

PEN Portraits of principals/directors general

P. C. Behl (02-01-1952 to 10.03.1956)



Railway Staff College in its second avatar came into existence at Baroda (later Vadodara) on the 31st of January, 1952 with a batch of 18 probationary officers of the TTCD i.e. Transportation (Traffic) & Commercial Department of the Superior Revenue Establishment of Indian Railways (as the Indian Railway Traffic Service was called then). Modest journey of training in RailwayStaffCollege began with Sh. P. C. BEhl as its First Principal. Sh. Behl was an officer of Indian Railway Service of Engineers and has held pride posting of Chief Executive Officer of 'East Punjab Railway' with Delhi as Headquarter. Prior to taking on the mantle of Principal, Railway Staff College as its first Head, he was working as General Manager/South Eastern railway. Incidentally, famous film actress 'Nutan' was married to his son Lt. Commander Rajnish Behl of the Indian Navy.

A. C. Mukerjee (26.04.1956 to 02.04.1958)



Sh. A. C. Mukerjee belonged to Indian Railway Service of Engineers and headed RailwayStaffCollege for two years from 26.04.56 after taking charge from Sh. P. C. Bahl .During his tenure ,number of trainees kept on growing and two storeyed Model room was set up for imparting practical training. Training courses for 'temporary officers' were introduced due to large scale induction of temporary cadre officers during this period. He was known for his soft spoken, down to earth nature.

A. V. D'costa (15.04.1958 to 01.04.1959)



Sh. A. V. D'costa was an officer from Indian Railway Traffic Service. During his tenure, number of trainee officers further increased and it went up to as high as 110 officers .Hostel accommodation was augmented to house the extra trainee officers. Besides , facilities of Mess and recreation room were set up. He authored a famous book on 'Railway Operation'.

M. A. Rao (06.08.1959 to 05.05.1960)



Sh. M. A. Rao joined Jodhpur Railway in 1931 and became General Manager (JR) during 1948-52. During GM's tenure, he continued to administer and operate JR lines in Pakistan - the main line from Munabao on the Indian border to Hyderabad (Sind) and the branch lines even after Partition , for a period of almost a year. Jodhpur Railway staff, of all ranks and all communities , even after large scale communal violence , stuck to their posts with grim determination. Such high morale & deep sense of loyalty was unbelievable. He continued to inspire them by regularly visiting those areas unescorted. The operation of those lines enabled lakhs of refugees to reach the safety of the borders of India. He retired as Member Engineering in 1967. He was later Chairman of Engineers India Ltd.(1967-69). He authored a very popular book "Indian Railways" published by the National Book Trust.

S. S. Surana (14.05.1960 to 09.05.1962)



Sh. S. S. Surana belonged to Indian Railway Service of Engineers and served as head of the institute for two years from 1960 to 1962. He was considered person of astute nature and hard task master but still kind at heart and popular for his jovial nature. He used to stay in Palace building on first floor as his official residence. In his tenure at Railway Staff college, training for Class-II officers was introduced at RailwayStaffCollege for the first time.

Hari Sinha (20.01.1966 to 18.02.1967)

Sh. Hari Sinha belonged to Indian Railway Service of Engineers. The son of the Dewan of the erstwhile Princely State of Jaipur , Shri Hari Sinha joined the Jaipur State Railway and rose to become its Chief Engineer. He had the distinction of heading two of Indian Railways premier training Institutions viz. The RailwayStaffCollege and IRICEN Pune. He left his mark on both institutions. With his aristocratic background ,he tried to inculcate discipline, a code of behavior and officer like qualities amongst the new generation of Railway officers. At IRICEN he authored a Handbook called the “Trackman’s Companion”. He later served as Chief Engineer Central Railway, Chief Administrative Officer of both the Madras and Bombay Metropolitan Projects .During his tenure, one week course on Management & general administration was introduced for Jr. Administrative & Inter Administrative grade officers. Besides, a training course for the SAG officers was introduced for the first time during his tenure.

Rajendra Dev (18.05.1967 to 03.01.1969)

Sh. RajendraDev belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and took over charge after retirement of Sh. Hari Sinha. Prior to joining RailwayStaffCollege as Principal , he was working as SDGM on Eastern railway. During his tenure, management courses kept growing in number and a course was organized for the first time for foreign railway officers. After retirement , he settled down in Mumbai. He lived a full and active life and died when he was in his late 90s. His son in law Mr. RK Mishra was also an IRTS officer of early 50s batch.

S. R. Gokhale (16.11.1969 to 31.07.1975)

Sh. S. R. Gokhale had one of the longest tenure as Principal of Railway Staff College. It was during his tenure that Foundation Day began to be celebrated every year and Award of Distinguished alumnus was instituted with Sh. N. P. Bapat, Managing Director of Kandla Trust Port being awarded as first Distinguished Alumnus. During his tenure, trainee strength touched all time high record of 134 . An in house journal named ‘Saurabh’ was also started. He used to take lot of interest in development and beautification of the RSC campus. He coined a new term “Adminocrat”(a combination of Administrator and Technocrat) for railway officers. He was great lover of music.

O. D. Agnihotri (22.03.1976 to 17.06.1977)

Sh. O. D. Agnihotri belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and served as head of RailwayStaffCollege during 1976-77. His stay is remembered for celebration of Silver Jubilee function where Sh. Fateh Singh Rao Gaikwad was present as the Chief Guest. Unfortunately he expired before completing the tenure.Prior to joining the IRTS (TT&CD), he was an officer in the Royal Indian Air Force. He worked on various posts including CPRO/N.Rly and D.S./Jodhpur. He was an amicable and jovial personality. His doors were always open for trainees and faculty.When he was Vice Principal here at RSC, his door had a small notice as “Knock and Come In.” He died of cardiac failure while in office as Principal RSC.

K. S. Charyulu (18.06.1977 to 31.10.1979)

Sh. K. S. Charyulu belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and remained head of the institute for around two years. His tenure is remembered in the history of RailwayStaffCollege for introducing ‘Computer classes (Cobol based)’ for the first time at RailwayStaffCollege. Guest House of Railway Staff college called ‘Athiti’ is also gift of Mr. Charyulu . He later on moved as General Manager/North Eastern Railway.

Inder Sahay (19.01.1981 to 31.03.1984)

Sh. Inder Sahay belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and served as head of the academy for three years starting from 1981. It was during his tenure only that centralized training of IRAS, IRPS(new service introduced) & IRTS (later IRSS also got added) got introduced at RailwayStaffCollege . He also made significant contribution in augmenting hostel capacity of trainee officers by constructing New hostel (presently known as Mehman) with 15 rooms initially on ground floor.

T. S. Vardya (04.04.1984 to 28.04.1985)

Sh. T.S.Vardya was an officer from Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineer. He was famous for looking after trainee officers as his family members and was popular for soft spoken nature. His professional skills in the field of research & development earned him posting later as Director General of RDSO.In his lectures to trainee officers , he used to emphasize the importance of developing the right personal habits in order to become an effective manager. He was a pleasant individual and extremely methodical in his approach to problem solving.

A. K. Pant (29.04.1985 to 27.10.1986)

Sh. A. K. Pant was an officer of Indian Railway Traffic Service from 1955 batch . Prior to joining RailwayStaffCollege, he served as DS/DRM of Baroda division for more than 4 years. His tenure is well remembered in the annals of RSC history for organizing First UIC course at RailwayStaffCollege. During his tenure, a documentary on RailwayStaffCollege was made and released on Doordarshan under 'Premier Institutions of India' show. He later superannuated as Member /RCT in 1993.He was an engineer full of new ideas and full of enthusiasm. He brought about infrastructural improvements in terms of modern classrooms and a new ComputerCenter. Even today he is an avid enthusiast of the internet and probably leads the largest discussion group of retired senior railway officers providing them with articles and viewpoints on topics ranging from railways, science and technology to politics, the global economy and education through his e-mail group.

C. S. Christian (28.10.1986 to 07.07.1987)

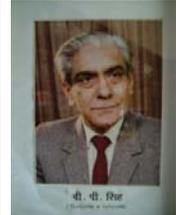
Sh. C. S. Christian belonged to Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers and was head of the academy during 1986-87. Prior to joining RailwayStaffCollege, he was Senior Deputy general Manager in Western Railway. He is known for refurbishing the Palace Dome and restoring its sheer faded over long years of exposure. A fine individual who was one of the more popular Principals at RSC. His house was an 'open house' to probationers and the 'first couple' of RSC organized frequent get-togethers for young trainees. Though not trained in modern Management Theory, his short inaugural lectures to Management Trainees were based on his personal life experience and his experience of bringing up his own pets (of whom he was very fond of) were thought provoking, humorous and most relevant to professional life.He had a long stint as Member of the Railway Rates Tribunal.

J. Rajgopalachari (08.07.1987 to 16.03.1988)

Sh. J. Rajgopalachari belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and took over charge from Sh. C. S. Christian. During this tenure, Library & Management Faculty building came in to being. His tenure saw mammoth increase in number of training courses. He later on moved to North Eastern Railway as General Manager.He had a distinguished career having served as Divisional Superintendent, Secunderabadand Chief Commercial Manager, South Central Railway.Generally quiet and reserved ,he was a disciplinarian and had a good ear for music.

B. V. Rama Rao (27.03.1988 to 31.01.1990)

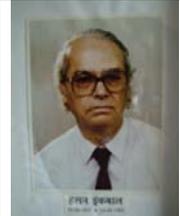
Sh. B. V. Rama Rao belonged to Indian Railway Service of Engineers . He was AGM/SC Rly from Oct 1986 to Feb 1987. He had two spells in RSC, first as Professor/CivilEngg. from 1969 to 1973 and second as PRINCIPAL during 1988-1990. He started for the first time publication of RSC Journalas an official Publication and also hosted ECAFE Conference on High Speed Rail in Nov 1989 attended by Delegates from China, BanglaDesh and other ASEAN countries. He also conducted the Higher Management Course for Additional GMs. While working as Principal/RSC, he got PhD from NIT/Warangal. It was during his tenure that non-cash PRS counter was introduced and computer centre was added.

B. P. Singh (31.01.1990 to 31.01.1992)

Sh. B. P. Singh belonged to Indian Railway Traffic Service and remained head of the academy for two years from 1990 onwards. During his tenure, capacity of Mehman hostel was augmented to meet increased demand of trainee officers. During his tenure , a special course was organized at Railway Staff College for officers of Common Wealth games.

Hari Prakash Mittal (06.04.1992 to 03.08.1992)

Sh. Hari Prakash Mittal belonged to Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers and had short tenure of 4 months as head of the academy. Prior to joining RSC, Sh. Mittal was heading Western Railway as General Manager . His capabilities in the field of research & development earned him lateral shift as Director General of RDSO.

Hasan Iqbal (03.08.1992 to 14.08.1993)

Sh. Hasan Iqbal was an officer from Indian Railway Accounts Service and spent one year as head of the academy. It was during his tenure only that RailwayStaffCollege earned the fettle of hosting First course for General Managers of Indian Railway. In addition , his tenure is known for introducing Medical courses and conducting Customer care programmes at Railway Staff College. He later was elevated as Financial Commissioner in Railway Board.

K. Balasubramanian (15.08.1993 to 28.07.1994)

Sh. K. Balasubramanian took over from Sh. Hasan Iqbalas Principal ofRailwayStaffCollege .During the tenure of Sh. Balasubramanian, Computer center was developed and Cybrary came into being. He is known for his strict and disciplined approach in training but was always approachable to one and all.

RajendraBhansali (29.07.1994 to 30.11.1996)

Sh. RajendraBhansali joined Indian Railway Service of Engineers after graduating from University of Jodhpur in 1960.He further acquired degree of LLB, Advanced diploma(Russian language) &M.Phil . Prior to joining Railway Staff College, he has held assignments of DRM/Jodhpur ,Firojpur& Bikaner. He is remembered for bring a paradigm shift in mode of training and introducing concept of 'Happy Learning' at Railway Staff College . Trainee officers were called as 'Guest officers'. RSC came on internet on 31.1.1996. It was in his tenure that lot of impetus was laid on infrastructural development took place and colorful fountains were developed to add to eco friendly green campus of Railway Staff College. He was pioneer in introducing Yoga classes to synergize health of body and mind.

J. M. Ovasthi (24.11.1997 to 31.02.1997)

Sh. J. M. Ovasthi belongs to Indian Railway Traffic Service and took over charge from Sh. Bhansali. Prior to this, he was working as Vice Principal in RailwayStaffCollege only. His short tenure of 3 months is remembered for opening of Renovated & air-conditioned Sardar Patel Sabagrihaauditorium.He was an amicable and jovial personality.

Chandra Bijlani (29.08.1997 to 31.03.2002)

Sh. Chandra Bijlani belonged to Indian Railway Stores Service. It was during this time only that **post of Principal was re-designated as Director General**. Apart from this, his tenure is remembered for up-gradation of Sports Complex and Swimming pool and new Conference room was added. During his tenure, second UIC meeting was organized at Railway Staff College from 18/1/2000 to 21/1/2000. The Golden Jubilee of the Staff College was organized by him. One of the highlights of his tenure was the discussion on the Rakesh Mohan (Expert) Committee regarding Railway Reform conducted at the College when Minister of Railways was present. He was a keen sportsman and regular Tennis player. He retired from the post of DG RSC and settled down in Dayalbagh Agra and unfortunately passed away on 14th November 2002 after a long battle with cancer.

Suresh Chandra Gupta (05.04.2002 to 31.05.2002)

Sh. Suresh Chandra Gupta was an officer from Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers. His tenure at RailwayStaffCollege remained short since he was later elevated as Member Electrical in Railway Board. During his tenure, proposal for construction of new 100 rooms hostel was mooted to augment the hospital capacity.

Gyanesh Kumar Garg (31.5.2002 to 30.06.2005)

Sh. G.K. Garg was an officer from Indian Railway Service of Engineers. Apart from multi-faceted improvements brought on academic front, his contribution will always be remembered for partial demolition of old hostel (which were once stables housing thorough breads) and in lieu construction of full fledged 100 rooms capacity. New hostel called 'Pahune', was equipped with a beautiful Recreation hall, during his time.

Smt. Shobhana Jain (07.07.2005 to 31.08.2008)

Smt. Shobhna Jain belonged to Indian Railway Accounts Service. Prior to this, she has held key posts of Director/Finance in Mumbai Rail Vikas Corporation and Adviser in Railway Board. Her long tenure of 3 years saw many improvements in academics as well as on the logistics front. It was during her tenure only that renovated Reading room called 'Pragya' became operational in library with smart lighting feature and an Audio Visual section was opened. During her tenure, New air-conditioned Mess for senior officers was also added equipped with nice wall hangings and latest furniture and Room no. 10 was renovated to world class standard.

A. K. Vohra (29.12.2008 to 25.08.2009)

Sh. A.K. Vohra belongs to Indian Railway Service of Electrical Engineers. Tenure of Sh. Vohra is well remembered for bringing about face lift of campus of Railway Staff College by way of developing suave green gardens , providing eco friendly reverse lighting of palm trees and refurbishing colorful fountains. During his time, prestigious Dome light of Palace building was restored which during the days of the royalty, was considered a status symbol. Being sensitive towards the welfare of officers, he was instrumental in introducing family accommodation for the first time. To ensure decorum, a dress code for the mess waiters was introduced and mess furniture was upgraded with a view to provide better services to trainee officers. On the academic front, new concepts of ‘Case study method of teaching’ and ‘Achiever series lectures’ were introduced. Sh. Vohra moved from RSC as General Manager/East Coast Railway and thereafter, got elevated as Member Staff, Railway Board.

C. P. Verma (25.11.2009 to 29.07.2010)

Sh. Verma belonged to Indian Railway Service of Signal Engineers. During his tenure, physical fitness was accorded high priority and as a result , Gymnasium of Railway Staff College was made Air-conditioned upgraded by procuring latest machines/gadgets. Sh. Verma later moved to Railway Electrification HQ office and retired as General Manager ,CORE, Allahabad.

Niraj Kumar (29.07.2010 to 31.12.2012)

Sh. Niraj Kumar belongs to Indian Railway Service of Mechanical Engineers. Prior to joining RSC, Sh. Kumar has held key assignments as DRM at Sonpur& Bhavnagar, ED / Trg. in Rly Board & Chief Mechanical Engineer at DLW and has widely traveled across different countries. College has seen many changes on academic as well as logistics front during his tenure. Apart from giving fillip to the sanctioned World Class work, a number of eco-friendly measures have been initiated and a new air-conditioned Officer’s Club named ‘Nishant Hut’ has been developed. On academic front, he has introduced ‘Lecture series’ for thought sharing amongst faculty members. A lot of stress is being laid on Achiever series lectures for the benefit of young probationers. Despite his hectic schedule, Sh. Kumar always ensures his presence in all activities of Gr. A foundation/Induction courses as well as Special Courses. Having flair for sports, Sh. Kumar has upgraded ‘Gymnasium’ and got ‘Sauna bath’ facility developed in swimming pool.

Pramod Kumar (10.04.2013 to 31.12.2013)

Shri Pramod Kumar has retired as GM/Rail Coach Factory, Kapurthala. He is an IRSME Officer of 1976 examination batch. He completed his BE (Mechanical Engineering) from IIT, Roorkee and has added PG Diploma in Business and Finance Management to his qualification. He has worked on various middle and higher level management posts in the Indian Railways and Public Sector including AGM/ER, Divisional Railway Manager, Nanded, South Central Railway, Additional Divisional Railway Manager, Kota, Western Railway, Chief Workshop Manager, Raipur Workshop, South East Central Railway, Chairman, Railway Recruitment Board, Patna, Executive Director, CAMTECH, Gwalior, Sr. Professor (Mechanical Engineering) at the erstwhile Railway Staff College etc. During the period 2008-10, he had worked as Chairman & Managing Director, Bharat Bhari Udyog Nigam Ltd. Under Ministry of Heavy Industries & Public Enterprises at Kolkata. During his tenure, he was awarded ‘Udyog Rattan’ in 2010 for ‘Quantum increase in Turn-around and profit of his whole group of companies including BBJ Construction & Braithwaite’.

Mrs. RajalakshmiRavikumar (31.12.2013 to 14.10.2014)



Smt. RajalakshmiRavikumar is an IRAS Officer of 1977 examination batch. She has worked on various middle and higher level management posts in the Railways including FA&CAO/KRCL, FA&CAO/ICF/Chennai, FA&CAO, Central Railway, Director Finance, KRCL, Divisional Railway Manager, Solapur etc.

She has undergone various training programmes in India and abroad which include 'Financial Management' in Rothman School, Toronto, 'Strategic Management Programmes for Divisional Railway Managers' in Hec-Business School, Paris

During her tenure as DRM/CR/SUR, for year 2007-08 the Division has received overall inter divisional efficiency shield along with BSL Division. Central Railway bagged 'Best Performance Shield in Financial Management' from MR during her stint as FA&CAO/CR in the year 2011-12.

SanjoyMukerjee (13.12.2014 to 30.09.2015)



Shri S. Mookerjee is an IRAS Officer of 1978 examination batch. He completed his BA from University of Delhi, B.Sc. (Physics Hons.) from St. Xavier's College, Calcutta University and Master's Degree in Business Administration (MBA) from Motilal Nehru Institute of Research and Business Administration, University of Allahabad.

Prior to posting as Financial Commissioner (Railways), he has worked on various higher and middle level management posts on the Indian Railways like Director General/NAIR, F.A. & C.A.O., Eastern Railway, Kolkata, in-charge of Financial Management, Adviser Finance (Expenditure), Railway Board and Executive. Director, Finance (Expenditure), Railway Board, responsible for Ministry of Railway's Capital Budget, Divisional Railway Manager, N.F. Railway, Tinsukia dealing with all General Management and Operations, General Manager (Finance), Deptt. of Telecommunication, West Bengal Circle, Kolkata (on deputation), in-charge for Financial & Revenue Management.