

Nath and Shyam Mohan Nath besides a daughter Bhola who was married with Pt. Brij Mohan Nath Raina of Bazar Sita Ram, Delhi the son of Pt. Onkar Nath Raina of Faizabad. Mrs. Bhola Raina had a son Ravi Mohan and a daughter Asha who is married with Pt. Sri Mohan Nath Kaul of Kanpur.

Pt. Kailas Nath Sopori was married with Maya the daughter of Pt. Onkar Nath Tankha of Ajmer. His younger brother Pt. Shyam Mohan Nath Sopori met with a severe road accident, when a loaded cart passed over the lower part of his body due to which he became a permanently disabled person.

Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's third son Pt. Shyam Nath Sopori was born around 1863 at Lucknow. He was married with Kishan Rani (Shyamwanti) the daughter of Pt. Prithvi Nath Takru of Nariyal Wali Gali, Ganesh Ganj, Lucknow. He had a son Prem Nath besides four daughters Brij Kishori, who was married with Pt. Jeevan Nath Dar of Jaora, Dayashuri who was married with Pt. Gyan Nath Ganju of Nariyal Wali Gali, Lucknow, Shyam Kumari who was married with Pt. Prem Shanker Sharga of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow and Kalawati who was married with Pt. Kailas Nath Muttoo of Allahabad.

Pt. Prem Nath Sopori after completing his education joined the service in the western railways. He migrated from Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow to Ujjain in Madhya Pradesh around 1940. He had two sons Ashok Sopori and Dileep Sopori besides a daughter Lata.

Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's fourth son Pt. Onkar Nath Sopori was born around 1865. He was employed in the railways. He was married with Onkarwanti who was the daughter of Pt. Prithvi Nath Tikku of Kanpur. He had two daughters Senapati who was married with Pt. Pran Nath Kaul of Allahabad and Saraswati who was married with Pt. Kishan Prasad Kaul of Chhili Int., Agra. Mrs. Onkarwanti Sopori died in 1940 in Jaffar Manzil, Aminabad, Lucknow.

Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's fifth son Pt. Chandra Mohan Nath Sopori was born around 1867. Pt. Chandra Mohan Nath Sopori

was then adopted by Pt. Jia Lal Sharga of Rani Katra, Lucknow. By this adoption he became Pt. Chandra Mohan Nath Sharga. He had a daughter Sheila who was married with Pt. Onkar Nath Kaul the son of Pt. Triloki Nath Kaul a leading criminal lawyer of Bahraich.

Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's sixth son Pt. Raj Nath Sopori was born around 1869. He died quite young due to Cholera Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's seventh and the last son Pt. Jai Nath Sopori was born around 1874. Pt. Jai Nath Sopori was a very good football player. He was a member of the football team of the Canning College. The clock on the main building of the Canning College bear a testimony of his prowess which stopped ticking from that day when it received a full blooded shot of the football by the powerful kick of Pt. Jai Nath Sopori. He was married with Ratnavati, but unfortunately both of them died quite young due to Cholera a few years after their marriage without any issue.

Pt. Harihar Nath Sopori's eldest son Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori was born in 1859 in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow in his ancestral house. Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori after having his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language at home then joined the government Jubilee High School and did his matriculation in 1875. He then took admission in Canning College, Lucknow and did his F.A. from this institution in 1877 which was then affiliated with the Calcutta University. He then did his B.A. in 1879 from the same college and was taken in the judicial service of the province by the British who appointed him as a Munsif. He functioned as a Munsif in some districts of the then United Provinces with great ability and devotion to duty due to which he got a promotion and was made first a district and sessions judge and later on a civil judge at Lucknow. He then purchased the big *Bagiya* of another mohalla fellow Pt. Sangam Lal Chak in the locality and built a big house on it for the proper living of his expanding family. He also purchased some other properties of the Kashmiri Pandits who migrated from Kashmiri Mohalla at that time to other places to strengthen his base in the locality.

At that point of time the community in Kashmiri Mohalla was passing through a great period of transformation as it was sharply divided into two groups *Dharam Sabha* and *Bishan Sabha* due to the sea voyage undertaken by Pt. Bishan Narain Dar much against the wishes of the community members. Regular meetings were organised by both the factions to put up their points forcefully and to dominate over each other. Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori being a liberal, well educated person and progressive in his ideas naturally took the side of Pt. Bishan Narain Dar and became an active member of his faction of the community. He was of the opinion that the community should come out from the rigid orthodox customs and instead some reforms should be brought in it so that our young boys could be able to meet the challenges of life in the fast changing social scenario effectively Otherwise by sticking to orthodoxy and age old customs and beliefs our younger generation will not be able to compete with other sections of the society in the long run which would be detrimental for the progress and development of the community.

Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori that way without hurting the feelings of any body initiated a process of reform in the community with the help and active support of some other like minded persons like Pt. Brij Narain Chakbast, Pt. Ratan Nath Dar *Sarshar*, Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sapru Hijir, Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur, etc. of the locality. The words of Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori being a judge and a senior member of the community naturally used to carry much weight. He also became instrumental in providing good jobs to many Kashmiri Pandit youths of that period. Because of his philanthropic and helpful nature he used to command a great respect among the community members for whom he was almost a fatherly figure. He retired after a long meritorious service in 1914 after attaining the age of superannuation.

In 1911 Maharana Fateh Singh became the ruler of Udaipur state in the then Rajputana. To his utter surprise he found the whole administration of the state in complete mess. The boundaries of the state were not well defined. There was no proper record of land

revenue. The big *jagirdars* and *zamindars* had usurped the large tracks of government lands. He then decided to appoint some able officer from outside the state to streamline the whole administrative structure, so that he may not be influenced by the local pulls and pressures. He then approached the British Resident to suggest some good name for this job.

Unlike the present day Uttar Pradesh, the United Provinces in British India was considered to be the best governed province of the country with a battery of able, honest hard working and competent officers with great administrative acumen and unflinching integrity. The British Resident then suggested the name of Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori who was duly appointed in 1914 as the settlement officer by Maharana Fateh Singh of the Udaipur state.

Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori then in 1914 went from Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow to Udaipur with his family to work there as a settlement officer. He did his job to the full satisfaction of Maharana Fateh Singh and thoroughly reorganised the whole administrative set up of the state for which he received an all round praise and appreciation. In the meanwhile Maharana Fetez Singh died in 1930 and Maharana Bhopal Singh became the new ruler of the Udaipur state. He suggested Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori to permanently settle down in Udaipur and also promised him to provide all the facilities for his comfort, but Pt. Thribhuwan Nath Sopori very politely declined all those offers and expressed a desire to go back to his native place. He eventually came back to Lucknow from Udaipur in 1930 and started living in Jaffar Manzil in Aminabad, where he died in November, 1939 at the age of about 80 years.

Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Sopori was married around 1879 with Kailaspati, who was the daughter of Pt. Durga Prasad Mushran of Rani Katra, Lucknow. He had a son Vishwa Nath besides two daughters Munni who was married with Pt. Onkar Nath Zutshi of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi and Kamla, who was married with Dr. Tej Narain Bahadur the son of Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Pt. Vishwa Nath Sopori was born in 1889. He had his schooling in Government Jubilee High School from where he did his matriculation in 1905. He then joined the Canning College and did his F.A. in 1907 and then B.A. in 1909 from this college, which was affiliated with the University of Allahabad at that time.

After doing his graduation he went to England to study law to become a barrister. He took admission in Inner Temple in London in 1909 for his Barat law. In the meantime his marriage was fixed in 1910 and he was called back to perform the same. He then in 1911 was married with Sheerajwati at Jaipur who was the daughter of Dewan Jai Nath Atal of the Jaipur state. He then again went back to England in 1912 to continue his studies. Soon the clouds of the First World War (1914-1918) started hovering over the skies of London. His grandmother became very much perturbed about the safety of her grandson in London as she did not want to take any risk. So a cablegram about her serious illness was sent to him urging him to come back immediately without any further delay. So Pt. Vishwa Nath Sopori came back to India in 1913 from England without completing his Bar-at-Law course.

Pt. Vishwa Nath Sopori then went to the Udaipur state from Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow in 1914 along with his father where Maharana Fateh Singh (1911-1930) appointed him as a *Hakim* on his insistence. Pt. Vishwa Nath Sopori worked as a *Hakim* in the different districts of the Mewar state. In 1935 he was the *Hakim* of Chittoor. He became critically ill in 1939 and was then brought to Lucknow for treatment in the King George's Medical College. He died in July 1939 in Jaffar Manzil, Aminabad, Lucknow.

Pt. Vishwa Nath Sopori had three sons Parmeshwar Nath, Ishwar Nath and Jagdishwar Nath besides seven daughters Chand (b-1914) who was married with Pt. Sumer Nath Gurtu of Jodhpur, Kamini (b-1917) who was married with Pt. Murli Manohar Gurtu the son of Pt. Ram Narain Gurtu of Allahabad, Shanti (b-1919) who was married with Pt. Shyamsunder Narain, Bhan the son of Pt. Ram Narain Bhan of Gwalior, Shakuntala (b-1921) who was married with Dr. Shyam Nath Chak the son of Barrister Manmohan

Nath Chak of Lucknow, Rama (b-1925) who was married with Pt. Roop Krishna Wanchoo of Kolkata, Kishan (b-1931) who was married with Pt. Pratap Krishna Dar and Pushpa (b-1934) is married with Pt. Brij Narain Kaul of Delhi.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Sopori was born in 1922 after four sisters so he was brought up with great love and care due to which he became a problem child. He had his early schooling in LaMartinier College, Lucknow where he crossed swords with the British Principal of the college over attending the Chappel. He then took admission in the Canning College, Lucknow where he had a row with his teacher Prof. Kali Prasad over some theory of philosophy and didn't appear in his B.A. examinations. He then joined *The Pioneer* as a journalist and then left the job. He passed a very hard life in a very small accomodation provided to him by his friend. Bishan Kapoor who was bureau chief of Blitz then at Lucknow. He died in 1995 at the age of about 73 years at Lucknow.

Pt. Ishwar Nath Sopori was born in 1928 at Udipur. He had his early schooling in different cities of the Mewar state and did his matriculation in 1944. He then took admission in Besant College, Benaras (Varanasi) and did his F.A. from the Benaras Hindu University in 1946. He then did B.A. in 1948 and M.A. in English literature in 1950 from the Rajasthan University. After completing his studies he joined the education department of the Rajasthan. government around 1957. He did Post Graduate diploma course in teaching English from the Central Institute of English and Foreign Languages. Hyderabad in 1958 when Prof. Ramesh Mohan former Head of the English department of the Lucknow University, was its director.

Pt. Ishwar Nath Sopori went to England in 1973 and did M.A. in applied linguistics from the Essey University Cholchester, England in 1974. He then became the Principal of Teachers' Training School in 1981. He then became assistant director of Adult Education in 1982 and deputy director in 1986. He retired from this post in 1987.

He got married with Ira in 1960, who is the daughter of Pt. Ram Nath Dar of Lukerganj, Allahabad and grand daughter of Rai Bahadur Pt. Har Prasad Dar of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. Now he lives at 1/228. S.F.S., Mansarovar, Jaipur-302020.

Dr. Jagdishwar Nath Sopori was born in 1939 as a posthumous child two months after the death of his father in July 1939. He had his education at Allahabad and joined the Indian army as a veterinary surgeon. He married a hill girl of Uttaranchal. Now he is well settled in DehraDun. This Sopori family migrated from Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow around 1940. Their old ancestral house in the locality was then purchased by Pt. Ram Chander Tikku in 1954. The house built by Pt. Tribhuvan Nath Sopori in the mohalla known as *Sangam Lal ki Bagia* was purchased by Pt. Amar Nath Kaul around 1960. Now Pt. Mohan Krishna Kaul lives in this house as a tenant. It was an established norm in the community then that its members used to sell their landed properties to the members of their own caste and not to any other caste group so that their hold on the landed properties may not be diluted by transferring their assets to other caste groups.

Pt. Tribhuvan Nath Sopori was considered to be a great patriarch of this Sopori family, who was not only a man of great sacrificing nature but also a symbol of great human values. He did a lot of work for bringing certain reforms in the community to make it more progressive and pragmatic in its outlook. He helped many young K.P. boys to settle in life gracefully. After his retirement from the government service in 1914 he became a great admirer of Mahatma Gandhi. Though he never took any active part in the freedom struggle of the country as such; but indirectly he became a great supporter of the freedom struggle by his actions and deeds. He was a great lover of books and a voracious reader. His most favourite writers were Dickens, Thackrey and Shakespeare. He also had a fancy for reading the classics of Urdu and Persian poetry. In the later part of his life he developed an inclination towards spiritualism and started studying religious books like *Ramayan*, *Mahabharata* and *Yoga Vashishtha*. Actually *Yoga Vasishtha* is

the doctrine of sage Vasishtha about living a practical life based on Vedantic wisdom. He gave these teachings to Lord Ram when the latter expressed a desire to take *Vairagya* at a tender age, Vasishtha's thesis begins by emphasising moral excellence as a pre-requisite for any true seeker, in his metaphorical comparison of *Shanti* (peace), *Vichar* (dissemination), *Santosha* (contentment) and *satsang* (company of sages), to the four sentinels guarding the gate of *moksha* (salvation) and how a *sadhak* (seeker) is to cultivate these traits or prevent the mind from getting distracted. He performed the marriage of about 18 girls of this Sopori family with great love and affection setting an example for others. Service before self was the main motto of his life. All through he cherished very high values and ideals in life and spent every moment of it in the real service to the humanity. His work and deeds will always be a source of inspiration to the future generation to emulate the qualities of his head and heart. Louis Pasteur said long back about the secret that led him to his goal. *It was his strength which bind solely in his tenacity.*



A great patriot and selfless worker

## Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru

A man is known by the company he keeps is an old English proverb, but this phrase has very wide connotations. In this materialistic world the people generally run after money to enjoy worldly pleasures. There are very few people who dedicate their entire life for a noble cause and prefer to lead a life of abnegation. Such people always keep them ready to do any sacrifice for improving the quality of human life. They are made of different mettle. They carry a



bigger than life size image and become a legend in their own life time. Their area of activity cannot be confined within a limited boundary. They belong to the whole world. Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru was one such leading luminary of the 20<sup>th</sup> century whose immense contribution in shaping the destiny of modern India can never be forgotten. He was a real *Tyagi* and *Tapasvi* in the strict sense. He was most eminent Indian of his times who was considered to be an epitome of knowledge and wisdom. His interests in different fields were far and wide. The former President of India Dr. Zakir Husain while eulogizing Dr. Kunzru's services for the nation very rightly remarked that Dr. Kunzru was one of those illustrious sons of the country who contributed in various ways in the advancement of our nation and helped a lot to enrich the quality of our public life.

Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru's ancestor Meeru Pandit Dar was the commander of the royal mounted guards of the empress Noorjahan at Delhi. The Mughal emperor Shahjahan (1627-1658) through a royal decree gave a lot of *jagirs* to Meeru Pandit Dar in

the Baramulla district and elsewhere in the Kashmir Valley with the powers of administering these regions to settle down there properly. In due course of time one of the descendants of Meeru Pandit Dar got the *jagir* of *Kunjargaon* in the Baramulla district in inheritance and he started writing his surname as Kunzru in place of original Dar to indicate his status as a big *jagirdar*. His progeny Pt. Kripa Ram Kunzru was the great grandfather of Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru.

After the death of Nadir Shah in 1747 Ahmad Shah Abdali ascended the throne of Kabul and became the ruler of Afghanistan. The Mughal *Subedar* of Kashmir at that time was Afrasiab Khan who appointed a local Kashmiri Muslim Mir Muqim Kanth as his *naib Subedar*. The local Kashmiri Muslims were not very much pleased with the policy of the Mughals of giving preference to the Kashmiri Pandits in the jobs in the administration and in the army. So Mir Muqim Kanth hatched a conspiracy to overthrow the *Subedar* Afrasiab Khan for which he sent a secret message to Ahmad Shah Abdali at Kabul to invade Kashmir and annex it from the Mughals. But somehow this conspiracy was leaked out and the army of Ahmad Shah Abdali had to make a hasty retreat in 1748.

In the meantime the Mughal emperor Mohammad Shah Rangiley died at Delhi in 1747 and was succeeded by his son Ahmad Shah who then appointed Ali Kuli Khan in 1752 as the new *Subedar* of Kashmir. The *naib Subedar* Mir Muqim Kanth was eagerly waiting for the proper opportunity to take his revenge. He again sent an invitation to Ahmad Shah Abdali who was in Lahore at that time to conquer Kashmir. Ahmad Shah Abdali then sent a regiment of his army under the command of Abdullah Ashiq Aqasi for this job. A pitched battle for 15 days was fought in Srinagar after which the administration of Kashmir slipped away from the hands of the Mughals into the hands of the Afghans. Both Abdullah Ashiq Aqasi and Mir Muqim Kanth then let loose a reign of terror on the Kashmiri Pandits due to which many of them committed suicide, many of them were forcibly converted and many of them fled away to far flung places to save their souls and religion. There was large scale

blood shed, devastation and destruction every where in the valley. The ancestors of Pt. Kripa Ram Kunzru left the Kashmir Valley during this turbulent period in 1760 and came to Faizabad in Oudh during the rule of Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula (1753-1775) and started living in Rath Haveli mohalla there.

When Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) shifted his seat of government from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775 due to some differences with his mother Bahu Begum who used to wield a considerable power and influence over the administration the ancestors of Pt. Kripa Ram Kunzru then came to Lucknow and started living in Khet Gali in Rani Katra mohalla. According to reliable information collected from various sources and then scrutinizing it thoroughly. Pt. Kripa Ram Kunzru was born around 1780 in Khet Gali, Rani Katra, Lucknow and his younger brother Pt. Ganesh Prasad Kunzru was born around 1785. Both had their traditional education in Urdu and Persian language at Lucknow.

When the British troops occupied Delhi in 1803 under the command of Lake after the second Anglo-Maratha war. Pt. Ganesh Prasad Kunzru migrated from Lucknow to Delhi around 1805 and became a Vakil of the East India Company. He then started living with his family members in *Chooriwali Gali in Bazaar Sita Ram*, Delhi.

Pt. Kedar Nath Kunzru who was born around 1810 at Lucknow and was the son of Pt. Kripa Ram Kunzru after completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language around 1830 became the Dewan of the Jhajjar state a small principality near Delhi. After earning some money he started the mercantile business at Agra where he founded a firm around 1840 under the name of Kedar Nath Ayodhya Nath and Co. He also purchased some landed properties and built an imposing mansion in Maharani Tola in 1840 for the lavish living of his family members.

The British then in order to govern these newly acquired territories properly made them first a part of the Agra Presidency and then constituted North West Province in 1834 with its headquarters at Allahabad. After two years they made Agra as its

capital due to which the city assumed its own importance and became an important centre for commercial activity. Pt. Kedar Nath Kunzru earned a lot of money during this period as his mercantile business flourished like any thing and he became a big *zamindar* wielding both power and influence. After the Mutiny of 1857 the branch of Pt. Kedar Nath Kunzru permanently settled down at Agra, whereas the ancestors of Pt. Prithvi Nath Kunzru continued to live in their ancestral *haveli* in *Khet Gali* in *Rani Katra*, Lucknow.

One of the members of this branch Pt. Manohar Nath Kunzru, who was born around 1868 then in 1885 migrated to Jodhpur. He got a service in the administration of the state and started living with his family in *Jalori Darwaza*. He was married with Rameshwari daughter of Pt. Prem Krishna Hundoo of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi. He had two sons Jai Nath Kunzru and Ram Nath Kunzru besides two daughters married to Pt. Ram Nath Agha and Pt. Jagjeevan Nath Zutshi respectively. Pt. Ram Nath Kunzru was married with Rani the daughter of Prof. Tej Shanker Kochak of Chaupatian, Lucknow. He died at Allahabad.

Pt. Sheo Nath Kunzru who was born in 1885 and was the son of Pt. Kailas Nath Kunzru migrated around 1910 to Amritsar in Punjab. He started some business and used to live in *Pandition de Hatti* there.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru who was the son of Pt. Kedar Nath Kunzru was born in 1840 in Maharani Tola in Agra. He had his traditional education in Urdu, Persian and Arabic language under the guidance of learned *Maulvis* at Agra. He was then admitted in Agra College in 1853 to learn the English language. In 1856 The British annexed the Oudh kingdom on the instructions of the then Governor General of India. Lord Dalhousie by dethroning the last king of Oudh Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (1847-1856) due to which the native forces under the command of Begum Hazrat Mahal rose in revolt against the British and the Mutiny broke out in 1857. The British then made Allahabad as the temporary capital of India. When the British crown took over the administration of India from the East India Company in 1858 through a Charter signed by Queen

Victoria the capital of the North West Province was then again brought back from Agra to Allahabad.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru after completing his studies then started his legal practice in 1861 in the district court at Agra. After practicing for about two years at the lower court he switched over to Sadre *Dewani Adalat* in 1863. The British then in 1866 converted this court into a High Court and Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru then started his legal practice in this High Court and soon became one of its leading lawyers. When the British shifted this High Court from Agra to Allahabad in 1868 Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru then along with Pt. Nand Lal Nehru migrated from Agra to Allahabad around 1870 to carry on his legal practice in the Allahabad High Court. By 1880 his legal practice was so successful that his income was estimated to be about Rs. 80,000/- annually mainly from the lucrative *Zamindari* litigations of big *Zamindars* and *Talluqdars*. He thus became an undisputed leader of the Allahabad Bar.

The British in 1877 merged the state of Oudh with the North West Province and renamed it as the United Provinces of Agra and Oudh which although remained a part of the Bengal Presidency. In 1886 the total autonomy was given to this province when a separate Legislative Council was constituted for its administration consisting of nine members to enact its own laws to run its affairs properly. The four Indian members who were nominated by the British for this Council were Raja Pratap Narain Singh, Sir Sayyed Ahmad Khan, Rai Bahadur Durga Prasad and Pandit Ayodhya Nath Kunzru. As a member of the U.P. Legislative Council he played a crucial role and fully exhibited his oratorical skills in its debates and discussions over different bills and legislations.

In 1884 a British I.C.S. officer Allen Octavian Hume in collaboration with Henry Collins formed the Indian National Union with 72 England educated graduates to oppose wrong actions of the British through constitutional means, which took the shape of Indian National Congress after its first session held in 1885 at Calcutta under the Presidentship of W.C. Banerjee a leading barrister of Calcutta.

Initially Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru was reluctant to join the Congress Party because of dominance of Bengalis in it as he was quite allergic to them. But he finally joined the Congress Party in its session held at Allahabad in 1888 on which he spent about Rs. 10,000/- from his own pocket as the chairman of the reception committee. He extensively toured the whole country to mobilize the public opinion in favour of the Congress Party. He was also offered the Presidentship of the Congress Party but he politely declined that offer on the grounds of health. However he became the joint secretary of the Congress Party in its session held in Bombay.

He nurtured the legal careers of many promising young lawyers like Nawab Abdul Majeed and Sayyed Abdul Rauf besides many young Kashmiri Pandit lawyers. His flawless command over Arabic and Persian language was a great asset for him in his legal practice. He owed much of his fortune to the rich *Zamindars* and landlords of Agra.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru's environment both private and professional, was in total conformity with the Mughal culture and traditions. He used to participate with great ease in those institutions which were dedicated to the literary activities such as *Rafah-e-Am* and *Jalsa-e-Tehzeeb* clubs of Lucknow. He also took a keen interest in the activities of the Kashmiri Pandits' National Conference and attended its annual conference held in 1882 in the *Ganjuwalon Ka Shadikhana* in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He equally devoted his time to his business concerns and banking agencies which had their branches in Agra, Allahabad, Calcutta, Pratapgarh and Basti. He was the first President of the Allahabad High Court Bar Association. He was a great animal lover and was dead against the sports like cock-fights and quail fights which were being patronised by the Nawabs of Oudh. He brought a bill for the prevention of cruelty to animals to curb such entertainments being organised for the enjoyment of certain class of people. He was man of social vision, who actively associated himself with various organisations dedicated to social service and to save the general masses from debt, degradation and death. His biographer M.L.

Bhargava has described him as the first martyr of constitutional freedom. He founded two news papers *The Indian Union* and *The Indian Herald* at Allahabad. He was dead against child marriages and the *Pardah* system. The people like Gopal Krishna Gokhale, W.C. Banerjee, A.O. Hume, Feroz Shah Mehta and Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya were his close friends. He was a great votary of women's education and their complete emancipation so that their equal participation could be ensured in nation building.

He was one of the founder members of the Victoria High School Agra. He was a member of the Senate of both the University of Allahabad and Calcutta. He was actively involved with many social, cultural and charitable organisations. He was a man of medium height with a robust personality. He used to sport a flowing beard on his face with deep penetrating eyes. He used to command a great respect and honour in the society. This great stalwart of India's freedom movement died suddenly in 1892 at the age of hardly 52 years leaving every body completely stunned.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru married twice. From his first wife who was from a K.P. family of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow he had two sons Amar Nath and Shyam Nath besides three daughters. His both the sons from his first wife later of embraced Islam and became Muslims. From his second wife Janakeshwari who was from a K.P. family of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi he had five sons Raj Nath, Hriday Nath, Dina Nath, Keshav Nath and Gopi Nath besides two daughters.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru's eldest son from his second wife Pt. Raj Nath Kunzru was born on 14<sup>th</sup> August 1884. He had his education upto F.A. but he had a good knowledge of Hindi, Urdu, Persian and English language. During his student days he used to take very active part in the extra curricular activities of his school. He also used to take part in dramas and was a good actor. He also had a great love for Indian style of wrestling. He built an *Akhara* in his *haveli* in Chhili Int, Agra for the same. Pt. Raj Nath Kunzru was married in 1900. But unfortunately his wife died quite young at the age of about 24 years in 1915 due to Pneumonia. Being head of the

family with lots of responsibilities on his shoulders he then decided not to marry again. To run the affairs of the family properly he then started a construction company and built a number of buildings at Agra and thus earned a lot of money. He then started taking an active part in the educational, cultural, social and political activities of the city and became an active member of the Congress Party. In 1914 he along with Pt. Sharika Prasad Kaul established a firm Kunzru and Dattatreya Co. at Agra. In 1918 the dreadful disease plague broke out in Agra. He then founded *Seva Samiti* to help the victims. The people in very large numbers just out of fear then started moving outside the city limits leaving their valuables behind. He with his brothers worked tirelessly during that critical phase day and night and supervised the relief operations. He formed security squads to keep a strict vigil round the clock so that antisocial elements may not be able to create any mischief. The risk of catching an infection did not deter him from doing this humanitarian work. He also arranged volunteers for keeping a nightwatch on vacant houses and for distributing medicines and other essential commodities to the affected people besides taking the sick to the hospitals.

Then between 1920 and 1922 he worked as the Manager of the Benaras Bank at Agra He along with his brothers in 1916 joined the Home Rule League. He was a member of the managing committee of Agra College and Raja Balwant Singh College. He was also on the managing committee of Shobia Mohammadia College and *Faiz-e-Am* Inter College. He was in the managing committee of Thakur Bir Singh Intermediate College, Tundla, Krishna Ashram, Allahabad Annie Besant College of Allahabad and Victoria High School, Agra. Because of his vast experience in the field of education the U.P. government nominated him in 1960 on the committee which was formed to reorganise the curriculum of the High School and Intermediate Board examinations. He also took a keen interest in the cooperative movement in the country, which he used to regard as the symbol of progress and prosperity. He became a member of the organisation committee for the Industrial Cooperative Societies. He was the managing director of the



Central Industrial Cooperative Store. He was the president of the Quality Marked Footwear Manufacturers Cooperative Association Ltd. Agra, which speaks of his interest in this sector. He encouraged handloom cloth weavers to form cooperative societies so that their goods could be sold through cooperative stores for earning a better profit. He was the member of The Theosophical Society of India founded by Dr. Annie Besant.

During the Second World War he functioned as the nominated member of the Viceroy in the National Defence Council from 1940 upto 1945 and was sent by the British government as an observer to different middle east countries to study the conditions of the Indian troops stationed there. He was a member of the International Rotary Club and was governor of its district 36. He toured America on its invitation in 1958 extensively. He was the President of the Ram Leela Committee of Agra from 1927 upto 1971. He was very hospitable person. He was a fatherly figure for all those Kashmiri Pandit boys who used to come to Agra from Kashmir for their education. His doors always remained open for them for any help. He died on 19<sup>th</sup> December 1971 at the age of about 88 years in his *haveli* at 15/273, Chhili Int Road, Agra. He was survived by three sons Chandra Mohan Nath, Shyam Mohan Nath and Madan Mohan Nath besides two daughters Shammo and Mano.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru's second son from his second wife Jankeshwari Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru was born on 1st October, 1887 at Allahabad where his father used to live at that time. When he was hardly five years old his father died in 1892 so he had his early schooling at Agra. He did his matriculation in 1903 and F.A. in 1905 from Agra College, Agra. He then did his B.A. in 1907 from the Allahabad University. He then got married in 1908 with Senapati the daughter of Pt. Vishwa Nath Sharga of Khet Gali Lucknow. But unfortunately his wife died while giving birth to a son who also died a few months later. This tragic event entirely changed the course of his destiny. He then took a vow to dedicate his entire life for the service of the nation.

Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru then became the private secretary of Gopal Krishna Gokhale (1866-1915) and took up social service as his main occupation. He joined the Servants of India Society in 1909 which was founded by Gopal Krishna Gokhale in 1905 with headquarters at Poona (Pune). He worked as a volunteer during the *Kumbh Melas* at Hardwar, Nasik and Allahabad.

In 1905 Lord George Nathaniel Curzon (1859-1925) who was appointed as the Viceroy of India in 1899, germinated the seeds of communal divide in the country for the first time when he partitioned the Bengal Presidency on communal lines. Encouraged by this step of the British under their policy of divide and rule Agha Khan in 1906 laid the foundation of Indian Muslim League to play the Muslim card and the Nawab of Dhaka Samiullah Khan became its founder President. All these political developments in the country naturally had their own effect on the young mind of Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru, who then decided to study political science thoroughly before taking a plunge into active politics of the country.

Dr. Kunzru then in 1910 sailed for England and took admission in the London School of Economics and Political Science. He did his B.Sc. in Political Science from this institution in 1912 and came back to India to devote his time in the active politics of the country. He already had a meeting with Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya in 1908 prior to his departure for London. He very soon became a right hand man of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and joined his movement along with Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu to establish a Hindu University at Benaras.

In 1911 a grand *darbar* was organised at Delhi for the coronation of King George V in which two important decisions were taken by the British government. The first was the annulment of the division of Bengal and the second was the declaration to make Delhi as the new capital of India in place of Calcutta (Kolkata). When in 1912 the then Viceroy of India Lord Hardinge was making his state entry into the new capital Delhi in a royal procession riding on an elephant some revolutionary threw a bomb at him. His attendant was killed on the spot and he lost consciousness due to explosion.

A Persian poet described this event in his own way in the following couplets.

*Dehli mein tha sharabe baghawat ka ek mast  
Jisne kiya tha governor ko marne ka bandobast  
Fitna to tha buland magar ho gaya woh past  
Dushman agar kavi nighban kavi tarast.*

Dr. Kunzru like his father and elder brother then became an active member of the Congress Party around 1915 and started taking an active part in its various programmes and deliberations all over the country. Then after the First World War (1914-1918) Mahatma Gandhi for the first time played a communal card in 1920 by launching a *Khilafat* movement in the country, to press the British for restoring Caliphate in Turkey just to appease the Muslims to get their support for his Congress Party. But when Moplah Muslims started slaughtering Hindus in Kerala in the Malabar region Mahatma Gandhi abruptly suspended his agitation. Dr. Kunzru along with other stalwarts like Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Swami Shradhdhanand, Dr. K.R. Hedgewar, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya and Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla then left the Congress Party in utter disgust because they were not in favour of adopting unconstitutional means and appeasing any community to achieve their goal as they were against indulging in such cheap political gimmicks and stunts to become popular among the masses. He was not in favour of strikes, *dharnas* and *satyagrah*. Dr. Hedgewar then in 1925 formed the R.S.S. as a counter measure.

Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru then along with Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya joined the Liberal Party of Gopal Krishna Gokhale to fulfil their mission. Dr. Kunzru in 1921 became a member of the U.P. Legislative Council. He remained a member of the Legislative Council upto 1923 and during this period he actively participated in its debates and discussions on various legislative measures and impressed everyone by his powerful oratory and deep knowledge about the problems confronting the country.

Dr. Kunzru then in 1927 contested as an independent candidate the election from the Muzaffarnagar graduates

constituency and became a member of the Legislative Assembly. He functioned as the member of this august House upto 1930 and during this period he presided over many committees of the House and gave his fruitful and constructive suggestions to tone up the quality of political life in the country to usher a new era of progress and prosperity.

After the 'Second World War (1939-1945) Dr. Kunzru became the member of the Central Legislative Assembly in 1946. Dr. Kunzru was the first person to suggest then the need for the indianisation of the armed forces. When India became free in 1947 and the Central Legislative Assembly was converted into the Constituent Assembly of the free nation Dr. Kunzru became the member of this Constituent Assembly. He was a great votary of the West Minister type system of parliamentary democracy. He was a member of the Constituent Assembly upto 1949 and then in provisional Parliament upto 1952 Dr. Kunzru made valuable contribution in framing the Indian Constitution and Parliamentary practices. He was the member of the committee along with Dr. B.R. Ambedkar which drafted the Constitution of India. He also substantially contributed in framing the various policies of the new government.

As Dr. Kunzru was considered to be an expert on defence affairs so a committee was constituted in 1946 under his chairmanship for the creation of a youth organisation at the national level well trained in the army warfare, which finally paved the way for the formation of NCC under the National Cadet Corps Act XXXI of 1948 under the Ministry of Defence.

Dr. Kunzru became the member of Rajya Sabha on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1952 and remained a member of this House upto 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1956. After the expiry of his first term he was again elected to the same House on 3<sup>rd</sup> April 1956 and functioned as the honourable member of the Rajya Sabha upto 2<sup>nd</sup> April 1962. During his tenure in the Rajya Sabha he mainly concentrated himself apart from the study of defence problems of the country to the improvement in the railway services in the country. On both these subjects he had acquired a

complete mastery and his suggestions were highly respected in the government circles. He always used to come to Parliament armed with facts and figures. It was practically impossible to contradict him on any count. He had the clarity of thought, straightforwardness of expression and encyclopaedic knowledge. So the people used to listen his speeches in both the Houses of Parliament with rapt attention in pindrop silence.

In 1929 Dr. Kunzru became the President of the East African National Congress. This brought him face to face with the disabilities and problems of Indians abroad whose cause he promoted with all the vehemence at his command.

Dr. Kunzru became the President of the Servants of India Society in 1936 and remained on that post for about 42 years upto his death which attracted the cream of the Indian society for a life long service of the nation under his dynamic leadership as he was endowed with extraordinary mental acumen and a strong sense of patriotism of the noblest kind. He was a man of independent character.

Dr. Kunzru as the member of the States Reorganisation Commission which was constituted under the Chairmanship of Fazle Ali helped to a great extent in a more rational demarcation of the boundaries of various states keeping in mind the over all interests of the linguistic minorities. He always kept himself well informed and whenever certain problem used to grip his mind he used to go after collecting the data from all the possible sources to equip himself properly for an elaborate discussion over the subject.

Dr. Kunzru had made very rich contributions in various fields of public life. He was associated with the All India Seva Samiti and the Bhartiya Adim Jati Seva Sangh. He was actively connected with the affairs of the University Grants Commission and was the Chief Scout of Bharat Scouts and Guides after the death of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya. Dr. Kunzru was the founder member of the Centre for Defence Studies Poona (Pune) now known as Kunzru Centre. He was founder and later President of Indian Council for Cultural Relations (ICCR).

Dr. Kunzru functioned as the member of several Parliamentary commissions. He led the Parliamentary delegations to South Africa and Algeria.

Dr. Kunzru played a key role in shaping the academic life of many universities. He was a member of the Senate and Executive Council of the Benaras Hindu University, Delhi University, Allahabad University, Agra University and Sri Ram Institute Delhi.

Dr. Kunzru was a great lover of the Urdu poetry and aslo was the President of *Anjuman-e-Taraqqi-e-Urdu* for sometime.

As Dr. Kunzru was educated in England so naturally he had a deep vision about world affairs. He was of the firm opinion that if India was to play its rightful part in world affairs it had to look beyond the interests of the British empire even when it continued to be an important member of the Commonwealth. With this aim in mind he along with Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru laid the solid foundation of Council of World Affairs at Delhi in 1949. He made a lasting contribution to the promotion of the study, research, and publication in the country of international affairs in the shape of *Sapru House*. According to Dr. M.S. Rajan who was the director of the School for International Studies though *Sapru House* was dedicated by Dr. Kunzru to the memory of his mentor Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru but actually it was a monument to Dr. Kunzru himself who nurtured it very carefully with his own sweat and blood. It was mainly due to the intensive efforts of Dr. Kunzru that this unique institution of its own kind came into existence in the country which became the hub of intellectual and cultural activities in the capital. It later on became a part of the Jawahar Lal Nehru University, Delhi.

In recognition of Dr. Kunzru's extraordinary work and contribution in the field of higher education the Benaras Hindu University conferred the honorary degree of D. Litt. on him in 1955, the University of Allahabad conferred the degree of LL.D. and the Aligarh Muslim University the degree of D. Litt on him respectively.

In 1968 the government of Mrs. Indira Gandhi decided to confer the highest civilian award *Bharat Ratna* on Dr. Kunzru for his services to the nation but in all humility he very politely declined that offer.

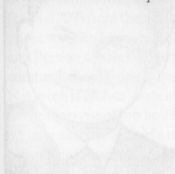
Though Dr. Kunzru was a lean and thin person with a weak health, but he had an iron will and nerves made of steel. He was a very hard and dedicated worker. His life was imbued with very high moral and ethical principles on which he never compromised even under most adverse circumstances. He was one of the most important liberal leaders of his times commanding a great respect from every one. Though he could very easily be compared with any one of the top political leaders of that period but his self-abnegation was so total that he did not allow anybody to write even a line in his praise or about his sacrifices and achievements which itself speaks volumes about his saintly character. He never tolerated indiscipline, insincerity, flattery or sycophancy.

Dr. Kunzru in spite of his high profile public figure never shown arrogance to anybody in his public dealings. He was always helpful to the people in distress Dr. Kunzru had a very little personal property. He lived a frugal life. His daily routine was extremely, punctual. He used to dress very simply and had an observant eye. Dr. Kunzru was a voracious reader and was blessed with a razor sharp memory. Reading books on various subjects was his greatest passion. His only complaint in the evening of his life was his failing eyesight due to which he was unable to read much. He was a handsome person of medium height and fair complexion with curly hair and well-cut features. He was a highly cultured and polished person with a radiating personality.

Dr. Kunzru was a great patriot who had in his own way contributed a lot for the emancipation of his motherland. He had given up all even the enjoyment of domestic life for a greater national cause yet it must be admitted that his temperament and upbringing did not enable him to become a leader of the masses like Gandhi, Nehru, Tilak or Gokhale.

The Kashmiri Pandits particularly owe a debt of gratitude to Dr. Kunzru for all his assistance which each individual of the community received who went to meet him. He was the Patron of the Kashmiri Samiti Delhi. When the Kashmir Bhawan was built in Lajpat Nagar, he laid the foundation of this edifice which is prominently inscribed on its foundation stone.

This great son of India passed away peacefully like a savant in his sleep on 24<sup>th</sup> April 1978 at the age of about 91 years in his ancestral *haveli* in Chhili Int, Agra, but his name will continue to be associated with the cultural and literary activities of the Kashmiri Pandits in the national capital and elsewhere for all times to come. Now his London based great grand nephew Hari Kunzru is making waves in the literary circles all over the world for his novel. *Impressionists* Lyndon B. Johnson has very rightly said *that though we cannot live in the past but we can draw lessons from it.*



the existence of the Kashmiri Pandits in the national capital and elsewhere for all times to come. Now his London based great grand nephew Hari Kunzru is making waves in the literary circles all over the world for his novel. *Impressionists* Lyndon B. Johnson has very rightly said *that though we cannot live in the past but we can draw lessons from it.*

Lyndon B. Johnson has very rightly said *that though we cannot live in the past but we can draw lessons from it.*

Lyndon B. Johnson has very rightly said *that though we cannot live in the past but we can draw lessons from it.*

## First Kashmiri World Class Entomologist Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga

In the second half of the 18<sup>th</sup> century Bazaar Sita Ram in Delhi and Kashmiri Mohalla in Lucknow came into existence as the two main nerve centres of the Kashmiri Pandits' population outside the Kashmir Valley. When Maharaja Ranjeet Singh (1801-1839) became the ruler of the Punjab kingdom some Kashmiri Pandit families settled in Bazaar Sita Ram of Delhi and some Kashmiri Pandit families settled in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow then migrated to



Lahore for getting a good job in the court of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. The Wazir Khan Chowk area and Vachchuwali Gali in Lahore then became the third important centre of Kashmiri Pandits' population especially after the annexation of Kashmir by Maharaja Ranjeet Singh in 1819 when a large number of Kashmiri Pandits directly migrated from Kashmir to Lahore to seek employment in the Lahore *darbar*.

All along the Nawabi period from 1775 when Lucknow became the capital of Oudh upto 1856 when its last king Nawab Wajid Ali Shah was dethroned by the British, Kashmiri Mohalla was the most favourite destination for the Kashmiri Pandits and was the biggest centre of their population. It is said that about 1000 families of Kashmiri Pandits used to live in this locality at that point of time. It used to give the look of a mini Kashmir by maintaining the same ambience. It was a perfect township for the Kashmiri Pandits and a nerve centre of their social, cultural, political, educational and religious activities, where they built big '*havelis*' on the pattern of

Mughal architecture in Indo-Persian style for their lavish living and for organising community functions on a very grand scale.

One of the earliest settlers in Kashmiri Mohalla were the ancestors of Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga, who moved to this locality from Rani Katra around 1810.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga's ancestor Pt. Zind Ram Kaul "Dattatreya", was originally a resident of Rainawari mohalla in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley, who came to the imperial capital Delhi during the rule of the Mughal emperor Aurangzeb (1658-1707) from the valley after taking refuge at different places on the way like Murree, Rawalpindi and Lahore. He was a Sanskrit and Persian scholar. After sometime he got a job in the Mughal court and started living in Bazaar Sita Ram with his family members. Not much is known about his son. Pt. Sahib Ram Kaul "Dattatreya" as to what type of job he did for his livelihood. Some say that he became a commander of a regiment of the Mughal army as in those days the jobs were given generally from father to son in the same department.

Pt. Sahib Ram Kaul "Dattatreya" had two sons Laxmi Narain Kaul and Niranjan Das Kaul, who after completing their traditional education in Urdu and Persian language at Delhi came to Faizabad in Oudh around 1770 for some good job in the court of Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula (1753-1775) which was the seat of provincial government at that time. Pt. Laxmi Narain Kaul was born around 1750 and his younger brother Pt. Niranjan Das Kaul was born around 1753. Since both these brothers had a very good physique, were very good horse riders and highly skilled fencing experts, so Nawab Shuja-ud-Daula made them commanders of the mounted division of his royal army and entrusted them the job to look after the security arrangements of his daughter in law Begum Shamsul Nisa and her *ajgir*.

It must be pointed out here for the information of the learned readers that Ummatul Zohra the principal Begum of the Nawab *Shuja-ud-Daula* popularly known as Bahu Begum was the richest Begum of Oudh. Her ever growing source of income was a large

*jagir* which included Gonda, Jais, Khara, Allta, Rukka, Parsiddipur, Mohanganj, Salone and Samanantar with 'Zilas' like Nawabganj, Gharaiyya Khas, Begum Bari, Meeraganj and Sindh. She was entitled to collect taxes from the meat merchants and branding cattle. Apart from all this she owned an extraordinary collection of rare jewellery worth crores of rupees.

Bahu Begum used to manage her big *jagir* by about 10,000 regular and irregular soldiers. Her force of 2000 horsemen was under the over all command of Ahmad Ali. She also had a fleet of 25 boats at her disposal. So that way she used to command a great authority over the administration of Oudh. She became so much pleased with the over all performance of both Pt. Laxmi Narain Kaul and his brother Pt. Niranjan Das Kaul that she granted them a royal *Wasiqa* a sort of hereditary pension of Rs. 250/- per month to each one of them at that time. They were the two out of 12 eminent people who were selected by Bahu Begum for this special royal honour. As these brothers were expert in beheading the enemy in the quickest possible time so in some old Persian documents they were often referred as "*Sarkabz*". After getting this royal recognition they started writing "*Sharga*" as their surname.

When Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) shifted his seat of government from Faizabad to Lucknow in 1775 to avoid too much interference of his mother Bahu Begum in the day to day administration both Pt. Laxmi Narain Kaul Sharga and Pt. Niranjan Das Kaul Sharga came to Lucknow with his entourage and initially started living in Rani Katra. Pt. Laxmi Narain Kaul Sharga had three sons Prem Narain, Sheo Prasad and Durga Prasad while Pt. Niranjan Das Kaul Sharga had four sons Nar Singh Dutt, Badri Nath, Kanhaiyya Lal and Kedar Nath besides two daughters Chando married in a Mushran family of Rani Katra Lucknow and Meena, who was married with Pt. Baij Nath Sopori of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow posted as sub inspector in Chhapra, Bihar at that time as the British placed Oudh after its annexation in 1856 under the Bengal Presidency for administration.

Pt. Durga Prasad Sharga had a son Pt. Ganga Prasad Sharga, who was born around 1820 in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. After completing his traditional education he became a *daroga* around 1838 during the rule of Nawab Mohammad Ali Shah (1837-1842). He was married with Dhanwanti Shuri the daughter of Pt. Badri Nath Kao and granddaughter of Pt. Daya Nidhan Kao who was a *dewan* in the court of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) and used to live in Kashmiri Mohalla at that time.

When the British dethroned the last king of Oudh Nawab Wajid Ali Shah in 1856 Pt. Ganga Prasad Sharga like Pt. Baij Nath Sopori and Pt. Sri Krishna Kaul "Bhaiyyaji" the other contemporary community members of the locality then joined the police department under the British dispensation and became a sub inspector. The British somehow developed a notion that the Mutiny of 1857 was the conspiracy of Muslims against the British, so they initially started giving preference to Hindus from respectable families in government service and also used to give them *jagirs* to maintain their social and economic status in the society properly. Under this policy the British gave three villages to Pt. Ganga Prasad Sharga in Chauri Chaura in Bihar.

It is also said that a member of this Sharga clan Pt. Durga Prasad Sharga in May 1856 went to England from Kashmiri Mohalla as a member of a delegation with Malka Aliya the mother of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah to submit a petition before Queen Victoria for restoring the throne of Oudh to Nawab Wajid Ali Shah. Queen Victoria refused to grant an audience to this delegation. The petition bearing the signatures of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah's mother Janaba Aliya Taj Ara Begum, his eldest son and heir apparent to the throne Mirza Mohammad Hamid Ali and his next brother Mirza Mohammad Jawwad Ali Sikander Hashmat Bahadur was then presented on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1857 before the House of Lords for a brief debate but was later on withdrawn. It was put up before the House by the then Chancellor of Exchequer Lord Campbell who told the House that the petition had come from Queen of Oudh and her eldest son, who expressed the deepest pain and regret at the news recently received

from the East India Company of the general defection of the native troops in the Bengal Presidency and they went on to state their surprise at its being supposed that their relative the king of Oudh Nawab Wajid Ali Shah had been at all concerned in that movement. They denied all complicity in it on the part of the sovereign and they said they felt confident from assurances they received from him that he was entirely innocent of the charges brought against him. That all the members of the Royal Family of Oudh were faithfully attached to the connection with Great Britain and that for the redress of any wrongs, they thought they had suffered, they only looked to the Queen Victoria and Parliament of Great Britain." This was a sort of written apology from the mother of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah to the British monarch to pardon them for their wrong doings and to restore the throne of Oudh to its heir showing a great mercy.

Pt. Ganga Prasad Sharga was a farsighted person. He adjusted himself very well in the new dispensation under the British and served the police department satisfactorily. He had a son Pt. Durga Shanker Sharga who was born around 1865. Pt. Durga Shanker Sharga after completing his studies like his father also joined the police department and became a sub inspector. He had two sons Prem Shanker and Uma Shanker.

Pt. Prem Shanker Sharga was born around 1890 in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had his early schooling in Government Jubilee College, after completing his education he joined the police department of the state and became a sub inspector. He then migrated from Kashmiri Mohalla to Model House and started living there with his family members. He was married with Shyam Kumari (Shammo), who was the daughter of Pt. Shyam Nath Sopori of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had three daughters Shanti who was married with Pt. Pushkar Nath Bhatt the son of Pt. Devi Prasad Bhatt of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow, Malti who was married with Pt. Gyan Nath Katju the son of Pt. Amar Nath Katju who was the younger brother of Dr. Kailas Nath Katju of Allahabad and Kanti married Pt. Kishan Prasad Gaur of Jodhpur much against the wishes of her relatives as the intercaste marriages were not in vogue in the

community then and were considered to be against the community's tenets and established conventions. After the death of Pt. Prem Shanker Sharga the Lucknow Municipal Corporation named the road in front of his house after him as Prem Shanker Sharga Marg.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga was born in 1901 in his ancestral *haveli* in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had his early schooling in Government Jubilee College, Lucknow and did his matriculation in 1920 in first division. He then went to Allahabad for higher studies and took admission in Muir Central College. He did his F.Sc. from this institution in 1922 in first division. He then passed the B.Sc. examination from the University of Allahabad in 1924 in first division with Chemistry, Botany and Zoology as his subjects. He then did his M.Sc. in Zoology from the University of Allahabad in 1926 in first division.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga then enrolled himself as a research scholar in the department of Zoology of the Allahabad University where he worked for about a year upto 1927. He then joined the Indian Central Cotton Committee at Kanpur as a Research Assistant and carried out some research work on the pink ball worm of cotton *platyedra gossypella* to improve the variety and yield of the cotton flower. While working on this project the U.P. State Foreign Scholarship was awarded to him by the British government in 1929 for higher studies.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga then went to U.K. from Kanpur and joined the department of Zoology of the University of Edinburgh in Scotland as a research scholar. He did his Ph.D. from this university in 1931. The topic of his Ph.D. thesis was "Studies on Thysanoptera" and the Ph.D. degree was conferred upon him on the 2<sup>nd</sup> July 1931 by the University of Edinburgh. He passed the German language examination from Heriot Watt College, Edinburgh which was essential for getting a Ph.D. degree.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga then went from England to America on a scholarship in 1931 and joined the Cornell University in New York to carry out his post doctoral research work there. During his stay in America in connection with his research work he visited

Canada, Rothamsted Experimental Centre in Geneva, Experimental Centre in New York and Rochester and some other continental Entomological centres.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga then attended the Fifth International Conference of Entomologists which was held in 1932 at Paris in France. He returned back to India in 1932 and joined the Government Agriculture College of Kanpur as the Professor and head of its Entomology Section when Dr. Mayadas was the Principal of this institution.

The Government Agriculture College of Kanpur, which was rechristened in 1975 as the Chandra Shekhar Azad University of Agriculture & Technology and Dr. Kailas Nath Kaul became its first Vice-Chancellor, has a very long and interesting history. In U.P. the agricultural education dates back to 1893, when a small school was started in Kanpur by the British to impart training to *Quamungoes* (Revenue Officers). Then the British established an Imperial Agricultural Research Institute at Pusa in Bihar in 1905 to boost up the agricultural production in the country by applying some new techniques. A year later in 1906 the British started the Agriculture Colleges at Poona (Pune), Nagpur, Kanpur, Lyallpur (now in Pakistan) and Coimbatore. Thus the small Agriculture School in Kanpur became a full fledged Government Agriculture College in 1906 and a British scholar Dr. A.W. Fremantle became its first Principal. It was under the U.P. Board for conducting the examinations of Intermediate in Agriculture initially. Then it was affiliated with the Agra University around 1944 for awarding B.Sc. (Ag.) degrees. Its management was under the control of the then Animal Husbandry Department of the U.P. government upto 1975 before its upgradation into a university.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga after joining the Government Agriculture College then started living in the college campus to devote more time to his research work. In 1932 he discovered a new nematode, "Tylenchus aptini" a parasite of *Aptinotrips rufus* Gmelin. (Thysanoptera : Insecta). His work was published in the journal of Parasitology of the Cambridge University, London.

In 1937 Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga took up research work on the insecticidal properties of Kerosene and lubricating oil emulsions. Prior to that in 1936 he studied the effect of blue jay feeding on a scorpion.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga then took up an exhaustive research programme around 1938 on rearing of silkworms to produce high quality silk in the state. His original research work in this highly specialised field brought him world's recognition. Pt. Shyam Sunder Kaul Kilam who was appointed as an Advisor to the U.P. government for Sericulture in 1953 by the then Chief Minister of the state Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant used to come quite often from Dehra Dun to Kanpur to consult Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga on the finer techniques of silk worms rearing.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga also did some research work on bee keeping to find out ways and means to produce a better quality of honey from them. He published quite a good number of original research papers of very high academic standards on different aspects of Entomology in some of the well recognised foreign scientific journals in this field. He was very able and learned teacher and some of his students later on occupied very high positions in their lives all over the world like Dr. H.G. Singh who became the Vice Chancellor of the Govind Ballabh Pant University of Agriculture and Technology, Pant Nagar in 1990, Dr. G.P. Singh who became the director of U.P. Council of Sugarcane Research, Dr. Akhtar Husain who became the director of CIMAP in 1977 and Dr. B.B. Nagaich who became the director C.P.R.I. Shimla in Himachal Pradesh.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga retired from the active government service in 1961 after attaining the age of superannuation when Dr. R.K. Tandon was the Principal of the college. After his retirement he started living in Vishnupuri locality in Kanpur where he built a house for the living of his family members.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga was married with Raj Kumari Kaul who was the daughter of Pt. Triloki Nath Kaul a leading criminal lawyer of Bahraich and granddaughter of Pt. Baij Nath Kaul 'Chungi'



of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had three daughters Asha, Usha and Geeta. His eldest daughter Asha was married with Dr. Shiv Narain Bahadur the son of Pt. Anand Narain Bahadur of Peer Jaleel, Golaganj, Lucknow. His next daughter Dr. Usha is married with Dr. Bal Kishan Kachru the son of Pt. Gopi Kishan Kachru of Kashmir and his youngest daughter Geeta is married with Ashok Kumar Hangal the son of Pt. Shyam Narain Hangal of Rani Katra, Lucknow.

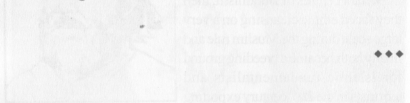
Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga was connected with many academic and scientific bodies of the state and the country. He was an honorary life member of the Entomological Society of India. He worked as the Dean, Faculty of Agriculture of the Agra University, Agra. He was also a member of the Senate of the Agra University. He guided several post graduate students for their Ph.D. thesis. He was a well recognised authority on Entomology of the country. He was one of the founder members of the Kashmiri Association of Kanpur besides Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku and Pt. Someshwar Nath Dar. He had very good and cordial relations with the people like Pt. Shyam Sunder Nath Tikku, Pt. Madanmohan Nath Kunzru, Pt. Gyan Nath Raina and Dr. Tapeshwar Nath Kaul. He chaired many national and international conferences and seminars on Entomology.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga never believed in showmanship. He never thrust his position on others. The main motto of his life had always been simple living and high thinking. As per his family traditions he was dead against an intercaste marriage and never encouraged such marriages in his life time. Once he went to attend a wedding ceremony of one of his close relatives where he found a lady who married a person of some other caste group sitting there on the floor on a *masnad*. He scolded her with such an intensity that the string holding her petticoat gave way out of fear and she found herself in a very delicate situation before the people present around her thus forcing her to make a hasty retreat from the scene for good, just to avoid any further embarrassment.

Dr. Uma Shanker Sharga was a very strict person and a man of principles. He was a very hard task master and a reserved person who never believed in loose talks. Reading books on

different subjects was his main hobby. He had a vast collection of books on different subjects in his personal library. He was also fond of travelling. He died in 1980 at the age of about 79 years. His wife Mrs. Raj Kumari Sharga died a few years later. The house built by him in Vishnupuri in Kanpur was then sold out by his descendants. He cherished very high ideals all through his life and gave a lot to the society at large. Denis Waitley described the greatness of such persons and their urge to achieve something big in life in the following words.

*"Winners take time to relish their work knowing that scaling the mountain is what makes the view from the top so exhilarating."*



## First Kashmiri Prime Minister of Kabul Dewan Nand Ram Tikku

The history of Kashmir and that of Afghanistan have many similarities as both of them are related very closely with each other. Both Kashmir and Afghanistan were initially Hindu kingdoms then they became the important centres of Buddhism, then they faced ethnic cleansing on a very large scale during the Muslim rule and finally both became a breeding ground for Islamic fundamentalists and terrorists in the 20<sup>th</sup> century exporting terror all over the world.



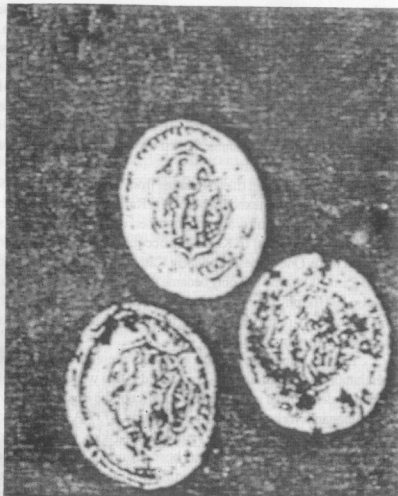
In the first millennium before Christ two major Hindu kingdoms of Gandhar (Kanadhar) and Vaatik Pradesh (Bulk of Bactria) flourished in Afghanistan, which had their borders far extending beyond the range of *Hindu Kush* mountains.

The kingdom of Gandhar was established by king Taksha who was the grandson of king Bharat of Ayodhya and its borders were upto Takshila (Taxila) in the east and upto Tashkent i.e. present day Uzbekistan in the north. The queen Gandhari of *Mahabharat* period was from the Gandhar kingdom.

The emperor Kanishka in 3 B.C. had its empire from Mathura upto the Aral sea i.e. beyond the present day Uzbekistan, Tajakistan and Krygzystan.

The last Hindu dynasty which ruled over Afghanistan was the Shahiya dynasty. The last Hindu king of this dynasty who ruled over Kabul was Bhimpal. He was killed by Mahmood Ghazni in a battle in 1026 A.D. making way for the beginning of the Muslim rule in Afghanistan.

Then roughly after 700 years Nadir Shah was killed by his most trusted lieutenants in 1747 A.D. in the struggle for power among the tribal chieftains. Taking full advantage of this fluid political situation Ahmad Shah Abdali after recapturing the territories earlier



Photograph of Nand Rami rupees kept in Sri Pratap Museum, Srinagar, Kashmir.

conquered by Nadir Shah installed himself on the throne of Kabul and declared himself as the king of Afghanistan in 1747 A.D. Incidentally in the same year the Mughal emperor of Delhi Mohammad Shah Rangiley also died and was succeeded by his son

Ahmad Shah. At that time Afrasiab Beg Khan was the Mughal *subedar* of Kashmir who was not on good terms with his *naiib subedar* Mir Muqim Kanth a local Kashmiri Muslim. So Mir Muqim Kanth then hatched a conspiracy to overthrow the Mughal *subedar* and sent a secret message to Ahmad Shah Abdali to attack Kashmir with a promise to extend all the necessary help in this game. But his plan misfired and Ahmad Shah Abdali had to make a hasty retreat in the face of heavy opposition in the battle field.

But when Ali Kuli Khan became the Mughal *subedar* of Kashmir in 1752 A.D. his deputy Mir Muqim Kanth repeated the same game again and this time the forces of Ahmad Shah Abdali succeeded in annexing Kashmir from the Mughals and it became a part of the Kabul kingdom.

During the Afghan rule in Kashmir from 1753 A.D. upto 1819 A.D., when it was annexed by Maharaja Ranjeet Singh of Punjab from the Afghans quite a good number of Kashmiri Pandits migrated from Srinagar to Kabul and occupied important posts in the court there. One of these prominent Kashmiri Pandits was Dewan Nand Ram Tikku who not only became the prime minister of Kabul but also had the privilege to issue gold coins in his own name which was really a very remarkable feat on his part in that era of religious bigotry in a Muslim domain.

Dewan Nand Ram Tikku's ancestors were basically *shawl* merchants. His grandfather Pt. Ramanand Tikku was a resident of Habba Kadal mohalla in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley. Pt. Ramanand Tikku who was born around 1737 A.D. had two sons. Bhasker Ram Tikku and Vishwa Nath Tikku. His elder son Pt. Bhasker Ram Tikku who was born around 1755 A.D. after completing his traditional education in the Urdu and Persian language at Srinagar came to Lucknow around 1780 with the *Kafila* of Kashmiri Pandits during the rule of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) in Oudh to expand his family trade and then started living in Kashmiri Mohalla with his family members.

Pt. Ramanand Tikku's younger son Pt. Vishwa Nath Tikku who was born around 1757 continued to live in Srinagar looking

after his family business there. He had three sons. They were Nand Ram, Har Das and Ram Chander. Dewan Nand Ram Tikku, who was born around 1775 A.D. after completing his traditional education in the Urdu and Persian language was appointed initially as a *kardar* i.e. a revenue collector.

Ahmad Shah Abdali died in 1772 and was succeeded by his son Taimur Shah who was the *subedar* of Kanadhar province then. Taimur Shah continued the services of Amir Khan Jawansher as the *subedar* of Kashmir but when he declared himself as an independent ruler and refused to send the annual tribute to Kabul Taimur Shah then sent Haji Karim Dad Khan to crush his rebellion. Haji Karim Dad Khan then became the *subedar* of Kashmir in 1776. Haji Karim Dad Khan then appointed Pt. Dila Ram as his *sahibkar*. For the Kashmiri Pandits his appointment came as a fresh hope of life.

King Taimur Shah of Kabul died in 1787 A.D. At the time of his death he had 21 sons out of which Zaman Shah was declared as the heir apparent who then succeeded Taimur Shah and became the king of Kabul. Zaman Shah then appointed Mir Huzoor Khan in 1792 A.D. as the new *subedar* of Kashmir. Taking full advantage of the uncertain political situation in Kabul and regular rebellion by different tribal chieftains there, Mir Huzoor Khan declared himself as an independent ruler and let loose a reign of terror in Kashmir especially against the Kashmiri Pandits. To crush his rebellion Zaman Shah then in 1794 A.D. sent a strong contingent of the army under the command of veteran general Ahmad Khan. A pitched battle took place at Baramulla between the Afghan forces under the command of Ahmad Khan and the local troops of Mir Huzoor Khan in which the troops of Mir Huzoor Khan were defeated and he fled away from the battle scene. General Ahmad Khan after this victory was then called back by king Zaman Shah to Kabul. But while returning back to Kabul Ahmad Khan took with him. Pt. Nand Ram Tikku finding him an upright and competent officer. As there were many independent principalities between Kabul and Kashmir so the former never had full administrative control over the latter and regular battles used to take place to keep the erring *subedars* of Kashmir with in their limits.

Pt. Nand Ram Tikku in course of time because of his sharp intellect and great administrative acumen rose to become a dewan in the court of Zaman Shah at Kabul and changed the course of Kashmir's history more than once.

Pt. Nand Ram Tikku was a man of great sagacity and tact. He came into the notice of Wafadar Khan for the first time at Kabul who was the prime minister of king Zaman Shah. Wafadar Khan made Pt. Nand Ram Tikku his *sahibkar*. Pt. Nand Ram Tikku due to his hard work, integrity and sincerity then gradually came into the good books of king Zaman Shah and became his most trusted person. Pt. Nand Ram Tikku then started wielding considerable power and influence in the court at Kabul. King Zaman Shah became so much pleased with his style of work and dedication that he appointed Pt. Nand Ram Tikku as his prime minister without any hesitation.

When during one of the various campaigns of king Zaman Shah, Dewan Nand Ram Tikku found the government treasury empty he minted gold coins in his own name bearing the following Persian inscription.

*Sikka-e-zaddur mulk-e-Kabul Nand Ram  
Aj Musalmanan, bagoyed Ram Ram*

Meaning Nand Ram earned coins in Kabul, Oh! Muslims call out Ram Ram, This Nand Ram rupee was in circulation in the tribal areas of both Afghanistan and Kashmir as late as 1910 A.D. Due to power and position of Dewan Nand Ram Tikku at Kabul his younger brother Dewan Har Das Tikku became an important figure, in Kashmir. Dewan Har Das Tikku then started wielding considerable power in Kashmir. He adopted an aristocratic way of life with great pomp and show. The annual tribute to Kabul was sent through him. All this created bickerings and a lot of heart burning among the courtiers who were very close to *subedar* Abdullah Khan. The relations between *subedar* Abdullah Khan and Dewan Har Das Tikku ultimately became so bitter that the latter reported all this matter to his brother Dewan Nand Ram Tikku at Kabul who in turn then requested king Zaman Shah to summon *subedar* Abdullah Khan. When Abdullah Khan arrived at Kabul he was arrested and

d detained in the Baba Hazara Fort on the suggestion of Dewan Nand Ram Tikku. This step further created the animosity between the two.

*Subedar* Abdullah Khan before leaving for Kabul from Kashmir had appointed his brother Atta Mohammad Khan as its *subedar*. But the king Zaman Shah instead appointed his another brother Wakil Khan as the *subedar* of Kashmir. In this battle of superiority over each other Wakil Khan was killed by Abdullah Khan, who then arrested Dewan Har Das Tikku and put him in prison for creating all this mischief.

Abdullah Khan was then defeated by Sher Mohammad Khan who then made his son Atta Mohammad Khan as *subedar* of Kashmir in 1807 A.D. and left for Kabul. Atta Mohammad Khan then appointed Pt. Sahaj Ram Dar as his *sahibkar*.

When Maharaja Ranjeet Singh declared himself as the ruler of Punjab in 1801 after clearing some territories in Punjab from the illegal occupation of the Afghans and further consolidated his position, some unscrupulous elements and *shohdas* blinded king Zaman Shah of Kabul. Shah Shuja then seized power and became the king of Kabul. But very soon Mohammad Shah carried out a successful rebellion against him and Shah Shuja fled to Punjab to take refuge under Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. Negotiations were then carried out to bring back Shah Shuja to Kashmir for a settlement. Dewan Nand Ram Tikku was then deputed to carry out this task. Dewan Nand Ram Tikku succeeded in this mission and due to his efforts Shah Shuja came to Kashmir to find himself virtually a prisoner in the Hari Parbat Fort.

To teach a lesson to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh of Punjab *subedar* Atta Mohammad Khan then instructed his brother Jahandar Khan to capture the Attuck Fort which in that period was a gateway to Kashmir. The Afghan army general Wazir Fateh Mohammad Khan however could not gather enough courage to attack the Attuck Fort and instead preferred to seek help from Maharaja Ranjeet Singh. In the battle that ensued in Rawalpora village the army of *subedar* Atta Mohammad Khan was defeated and safe passage was given by Dewan Mohan Chand to Atta

Mohammad Khan to Kabul on the condition that rupees 8 lacs as annual tribute would be paid to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh.

Both Dewan Nand Ram Tikku and Wazir Fateh Mohammad Khan then left for Kabul after appointing Azam Khan as the *subedar* of Kashmir. Azam Khan then appointed Pt. Sahaj Ram Dar as his *dewan* and Pt. Har Das Tikku as his *sahibkar* perhaps to please Dewan Nand Ram Tikku. But Azam Khan on his part refused to pay the annual tribute of rupees eight lacs to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh which was agreed upon by his predecessor. Due to this step Maharaja Ranjeet Singh became very angry and launched a major campaign against Kashmir. But in this battle Sikh forces were completely routed and beaten back in 1813 A.D. Azam Khan returned to Srinagar fully intoxicated with this victory.

The abortive invasion of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh gave a handle to the Pandit baiters in Kashmir to convince Azam Khan that Pandit notables were at the root of the Sikh invasion of Kashmir. In particular they singled out Dewan Har Das Tikku, about whom the allegation was that he was the head of the clique which had extended an invitation to the Sikh ruler. The first victim of this orgy against the Pandits was Dewan Har Das Tikku, who was killed by *subedar* Azam Khan in 1813 A.D. when he was hardly 35 years old. There were other Pandits as well who met the same fate. Their *jagirs* were confiscated and *jazia* was imposed on them as a punishment.

Dewan Nand Ram Tikku had four sons. Their names were Pt. Swarg Ram Tikku, Pt. Guru Ram Tikku, Pt. Lakshman Das Tikku and Pt. Ishwar Das Tikku. They were all employed on different posts in the court at Kabul. Pt. Swarg Ram Tikku also had four sons Pt. Bhagwan Das Tikku, Pt. Kailas Ram Tikku, Pt. Anand Ram Tikku and Pt. Lalji Ram Tikku. On the other hand his another brother Pt. Guru Ram Tikku had five sons. They were Pt. Balak Ram Tikku, Pt. Mehtab Ram Tikku, Pt. Prasad Ram Tikku, Pt. Thakur Das Tikku and Pt. Sahib Ram Tikku.

Prior to 1813 A.D. *subedar* Azam Khan had appointed Pt. Sahaj Ram Dar, Mirza Pandit Dar, Pt. Birbal Dar and Pt. Sukh

Ram Safaya as the *kardars* or revenue collectors and fixed a certain amount of land revenue to be collected by each one of them from the big *zamindars* and property holders. Somehow some differences cropped up over the maintenance of the accounts between the Pandits and Azam Khan who suspected some bungling in the accounts and fixed rupees 2 lacs to be realized from Pt. Birbal Dar. A conclave of these notable Pandits then took place in which it was decided to seek the help of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh of Punjab to get rid off this tyrannical rule of Azam Khan.

Pt. Birbal Dar along with his minor son Raja Kak then secretly left Srinagar in 1819 for this mission. When this news was leaked to Azam Khan, he took Pt. Har Das Tikku's son Suraj Tikku with him and left for Kabul to bring reinforcements. On the way to Kabul he killed Suraj Tikku at Baramulla out of revenge for inviting Maharaja Ranjeet Singh to invade Kashmir again.

The Kashmir Valley was then annexed by Maharaja Ranjeet Singh in 1819 and it became the part of the Punjab kingdom. To improve the communication and transportation between Punjab and Kashmir Maharaja Ranjeet Singh then built a cart road between Srinagar and Gujrat. Many Kashmiri Pandits during this period migrated from Kashmir to Punjab to seek employment in the Lahore *darbar*. Pt. Ram Chander Tikku who was born around 1770 A.D. and was a noted *shawl* merchant and youngest brother of Dewan Nand Ram Tikku also migrated from Kashmir and came to Amritsar around 1820 A.D. to expand his trade which was a big commercial centre for silk products in those days. He took a house in Karavan Deohri mohalla and started living there with his family members.

Pt. Ram Chander Tikku had four sons Rajo Ram, Neel Kanth, Lal Chand and Raja Ram. His youngest son Pt. Raja Ram Tikku had a son Tilak Chand Tikku and two grandsons Mani Ram and Amar Chand. Pt. Amar Chand Tikku had a son Pt. Ganga Ram Tikku who in turn had three sons Girdhari Lal Tikku (b-1892), Bihari Lal Tikku (b-1894) and Bishan Lal Tikku (b-1896). Unfortunately all these three brothers with their families perished in the devastating earthquake in 1933 at Quetta (now in Pakistan).

Pt. Ram Chandra Tikku's second son Pt. Neel Kanth Tikku was born around 1800. He had son Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku who was born in 1825 in his ancestral house in Karavan Deohri mohalla of the Amritsar city. Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku after completing his traditional education in the Urdu and Persian language took up a job as a *naib Bakshi* in the court of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh at Lahore instead of continuing his family business. He soon became a *Bakshi*. After the annexation of the Punjab kingdom by the British in 1849 the British made Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku initially a keeper of files. He then became a deputy superintendent of the Amritsar city and finally superintendent of the Persian department in the commissionerate. The British then offered him to become a Tehsildar but he refused that offer due to certain personal reasons.

The British then in December 1873 appointed him as the extra assistant commissioner on the recommendation of the then Amritsar commissioner General Taylor and commissioner administration Mr. Prinsip. But before he could take charge of that post he died on 1<sup>st</sup> January 1874 at the age of 49 years.

Once Amir Sher Ali Khan on the instructions of Dewan Nand Ram Tikku came from Kabul and enquired about Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku from the then Lt. Governor of Punjab and wanted to take him to Kabul. But Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku politely refused that offer as his mother didn't allow him to go to Kabul. Pt. Sahaj Ram Tikku was also a noted Persian poet. Some of his poetic compositions are there in *Bahar-e-Gulshan-e-Kashmir*. The style of his poetry writing can be judged from the following Persian couplets composed by him.

*Amad gule bahar nayamad nigar-e-ma.*

*Wakte bahar neez nashud teer kare ma*

*Bulbul tarana gost ki guldar chaman raseed*

*Dil sirf nala shud ki nayamad nigar-e-ma.*

*Har gul namuna ist ja rukhsarai kase*

*Har lala para-e-jas dil-e-dagdar-e-ma.*

Dewan Sahaj Ram Tikku had a private income of about Rs. 4000/- per year from the landed property which he had inherited

from his father Pt. Neel Kanth Tikku besides an annual income of Rs. 3000/- from his salary. So he used to live like an aristocrat with a retinue of domestic servants and a Kashmiri Pandit cook Bishan Das to prepare delicious Kashmiri dishes. He had a horse driven *Buggie* to pay social visits and to attend to other courtesy calls. He was a man of great taste and artistic temperament. He was quite humble, accommodating and a man with a vision.

Dewan Sahaj Ram Tikku had three sons Mohan Lal, Radha Krishna and Karta Krishna. The first two Mohan Lal and Radha Krishna were twins and were born in 1857. Pt. Mohan Lal Tikku had a daughter Mohini who was married with Pt. Vishwa Nath Dar. Pt. Mohan Lal Tikku died in 1908 at the age of 51 years.

Pt. Radha Krishna Tikku had three sons Manohar Lal Tikku, Maharaj Krishna Tikku and Iqbal Krishna Tikku, Pt. Manohar Lal Tikku was born in 1883 and died in 1924 at the age of 41 years. He had two sons Bhupinder Nath Tikku who was born in 1912 and died in 1977 at the age of 62 years, and Tej Bahadur Tikku who was born in 1915 and was given in adoption. He died in 1995 at the age of 80 years.

Pt. Maharaja Krishna Tikku was born in 1885. He used to live in Jammu. He had two sons. Pratap Krishna and Swaraj Krishna besides a daughter Kishan who was married with Major Shivnandan Lal Dar of Varanasi.

Pt. Pratap Krishna Tikku was born in 1917. He was married in 1944 with Kirti the daughter of Justice Tej Narain Mulla of Allahabad. He died in 1984 at the age of 67 years. His brother Pt. Swaraj Krishna Tikku was born in 1915 and died in 1936 at the age of hardly 21 years unmarried.

Dewan Sahaj Ram Tikku's third son Pt. Karta Krishna. Tikku was born in 1862 in his ancestral house in Karavan Deorhi mohalla of Amritsar city. After completing his education he became a Tehsildar. A Tehsildar in those days used to wield a considerable power. He was responsible for collecting both land revenue as well as the income tax then. The Income Tax Act came into existence much later in 1922 after the First World War (1914-1918) to make

up the losses in the war as a temporary measure. Prior to that the British used to take huge loans from the Nawabs of Oudh to meet their war expenses.

Pt. Karta Krishna Tikku retired from the post of Tehsildar in 1917 after attaining the age of superannuation. The British government then fixed a pension of Rs. 250/- per month for him. After his retirement the Raja of Mandi expressed the desire to make Pt. Karta Krishna Tikku the Dewan of the Mandi state, but the latter politely declined this offer so that the future prospects of his sons to get some good government job under the British dispensation may not be spoiled. Pt. Karta Krishna Tikku after his retirement from the government service started living in Gurdaspur. He always used to wear a turban on his head whenever he used to move outside his house. He died in Gurdaspur in 1933 at the age of about 71 years due to paralysis.

Pt. Karta Krishna Tikku was married around 1884 with Chand Kumari (b-1873) the daughter of Pt. Dharam Narain Kaul of Jammu. He had three sons Autar Krishna, Suraj Krishna and Daya Krishna besides five daughters. Kunwar Kishori who was married with Pandit Avtar Kishen Kaul of Indore, Lalita Kishori who was married with Justice Praduman Kishen Kaul of Allahabad, Mohini who was married with Pandit Muneshwar Nath Zutshi of Gorakhpur, Sharika Shuri who was married with Pandit Surendra Mohan Dattatreya the son of Pandit Brij Mohan Dattatreya of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi and Kshima who was married with Pandit Avtar Narain Bahadur the son of Rai Bahadur Pt. Swaroop Narain Bahadur of Karol Bagh, New Delhi.

Pt. Autar Krishna Tikku was born in 1894 at Amritsar. After doing his F.Sc. he went to U.K. around 1912 and did his civil engineering course from the University of Edinburgh, Scotland. He was selected for the job in the railways in London as all the major railway companies in those days had their headquarters there. He joined his service in Calcutta with the Calcutta-Nagpur section of the railways. He laid the Katni-Bilaspur railway line. But he was black listed by the British for meeting Mahatma Gandhi and did not

get any promotion in his long service career. He died in 1961 at the age of 67 years. He was married in 1918 with Brij Kishori Ugra at Hardoi who was the daughter of Pt. Jagmohan Nath Ugra. He had three sons Brij Autar Tikku (b-1924), Krishna Autar Tikku (b-1926) and Tej Autar Tikku (b-1931) besides a daughter Sheila.

Pt. Suraj Krishna Tikku was born on 2<sup>nd</sup> May 1902 at Amritsar. After doing his matriculation his father sent him to England around 1918 to become an engineer like his elder brother although he had no interest in the science subjects. He somehow managed to complete the training in the workshop of LNER in London. But like his brother he was unable to secure a good job for him in London so his parents called him back to India in 1924. He struggled for another eleven years to get some good job for him. Ultimately he got a job in the opium factory at Neemach in central India in 1935. When the department of Narcotics was created in 1950 he was absorbed in that department and was posted in Barabanki as A.F.S. from which post he retired in 1955. He died in 1985 at the age of 83 years. He was married on 4<sup>th</sup> October 1927 with Janak Dulari Kaul the daughter of Pt. Sri Krishna Kaul of Lahore at Sialkot (now in Pakistan). He had four sons Chand Krishna Tikku, Pearey Krishna Tikku, Roop Krishna Tikku and Man Mohan Krishna Tikku.

Pt. Chand Krishna Tikku was born on 23<sup>rd</sup> October 1929 at Gurdaspur in Punjab. He became an I.R.S. officer in January 1953 and retired as Chairman, Central Board of Direct Taxes in April 1988. He got married with Saroj Kaul on 2<sup>nd</sup> February 1956 at Kolkata. He has two daughters Vinita (b-1957) married with Paras Chak and Vandana (b-1960) married with Dhruva Chak.

Pt. Pearey Krishna Tikku was born on 13<sup>th</sup> July 1931 at Lahore. He married Ranjana Taimni the daughter of Dr. Iqbal Krishna Taimni on 4<sup>th</sup> May 1959 at Allahabad. He had two sons Sanjay (b-1961) and Chaitanya (b-1964) now well settled in America.

Pt. Roop Krishna Tikku was born on 7<sup>th</sup> October, 1933 at Lahore. He became an I.A.S. officer. He married Prabha the daughter of Justice Kailas Nath Wanchoo the former Chief Justice of India on 11<sup>th</sup> November, 1959 at Gwalior. He has two sons Siddhartha (b-1961) and Harsh (b-1965).

Pt. Man Mohan Krishna Tikku was born on 3<sup>rd</sup> September 1936 at Neemach M.P. He married Madhu Shivpuri the daughter of Pt. Tej Kishore Shivpuri on 16<sup>th</sup> January 1963 at Allahabad. He has only one son Ajay (b-1964). Pt. Karta Krishna Tikku's youngest son Pt. Daya Krishna Tikku was born in 1908. He died in 1986 at the age of 78 years in Almora, Uttar Pradesh.

Pt. Ram Chander Tikku's youngest son Pt. Raja Ram Tikku had a son Pt. Nandan Joo Tikku and a grandson Pt. Salig Ram Tikku, who in turn had two sons Hira Lal and Jai Lal. Pt. Jia Lal Tikku was born in 1874 and died in 1942. He was additional magistrate, Jammu. He was married with Shivraj Rani the daughter of Rai Sahab Pt. Radha Krishna Kaul of Amritsar. He had a son Pt. Mahendra Nath Tikku, who was born in 1896. After completing his studies he became a head assistance in the office of *Musheer-e-Mal* at Jammu where he used to live in *Puran Niwas* with his family. He was married with Raj Dulari (b-1902) the daughter of Dewan Bishan Nath Madan of Srinagar, Kashmir. He had a son Puran Prakash besides four daughters Padam Mohini (b-1922), Lalita Mohini (b-1926) Nirmala (b-1928) and Saroj (b-1930).

Capt. Puran Prakash Tikku was born in 1924. After doing his matriculation he became a pilot. He retired as the Chief Pilot of the U.P. government around 1972. He is married with Kamini the daughter of Pt. Triloki Nath Ganjwar of Rani Katra, Lucknow. He has three sons Pawan, Aseem and Vishal. Now he lives in A-1, River Bank Colony, Lucknow.

It would not be out of place to mention here that Pt. Bhasker Ram Tikku, who was uncle of Dewan Nand Ram Tikku the prime minister of Kabul, and who settled down in Kashmiri Mohalla, around 1780 had three sons Lakshmi Narain, Ram Narain and Durga Prasad. His second son Pt. Ram Narain Tikku was married with Basso who was the daughter of Pt. Nar Singh Dutt Sharga of Rani Katra, Lucknow. He had two sons Kishan Narain and Prithvi Nath. The descendants of Pt. Prithvi Nath Tikku migrated from Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow to Kanpur in the beginning of the 20<sup>th</sup> century. Pt. Pawan Kumar Tikku who is a descendant of Pt. Kishan Narain

Tikku still lives in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. In this process of migration for greener pastures the properties of the Kashmiri Pandits in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow were either usurped or purchased by other caste groups at throw away prices. The big *jagirs* of the Kashmiri Pandits were confiscated by the British after the Mutiny of 1857. The vast agricultural lands in the Lucknow district and elsewhere in Oudh of the Kashmiri Pandits were taken away by the state government under the Zamindari Abolition Act of 1950 after independence. So in the nut shell the Kashmiri Pandits not only suffered huge financial losses, but also lost their grip over the Lucknow city where they led a life of great affluence all through the Nawabi period from 1775 upto 1856.

The history of this famous Tikku family of Tikku Mohalla of Habba Kadal in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley was compiled for the first time by Pt. Prakash Ram a settlement officer in the Jammu and Kashmir *Riyasat* around 1860 on the instructions of Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885) who was himself a great orientalist and had a great passion for maintaining old records and documents. The credit naturally goes to Dewan Nand Ram Tikku who brought great laurels to his family and ensured its place in history by his various acts of bravery and heroism. He fully deserves the richest tributes of the entire community for keeping its flag flying high in an alien land. Now not much is known either about his four sons Swarg Ram, Guru Ram, Lakshman Das and Ishwar Das or their progeny. Dewan Nand Ram Tikku died around 1850 after living a king size royal life. In the words of Pierre de Coubertin "*the most important thing in life is not the triumph but the struggle.*"

◆◆◆



## First Indian judge of the Lahore Chief Court Justice Ram Narain Dar

The migration of Kashmiri Pandits for the first time from Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi to the Punjab kingdom for better job opportunities took place in the beginning of the 19<sup>th</sup> century during the rule of Maharaja Ranjeet Singh (1801-1839) who was the last Indian emperor on whom the British had no control. When Maharaja Ranjeet Singh was born in 1780 a very large portions of the territories in Punjab, Kashmir and other neighbouring regions were under the



control of different Afghan governors as all these areas were conquered earlier by Ahmad Shah Abdali of Afghanistan. Maharaja Ranjeet Singh's father Mahan Singh fought relentless battles with his neighbours and enemies for about 27 years to consolidate the political power of his Sukarchakia '*mis*' of Sikhs by forming a confederacy. Maharaja Ranjeet Singh was hardly 12 years old when his father Mahan Singh died in 1792, but since he had already accompanied his father on many expeditions so he had some battle experience. His mother in law Sardarni Sada Kaur who was not only a woman of greatest ability but also had succeeded as the head of the Kanhaiyya '*mis*' of Sikhs being the widow of Sardar Gurbaksh Singh played a key role in grooming Maharaja Ranjeet Singh to become an undisputed ruler of the Punjab kingdom later on in 1801.

Ahmad Shah Abdali's grandson Zaman Shah marched from Kabul to northern Punjab with his army to recapture the lost provinces, which his grandfather had conquered earlier. He occupied Lahore once again without much difficulty in 1797-1798.

But due to guerrilla tactics of warfare adopted by the Sikhs and the domestic trouble at Kabul Zaman Shah had to make a hasty retreat. While crossing the flooded Jhelum river the Afghan monarch lost his 12 canons. He then promised Ranjeet Singh who was then a chieftain of that region of Punjab to grant him the title of 'Raja' and the Lahore district provided he would send those lost cannons to him after extricating them from the Jhelum river. Ranjeet Singh did the same thing and thus occupied Lahore without much difficulty in 1799 and became a Raja wielding a considerable power and influence. He then attacked the Amritsar fort and captured it after driving away Bhangis '*mis*' of Sikhs from there. He thus became a master of two centres of Sikh power political and religious and an undisputed monarch of the trans Sutlej Punjab.

After the most humiliating defeat of the armies of Bhonsle of Berar and Maharaja Daulat Rao Scindia of Gwalior in the second Anglo-Maratha war (1803-1805) at the hands of the troops of the East India Company in which pitched battles were fought at Koil, Agra, Aligarh and Delhi, Maharaja Ranjeet Singh felt the need to modernise his Khalsa army to control the ever growing influence of the political power of the British in the region. He then invited Pt. Ganga Ram Raina, who had worked earlier under some French generals in Gwalior and had a lot of administrative experience from Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi to Lahore in 1813 to look after his "*Malkhana*" properly and made him a "*Mir Munshi*."

Pt. Ganga Ram Raina due to his ability and hard work soon became very close to Maharaja Ranjeet Singh and later on became instrumental in providing jobs to many of his kinsmen from Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi and some other Kashmiri Pandits from different places in the Lahore *darbar*. By 1815 quite a good number of Kashmiri Pandit families migrated from Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi and elsewhere to Lahore and settled down there in Vachchuwali Gali and Wazir Khan Chowk area. A good majority of these Kashmiri Pandits were absorbed in the administration mostly as "*Mootsuddees*", who used to be subordinate revenue officers whose main job was to collect the revenue of the government.