

Kashmiri Panditon Ke Anmol Ratna



Vol. - V

■ **Dr. B.N. SHARGA**

This pioneer research work presents an account of the silent struggle of Kashmiri Pandits for their survival after being hounded out from the land of their birth by the fundamentalists in different times, and how they adjusted themselves honourably in a completely new environment keeping their distinct ethnic identity intact.

This unique work also deals with the socio-economic and political structure existing in that period and how in that setup the Kashmiri Pandits excelled themselves in different fields by their sheer dint of merit, hard work, integrity and above all their unflinching honesty without any support from any quarter. It is an honest attempt in which preference has been given to facts over fiction.

KASHMIRI PANDITON
KE
ANMOL RATNA

VOL. V

By

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M.Sc., Ph.D.

SP

SHARGA PUBLICATIONS

Manohar Niwas, Kashmiri Mohalla,
Lucknow - 226003

Published by
Mrs. Rajwanti Sharga
394/20, Kashmiri Mohalla,
Lucknow - 226003

First edition - 2003
Price Rs. 150/-

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Vani Graphics
Lucknow, India

*Dedicated to
all those members of the community,
who have a sense of history.*

*"Whatever action a great man performs;
common men follow
And whatever standards he sets by exemplary acts;
all the world pursues."*

-Bhagwat Gita

Preface

Though the Hindus claim that their civilization is more than 5000 years old, but they never believed in properly documenting their history. Whatever has been written about our ancient past in the form of Vedas, Upanishads, Purans, etc. is generally being regarded as mythology by the historians. It is because of this fact that Al Barunie, who came to India along with Mahmood Ghazni made some unpalatable remarks about the Hindus in 1024 A.D.

The first person who started writing history in a proper form was a Greek named Herodotus (Circa 484-Circa 424 B.C.) He is now being regarded as the "Father of History". He extensively toured the then known world observing and recording customs, beliefs, traditions and rituals of the people of different regions in a chronological order. What actually made his work to be known as history was his conscious attempt to record the events of importance and to set forth the motivation of the people involved.

It is with this spirit that an effort has been made to write the historiography of the Kashmiri Pandits after their migration from the Kashmir Valley in different times and under different conditions to place every thing on record for the benefit and information of the future generations. It became all the more important after, the mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley in 1989 as practically all the important documents and records related with our ancient and glorious past have been lost due to terrorists violence. Moreover no community can survive in the long run without its properly documented history. So an attempt has been made in the form of "KASHMIRI PANDITON KE ANMOL RATNA" to preserve whatever is left now of our past rich cultural heritage.

To carry out this type of research work in absence of properly

recorded information and lack of support from any quarter was naturally not an easy task for me. It was both a troublesome and time consuming experiment. Then a great care has also been taken while writing this book to cross check the facts as far as possible from different sources so that their authenticity could be maintained. But in spite of taking all these precautions the chances of minor mistakes could not be ruled out for which I sincerely extend my apologies. I hope that the learned readers will appreciate the spirit of its contents and take them sportingly without any malice. Their healthy and constructive suggestions will always be appreciated for future guidance.

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15th August 2003

Acknowledgements

1. Mrs. Irene Furguson, Edinburgh, Scotland.
2. Ms. Elizabeth Stratton, Cambridge, England.
3. Mrs. Jacqueline Cox, Cambridge, England.
4. Dr. Farooq Abdullah, Srinagar, Kashmir.
5. Lady Rajini Saxena, Srinagar, Kashmir.
6. Maj. Gen. Jagdeep Narain Taimni, DehraDun.
7. Mrs. Mohini Khoshoo, New Delhi.
8. Pt. Jawahar Wattal, New Delhi.
9. A.C.M. Swaroop Krishna Kaul, Gurgaon, Haryana.
10. Mrs. Chinmoye Dutta, Kolkata.
11. Dr. Pramod Kumar Wanchoo, Jaipur.
12. Mrs. Swaroop Nehru, New Delhi.
13. Pt. Jagdish Prakash Taimni, New Delhi.
14. Mrs. Brij Kumari Razdan, Agra.
15. Pt. Ravi Mubayi, New Delhi.
16. Pt. Gopal Krishna Gurtu, Faridabad, Haryana.
17. Mrs. Niti Mubayi, New Delhi.
18. Dr. Bhawani Lal Bhartiya, Jodhpur.
19. Lt. Col. Chandra Kumar Kitchlu, Noida.
20. Dr. Shyam Kathju, Jodhpur.
21. Pt. Shyam Sunder Kaul Kilam, DehraDun.
22. Mrs. Gappo Bakshi, Mumbai.
23. Pt. Prabhakar Nagu, Lucknow.
24. Mrs. Rup Kaul, Kolkata.
25. Pt. Vinay Sharga, Lucknow.
26. Pt. Arun Kumar Mubayi, Kanpur.
27. Pt. Ratan Sharga, Lucknow.

28. Pt. Hari Narain Kak, Gurgaon, Haryana.
29. S. Shamimul Islam, Lucknow.
30. Mrs. Leela Zutshi, New Delhi.
31. Pt. Kuldeep Kumar Sukhia, Lucknow.
32. Late Pt. Praduman Krishna Takru, Lucknow.
33. Pt. Ashok Pandit, Jamsheedpur, Bihar.
34. Dr. S.G. Sarwar, Srinagar, Kashmir.
35. Pt. Lakshman Muttoo, New Delhi.
36. Mrs. Sushila Mattoo, Amritsar, Punjab.
37. Mrs. Kamla Channa, Lucknow.

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First Kashmiri Chief of Air Staff
**Air Chief Marshal Swaroop
 Krishna Kaul**

In ancient times the battles were mostly fought either for women or for expanding the territories of the kingdoms and empires. The deciding factor in such battles generally used to be the bravery and courage of the soldiers and their over all state of physical fitness. With the passage of time and gradual development of science and technology the superiority of arms and ammunition coupled, with meticulous planning became the hall mark for winning the wars. But after the invention of aeroplane by Wright Brothers in 1903, this concept of traditional war fare has gone through a revolutionary change. Now the wars are fought not only on land but in the deep waters of the oceans and in mid air as well. So a very strong airforce now plays a key role in deciding the outcome of such wars. The countries which have a vast coast line like India now also maintain a strong naval force to guard their borders from any possible enemy attack and fully use their naval power in such an eventuality. So the modern warfare has now become a complex affair in which all the three wings of the armed forces play an equally important role in deciding the outcome of such conflicts.



The Indian Air Force, was established on 8th October 1932 as the Royal Indian Air Force during the British period with the promulgation of the Indian Air Force Act by the government.

Incidentally on the same day the first batch of five Indian pilots, including Subroto Mukherjee, the first Indian Air Chief, who graduated from the Royal Air Force, Cornwall was inducted into the I.A.F.

The next step after that was the formation of the first air squadron with four rickety Westland Wapiti biplanes raised on 1st April, 1933 at Karachi with a ground crew of Hawaiian Sepoys. It was tasked to support the operations of the Royal Indian Air Force against the tribals of North West Frontier Province. Since then the Indian Air Force has produced a number of gallant officers with extraordinary calibre and skill who brought laurels to their country by their acts of bravery and heroism like the ace pilots Baba Mehar Singh and the legendary hero K.K. Majumdar. One such gallant and brave officer of the Indian Air Force is Air Chief Marshal Swaroop Krishna Kaul whose saga of heroism in the both Indo-Pak wars of 1965 and 1971 will always be written in the letters of gold.

Air Chief Marshal. S.K.Kaul's ancestors were originally the residents of Habba Kadal area of the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley. His ancestor Pandit Maharaj Kaul "Dattatreya" came out from the Kashmir Valley in the beginning of the 19th century during the rule of Mughal Emperor Shah Alam (1759-1806) around 1804 via Mughal route and finally settled down in Bazaar Sita Ram of Delhi where quite a large number of Kashmiri Pandit families used to live in those days. After witnessing the growing influence of the British over the administration at Delhi and lack of proper opportunities to secure a good job for the survival of his family members his son Pandit Ram Chandra Kaul then migrated to the near by Gwalior state to try his luck there. The name of his son was Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul.

Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul had his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language under the supervision of able and learned Maulvis in the Gwalior state. After completing his education he came to Lucknow in search of a job around 1842 where his

cousin (Mausera Bhai) the famous Urdu poet Pandit Daya Shanker Kaul "Naseem" was employed in the court of Nawab Amjad Ali Shah (1842-1847) as a Bakshi. He started living in Kashmiri Mohalla with "Naseem".

After some time Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul got a job in the court of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (1847-1856) and was made a "daroga" of some department. He was popularly known as "Bhaiyyaji" among the community members in Kashmiri Mohalla. After the Mutiny of 1857 he joined the police department under the British rule and was made a sub Inspector at Lakhimpur Kheri. He again came back to Kashmiri Mohalla around 1875 after his retirement from the active government service. He was also an Urdu poet of repute and used to compose his Urdu couplets under the pen name or "Takhallus", "Yas" like his father Pandit Ram Chandra Kaul who was also an Urdu poet. Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul used to take the guidance in Urdu poetry writing from his cousin "Naseem" who was an established Urdu poet at that time with a very sharp intellect. Some of the Urdu couplets composed by Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul are there in Bahare Gulshane Kashmir. Vol-II which was published in 1932.

The idea about the style of Pandit Sri Krishna Kaul's poetry writing and his selection of words to express his feelings can be formed from the following Urdu couplets composed by him.

*"Tassawar jalwai yar dil mein hai, allah ki kudrat ka
Ki butkhane mein aya hon mein, mushtaq uski surat ka,
Na dar roz jaza ka hai, na andesha kayamat ka
Tarsa hon uski baksheesh ka, bharosa hai inayat ka,
Ajeeb rind bekhooob tak mein hai, dukhtare raz ki,
3لاہجِ khair ho ab to hafiz uski, hurmat ka.
Fidaye naz ho kar, mar gaya zere kayamat uski,
Ki naksho payenaz kab nishan hain meri turbat ka.
Damgar yeh nikalte hain jo ashk garam aakhon se,
Asar baki abhi hai sozish dil ki hararat ka."*

His son Pt. Shyam Krishna Kaul after completing his

education went to Calcutta (Kolkata) and got a job in the Calcutta-Nagpur railway section of that time he subsequently became an audit officer in the same railway division. Pt. Shyam Krishna Kaul's son Pt. Kunwar Krishna Kaul after the death of his father got the job in the same railway division with its headquarters at Calcutta Pt. Kunwar Krishna Kaul was married with Roop Kumari who was the daughter of Pt. Triloki Nath Kaul a leading criminal lawyer of Bahraich and grand daughter of Pt. Baij Nath Kaul "Chungi" of Kashmiri Mohalla Lucknow. He had three sons Pratap Krishna, Hari Krishna and Swaroop Krishna.

Pandit Kunwar Krishna Kaul's brother Pandit Brij Krishna Kaul "Bekhabar" was also a reputed Urdu poet of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. Pandit Brij Krishna Kaul did a monumental work of compiling the poetic compositions of the Kashmiri Pandit poets in the form of two volumes of "Bahar-e-Gulshane Kashmir". He later on migrated from Lucknow to Jaipur where he died in 1927.

Pt. Kunwar Krishna. Kaul's eldest son Pratap Krishna Kaul was born in 1930. P.K. Kaul after completing his education became an I.A.S. officer. He was posted in Lucknow as a city magistrate around 1954. After working on various posts in the various districts of U.P. and in the secretariat at Lucknow he ultimately became a Cabinet Secretary in the central government around 1984. He then became India's ambassador to the United States of America. in 1986. He retired from active government service in 1990. He is married with Usha who is the daughter of Pt. Krishna Narain Channa and grand daughter of Pt. Laxmi Narain Channa of Jammu.

Pt. Kunwar Krishna Kaul's second son Hari Krishna Kaul was born in 1932. He got married with Subhadra who is the daughter of Pt. Jai Narain Ugra. He died quite young in July 1982 at the age of about 50 years.

Pt. Kunwar Krishna Kaul's third and the last son A.C.M. Swaroop Krishna Kaul was born on 20th December 1935 in

Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had his early schooling in Beasant College in Benaras (Varanasi) which is run by the Rishi Valley Trust of the Theosophical Society of India founded by Annie Beasant. He did his matriculation from this institution in 1949. He then joined the Government College Allahabad and did his F.Sc. form there in 1951.

After that he joined the National Defence Academy at Kharakwasla near Pune in December 1951 and did his graduation course in military training. After passing out form N.D.A. in December 1952 he joined the Air Force Academy at Jodhpur and then did six months extensive training course in flying jet aircrafts at the Jet Training Wing of the Air Force at Hakimpet in Secunderabad. He then got his commission in the Indian Air Force in December 1954 as a Pilot Officer in the Squadron No. 17 of the Air Force at Adampur.

Here it should be kept in mind that although technically India became free in 1947 from the British rule but indirectly it was under the control of the British as they were even after our freedom occupying the key posts in our armed forces, which was really a great paradox in itself. The Governor General of free India at that time was Lord Mountbatten, the Commander-in-Chief of the Indian army was Gen Butcher, the Chief of Air Force was Air Marshal Sir T.W. Elmhearst and the Chief of Naval Staff was Rear Admiral J.T.S. Hall. The Chief of the Air Staff Air Marshal Sir.T.W.Elmhearst was then succeeded by another British officer Air Marshal Ronald Chapman in 1950 who was again succeeded by yet another British officer Air Marshal Gerald Gibbs in 1951 who retired in 1954 from service.

So it was only in 1954 that the Indian Air Force had its first Indian Chief when Air Marshal Subroto Mukherjee became the Chief of Air Staff. Prior to that our Air Force was under the command of the British officers, which was really a very unique feature indeed. As the top ranking British officers of the Air Force left for their country lock, stock and barrel, so the junior Indian officers got quick promotions in the Air Force after the

independence of the country.

Just after the independence of the country on 22nd October 1947 the Pakistani soldiers disguised as tribals in Afghan suits attacked Kashmir with an evil intention to grab it by force. The Indian Air Force then played its first major role after independence by lifting the troops and armaments in the quickest possible time in the battlefield thus thwarting the designs of the enemy.

A.C.M., S.K. Kaul got his first promotion in December 1955 and was made a Flying Officer. Though the Communist China illegally occupied a big chunk of land in the Ladakh region of the J& K state in 1959 and subsequently invaded India in the north east in 1962 but the then defence minister of the country V.K. Krishna Menon with leftist leanings did not think it proper to involve the Air Force in this conflict with the result that our armed forces had to suffer a most humiliating defeat at the hands of the Peoples Army of China. The then Prime Minister of the country Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru had to sack Krishna Menon under public pressure for this military debacle. Pt. Nehru then appointed Y.B. Chavan as the defence minister of the country. The Chief of Air Staff at that time was Air Marshal. A.M. Engineer.

Pt. Nehru could not bear this humiliation and shock and suffered a mild paralytic stroke. He subsequently died on 27th May 1964. After Pt. Nehru's death Lal Bahadur Shastri a small, and unassuming person became the Prime Minister of the country. Taking full advantage of the fluid political situation in the country Pakistan again attacked India in 1965. Gen. J.N. Chowdhary was the Army Chief and Air Marshal Arjan Singh was the Chief of Air Staff then. Lal Bahadur Shastri gave then a free hand to our armed forces to deal with the enemy firmly.

During this Indo-Pak war of 1965, Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul was based at Pathankot. He flew Mystere air craft and took a very active part in these operations. He was a part of the 28 air craft strike formations of our Air Force which struck the Chamb-Jorian sector on 17th September 1965 and which was

mainly responsible for successfully thwarting and blunting the Pakistani Armour thrust in our territory. Throughout this conflict he undertook many offensive strikes and air support missions to provide air cover to our marching troops in the Pasrur Bulge Sialkot sector of the war front. Our armed forces gave a crushing defeat to the Pakistan army in this war and moved up to the outskirts of the Lahore city. After this the government raised the rank of the Chief of the Air Staff from Air Marshal to Air Chief Marshal and thus Arjan Singh became the first Indian to be decorated with the rank of Air Chief Marshal after this war.

But the military gains of this war were subsequently bartered away by the political leadership of our country in 1966 at Tashkent when Lal Bahadur Shastri signed the "Tashkent Agreement" with the then president of Pakistan Gen. Ayub Khan under great mental duress. He could not return back to India alive and was found dead under mysterious circumstances the very next morning lying prostrate on the door way to his hotel room there. After his death Mrs. Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of the country for the first time in 1966.

Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul after this war got the promotion and was made a Commanding Officer of a Hunter bomber Squadron at Hasimasa in the eastern sector. The first genuine general elections in Pakistan for the 300 seats of its National Assembly were held on 30th December 1970 under the rule of Gen. Yahiya Khan, in which Awami League Party of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman won 162 seats. But both Gen. Yahiya Khan and Zulfikar Ali Bhutto were not at all prepared to accept him as the Prime Minister of Pakistan i.e. a rule of Bengali Muslims over Punjabi Muslims at any cost. They then played a dirty trick and called Sheikh Mujibur Rehman from Dhaka to Islamabad for talks for power sharing. But on his arrival in Islamabad they arrested him and sent him to jail. This step then generated a great resentment in the Bengali Muslims who overwhelmingly voted for the party of Sheikh Mujibur Rehman. They then raised the banner of revolt against the autocratic rule of Gen. Yahiya

Khan and formed then "Mukti Bahni" for their liberation. To crush this revolt Gen. Yahiya Khan then deployed the Pakistani army under the command of Gen. N.A.K. Niazi. Then India came to the rescue of "Mukti Bahni" in 1971 to provide them logistic support in their freedom struggle and at the same time to stop the massive influx of refugees from across the border into our territory.

Though actual Indo-Pak war started on 3rd December 1971 but prior to that Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul who was Wing Commander at that time started undertaking photo reconnaissance missions over erstwhile East Pakistan since October 1971. These missions were specially carried out deep into enemy territories covering heavily defended sectors of Comilla, Sylhet and Saidpur. The photographs obtained through these dare devil missions of the fortified enemy positions helped our armed forces to finalise their assault plans accordingly to minimise the casualty figures.

On December 3, 1971, when the Prime Minister Mrs. Indira Gandhi was away at Calcutta, the Defence Minister at Patna and the Finance Minister at Bombay, Pakistan carried out its threat to unleash a total war upon us. At 17.47 hrs. on that day the Pakistan Air Force struck at our air fields at Amritsar, Srinagar, Avantipur and Pathankot. The aim was to paralyse our Air Force. But it failed in its mission to disrupt our capability to retaliate. That night our Canberra force struck back at Musid, Mian-wali, Sargodha, Chander, Risalwala, Johrat and Masrur air fields of the enemy causing heavy damage to its forward positions thus blunting the ferocious attack of Pakistan on our western border. Throughout this war Air Chief Marshal S.K. Kaul carried out strike missions with top precision on military targets of the enemy covering practically the whole area of the erstwhile East Pakistan. He also led some important missions such as an attack on the Dhaka Government House. This mission was a great success and ultimately forced the Pak army to surrender before our armed forces. For this gallantry,

determination, professional skill and leadership of a very high order the then President of India V.V.Giri honoured him with Maha Vir Chakra (M.V.C.)

His citation reads "On 4th December 1971, he again volunteered for another task to photograph the Tejgaon and Karmitola airfields. His reconnaissance flights over these two airfields in the face of the most sustained and heavy enemy ground fire, stand out as acts of heroism, extreme gallantry and devotion to duty, in addition to his reconnaissance exploits, he led the very first eight aircraft strike mission over Dhaka. In this raid his formation encountered enemy air craft near the target area. With exemplary leadership he manoeuvred his force in such a manner that two of the enemy aircrafts could be shot down and the other two fled away. The target thus became clear for attack and all through the war he led his squadron boldly and courageously in the face of the enemy" The then defence minister of the country Babu Jagjeevan Ram also played a crucial role in this war in succeeding diplomatically to stop the American 7th Fleet which was on its way to the Indian ocean to help the besieged Pakistani army at Dhaka. Field Marshal S.H.F.J. Manekshaw was the army Chief, Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal was the Air Chief and Admiral S.N. Nanda was the Navy Chief who planned and supervised these operations very meticulously which created a world history in the army warfare.

Yet again the strategic gains of this war were bartered away to Pakistan on the negotiating table at Simla in 1972 when at the last moment, when the talks were about to fail between the two countries, P.N. Haksar and D.P.Dhar under Soviet pressure, advised Mrs. Indira Gandhi to sign the 'Simla Accord' with Mr. Zulfikar Ali Bhutto the then Prime Minister of Pakistan, without extracting any thing substantial from him much against her desire. It must be kept in mind here that Mr. Z.A.Bhutto was later on hanged by Gen. Zia-ul-Haq (1977-1988) for committing this sin.

After this war A.C.M., S.K.Kaul became chief operations

officer at the Pune Air Force station which is one of the major Flying base of the Indian Air Force. He was then made Wing Commander and group captain in the directorate of Air Intelligence at the Air Force headquarters at New Delhi.

After completing this important assignment A.C.M., S.K. Kaul became the Air Officer Commanding of the Air Force station at Bareilly, which is a very important Air Base of the Central Command. It houses two Squadrons with highly specialised role of strategic reconnaissance and electronic warfare.

When Mrs. Indira Gandhi became the Prime Minister of the country for the second time in 1980 after the fall of the Janta Party government at the centre, she sent A.C.M., S.K. Kaul to Moscow in 1982 as the Air Attache in the Indian embassy there. He held this post upto January 1986. During this period there was an unprecedented procurement and induction of a large number of air crafts and other weapon systems from the erstwhile Soviet Union for the Indian Air Force to make it one of the best in the world. These included MiG-27, MiG-29, AN-32, 12-76 aircrafts and Mi-17 and Mi-26 helicopters Apart from all this A.C.M., S.K. Kaul. successfully co-ordinated the induction of Radar and Missile systems for the Indian Air Force as well. While at Moscow he was also instrumental for the co-ordination of first Indo-Soviet joint space venture very successfully in which Squadron Leader Rakesh Sharma carried out his historic space journey to become the first Indian cosmonaut. During this period he also arranged, the training in U.S.S.R. of a large number of Indian Air Force personnels for the newly acquired weapon systems from that country.

After his return from Moscow he was posted as the Director of Personnel (officers) at the Air Force headquarters at New Delhi. He was then made the senior Air Staff Officer at the South Western Air Command at Jodhpur. During his two year stint at the Jodhpur Air Base apart from conducting the routine air exercises, he reorganised the total Air Defence environment of that important region, which included the integration of the

Army Radars with the Air Force for providing proper Air Defence to the Bombay High region from any strike by the enemy.

Around 1989 he was appointed as the Senior Air Staff Officer in CAC at Allahabad. He again rearranged the operational air exercises, which were conducted in this command to give it a total thrust towards the task oriented training. Under his command a large scale air borne operations involving a battalion group, parachuting and heliborne operations, dropping two company groups were organised and very successfully conducted, thus enhancing our capabilities in this field.

In February 1991 he became AOC-in-C of the Central Air Command and he remained on this post upto 30th April 1992. During this tenure he devoted his special attention towards optimization and utilization of the resources and simultaneously identifying the areas for effecting economy, both in man power and materials by taking effective effects to curtail the unproductive expenditure. Apart from all this he also gave special attention towards the welfare of the air personnel under his command. Greater efforts were made and due emphasis was given to improve the quality of life at all the stations of the Air Force by providing a better and healthier environment in them with improved facilities. In order to project and identify the Air Force with our countrymen, particularly those living in the rural areas, a scheme was launched to adopt a village contiguous to the Air Force camps. For the needy villagers medical attention, health and hygiene, sanitation, portable water supply etc were provided voluntarily by the personnels of the Air Force under his command. For carrying out all this work and for his distinguished record of service of the most extraordinary nature the then President of India Mr. R. Venkataraman awarded him with Param Vishisht Seva Medal in 1992.

On 18th May 1992 he was appointed as the AOC-in-Chief of the Western Air Command, which is the largest and one of the most important operational command of the IAF to keep a

constant vigil on the western border of our country. In order to promote closer co-operation and better integration of joint planning between the Army and the Air Force he institutionalised bi-annual conferences with both Northern and Western Command of the Army with active support of the two G.O.Cs-in-C. These conferences helped a lot in building up a better understanding between the two wings of our armed forces the Army and the Air Force thus paving a way for integrated joint planning for future wars.

On 31st July 1993 he was appointed by the government as the Chief of the Air Staff. He retired from this post on 31st December 1995 after putting in 42 years of active service in the Indian Air Force. In November 1994, he was also appointed as Chairman Chiefs of Staff Committee. In this capacity he gave great impetus to joint planning and co-operation in conducting any operation.

Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul got married on 11th December 1962 at Bhopal in Madhya Pradesh with Nita the daughter of Pt. Chand Narain Raina "Chand" of Lahore who was a reputed Urdu poet Mrs. Nita Kaul is a very active social worker. She has contributed a lot in the field of adult education by regularly organising various adult education programmes at the places where her husband was posted from time to time. She has also worked for the institutions for the handicapped children at most of the Air Bases. She also made the Air Force Wives Welfare Association meaningful by involving a large number of wives of the Air Force personnels in various ventures and social programmes. This couple has only two daughters. Shivani and Devyani. The former is married with Sanjay Tikku while the latter is married with Banmali Agrawala.

Air Chief Marshal S.K.Kaul is a jolly good fellow with a charming and robust personality. He was a keen sportsman during his young age. Golf and Tennis are his most favourite games. He loves reading books on various subjects and listening Indian classical music with rapt attention. He is popularly known

as Suppy Bhai among his relatives and close friends. He is very humble and highly cultured person who gives due recognition to human dignity. He has over 3700 hours of accident free flying record to his credit which is a very remarkable feat indeed. He had flown various types of. Fighter and bomber supersonic aircrafts held out in the inventory of the Indian Air Force from the Vampires in the 1950s to the latest MiG-23, Jaguar, MiG-29, and Mirage-2000 aircrafts. After his retirement from service he settled down in the Gurgaon district of the Haryana state near Delhi in 1996. He lives now in 3705-A in sector 23-A there. In the words of the reputed Hindi poet Tapas Chaturvedi.

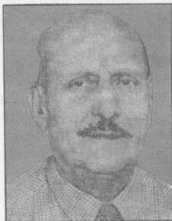
*"Aaj hi kya aadi se yeh ho raha hai
Bhagya ka chirbhar manav dho raha hai
Bas ise zindagi ya khel kah lo,
Aadmi kuchh pa raha to kuchh kho raha hai"*



A world renowned Kashmiri Malariologist

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal

In spite of tremendous progress which we have made in recent years in the field of medical sciences and biotechnology even then there are still many dreadful diseases in the world, which have no cure and cut short the life span of human beings. Malaria ranks with AIDS and Tuberculosis as one of human kind's leading killers. Though there was a time when it was considered to be a tropical disease limited to



certain areas in the country but now it is spreading to even temperate zones as well all over the world including America. The most common form of Malaria is the product of a nefarious partnership between the Anopheles Gambia mosquito and the plasmodium falciparum parasites. Mosquitoes pick up this parasite by feeding on an infected human host and thus spread this dreadful disease.

In India Ronald Ross who was the son of a British Captain in the Bengal army of the East India Company and who was born in Almora on 13th May 1857 was the first person to start his research work then on this dreadful disease known as Malaria. After completing his education in England he again came back to India in 1881 as a medical doctor and was then attached to the then Indian Medical Service. He then started his extensive research work with limited resources on mosquitoes at various places of his posting like Secandarabad, Kherwara in Rajasthan and Kolkata. He finally arrived at a seminal discovery that

mosquitoes transmit Malarial parasites. He got the Nobel Prize in Medicine in 1902 for this wonderful discovery.

So this dreadful disease Malaria was identified for the first time in the beginning of the 20th century in India by a British medical doctor Donald Ross. The first Kashmiri Pandit who did an extensive research work in this highly specialised field of Malariology and won world's recognition by his path breaking experiments to control this dreadful disease to provide better environment to enhance the life span of human beings was Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal whose invaluable contribution in this particular field and vector control in south east Asia can never be forgotten.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's ancestors were the famous Dattatreya Kauls of Rainawari mohalla in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley. Then there are various theories as to why they started writing Wattal as their surname, when it is considered to be a derogatory word in the Kashmiri language. According to the famous historian Mohammad Fauq, who has done an exhaustive research work on the nicknames and surnames of the Kashmiri Pandits, in ancient Kashmir during the Hindu rule many orthodox Pandits used to sweep the premises of temples without any compensation out of sheer devotion to the presiding deities of the temple. They and their descendants were subsequently nicknamed as Wattals. Then there is another theory that they are the descendants of the famous saint Wattal Nath of Kashmir.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's ancestor Pt. Shankerji Kaul was the head of this joint family in Srinagar Kashmir which used to consist of about six widows and some young boys. Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's great grand father Pt. Shivji Kaul after completing his education became a well known Hakim of Kashmir. Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's grand father Pt. Shambo Nath Kaul after completing his studies became the private secretary of the then Maharaja of Jammu & Kashmir Sir Pratap Singh (1885-1925). He died unfortunately quite young at the age of about 41 years. His wife died a few years earlier to his death. So his son Janki Nath was

brought up by his grandmother who was the only surviving lady at that time in this house hold. As so many misfortunes struck this family simultaneously within a very short interval of time, so to over come these adversities and for the well being of young Janki Nath she being a highly religious and pious lady then started devoting her time mostly in performing various religious functions and rituals in which young Janki Nath used to take a part. He was then nicknamed as Wattal to bring prosperity to this unfortunate family which witnessed many deaths of its members in quick succession.

Pt. Janki Nath Wattal had two sons. They were Chunni Lal and Bansi Lal. His eldest-son Pt. Chunni Lal Wattal was born around 1924 in his ancestral house in Rainawari, Srinagar, Kashmir. He had his early schooling in Sri Pratap College in Srinagar and did his matriculation around 1939. He then did his F.A. in 1941 from the Punjab University of Lahore which used to conduct the examinations then.

Pt. Chunni Lal Wattal then for his higher studies went to Lahore from Srinagar and did his graduation with Economics, Political, Science and History as his subjects in 1943 from the Punjab University, Lahore. He was one of the best students of the Punjab University, Lahore at that time. He then did diploma course in statistics from the same university in 1944, which was newly introduced then in the university's curriculum After the partition of the country in 1947 Pt. Chunni Lal Wattal went to Calcutta from Kashmir in connection with his job, where he retired as the Chief Labour Advisor and Personal Administrator of Macniell & Barry Ltd. He was one of the distinguished and well known persons of Kolkata who was actively involved with many social and cultural organisations of the metropolis. He was also actively involved with the Kashmir Sabha Kolkata and also served as its President for a couple of years. He died in Kolkata in 2001 at the age of about 77 years.

Pt. Janki Nath Wattal's younger son Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal was born on 19th July 1927 in his ancestral house in Rainawari,

Srinagar, Kashmir. As his mother died quite young in 1928 so he was brought up under the loving care of his grandmother. He was initially admitted in the Christian Missionary School for education, but due to some family problems he was then admitted in Government Primary School at Ganesh Ghat, which was very near to his house. He then joined the Baliapora Govt. Middle School from where he passed his middle examination.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal then took his admission in Sri Pratap High School and did his matriculation in 1941. He then joined Sri Pratap College and did his F.Sc. in 1943.

Since Biology was not there in the curriculum of the Sri Pratap College for under graduate students then and there was no facility to teach this subject any where in the J&K state, so Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal went to Lahore from Srinagar to pursue his higher studies in this subject there. He took his admission in D.A.V. College, Lahore and did his B.Sc. in 1945 in first division securing the highest percentage of marks in the whole examination conducted by the Punjab University of Lahore.

In the meanwhile the political situation in the country suddenly became very fluid. The rumours about the partition of the country on communal lines started gaining momentum. The Muslim League under the leadership of Mohammad Ali Jinnah had already passed a resolution to that effect way back in 1941. Then the sailors and junior rank Indian officers of the Royal British Indian Navy revolted against the British imperialism in 1946. The people like film actor A.K. Hangal and former Prime Minister of the country Inder Kumar Gujral were sent to jail by the British for extending their support to these mutinous Navymen So under such uncertain conditions and surcharged atmosphere after weighing all the pros and cons Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal then decided to pursue his further studies at Lucknow in a peaceful atmosphere than taking a risk of again going back to Lahore to do the same.

Consequently Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal took admission in the Lucknow University and did his M.Sc. in Zoology in 1948

obtaining the first position in the final examination. After that he went to Delhi from Lucknow and was appointed as a research fellow in the Indian Agricultural Research Institute New Delhi. He then got the research fellowship of the University of Minnesota and left for the United States of America to carry out his research work there. He completed his Ph.D. thesis on "Applied Entomology" in 1952 and incidentally he was appointed as the Agricultural Scientist in the same university. After serving on this post for about four years he then went to London in 1956 to enhance his knowledge in the field of medical entomology at the London School of Hygiene & Tropical Medicine under the guidance of world renowned scientists there.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal then went to Moscow in 1959 to work as a trainee at the Gamalaya Institute of Epidemiology just to make him familiar with the progress made by the scientists of the erstwhile Soviet Union in this particular field and to have an idea about the techniques developed by them to control the highly communicable diseases like Malaria and the methods adopted by them to treat the patients afflicted with such diseases.

In 1960 Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal on an invitation went to Czechoslovakia from Moscow to deliver a lecture in an international symposium, on communicable diseases which was organised by the Natural Faculty of Vector borne diseases in that country.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal after coming back to India from the United States of America around 1962 was appointed by the central government as an assistant director in the ministry of Food & Agriculture. He was subsequently selected as an entomologist in the then Malaria Institute of India which was established with the sole aim to combat this dreadful disease in the country. This prestigious Institute of the country was subsequently renamed as the National Institute of Communicable Diseases.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal then took up an extensive research work in the field of Malariology and vector biology by developing

indigenous techniques to control the communicable diseases especially Malaria in the country. His pathbreaking experiments in this field and original research work brought him world's recognition and he was then sent as the consultant of the World Health Organisation in 1968 on the Nepal-Tibet border for a thorough study on plague which made its appearance then and to take effective steps to contain that dreadful disease in that area.

It is because of Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's remarkable work in the field of Malariology that the scientists have succeeded now in decoding the genes which cause this disease to make its treatment more effective. Now the scientists for the first time have the genetic manuals for the three key elements of the disease transmission for the cause of the disease, the transmitter and the human host. It has recently been revealed by Dr. Anthony Fauci who is director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases in the National Institute of Health of the U.S.A. Now the scientists world over are very successfully applying biotechnology to control and treat Malaria and other such communicable diseases.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal retired as the director of the National Institute of Communicable Diseases New Delhi in 1987 after putting in a long meritorious service. After his retirement from the active government service he was made an expert by the central government on vector biology and he worked in that capacity till his death.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal was a WHO expert on the advisory panel on Malaria from 1962 to 1972. In 1972 he participated at the WHO Inter Regional Seminar on Anti Larval Operations in the UAR (Alexandria Cairo and Aswan). In 1977 he went to Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand and Afghanistan as the member of the Indian delegation to study the work done on Malaria in these countries. He was on the editorial council of Folia Parasitologica Czechoslovak, Academy of Sciences from 1967 upto 1980. He was also a member of the WHO expert panel on

Vector control and ecology from 1977 upto 1988 besides a member of other expert committees and panels of his parent institution.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal always took a keen interest in the working of various national scientific bodies and institutions. He was elected as the President of the Indian Society of Malaria & other Communicable Diseases in 1964 and remained on its executive body for a number of years. He was also President of the Entomological Society of India from 1969 for several years. He also served as the Vice President of this society previously for some time. He was a member of the Central Insecticide Registration Committee from 1977 upto 1986. He was a member of the standing working committee of the Agricultural and Food Products Divisional Council (SWEAF). He was member of the Indian Standards Institution from 1972-1986. He was a member of the Agriculture & Food Products Divisional Council (AFEDC) (ISI) from 1962 upto 1986.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal during his official assignment or even otherwise was strongly in favour of adopting a comprehensive policy for the complete eradication of Malaria from the entire country and to achieve that aim he visited a number of countries both developed and developing in the world just to acquaint himself with the steps taken by these countries in this direction. His work was extensively published in the reputed journals of the world. He has about 160 original research papers on Malariology and vector biology to his credit. His colleagues used to call him proudly as the "Walking Encyclopaedia", on Malriology, vector biology and its control in south east Asia.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal got married around 1948 when he was a student of M.Sc. at the Lucknow University with Bimla, the daughter of Pt. Nand Kaul Karihallow who was the Post Master General of the J&K state. He has only two children a son and a daughter. His daughter Ruby is a double graduate and is also a postgraduate who is married with Bimal Dhar a globe trotting technocrat. Ruby is at present living with her husband in

Melbourn, Australia.

Dr. Bansi Lal Wattal's son Jawahar Wattal is now an international name in the field of music. After doing his B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology and then M.B.A. in Advertising and Marketing, Jawahar Wattal took up Music as a full time job which was his greatest passion since his childhood days. At a very young age he learnt how to play a Gittar and by the age of 21 years he had composed the music and sung for a number of advertisement jingles. He also performed for the leading professional recording outfits like, EMI, India.

Jawahar Wattal's long cherished dream took a concrete shape when he setup a 24 track digitalized Production House and an accredited advertising agency known as ADCAMP INDIA PVT. LTD. in D-63/A, Hauz Khas New Delhi around 1985. He thus became a pioneer in the Indian pop scene and a main figure to shift the focus of the music industry from Mumbai to Delhi.

In the 1990s the country witnessed a tremendous boom in the world of Pop. Music which brought both name and fame to Jawahar Wattal who then established himself as one of the India's top music composer, director and producer. His uncanny ability to predict what will be popular with the masses tomorrow, his professional attitude combined with his constant quest for excellence, originality and perfection are some of the basic qualities in him which brought him an instantaneous success in this highly specialised and competitive field of Pop Music of which he is now an uncrowned king.

Jawahar Wattal uptill now has to his credit more than 3000 jingles including Ponds, Pepsi, Hero Honda, KLM, Usha Fans, Boost, Horlicks, Lufthansa, Maggi, Nescafe and Mirinada.

He has also given music for a number of T.V. serials like "The World This Week", "Tol Mol Ke Bol", "Himalaya Darshan", "Newsline", "Sanjha Choolah", "Ruba Ro", "Saas Pe Sawa Saas", and "Quiz Time".

Jawahar Wattal in the span of last six years has composed, directed and produced about 65 music albums out of which

fifteen became platinum for their popularity. They included every thing of the music world from Punjabi Bhangra to Rajasthani folk, from Christmas carols to sufiana music and gazals as a result of which some of the present generation super stars of the Indian Pop Music like Baba Sehgal, Daler Mehndi, Shweta Shetty, Hans Raj Hans and Shoba Mudgal were born who were unknown and out of focus prior to that.

Jawahar Wattal has won many awards for his superb musical compositions. In 1998 he won the Channel V Award for the best music composer. The Press Club of Punjab honoured him with Sangeet Samrat Award in 2000. He got the multi platinum award for the music of "Mera Dil Bole Piya Piya" in 2000. Prior to this he got multi platinum award for "Bolo 'Ta Ra Ra' in 1995, for "Dardi Rab Rab" in 1996, for "Ali More Agna" in 1996, for "Diwane to Diwane hain" in 1997, for "Ho Jayegi, "Balle Balle" in 1998, for "Jhanjhar," "Piya se Milke Aiye Nain "Punjabi Munda," and Mahio Mahi in 1999.

Jawahar Wattal is also regularly writing a column for "Danik Jagran" and "The Tribune".

Dr. Bansilal Wattal was a complete man, upright, disciplined, honest, helpful and possessed with intellectual excellence. He fully enjoyed an aristocratic life style. He had a truly Kashmiri handsomeness and was quite often mistaken to be a Persian nobleman in Lucknow, Delhi and in America. In his early days in school he showed talent as a vocalist and loved to play Tabla. He used to play tabla as an accompanist for one of his distant relative Pt. Dwarika Nath Kaul who was a vocalist and Music teacher but unfortunately a blind person. Dr. Bansilal Wattal's other hobbies were photography, bird watching and mountaineering. He was also a boy scout. His reading habits other than professional included religion and philosophy. He was also an amateur poet and used to write his poetic compositions under the pen name "Yaas".

Dr. Bansilal Wattal passed away suddenly on 14th July 2002 at the Apollo. Indraprastha Hospital in Delhi due to brain

haemorrhage where he was admitted for the treatment. His wife Mrs. Bimla Wattal died in 2000 two years before his death.

Dr. Bansilal Wattal will always be remembered for his generosity, joviality, wit and humour. He never nurtured any ill will against anybody and always gave sound advice to others to solve on their ticklish problems. Such selfless persons have now become rare.

*"Unke noorani chehre par hamesha rahta tha ek ajab jalal
Kyon ki unhunne kabhi apne dil mein panapne diya nahin koi
malal".*



A great educationist and visionary

Pandit Iqbal Narain Gurtu

It has been observed from times immemorial that at the end of each century a great effort is made by the spiritual government of the world to revive and regenerate the ancient truth in order to push further the evaluation of the great planet of the universe. Accordingly we find a galaxy of eminent people on the social and political horizon of our country who through their dedicated efforts and selfless work not only restore the high moral ideals in the contemporary society but also give it a new life and direction to carry out the message of love and compassion for all human beings without any discrimination on the basis of their caste or creed and blood or breed. One such shining star who appeared on our national scene in the fog end of the 19th century to change the destiny of our nation through spiritualism was Dr. Annie Besant popularly known as Mother among her large number of followers. She ushered into India the ancient home of the Rishis and the radiating centre of spiritual basis for the whole world an entirely new concept of education through Vedantic teachings to build up national Hinduism in the country. In 1898 she gave a new life to Hinduism and Sanatan Dharma by founding the Central Hindu College at Benaras which is regarded as the most sacred city by the Hindus. That luminary lit the whole world with effulgence and by its magnetic touch revived the centuries old Sanatan Dharma. The greatness of the Aryan race was once again



shown to the world at large as the great repository of the divine knowledge and the hoary ancient wisdom.

On the clarion call of Dr. Annie Besant a band of highly qualified young, energetic, dedicated and selfless workers with a fire in their heart to serve their motherland joined her movement to change the destiny of their nation. One such outstanding son of the motherland who sacrificed all his worldly pleasures for a bigger national cause was Pandit Iqbal Narain Gurtu whose immense contribution in the field of education and his saga of selfless work without any remuneration will always be written in the letters of gold.

According to reliable information collected from various sources Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu's ancestor Pt. Narain Das Gurtu was basically a resident of Habba Kadal mohalla in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley, who came to Lucknow during the rule of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) and started living with his family members in Kashmiri Mohalla. In due course of time he became a daroga of some department. There is also a view that he was a jewellery officer of the Nawab. Then it is also said that during the Mutiny of 1857, Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu's grandfather Pt. Krishna Narain Gurtu helped the British forces to restore normalcy and law and order in the city and the British became so much pleased with his efforts that they appointed him as a settlement officer in Sagar in central India. The British also gave three villages to Pt. Krishna Narain Gurtu in the Kanpur district and bestowed upon him the hereditary title of Rai for his loyalty towards them.

Rai Krishna Narain Gurtu had a son Rai Inder Narain Gurtu who was born in 1850 in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. Rai Inder Narain Gurtu after completing his education was taken in the judicial service by the British. He first served as Munsif and then as subjudge in different districts of the then United Provinces. His last posting as subjudge was at Allahabad where he died in 1904 at the age of 54 years. He was a very fair complexioned person with blue eyes and a bushy brown beard

on his face. When Rai Inder Narain Gurtu acquired the state after the death of his father its worth was about Rs. 10,435/- in those days.

Rai Inder Narain Gurtu had two sons Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu and Pt. Brij Narain Gurtu besides a daughter Shompati who was married with Pt. Kailas Prasad Kitchlu the first Indian director of public instructions during the British period.

Rai Inder Narain Gurtu's eldest son Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was born on 25th November 1878. He had his early schooling at different places depending upon the posting of his father. He passed his matriculation examination with flying colours in 1893. His father then sent him to Allahabad for higher education where he took his admission in the Muir Central College which was having mostly Europeans on its staff and was affiliated with the Allahabad University. He passed his F.A. examination in 1895 from this institution in first division.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was a very popular student of Muir Central College and used to take a keen interest in debates and discussions. He formed a Literary Society in the college and used to invite the judges of the Allahabad High Court and other prominent people to address the students. That way he came into the good books of Justice Mehmood who was the first Indian judge of the Allahabad High Court and the son of Sir Sayyed Ahmad Khan the founder of Aligarh Muslim University.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu then took his admission in the Allahabad University and did his B.A. in 1897 and M.A. in English literature in 1899 in first division. He then got married with Saraswati the daughter of Pt. Prithvi Nath Chak who was great legal luminary and was regarded as the uncrowned prince of Kanpur.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu after his marriage then again went from Kanpur to Allahabad to study law. He did his LL.B. from the Allahabad University in 1902 in first division securing the highest percentage of marks in the whole examination for which he was awarded with the Chancellor's Gold Medal.

He then again came back to Kanpur from Allahabad and started his legal practice under the supervision of his father in law Pt. Prithvi Nath Chak who was an undisputed leader of the Bar at that time and had the people like Pt. Moti Lal Nehru and famous industrialist Brijendra Swaroop as his juniors. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu became the member of the Kanpur Bar Association in 1903 and very soon became a promising lawyer of the city due to his sharp memory and deep knowledge of law. In the first six months of his legal practice he earned about fourteen thousand rupees. Then suddenly a turning point came in his life. He had a chance meeting with Dr. Annie Besant and attended her few lectures in Lucknow and Kanpur. He listened every word spoken by Dr. Annie Besant very attentively which ignited a fire in him to serve his motherland under her magnetic personality. Consequently he left his lucrative legal practice and decided to serve the nation. His decision to renounce the world for a national cause not only stunned his close blood relatives but also gave a big shock to the entire community which was expecting a very bright future for this intelligent and dynamic young man. The famous Urdu poet of Lucknow Pt. Brij Narain Chakbast on this episode in the community then expressed his feelings in the following lines.

*"Kal sare sham mere samene yak mard buzurg
Alame gauz mein is tarah hue garm sukhan
Apne hazrat Gurtu ka !arakpan dekha.
Taj diya khidmat kalej ke liye tan, man, dhan,
Kuchh samajh mein nahi ata yeh ine kya sujhi
kaun zihosh kahega ise kara ahsan
Chhor di khwahishe zar, tark diya aisho shabab
Gar yeh sanyas nahin to hai kya hazrat man."*

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu along with his wife Mrs. Saraswati Gurtu then left the Kanpur city for Benaras (Varanasi) on his mission. He reached the premises of the Central Hindu College on 20th October 1905 and presented himself before Dr. Annie Besant who then arranged for his living in the block of the college

housing Tara Printing Press at that time. In order to test his loyalty and dedication she then assigned him the job to properly arrange the old records of the college which Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu did with full devotion and dedication. Dr. Annie Besant became so much impressed by his style of work that she allowed him to live with her in a portion of "Shanti Kunj" which was her residence in Benaras and made him the joint secretary of the college Trust.

Dr. Arthur Richardson an Irish scholar was the Principal of Central Hindu College then and an equally competent Irish scholar Dr. George. S. Arundale was the Head Master of Central Hindu School. When in 1907 Dr. George S. Arundale went on a six months leave to England, Dr. Annie Besant made Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu as the officiating Head Master of the Central Hindu School. In 1908 Dr. Arthur Richardson suffered a massive paralytic stroke and sought retirement from service. In his place Dr. George. S. Arundale was made the Principal of Central Hindu College and Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu became the Head Master of Central Hindu School. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was a very strict disciplinarian and very hard task master. He started military training for the first time in his school to inculcate discipline in the students and to develop national character in them which is now being imparted in schools and colleges all over the country in the form of N.C.C. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu also introduced the system of Parliamentary debates in his school to make the students familiar with the current affairs and to mould them into the future leaders of the country.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu became a member of the Theosophical Society of India on 5th April 1908 and started taking an active part in its affairs. He also became an active political worker by joining the Liberal Party around 1911 with people like Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru. He also became an active member of the Home Rule League formed by Dr. Annie Besant for granting independence to the country.

The movement for establishing a Hindu University at Benaras

gained momentum in 1911. One of the person who immediately joined this movement with Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya was Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu. The very first public meeting in support of a Hindu University held on 21st May, 1911 at Kheri was addressed by Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu. When the Hindu University Society was duly registered in December 1911 for the management of this proposed Hindu University. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was its Joint Secretary. He extensively toured the whole country with Malviyajji to raise funds for this University.

On the invitation of the government of India Princess Sigfrid of Sweden paid a visit to this country around 1912. She also paid a visit to Benaras to see the working of Central Hindu College under the able guidance of Dr. Annie Besant. When she was taking a round in the college premises with Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and Dr. Bhagwan Das, her eyes noticed Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu standing in a corner like a Grecian statue. She then out of sheer curiosity very politely asked "who is this blue eyed Englishman in an Indian dress."

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu continued as Head Master of the Central Hindu School upto 1913. In 1914 Dr. Annie Besant handed over the entire management of the Central Hindu College to Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya to develop it as the nucleus of the proposed Hindu University. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu then became the Principal of National Theosophical College. The Benaras Hindu University officially came into existence on 4th February 1916, with Sir Sunder Lal as its first Vice Chancellor and Pt. Manohar Lal Zutshi as its first Registrar. Maharaja of Bikaner Sir Ganga Singh was elected as the Chancellor of this university.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu used to command a great respect and regard from his teachers and students. He was considered to be the best Head Master of the Central Hindu School a highly loveable person with an awe inspiring personality. During the height of the First World War Dr. Annie Besant asked him in 1917 to lead a deputation of the Home Rule League to England to plead the case of India's independence there. He undertook

this dangerous sea voyage from Bomaby (Mumbai) to London, but when his ship reached Gibraltar in Spain the British authorities did not allow him to proceed any further and instead asked him to go back. He eventually came back to India in 1918 without fulfilling the assigned work.

The British under the Montague-Chelmsford Reforms appointed two eminent Indians Sir C. Y. Chintamani and Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla for the first time in 1919 as ministers in the U.P. Government. Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla was given the portfolio of local self government and Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was made his Parliamentary secretary. It was not an easy task for him to work under a person of Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla's stature who was regarded in those days as a legal giant with a very sharp memory and deep understanding of civic matters. But Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu did his job remarkably well and won the confidence and admiration of his mentor. On his appointment Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru wittingly remarked the following lines of Mirza Ghalib.

"Hua hai shah ka musahib phire hai itrata.

Warna shahar mein Ghalib ki abroo kya hai"

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu subsequently resigned from his post in 1920 due to some basic differences with the British over the civil disobedience movement launched by Mahatma Gandhi.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu then in 1921 contested the election for the membership of the U.P. Legislative Assembly from the registered graduates constituency. His main opponent in this election was Dr. Ganesh Prasad an authority on Mathematics and the Principal of Central Hindu College Benaras. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu won this election hands down and became the member of the U.P. Legislative Assembly. He then started living in Lucknow in the Old Councillors Residence on Vidhan Sabha Marg. He continued as the member of the U.P. Legislative Assembly for two terms and very ably participated in its debates and discussions on various crucial issues. For the first time in the House the matter for deciding the powers of the state

legislature and the High Court came for discussion on 13th May, 1936. Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu spoke at length over this most trivial issue quoting various rulings and authorities on the subject. The other stalwarts who took part in this interesting debate were. Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, Sheikh Habibullah, Hafiz Hidayat Hussain, Nawab-z-ada Mohammad Liaqat Ali Khan who later on became the Prime Minister of Pakistan, Sir C. Y. Chintamani, Dr. Hirday Nath Kunzru, Rajeshwar Bali and Thakur Ram Pal Singh. The silver jubilee celebration of the Theosophical society of India were organised on a very grand scale in Udayar in Madras in 1925 and Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu managed this big show from his own resources and won an all round appreciation for his skill and talents to organise such a fanfare on such a massive scale.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was then elected as the Chairman of the Benaras Municipal Board in 1931. He continued on this post for about a year and did commendable work to tone up the working of the Municipal Board by strictly enforcing its rules and regulations for providing proper civic amenities to the citizens.

In 1932 Sir Ganga Nath Jha retired as the Vice Chancellor of the Allahabad University. In his place Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was elected as the new Vice Chancellor of the Allahabad University. He continued on this post for two terms upto 1938. During his tenure the golden jubilee celebrations of the university were organised on a very grand scale in 1937 in which a number of dignitaries from various important universities of the world were invited to participate. One of the professor came from the Al Azhar University in Cairo which is about 1000 years old. The special convocation which was organised to mark this historic occasion was presided over by the then Lt. Governor of U.P. Sir Harry Haig as the Chancellor of this university. The honorary degrees of LL.D. and D. Litt were conferred on some of the eminent people of that time like. Sir P.C. Roy, Sir Mohammad Suleman, Chief Justice of the Allahabad High

Court, Sir Kailas Narain Haksar, Sir Ganga Nath Jha, and Dr. Bhagwan Das by the Vice Chancellor of the Allahabad University Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu.

In 1940 on the request of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and Dr. S. Radhakrishnan who was the Vice Chancellor of the Benaras Hindu University then Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu went to Benaras from Allahabad to take up the responsibility of the post of Pro-Vice Chancellor of B.H.U. As Dr. S. Radhakrishnan used to remain mostly outside the country in connection with his foreign tours to deliver lectures in the various universities there so Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu functioned more or less as the acting Vice Chancellor of the Benaras Hindu University. He functioned on this post upto 1943. During the Quit India Movement of 1942 he very ably and deligently conducted the affairs of the university and saw to it that the academic atmosphere in the campus may not be disturbed due to this agitation.

Actually the term of Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu as Pro-V.C. of B.H.U. was to expire in November 1943. He was persuaded by Malviyaji to continue for another term. But some members of the University Court proposed the name of Dr. Bhola Nath Singh for that office. Some other persons proposed the name of Pt. Radhakant Malviya for the same post. So the election became inevitable. In a tense atmosphere the court met on 27th November, 1943. Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya himself moved the name of Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu and the election took place in which Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was duly elected for another term upto 1946.

The 26th convocation of the university was held on the very next day i.e. 28th November, 1943. Dr. Hirday Nath Kunzru delivered the convocation address. The honorary degree of the doctor of laws was conferred upon the Chancellor Maharaja Sir Hari Singh of Jammu and Kashmir State in abtansia. After finishing this work Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu expressed his desire to be relieved of the office of the Pro Vice Chancellor on grounds of health. At its meeting held on the 25th March, 1944 the

University Executive Council accepted his resignation with much regret and passed a resolution placing on record its deep sense of gratitude and high appreciation of the devoted and selfless services rendered by him to the university.

As a crowning act to all his services to the university which were completely honorary, Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu donated on the eve of his retirement from the Pro-Vice Chancellorship a sum of rupees three thousand to the university for an endowment for awarding a scholarship in the name of his grandfather to be known as "Rai Pt. Krishna Narain Gurtu Scholarship." The university authorities on their part named one of the important university hostels after him as Dr. Iqbal Narain Gurtu Hostel of the Benaras Hindu University.

The honorary degrees of LL. D and D.Litt. were conferred upon him by the University of Allahabad and the Benaras Hindu University respectively for his outstanding contribution in the field of education.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu then became the director of Rishi Valley Trust under which a chain of educationl institutions were established by Dr. Annie Besant at Raj Ghat in 1927-1928 and at other places. He then started living on the bank of river Ganges at Rajghat looking after the management of these institutions. He was elected in 1952 as the President of the National Geographical Society of India.

On the occasion of his 75th birthday which was celebrated on a grand scale on 25th November, 1953 a commemorative volume eulogizing his services in various fields was brought out to make it a historic event. This volume was edited by Laxman Sahai B.A., LL.B. Vakil and Rama Pati Shukla M.A., B.T. lecturer in the Teachers Training College of B.H.U. in which a number of eminent people, friends and admirers of Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu expressed their views about this great visionary and paid their rich tributes to him. The then President of India Dr. Rajendra Prasad, Vice President of India Dr. S. Radha Krishnan, the Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawahar Lal

Nehru and the governor of U.P. K.M. Munshi sent their personal felicitations to him on this occasion. This genius par excellence and a real Karmayogi left for his heavenly abode on 22nd October, 1966 at the age of 88 years.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu had no son. He had three daughters Urmila (Bishan) who was married with Pt. Suraj Nath Kitchlu of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow, Uma who was married with Pt. Mukat Behari Lal Dar of Varanasi and Treveni who was married with Pt. Bhasker Nath Sharga of Kanpur.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu's younger brother Pt. Brij Narain Gurtu had a son Ram Narain and a daughter Laxmi who was married with Pt. Pyare Lal Chak of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. Pt. Ram Narain Gurtu became a judge of the Allahabad High Court. He was married with Sheela who was the daughter of Pt. Iqbal Narain Haksar of Gwalior. He had a son Hari Narain and a daughter Madhu who is married with Pt. A.N. Kaul I.P.S.

Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu was a very fair complexioned person with blue eyes and medium height, who could very easily be mistaken as an Englishman by any body. He had a very good health and physique always brimming with youthful vitality. At the age of 75 years he used to look like a young man of 30 years of age. The most peculiar feature of his entire life was that he did all the work in a purely honorary capacity without taking even a single paisa as remuneration. On the contrary he donated lacs of rupees from his own pocket to various charitable institutions and helped financially innumerable men and women of which there is no record as he always believed in "Guptadan". He donated about one lac rupees to Rishi Valley Institutions alone. The Harijan Ashram in Prayag and the building of Annie Besant School were built by his donations. He organised the Kashmiri Pandit community in Benaras by forming a Kashmiri Association there in 1946 and became its founder president. The other important members were Pt. Raghunandan Lal Dar, Pt. Brij Krishna Zutshi, Pt. K.K. Kitchlu, Dr. P.K. Razdan and Pt. Ram Narain Bahadur. Though he occupied various high

positions in the society but he never accepted any award or reward for his work when normally at such places people generally manipulate such decorations. He was a humanist to the core of his heart for whom the service to humanity was the greatest religion of the world.

He always avoided glare of publicity and did his work in life hiding his good deeds behind the curtain of anonymity. He was very hard working, conscientious and dutiful person who never compromised with his principles of life. He never used to sign any paper without reading its contents thoroughly and never passed any order without properly studying the merits and demerits of the case. Being a man of law he never did any thing which was unconstitutional. He inspired many young men and women in their life who subsequently rose to very high positions in the society. He was really an embodiment of noble deeds and very high moral values. He was truly a Janmayogi, Karmayogi and Sufi Philosopher all in one. Such great souls come once in a blue moon on this earth to restore people's faith in high ideals of life. Their saga of life and the sacrifices made by them to uphold certain basic values in the society should always be written in the letters of gold. In the words of noted Hindi poet Vijay Veer Tyagi.

*"Dwar hain sab ek, dastak bhinna hai
Bhai hain sab ek, mastak bhinna hai
Zindagi school hai aisi jahan
Paath hain sab ek pustak bhinna hai".*



A well known Sericulture expert
Pandit Shyam Sunder Kaul
'Kilam'

Though the people generally believe that the production of silk yarn had originated in China, but the production of silk yarn as a domestic industry was in existence in Kashmir as well from ancient times, which later on was developed as a full fledged, domestic industry of the valley providing employment to a very large number of people of the J & K state. Here it must also be kept in mind that the very name of silk fibre in Kashmir "Pooḷ" produced from the cocoons is quite different from its name in China, Italy, France or even in Spain. Then the existence of the Mulberry trees in Kashmir also has a very long history and it is being considered as a sacred tree by the Kashmiri Pandits from times immemorial. The twigs of this tree are being used in various religious rituals. There is also a practice of worshipping a very old Mulberry tree by painting its main trunk with Vermilion like a deity in Kashmir. All this naturally reflects that the people treat this tree as a very important symbol for their prosperity which is actually the backbone of their domestic economy. It is because of all these economic factors that the government of J&K has placed this tree in the reserved category in the state and the cutting of this tree is strictly prohibited, which invites a penal punishment.

The British for the first time during the rule of Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh (1885-1925) through their 'Residents' in Kashmir



and especially through one Mr. Thomas Wardle persuaded the 'Darbar' to develop the Sericulture in the state on modern scientific lines to increase silk production and at the same time to maintain its high quality by rearing of pasteurised eggs imported from the European countries like France and Italy etc. Consiquently around 1895 a big silk producing factory was established in Srinagar by importing the required machinery for the same for the proper functioning of its each department. Thus it became the biggest raw silk factory in the world producing raw silk in bulk under one roof at one place.

Then to supervise the workers and other technical staff of this factory Pt Lachman Kaul 'Kilam' was appointed by the J&K government on a senior administrative post on which he worked for about seven years. He was then transferred to the newly constituted Mulberry Culture Department of the J&K state under the expert guidance of a French Sericulturist, Monsieur. A Peychaud who was appointed by Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh as the director of Horticulture, Malberry Culture and Agriculture. Monsieur. A Peychaud then to help him made Pt. Lachman Kaul 'Kilam' as his assistant Pt. Lachman Kaul 'Kilam' served in this department upto 1935 and is now being regarded as the father of Malberry Culture in Kashmir.

We all know that Uttar Pradesh is a traditional silk weaving state in the country. Its Benarsi Silk Sarees are famous all over the world for their quality and craftsmanship. There is a great demand of raw silk in the state to produce such fancy articles made of silk which is generally met out either through imports from the neighbouring countries or from the silk producing states in the country. So when India became free in 1947 and Pandit Govind Ballabh Pant became the first Premier of the then United Provinces (Uttar Pradesh and Uttaranchal) he took a decision for taking effective steps to boost up the silk production in the state and to develop proper infrastructure for the same to obtain good quality of silk in large quantities for the better economic prospects of the silk industry in the state. Consiquently Pt.

Govind Ballabh Pant brought Pt. Shyam Sunder Kaul Kilam; an expert in this field from Kashmir in 1953 to build up proper infrastructure on modern lines for Sericulture in U.P. to increase the production of raw silk to meet the growing demand of the silk industry in the state.

Pt. Shyam Sunder Kaul 'Kilam' was born on 13th February 1913, in his ancestral haveli in Habba Kadal in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley. He traces his ancestry from Pandit Ganesh Kaul who was a member of the famous Dattatreya Kaul clan of Kashmir, Pt. Ganesh Kaul had a son Pt. Aftab Kaul and a grandson Pt. Anand Kaul who in turn had a son Pt Lala Kaul.

Pt. Nidan Kaul who was the son of Pt Lala Kaul after completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language became a Tehsildar in Jammu & Kashmir Riyasat. He married twice. He had no issue from his first wife. So he went to Kilam village in the Kulgam tehsil of the Anantnag district from Srinagar and settled there permanently after marrying a local K. P. girl. In due course of time he became a big landlord not only of Kilam village but also of six other adjoining villages as well. He then started writing his surname as "Kaul Kilam" after the name of the village Kilam of which he was a big landlord.

Pt. Nidan Kaul Kilam's son Pt. Shanker Kaul Kilam like his father also became a Tehsildar. He had three sons. His eldest son Pt. Reshi Kaul Kilam was an honorary minister in the darbar of Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh (1885-1925) and represented J&K Riyasat in the Delhi Darbar of 1911 in which the coronation ceremony of King George V took place for the first time in British history outside England at New Delhi.

Pt. Shanker Kaul Kilam's second son Pt. Janardan Kaul Kilam was married with Sanganeah. He was Wazir-e-Wazarat in south Kashmir. Pt. Shanker Kaul Kilam's third and last son Pt. Prasad Kaul Kilam was in the forest and intelligence department of the J&K state.

Pt. Janardan Kaul Kilam had in all four sons and a daughter

Roop Ded who was married to Pt. Neel Kanth Ganjoo. The names of his sons were Pt. Krishna Kaul Kilam, Pt. Bala Kaul Kilam and Pt. Lachman Kaul Kilam. His one son was adopted by his cousin sister who had no issue of her own.

Pt. Janardan Kaul Kilam's fourth son Pt. Lachman Kaul Kilam was married with Raj Rani. He was one of the earliest English knowing Kashmiri who had his education in the then only English Mission School in Srinagar. He was a tall and best athlete, a renowned horse rider and a great swimmer. He served as the senior Sericulture and Mulberry Culture Officer of the J&K state for about 38 years. After his retirement from active government service he mostly used to pass his time in the company of saints and sages in his Farm at Shalateg village about 5 miles from the main Srinagar city. He was also a poet and master of Advaita philosophy. He was a very good calligraphist as well. In the fag end of his life he became an ascetic and used to pass his time in the service of spiritual persons and saints.

Pt. Lachman Kaul Kilam had two sons Shyam Sunder and Triloki Nath besides four daughters Janaki who was married with Pt. Niranjan Nath, Durga who was married with Pt. Shambhu Nath Ganjoo, Prabha who was married with Pt. Jialal Mattoo and Mangla who was married with Prof. Nand Lal Durbari.

Pt. Shyam Sunder Kaul Kilam had his early schooling under the able guidance of his father who was his spiritual guru as well. His father taught him English and Urdu calligraphy and also gave him lessons in Bhagwat Gita, Ram Gita, Astavakra Gita and Mahabharat along with Kashmiri and Persian poetry. After all this learning at home Pt. S.S.K. Kilam was then admitted around 1925 for formal education in the State High School from where he did his matriculation in 1927 in first division from the Punjab University Lahore which used to conduct the examination then. He obtained the highest percentage of marks in the whole J&K state.

He then took admission in Sri Pratap College and did his F.Sc. in 1929 from this institution which was affiliated then from the Punjab University of Lahore. As there was no facility for the teaching of the Science subjects any where in the J&K state at that time, so Pt. S.S.K. Kilam then did double course with Mathematics and English for his graduation and passed his B.A. examination from the Punjab University of Lahore in 1932. Since he had a great desire to become an engineer so he spent a year after his F.Sc. examination in preparing for the competitive entrance examination of the Thomson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee which is now known as the Indian Institute of Technology Roorkee. At that time there used to be a reserved quota of 2 seats for the students of J&K but Pt. S.S.K. Kilam secured third position in the said examination and thus missed the chance by a very narrow margin. He however during the preparation of this examination attended drawing and painting classes in the Government Technical School which was then run under the supervision of well qualified. British engineers and architects. So that way Pt. S.S.K. Kilam had a golden opportunity to have his practical training under competent artists, modelers, sculptors, carpenters, woodcarvers, smiths, embroiderers etc. and thus became quite perfect in all these crafts. During his college days he was secretary of Urdu Bazm-e-Sukhan and captain of the Physical Drill of the whole college. He was also the President of the Dramatic Club of the college and used to be a chief organiser of its various functions.

After becoming a graduate Pt. S.S.K. Kilam had extensive training in all the branches of Sericulture like Mulberry culture, Silk worm rearing, Silk reeling & testing, Conditioning and Grainage i.e. production of disease free eggs under the able guidance of Mon.R.Peychand who was the director of Sericulture at that time in J&K state.

After completing this exhaustive training programme. Pt. S.S.K. Kilam was appointed as the Managing Director cum Works Manager of Olex Shalateng Mills Pvt. Ltd. which was

established by his father in partnership of Mrs. R. Peycha d. Pt. S.S.K. Kilam was then appointed in the Sericulture department of the J&K government in place of his father when the latter got retired from the active government service around 1938.

Pt. S.S.K. Kilam after becoming a government officer then built a beautiful stone house in Karan Nagar a posh area of the Srinagar city for the proper living of his family members. His father and spiritual Guru. Pt. Lachman Kaul left his mortal frame on 13th April 1952 on the auspicious Baisakhi day at the age of about 74 years after a brief illness.

A year later in 1953 the government of J&K lent the services of Pt. S.S.K. Kilam to the U.P. government on the special request of its then chief minister Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant to properly develop and organise, the infrastructure to boost up the production of raw silk in U.P. on scientific lines using modern techniques in this highly specialised field of Sericulture. Pantji then appointed Pt. S.S.K. Kilam as an Advisor to the U.P. government on Sericulture with a cabinet rank. As per terms and conditions of the agreement Pt. S.S.K. Kilam also took up the task to set up two silk reeling and weaving mills in Dehra Dun in partnership with one Mr. Kapoor a silk magnate from Kashmir with a condition to hold simultaneously the managing directorship of both the Doon Valley Sericulture Society (P) Ltd. and Kashmir Silk Mills (P) Ltd. Pt. S.S.K. Kilam then established the Sericulture industry in U.P. on proper lines and became a pioneer in this field.

It was then decided that Pt. S.S.K. Kilam would work for the U.P. government purely in an honorary capacity on the condition that the cocoons raised in the Doon Valley and other suitable raw silk producing districts of U.P. would be supplied to their private limited mills on the market value.

It was mainly due to the efforts of Pt. S.S.K. Kilam that within a span of 2 to 3 years the production of cocoons in the state rose from a few pounds to lakhs of pounds giving a big boost to the silk industry in the state. He then established a big government

silk farm on scientific lines at a place known as Ram Nagar in the Dehra Dun district. He also set up a training centre and four well equipped laboratories in Dehra Dun and trained about 50 science graduates and post graduates in Sericulture. He established a number of Mulberry nurseries and seed cocoon farms in different regions of U.P. He got the Mulberry grafted plants trans planted in millions all over U.P. where thousands of families in villages suitable for silk worm rearing could be benefited through this lucrative domestic industry. He worked 18 hours a day for about 40 years for the U.P. government in an honorary capacity as he was the managing director of his private silk mills with the result that now he gets no pension either from the U.P. government or from the J&K government. It was due to his efforts that U.P. is now being recognised as one of the important raw silk producing states in the country occupying an important place in the Sericulture map of India. He also played a key role in running effectively a government owned Kashmir Crafts Centre in Dehra Dun for a number of years.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam married twice his first marriage took place when he was hardly 10 years old in 1923, which was a tradition then in Kashmir with Prabhawati who was the daughter of Pt. Nand Lal Munshi a jagirdar and land lord of Kashmir. But Prabhawati died quite young at the age of about 16 years in 1930. So Pt. S.S.K.Kilam married again on 14th November 1931 with Shyam Rani who was the daughter of Pt. Radha Krishna Durani of Rainawari, Srinagar Kashmir and a Tehsildar by profession.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam from his second wife has two sons, Brij Krishna and Maharaj Krishna besides four daughters Mahalakshmi married to Pt. Radha Krishna Waza, Gauri married to Prof. Badri Nath Kaul, Ganga married to Pt. Bansilal Chertoo and Vijay married to Pt. Rahul Dhar.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam's eldest son Dr. Brij Krishna Kaul Kilam was born in 1934. He had his early schooling in National High School Srinagar. He topped in the F.Sc. examination with

biology as his subject but being under age he could not get admission in any medical college. So he did his F.Sc. again with Mathematics. He then took admission in Amar Singh College and again topped in the B.Sc. examinations and was awarded a gold medal by Dr. Radha Krishnan in the convocation held at the Palace on the river bank in Srinagar. He started his service as a demonstrator in Chemistry in his alma mater Amar Singh College. He then joined V.J.T.I. Bombay and did his B.E. in civil engineering by securing the highest percentage of marks in the examination. In 1956 he was appointed as an assistant engineer in the P.W.D. of J&K. government. He was then sent to Germany for advanced training. He was then attached with the German engineers, in the project of building double "Jawahar Tunnel" to connect Jammu directly with Srinagar. He then in utter disgust left the J&K service and went to U.S.A. on a scholarship of the Syracuse University for further studies and subsequently did his Ph.D from there. He also did teaching job in different universities in America. He authored a standard book on bridges and tall structures. After coming to India in 1973 he was appointed by E.i. Ltd. New Delhi as a senior engineer. His promising career was tragically cut short when due to some accident he was electrocuted and expired on 16th April 1977 at the young age of hardly 43 years. He got married with Mohini in 1958 in Srinagar Kashmir who is the daughter of Pt. K.N. Bamzai. He had a son Ashish and two daughters Veena and Anita.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam's second son Pt. Maharaj Krishna Kaul Kilam is also a well qualified mechanical engineer. He is at present working as the executive director in the Oil & Natural Gas Commission Dehra Dun. He is married with Indra who is also a well qualified engineer and the daughter of Dr. S.S.Fotedar. His son Yogesh Kaul Kilam is also a well qualified mechanical engineer.

Yogesh Kaul Kilam has played a lead role in the Kashmiri film "Bub", which was released in 2002. This film is produced

by a Mumbai based Kashmiri director Jyoti Swaroop who became popular after his magnum opus T.V. serial "Buniyaad". The female lead role in the film "Bub" is played by a Delhi K.P.girl Meenakshi Kaul. The other artistes of this film are Virendra Razdan, K.K.Raina, and Raju Kher. Bhajan Sopori has scored the music of this film and its songs are sung by Vijay Malla, Kailash Mehra and Shamima who is the wife of the Congress leader Ghulam Nabi Azaad.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam after settling down in Dehra Dun built a beautiful house on I Guru Road for his living in 1959. Initially to train the local people in various crafts, he brought well trained astisans from Kashmir to impart training to about 200 girls and women in crafts like embroidery, tapestry, book work, chain stitching embroidery, papier machie work, wood carving, carpet weaving, namada making and willow cane weaving etc. which are all traditional crafts of Kashmir. He also brought with special permission the craft teachers and designers from Kashmir to attain perfection while making all these Kashmiri handicrafts.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam is a tall person with a good physique and a very attractive personality. He is a blue eyed man with exceptional qualities. His face always radiates with zeal and enthusiasm which reflect an unending zest for life. At the ripe age of 90 years he walks straight and is mentally alert. He possesses an exhuberant generous disposition which in combination with other immense talents make him truly a renaissance man.

His main hobbies include carpentry caligraphy, book-binding, classical music, painting and Kashmiri and Urdu poetry of which he has a sound knowledge. He could recite Ghalib, Iqbal, Chakbast, Firaq at will even Keats, Wordsworth and Tagore. He has a big collection of books on different subjects in his personal library. He has all the volumes of Reader's Digest since 1940. He also takes a keen interest in the art of cooking and he has specially developed a great expertise in cooking various Kashmiri delicacies. He along with his wife Mrs. Shyam Rani

Kilam has authored a book "Deleij" which is actually an encyclopeda for Kashmiri cuisine. He has authored a number of books on other subjects as well. At present he is busy in translating Rabindra Nath Tagore's classic "Geetanjali" into Kashmiri blank verse.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam is a fatherly figure for the members of the Kashmiri Sabha, DehraDun. He has donated recently a big plot of land out of his property at 01, Guru Road on the main Dehra Dun Delhi highway for establishing Satya Sai Kilam. Kendra and an Ashram. He and his family members will meet the cost of this project. It will be run under the supervision of a charitable trust. This centre would include two big halls for prayer meetings and other social gatherings, a library, a reading room for senior citizens mainly, a charitable hospital and dispensary for poor and needy persons, a centre for women & children to give them vocational training for self employment and for providing educational facilities to their children to make them good citizens of the country.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam is an ardent disciple of Satya Sai Baba and is a real Karmayogi. Due to his untiring efforts that a Sai Centre was established in Rishikesh and it was during the period of his Chairmanship that Sai Baba paid a visit to the Rishikesh Sai Centre and Dehra Dun in April 1982 to bless Kilam Sahab by his divine presence during the inauguration of this centre.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam was honoured by Vishwa Jagriti Mission Dehra Dun Mandal promoted by Lok Vikhyat Pt. Sudhanshu Maharaj on the occasion of its "Shraddha Parva" on 2nd October 2002 by presenting him a shawl and a silver medal. The other receipt of this honour was the Chief Minister of Uttaranchal Pt. Narain Dutt Tewari.

Pt. S.S.K.Kilam does not like the company of snobbish people with inflated egos. He loves to meet simple and down to earth persons with humanequalities who are generally pure at heart and nurture no ill will against any body. He is a widely travelled person and had been practically to all the important shrines and

holy places of the country. His whole life is a saga of selfless service. He always believed in the philosophy that service to humanity is service to god. He has aged very gracefully like an old wine. May god give many more years to this grandold man of the century to serve the humanity in whatever way he likes. We should be proud of such gems of our community. Their life will always be a source of inspiration for the future generations of our community. In the words of Hindi poet Laxmi Shanker Mitra "Nishank".

*"Pyaar ke pritibimb, murteja rahe hain.
Dard ke sandarbh jurte ja rahe hain
Hum tane the bikhar ke tinke hue hain
Ab hawa ke saath urte ja rahe hain"*



A lawyer, journalist and revolutionary
Pandit Pearay Mohan Dattatreya

The growth and development of ones over all personality entirely depends upon the socio-economic conditions prevalent in the society in that particular period and the political environment around that person which germinates ideas in his mind; ultimately shaping his destiny.

Prior to the 19th century which brought colonization, large territories in Europe, West Asia, and even in India were under the subjugation of different Muslim rulers who had built up their kingdoms and empires over the years. The biggest of them all was the Ottoman empire whose ruler was considered to be the Caliph by the Muslims all over the world. But the disintegration of this mighty Muslim empire gradually started with the rise of Christian power in Europe. In 1808 the Serbs raised a banner of revolt against the Turkish occupation of their country and in 1830 a new Serbia state came into existence. Likewise in 1820 Greece demanded freedom from the Ottomans' subjugation and by 1833 became an independent state. Then Russia moved its forces in some parts of the Turkish empire and occupied them. Great Britain occupied Aden for having complete command over the sea-route to India for trade France occupied Algiers by defeating its Muslim ruler Abdul Qadir (1808-1883). A change of regime took place in Labenon. In 1881 the French extended their control over Turkey. All these developments naturally had their impact over India as well where

