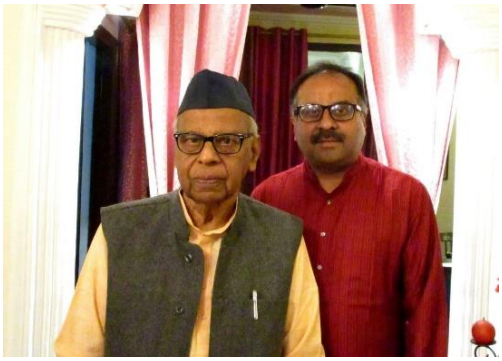

Anoop Saxena Remembering Papa on his 94th birthday

It's been more than a year since he left us, seldom told him how much he meant to me and how big an influence he was on shaping my career, my views about India and the world.

He was a stern father but very open in his outlook, taught us to be grounded & respectful towards people irrespective of their caste, their status. Whoever came to our house was treated equally, no discrimination at all. We all are thankful that he brought us up this way. His nature of helping others was remarkable, sometimes going out of the way using public transport.

He was truly a cancerian and loved his home, he was a complete family man, his three brothers meant a lot to him. When we lost Harish Chacha in July 2020 , he was completely shattered and was down also due to Covid restrictions, in his last days whenever he felt down with old age ailments he used to call his youngest brother Satish chacha to find a solution to his problems.

I was blessed & lucky to have spent all of my 59 years together with him, eating, drinking, sharing jokes, discussing politics and sometimes gossipping, we were more like friends..After his death , it wasn't easy for me to come back to a normal routine.

He was a journalist and a self-made man, coming from Allahabad to a big city & had struggled his way to be a part of Delhi's elite group - popularly known as AC Saxena or simply only “AC”.

His passion for journalism was so much that in late 50s in Delhi, he quit a comforting cushion job of Manager in a well known printing press, and reverted back to his chosen journalism. After joining a leading National daily - The Indian Express, Overtime he was successful and attained the coveted post of a News Editor. His political views were quite liberal,.. you can say Nehruvian, and also had a very practical approach in problem solving. He always was proud of his profession which he continued till the age of 85.

Being an Allahabad university product - in the 50s, which was then considered ”The Oxford of India”, a niche for all top active bureaucrats & political leaders of India ,who were mostly his classmates .He was very attached to Allahabad, and always remembered the good times he had spent there .

I would say his umbilical cord lay in the city of Allahabad.

His career spanned more than six decades, during which he continued his passion for writing and journalism. He also had worked with the German daily The Suddeutsche Zeitung as India based correspondent. He was accredited with PIB since long and is still being remembered as one .. very respectable “Distinguished” member.