Speaker : Was it a silent movie?

Ganpatrao : Yes, silent.

Speaker : Is she Indu Rathod?

Ganpatrao : no, Indu Gaikwad.

Speaker : Indu Gaikwad.

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Ok.. Does that mean Vyankatesh Madgulkar's wife?

Ganpatrao : Yes, his wife.

Speaker : Oh, I see.

Ganpatrao : Do you know cameraman.....?

Speaker : hmm

Ganpatrao : He is no more now..

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : His wife, Devyani, has played the role of Devi.

Speaker : Do you have any idea? I think Anandrao Painter and Baburao Painter had started Anand Picture Company.

Ganpatrao : Yes.

Speaker : You had told me that you had purchased it.

Ganpatrao : Yes

Speaker : Can you give me some details about it? Roughly, which year was it?

Ganpatrao : That is....

Speaker : Let it be if you don't remember.

Ganpatrao : In the year, 1932. Prabhat Company was here.

Speaker : yes

Ganpatrao : Somewhere! At his bungalow, afterwards came to Pune.

Speaker : Right. After going to Pune...

Ganpatrao : No (Audio is Blank for few seconds).

Speaker : After buying the film from Baburao Painter, you had not done any movie. Even there is not any such record available. Can you tell the reason?

Ganpatrao : At that time, Kolhapur Cinetone had started. Rajaram Maharaj had given them and to us Rupees three thousand to start the company.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : My partners were Kulkarni, Balasaheb Yadav.

Speaker : Balasaheb Yadav was also a partner?

Ganpatrao : Afterwards, I purchased the studio.

Speaker : Where was this studio?

Ganpatrao : Beyond station.

Speaker : Ok. Where Sham Tilekar was staying?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I mean to say that long back, Mr. Kulkarni had started a studio, the same one.

Speaker : _____ baba had done movie there.

Ganpatrao : Yes. At the same place.

Speaker : And after that, why you have not produced any movie?

Ganpatrao : To produce a movie I had to leave Kolhapur..

Speaker : Because you had purchased Anand Film Company. You had purchased all material from them and then you started producing movies.

Ganpatrao : I started but my....

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Alright and that everything, Annasaheb and you bought it at Kolhapur theatre. Afterwards, that movie has gone out of your hand even you lost your company.

Afterwards, did you go to Bombay?

Ganpatrao : Yes yes.

Speaker : Where exactly at Bombay?

Ganpatrao : separate picture, Kailas pictures.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : ----

Speaker : Were you having any partnership in that?

Ganpatrao : I was the owner of that company.

Speaker : That means, you left this company and started Kailash Pictures there.

Ganpatrao : Kaiser pictures.

Speaker : Kailash cinema was produced by Kaiser pictures. What was the reason behind giving the name “Kaiser Picture”?

Ganpatrao : I had done one German stunt.

Speaker : Is there anything of Germans?

Ganpatrao : Nothing

Speaker : Nobody was involved in that.

Ganpatrao : No no.

Speaker : Since that was the period between First World War and Second World War, was there any oppression from Angrej Government? They must have felt that of German participation.

Ganpatrao : Their detective used to come to enquire as to why have you named them like this? Then we told them that we have done one stunt in this movie.

Speaker : Was there any obstacle to the shooting?

Ganpatrao : Not at all.

Speaker : But they used to visit very often to check.

Ganpatrao : And whoever had visited, we had given them work.

Speaker : To whom?

Ganpatrao : To those Angre Detectives, who were coming for checking.

Speaker :

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Who all were involved in this?

Ganpatrao : Mr. Pawar as Director.

Speaker : Your Deepak Pawar?

Ganpatrao : Deepak Pawar

Speaker : Lalitabai as the heroine

Ganpatrao : She was a heroine and I was the hero.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : Dinkar Dede...

Speaker : From Surya Film Company

Ganpatrao : No no

Speaker : Ok, how was this movie?

Ganpatrao : Worked out well.

Speaker : On which story it was based? Was it Historical?

Ganpatrao : On stunts.

Speaker : Lalitabai and all, do they used to fight?

Ganpatrao : Yes, they had included the role of witch ..

Speaker : After that, you have not done any production?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : No? When your movies were good and were famous, then why there was no production?

Ganpatrao : My movies were silent and time was of Talkie movies. So we bought the necessary types of machinery.

Speaker : Did you bring Talkie machinery?

Ganpatrao : We spent lots of money.

Speaker : Ok. When you were in Surya Film Company or Saroj Film Company, what was your salary? In Maharashtra Film Company, you had worked voluntarily, you must have given any money?

Ganpatrao : In Surya Film Company, I was paid Rs.1,000/- per month and at Saroj, it used to increase. First, it was Rs.500/- then Rs.700/-...

Speaker : Alright

Ganpatrao : I worked for one year.

Speaker : From Saroj, you shifted to...

Ganpatrao : In Maharashtra Film Company. For Baji Deshpande

Speaker : In Maharashtra Film Company, of Baji Deshpande..

Ganpatrao : I felt it's my company, let it be.

Speaker :

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Ok. After that, which was your last movie?

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Who had done that?

Ganpatrao : Baba Pendharkar.

Speaker : First movie Bahirjee Naik of Prabhakar Film Company, I think Surkant had done the role of Shivaji, Vittal was also in that.

Ganpatrao : Yes. I had done the role of Bahirjee Naik.

Speaker : Ok. Who else, Sulochanabai was in that?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : Which role you had played in that?

Ganpatrao : of Peshwa..

Speaker : That means Yashwant.

Ganpatrao : of Detective. I have played role of Peshwa 3 to 4 times.

Speaker : How is that?

Ganpatrao : People liked it.

Speaker : When did you act the first time? I think in Baji Deshpande.

Ganpatrao : Baji Deshpande means silent movie.

Speaker : In silent movie i.e. Baburao Painter. After that..

Ganpatrao : Next was Yashwant, directed by Balasaheb. It was Talkie.

Speaker : Talkie? Baji Deshpande was Talkie?

Ganpatrao : hmmm

Speaker : And of Bahirji Naik?

Ganpatrao : That was third

Speaker : While performing three roles of one man but actors was different from each other?

Ganpatrao : No, it was only one.

According to detective...

Speaker : Where there any fighting?

Ganpatrao : Yes, it was on everywhere..

Speaker : But that role you played the first time in Talkie Film before retiring from the film industry, how did you manage to fight at that age?

Ganpatrao : I did not feel anything.

Speaker : But after Bahirji Naik, why did you stop acting? Why did you leave the industry?

Ganpatrao : I just left.

Speaker : What was the reason?

Ganpatrao : I developed an eye problem. Because of the focus of light retina got burnt. So I got checked my eyes by an American Doctor.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : He told me that do not face the focus of light. You have to use Goggle.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : So I started using Goggle. But Doctor had told me that don't act in the movie, you might lose your eyesight, these words were shocking for me. I had received two-three opportunities.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : That means from 1943 till 1979, you have not done a single picture?

Ganpatrao : No

Speaker : That means nearly 30 to 40 years

Ganpatrao :

Speaker : Marathi Film Organisation...

Ganpatrao : Their.....

Speaker : Ok. So to stay connected with Film Industry, you have taken membership of Maharashtra Film Corporation.

Ganpatrao : Ok

Speaker : But basically

Ganpatrao : There was no work

Speaker : Do you watch the movie now?

Ganpatrao : No. I don't. My eyes pain.

Speaker : Ok. _____ not available now?

Ganpatrao : No

Speaker : Have you seen the remaining ever?

Ganpatrao : That one? No.

Speaker : Recently?

Ganpatrao : Recently, nothing.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : From the age 35, 36,37 not at all.

Speaker : Ok. What was your source of earning then?

Ganpatrao : Source of income is my children.

Speaker : What are your children doing?

Ganpatrao : One son is with Farmer's Association. _____

Speaker : Do you receive an honorarium?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I was getting Rs.300/- per year.

Speaker : Rs.300/- per year?

Ok

Ganpatrao : Earlier it was Rs.200/- then something happened

Speaker : Any honour has done by Government in recent days?

Ganpatrao : No. Nobody has given money as such.

Speaker : No? Any honour?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I was honoured once at Bombay. They had given presents. It was done by Shivsena.

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : There was one more Film Company at Madras. A big hall....

Speaker : _____

Ganpatrao : _____

Speaker : Ok

Ganpatrao : No money was given.

Speaker : ok.

Ganpatrao : That hall

Speaker : Were you ever honoured by Maharashtra Government?

Ganpatrao : No.

Speaker : Or anyone from Maharashtra Government.....

Ganpatrao : no... their pension....

Speaker : The pension which was given by them, was it enough?

Ganpatrao : No. Because....

Speaker : Did you ever applied to Government for an increase in pension?

Ganpatrao : Yes. I was the first to apply for an increase in pension to Government.

Speaker : Ok.. Now, you are completing 80 years of your age. Now with the prayer to God that you have a long healthy life always, with this wish, I end my interview. Thank you.

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