

Brij Avtar Tikku.

Pt. Dharam Narain Kak's eldest son Pt. Kishan Prasad Kak was born in 1917 and was married with Roop Kumari Wattal, his second son Pt. Ravindra Nath Kak was born in 1927 and was married with Asha the daughter of Pt. Shyamsunder Narain Bakshi of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow, his third and youngest son Pt. Kapil Deo Kak was born in 1930, who is a bachelor and now lives in his farm in Village Rani Kalan in the Pali district of Rajasthan.

Pt. Dharam Narain Kak was a tall and slim person. He had an attractive personality. He was a man with a mission. He always believed in doing hard work. He had firm convictions and had his own style of working. He had a broad outlook and used to study everything very thoroughly before taking any decision. He had developed the art of tackling even the most complex situations with great ease and confidence. He had a great organising capacity to arrange functions and ceremonies on a grand scale and got medals for this quality from Maharaja Umed Singh. He lived a royal life and fully enjoyed every moment of it. He died in Jodhpur in 1971 at the age of 73 years leaving behind a large number of his friends and admirers. His memorable contribution in developing the basic infrastructure of both Jodhpur and Udaipur state can never be forgotten. The noted Hindi poet Sachindra Bhatnagar has expressed his feelings in this regard in the following way.

*"Sham ka man bahut udas hua  
Shokh upwan bahut udas hua  
Tum gaye to mujhe laga jaise  
Sara jeevan bahut udas hua"*



A saintly person with a poetic mind

## Pandit Kashi Nath Dar 'Tauqir'

It is generally said that maximum conversion of Dar Pandits took place at the point of sword during the rule of Sultan Sikander (1389-1413), simply because they were regarded as the king makers. Many of them migrated from the Kashmir Valley during this period to protect their religion and to save their souls to different parts of India. Some of them even went upto Karnataka in south India out of fear thinking that Sultan would not be able to come that far to kill them. Many of them even kept their Kashmiri Pandit identity a closely guarded secret and got merged subsequently with the local population with the passage of time by marrying local Pandit girls and marrying their daughters with the local Pandit boys.



One of their descendant Meeru Pandit Dar, whose ancestors were successful in maintaining their distinct Kashmiri Pandit identity intact all these turbulent years without any dilution, became incharge of the Golkunda Fort in south India, which was under the control of Feroz Shah at that time.

The Mughal emperor Jahangir (1605-1627) when attacked this fort with his army to take its control, Meeru Pandit Dar helped his master Feroz Shah to defeat the Mughal army in the battle field. But when Jahangir attacked this fort for the second time with reinforcements from Delhi, Feroz Shah tamely surrendered before him and ordered his commander Meeru Pan-

dit Dar to hand over this fort to the Mughal army. Meeru Pandit Dar then left for Delhi from Elachpura to search some other job for him. In Delhi through his friend, Shiraj, he met Hakim Abdul Fateh who was very close to empress Noorjahan. On the recommendation of Hakim Abdul Fateh, the Mughal empress Noorjahan made Meeru Pandit Dar the commander of her 600 strong royal mounted guards. Thus Meeru Pandit Dar became a right hand man of empress Noorjahan.

In the meantime the Mughal emperor Jahangir decided to pay a visit to Kabul. The then subedar of Kabul, Mahabat Khan with 7,000 soldiers then came on the bank of the Jhelam river on the pretext of welcoming the emperor, but instead he arrested Jahangir in a most treacherous manner and placed him in solitary confinement under very tight security.

When this news reached Delhi like a wild fire, the empress Noorjahan along with Meeru Pandit Dar and her mounted royal guards then immediately left for Kabul to rescue the emperor from the clutches of a traitor. They arrested Mahabat Khan and freed the emperor Jahangir from his custody. Jahangir with his consort Noorjahan then again came back to Delhi in a grand procession where they had a tumultuous welcome.

After sometime the emperor again expressed a desire to pay a visit to Kashmir with his consort Noorjahan to have some nice time there. He asked Meeru Pandit Dar to accompany them on this visit. The emperor also promised to give him some jagirs in Kashmir for his living and would make him incharge of some regions there like Sopore, Baramulla with an authority to appoint military commanders in these areas. Meeru Pandit Dar then begged for some time to ponder over this preposition before taking a final decision on this most crucial matter, involving the future of his family members, which was duly granted by the emperor.

The very next day he presented the list of the villages to be given to him along with other terms and conditions for again going back to Kashmir his motherland before the emperor, who

then issued a royal "Farman" giving his consent and also gave him the power to appoint the military commanders of his choice in those regions to maintain proper law and order there. Meeru Pandit Dar then went to Elachpura to take his family members and from there he proceeded for Kashmir along with his family on horse driven carriages. He covered this journey in four months and nine days and again arrived in Kashmir around 1610 A.D.

Meeru Pandit Dar had two sons Aman Pandit Dar and Naman Pandit Dar. His elder son Aman Pandit Dar had two sons. Daulat Pandit Dar and Shakti Pandit Dar whereas the younger son Naman Pandit Dar had only one son Srikanth Pandit Dar, who in turn had three sons Madhav Pandit Dar, Rajab Pandit Dar and Mahesh Pandit Dar. His eldest son Madhav Pandit Dar had four sons Lalah Dar, Shanker Dar, Mahesh Dar and Gopal Dar besides a daughter Roop Bhawani who was born in 1620 A.D. Her nephew Balah Pandit Dar again became a Mir Munshi in the court of the Mughal emperor Shahjahan (1627-1658) at Delhi.

One of the members of this Dar, clan Pandit Kishan Dass Dar who was the resident of Fateh Kadal area of the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley came to Delhi around 1804 during the rule of the Mughal emperor Shah Alam II (1759-1806) via Murree, Rawalpindi and Lahore. Finding the conditions in Delhi at that time not very conducive for his living he subsequently migrated to the Indore state in Central India along with his family for better future prospects around 1805.

In 1808 in the court of Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holker of the Indore state the Pindari Chieftain Amir Khan brought his brother in law Abdul Ghafoor Khan who was a very scheming person. Taking full advantage of Amir Khan's heavy engagements outside the state, Abdul Ghafoor Khan very soon developed his strong hold over the Indore darbar and became a commander of a division of the state's army. The Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holker conferred the title, Nawab Diler Jung Bahadur upon him and also gave him the "Ilaka" of Jarru, Baravada, Taal, Mandabal, Sanjeet, Malhargarh and Biploda as

Jagir. Thus Abdul Ghafoor Khan became a very important figure of the Indore state. His headquarter in Indore is still famous as "Ghafoor Khan ki Bajariya".

On 28th October, 1811 Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holker died after suffering a massive paralytic stroke. His son and heir to the throne. Naresh Malhar Rao was minor then so Maharani Talsa Bai as his guardian tookover the administration of the state into her hands. But due to intrigues of the palace, she was mercilessly killed on 20th December, 1817 in Mahidpur on the bank of river Shipra in mid night. After this tragedy a ferocious battle between the forces of the Indore state and the armies of the East India Company took place in which Ghafoor Khan again played a treacherous role and sided with the British due to which the forces of the Indore state suffered a most humiliating defeat. A treaty was then signed between the Indore state and the British on 6th January 1818 at Mandsaur through which a new Jaora state was created and Ghafoor Khan was then declared as its ruler by the British.

Nawab Ghafoor Khan then felt the need to have some good administrators. in his court to run the administration of this newly created Jaora state properly and effectively. He then invited Pandit Kishan Dass Dar from Indore who was well known to him being a neighbour of his relatives in Indore with vast administrative experience. On the request of Nawab Ghafoor Khan Pt. Kishan Dass Dar with his family members along with a family priest and a Kashmiri Pandit cook then came to Jaora in 1820 from Indore and settled down in Gulshanabad there.

Pandit Kishan Dass Dar had two sons Pandit Bhola Nath Dar and Pandit Babu Ram Dar besides two daughters. Laxmi Rani who was married with Pandit Mansa Ram Katju and Durga Devi who was married with Pandit Gulab Rai Taimni

Nawab Ghafoor Khan then appointed Pt. Mansa Ram Katju as his Dewan who was previously working as Bakshi in the army of the Indore state during the rule of Maharaja Yashwant Rao Holkar. Dewan Mansa Ram Katju then appointed. Pt. Bhola

Nath Dar who was born on 14th February 1806 in Indore as a Bakshi under him to distribute the salary to the forces of this newly created Jaora state.

Pt. Bhola Nath Dar had in all twelve children six sons and six daughters. His six sons were Jwala Nath, Badri Nath, Dina Nath, Baij Nath, Bishambhar Nath, and Prithvi Nath. His six daughters were Durga married to Pt. Moti Lal Hukku, Panno married to Pt. Jagat Narain Kaul, Kishori, Bisso, Radha and Laxmi. Pt. Bhola Nath Dar gave his second son Badri Nath Dar in adoption to his brother in law Pt. Mansa Ram Katju who had no issue.

Pt. Bhola Nath Dar's eldest son Pt. Jwala Nath Dar, who was born around 1824 in the Jaora state after completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language became a Mir Munshi in the state. He was a thoroughly gentle person and a very good calligrapher. Nawab Noor Khan was very much pleased with his work and used to admire his administrative capabilities. He played a key role in running the administration of the Jaora state. He died around 1875 in the Jaora state at the age of about 51 years and his "Shradh" ceremony was subsequently performed by his son. Pt. Kashi Nath Dar at Gaya in Bihar.

Pt. Jwala Nath Dar had four sons Kashi Nath, Tribhuwan Nath, Shyam Krishna and Raj Krishna besides two daughters Pranoshuri who was married with Pt. Ram Nath Kaul and Anandi Shuri who was married with Pt. Bhawani Prasad Shangleo of Lahore. Pt. Jwala Nath Dar's second son Tribhuwan Nath was adopted by his uncle Pt. Badri Nath Katju, who had no issue Pt. Jwala Nath Dar's youngest son Raj Krishna was adopted by his maternal grandfather Pt. Karta Krishna Kaul who again had no issue.

Pt. Jwala Nath Dar's eldest son Pt. Kashi Nath Dar was born on 20th November 1843 in his ancestral haveli in Gulshanabad in the Jaora state. He had his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in a Maktab which used to run in his haveli.

His father Pt. Jwala Nath Dar and his grandfather, Pt. Bhola Nath Dar were his teachers. who taught him logic and the important works of Persian poets and writers like "Gulistan Bostan" of Saadi, Dewan of Hafiz, works of Madho Ram Bahar, Meena Bazaar of Danish, works of Abul Fazl, etc. By the age of 12 years Pt. Kashi Nath Dar developed a great command over the Persian language and started composing couplets in it under the pen name "Tauqir". His father Pt. Jwala Nath Dar also taught him the nuances of poetry writing and its grammar. His father also encouraged him to take part in debates and discussions just to develop a confidence in him to face any situation boldly and squarely. After all this initial grooming Pt. Kashi Nath Dar then went to the imperial capital Delhi around 1856 to have a good job there under the British dispensation in the government. While he was living in Bazaar Sita Ram in Delhi and was in the process of searching some good job for him to settle down that all of a sudden the situation became very difficult and tense in Delhi in 1857 due to Mutiny and the people started fleeing from Delhi to the neighbouring areas to save their lives and property. Under such surcharged atmosphere full of uncertainties Pt. Kashi Nath Dar then again came back to the Jaora state from Delhi to search some other avenue for him. He subsequently became a Nazim in the Jaora state around 1859 and worked on this post upto 1872 with great devotion and concentration.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar then became a Mir Munshi in the Sailana state during the rule of Maharaja Dhaula Singh who then sent Pt. Kashi Nath Dar to Agra as the Vakil of the state which was the headquarters then of the British political Agent to the Malwa region. Some how Pt. Kashi Nath Dar did not like this new job very much and developed some differences with the Maharaja Dhaula Singh over the policy matters of the state. He tried his level best to adjust with the erratic behaviour of the Maharaja for a few years but ultimately left the job in 1776 in utter disgust and went back to the Jaora state. Maharaja Dhaula Singh then appointed Pt. Raj Krishna Kaul who was the youngest brother

of Pt. Kashi Nath Dar in his place as Vakil of the state in Agra. Pt. Raj Krishna Kaul was hardly of 14 years of age at that time.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar then after taking a very strong recommendatory letter from Khan Bahadur Yar Mohammad Khan, CIE, went to the Alwar state, where its ruler Maharaja Mangal Singh made him a Tehsildar in his state. Pt. Kashi Nath Dar then remained in the Alwar state for about 25 years serving in different capacities. He retired from active government service as Tehsildar at the age of 59 years around 1902. After his retirement from service he again came back to the Jaora state from the Alwar state to live with his other family members there.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar was a great scholar of Urdu and Persian language. He used to write both Persian prose and poetry with equal ease. He has written his autobiography in Persian besides some other works. He started composing Persian couplets from a tender age under the influence of his father and mentor Pt. Jwala Nath Dar. He was well versed with the grammar of Persian poetry writing which is quite difficult and very few could understand it. His choice of words, way of expressing his feelings, and above all the ornamentation of the language was really superb. The idea about his Persian poetry writing can be had from the following lines composed by him :

*Gardishe chashm tagatil gardishe mayam ma  
Pukhta magzi az janon rafe khayale kham ma  
Az banun wa askh medar nad bekhabri base  
Ba ase ngna ast dar duniya purtaun nam ma*

His style of Persian poetry writing and its parametric grammar can be judged from the following couplets composed by him which very explicitly express his thoughts and emotions.

*Kashke bude mara nak de safasandar girah  
Gauhre bakhte safidaz saftah goshane kase ast  
Mahar khamoshi balb aftar mahjoon dulam  
Man nameed alam kisarkar khatte farmane kase ast.  
Bas khasham Tauqir peshe shairan ander sukhan  
Masl kamal auzdatam izzat wa shane kase ast"*

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar was a highly religious and orthodox person. He was very humble, soft spoken and down to earth person with medium height and fair complexion. He was an ardent disciple of Lord Shiva and used to worship him almost daily. Reading and writing poetry were his most favourite past time. He was a very good Chess and Gangeefa player. He always believed in the philosophy of simple living and high thinking. He was not like Ram Vilas Paswan who believes in high living and high thinking and many others of his ilk. He was always very straightforward in his dealings and true to his words. He never indulged in loose talks and never nursed any ill will against any body. He always commanded a great respect and regard from his colleagues and friends for his saintly qualities. When he and his wife both became quite old then they started living with their youngest son Pt. Rameshwar Nath Dar, in Chatai Mohal, Kanpur, who was a government pleader in that city. Pt. Kashi Nath Dar at the fag end of his life expressed a desire to live on the bank of Ganges river as he wanted to leave his mortal frame being a saintly person at a holy place. His son Pt. Rameshwar Nath Dar then as per the wish of his father arranged a house on the bank of the Ganges river for his father's living where Pt. Kashi Nath Dar subsequently died at the ripe age of about 88 years around 1931.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar had four sons Onkar Nath, Radhey Nath, Jeevan Nath and Rameshwar Nath besides a daughter Jeo Rani (b. 1894) who was married with Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Bhan the son of Pt. Swaroop Narain Bhan of Agra.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar's eldest son Pt. Onkar Nath Dar after completing his education became an inspector in the excise department of the Gwalior state. He was married with the daughter of Pt. Maharaj Krishna Gurtu of the same state. He had two sons Shyam Sunder Nath and Raghunandan Nath besides two daughters Ladoshuri who was married with Pt. Kailas Nath Muttoo and Kishan Pyari who was married with Pt. Kishan Narain Shivpuri of Rajendra Nagar Lucknow.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar's second son Pt. Radhey Nath Dar died quite young. He had three sons Parmeshwar Nath, Bisheshwar Nath and Pushpati Nath besides three daughters Mohini who was married with Pt. Praduman Krishna Sapru of Unnao, Lalita who was married with Pt. Shiv Nath Kaul and Khima who was married with Pt. Jagdish Narain Kaul.

Pandit Kashi Nath Dar's third son Pt. Jeevan Nath Dar after doing his B.A. from the Allahabad University became the superintendent of the Railway Mail Service at Nagpur. He retired as the Dy. Post Master General U.P. He married twice. His first wife was Shyam Kumari the daughter of Pt. Maharaj Krishna Chukbatta of Katra Bizen Beg, Lucknow. He had a son from his first wife. His name was Pt. Iqbal Nath Dar who after doing his engineering course from London retired as the member (Planning & Drilling) of Oil and Natural Gas Commission, Dehradun. He was married with Mahesh Dulari who was the daughter of Pt. Rajeshwar Nath Kaul of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Pt. Jeevan Nath Dar's second wife was Brij Kumari, who was the daughter of Pt. Shyam Nath Sopori of Rani Katra Lucknow. He had five daughters from his second wife. Swaroop who was married with Pt. Kailas Nath Wali of Hardoi, Sheela who was married with Pt. Madan Mohan Razdan of Mumbai, Kusum who is married with Dr. Joseph Hari Narain, Padma who is married with Pt. Tribhuwan Nath Kaul of Srinagar, Kashmir and Maya who is married with Santosh Chatterjee. Pt. Jeevan Nath Dar died on 6th October, 1966 at the residence of his son. Pt. Iqbal Nath Dar in Ranchi, Bihar where the latter was posted at that time.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar's third and youngest son Pt. Rameshwar Nath Dar was born in 1885 in Jaora. He did his B.A. and LL.B. from the Allahabad University. He was married with Shyam Kumari, who was the daughter of Pt. Sri Krishna Tikku of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. Pt. Rameshwar Nath Dar started his legal practice as Junior to his father in law, who became a

government pleader of Kanpur after migrating from Lucknow. After his retirement his son in law Pt. Rameshwar Nath Dar became the government pleader of Kanpur. He played a very long innings and practiced for more than sixty years at the Bar. He died in Kanpur on 14th March 1984 at the age of about 99 years. He had three sons Someshwar Nath, Chandra Mohan Nath and Jai Nath besides four daughters Brij Kumari who was married with Pt. Shyam Sunder Nath Tikku of Kota, Raj Kumari who is married with Pt. Kailas Nath Sharga of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow, Usha who is married with Dr. Sukhdev Prasad Mushran of Allahabad and Urmila who is married with Pt. Triloki Prasad Razdan of Singapore.

Pt. Kashi Nath Dar was from a different era. It is very difficult to find such great and selfless men now. The fellow feeling which used to be the hall mark of our community is no more in existence. Now we have become more selfish and self centred in our approach towards life. We generally give now more importance to money matters than human values. Now relationships are formed on the basis of the economic status of a person in the society where even the close blood relatives are discarded if they do not fulfill this criteria. The community bonds are breaking every where at a fast speed due to which our community is shrinking in numbers and gradually losing its distinct identity. No body is prepared to see beyond his nose. The noted Hindi poet Madhukar Shastri has very sarcastically described such a situation in the following words :

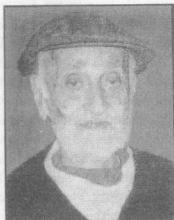
*Pyar jiske karib hota hai  
Ba adab ba naseeb hota hai  
Aisi daulat bhi jiske pas nahin  
Aadmi woh garib hota hai.*



A great centurian of the 20th century

## Pandit Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi

History tells us that mass exodus of the population from one region of the country to another region had taken place either during the wars or due to some natural calamities. But the migration of the Kashmiri Pandits form the land of their birth to different parts of our country took place entirely due to different reasons. These migrations in different periods took place mainly for two reasons either for better economic prospects or to avoid religious persecution by the fundamentalist rulers in the Kashmir Valley.



The first mass exodus of the Kashmiri Pandits from the Kashmir Valley took place during the rule of Sultan Sikandar (1389-1413). But unfortunately no written record of that period is available now. The Kashmiri Pandit families now well settled in different parts of north India generally claim that their ancestors came out from the Kashmir Valley during the Afghan rule there i.e. between 1754 and 1819. Although some of them claim that their ancestors came out from the Kashmir Valley during the rule of Mughal emperor Aurangzeb (1658-1707). The Kashmiri Pandits who came out during the rule of Aurangzeb or subsequently during the Afghan rule in the Valley mostly got settled either in Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi or in Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

According to reliable information collected from various sources Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi came to Lucknow from Kashmir

around 1780 during the rule of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula (1775-1797) and settled down in Rani Katra with his family. His ancestors were basically the residents of the Bomai village in the Kulgam Tehsil of the Anantnag district in the Kashmir Valley. It is also said that one of his ancestor was a thorough gentle man so he was nicknamed as Moma Boyoo which means a gentle man in the Kashmiri language. His descendants then adopted it as their surname and started writing it as Mubayi in the short form. Then there is also a theory that Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi's ancestors migrated to Kashmir from Maharashtra long back and since they were the worshippers of Mumba devi so they started writing Mubayi as their surname.

Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi's ancestor Pt. Gokaran Nath Mubayi migrated from the Bomai village to the Srinagar city for better economic prospects. He had a son Pt. Raghu Nath Mubayi and a grandson Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi who was born around 1750 in the Srinagar city. Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi after completing his education then came to Lucknow for better job opportunities and in due course of time became a daroga of some department during the rule of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula. As he was a highly religious and orthodox person so to carry out his daily religious rituals he built a Shivala in Rani Katra almost during the same period when Pt. Zind Ram Chaudhari Tankha built the famous Bada Shivala in Rani Katra.

Pt. Sudarshan Mubayi had a son Pt. Vishwanath Mubayi who was born around 1776 and a grand son Pt. Beni Ram Mubayi who was born around 1795 at Lucknow. Pt. Beni Ram Mubayi had his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in a Maktab near his haveli under the guidance and supervision of learned Maulvis. He was also a poet of repute. He got some good job in the court of Nawab Ghazi-ud-Din Haider (1814-1827).

Pt. Beni Ram Mubayi had a son Pt. Sangam Lal Mubayi who was born around 1832 in his ancestral haveli in Rani Katra, Lucknow. He was also a good Urdu and Persian scholar. He got

married with Haro who was also popularly known as Meenavati around 1842. He had two sons Pt. Siddh Nath Mubayi and Pt. Som Nath Mubayi.

Pt. Siddh Nath Mubayi was born around 1848 in his ancestral haveli in Rani Katra, Lucknow. He had his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language at Lucknow. He was married with Lalita who became Siddheshwari devi after her marriage. It is not very much clear as to what Pt. Siddh Nath Mubayi did for his living. But he died quite young leaving behind his wife Siddheshwari devi and her two sons Dwarika Nath and Shiv Nath under great financial hardships. But in spite of all these financial constraints and practically no support from her brother in law Pt. Som Nath Mubayi who was financially quite sound at that time, Mrs Siddheshwari Devi Mubayi not only brought up her both the sons Dwarika Nath and Shiv Nath with great care but also ensured their good education for their better future prospects.

Pt. Sangam Lal Mubayi's younger son Pt. Som Nath Mubayi was born around 1850. He was a well known Urdu and Persian scholar and used to compose his Urdu couplets under the penname or Takhallus "Bekhud". He got an employment initially in Firangi Mahal, which was a seat of learning at that time. It is said that "Firangi Mahal" was originally the residence of a French horse trader who came to Lucknow during the rule of Nawab Asaf-ud-Daula in connection with his trade and built this mansion for his living. But unfortunately his permission to stay further was not extended by the Nawab and his abode Firangi Mahal was confiscated. It is said that it was then given to Mulla Saeed a native of Sahnli in Barabanki district, who shifted to Lucknow after his father Mulla Kutubuddin was murdered by the Sheikhzadas of Panitpur.

His scholar son Mulla Nizamuddin started a school in this mansion and it was renamed as "Farangi Mahal" which means a place of learning. Now it is a well renowned place for Islamic teachings in the Lucknow city.

Pt. Som Nath Mubayi became a Tehsildar of Lucknow during the British period after the annexation of Oudh by the British in 1856. Though Pt. Som Nath Mubayi was occupying a good post and was financially quite sound but somehow he did not help the widow of his elder brother and her two sons, for the reasons known to him and instead left them high and dry on the mercy of God. Why at all he behaved like that is a debatable point.

Pt. Som Nath Mubayi had two sons Rameshwar Nath and Bisheshwar Nath. Pt. Bisheshwar Nath Mubayi had a son whose name was Pt. Shanker Prasad Mubayi and a daughter Shivraj Rani who was married with Pt. Bakht Narain Hangal of Rani Katra, Lucknow.

Pt. Shanker Prasad Mubayi was married with Roop Kishori who was the daughter of Pt. Ram Nath Kaul. Pt. Shanker Prasad Mubayi had a son Pt. Har Prasad Mubayi who was married with Shanti the sister of Pt. Jagdish Prasad Shunglu of Rani Katra, Lucknow. Pt. Har Prasad Mubayi had a son Arun Kumar Mubayi and a daughter Sushma who was married with Pt. Jagdishwar Nath Zutshi of Babu Ganj, Lucknow. Pt. Arun Kumar Mubayi now lives in Panki, Kanpur.

Pt. Siddh Nath Mubayi's elder son Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi was born in 1874 in his ancestral haveli in Rani Katra, Lucknow. After completing his education from the Canning College Lucknow he got an appointment in the then Bengal Nagpur Railway and was then posted in Nagpur in 1901 in central India.

He was married with Swaroop Rani also known as Kailaswati and in all had nine children from her. But unfortunately all of them died quite young. Even his wife Swaroop Rani also died quite young in her 20s at Lahore in 1903 where Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi was posted at that time due to Tuberculosis.

Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi never married again and carried on his wife's memory throughout his life. He then concentrated his mind and soul on work due to which he made rapid progress in his life. He got quick promotions in his service and was widely respected among his colleagues and seniors as an able,

honest and efficient officer. He had risen to the post of Head of the accounts department in the Bengal Nagpur Railway. In 1916 the then Viceroy and Governor General of India Lord Hardinge conferred the civilian title of Rai Sahab upon him in recognition of his meritorious services in the railways.

He retired from active government service in 1929 as the Chief Accountant of the Chief Mechanical Engineer's Office of the Bengal Nagpur Railway at Kharagpur.

Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi was widely regarded as a person of unmatched honesty and integrity. It is said that he always used to keep two "Parker" fountain pens in his pocket. One for all his official work and the other for his personal work. He was a very generous and kind hearted person. He donated large sums of money to the needy in Kashmir and elsewhere regularly. He was a great votary of women's education and their empowerment. He also donated a lot of money to various charitable institutions such as girl's schools, widows' homes and consumptives (T.B. patients) situated anywhere in the country.

In recognition of his philanthropy a girls school in Kharagpur was named after him as Rai Sahab Dwarika Nath Mubayi Girls Secondary School near the railway station. A Dwarika Nath Secondary School is also said to exist in the Bomai village in the Anantnag district of J&K state. He also donated a lot of money to the T.B. hospital of Lahore due to which a plaque bearing the following inscription was fixed there by the hospital authorities for his very kind gesture.

"In loving memory of Swaroop Rani Mubayi (died in 1903) wife of Rai Sahab Dwarika Nath Mubayi".

Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi had an equitable temperament and humane outlook. As his whole life was full of sufferings so he used to understand the sufferings of others very well. He was always deeply sympathetic towards the poor and the needy. He never used to lose his temper. He was really a saintly person. He passed away peacefully at No 80/1 Lansdowne Road in Kolkata on 22nd March 1940 leaving behind an army of



mourners all over the country.

Pt. Siddh Nath Mubayi's younger son Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi was born in his ancestral haveli in Rani Katra, Lucknow in 1877. He had his education in Lucknow and passed his M.A. examination in English literature from the Canning College around 1898. He also studied law. After completing his studies he joined the accounts department of the north western railway in Lahore around 1899. He used to live on 9, Mayo Road. He was very fond of children. He was also a great philanthropist and used to give big sums of money in charity and to the needy persons. He also helped his relatives financially. Towards the end of his life he became a deeply religious person. He retired from active government service as assistant account officer of the north western railways. After the partition of the country in 1947, he came to Delhi from Lahore and started living with his youngest son Lt. Col. Shyam Nath Mubayi. In the fag end of his life he even spent few months in Hari Baba's Ashram in Vrindavan in Mathura district. He died on 8th May 1965 at the age of 88 years at the residence of his youngest son Lt. Col. Shyam Nath Mubayi. This branch of Mubay is migrated permanently from Lucknow to Lahore around 1904.

Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi was married around 1900 with Brij Kishori who was the daughter of Rai Bahadur Pt. Bisheshwar Nath Razdan. Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi had in all eight sons but two of them died quite young. His other six sons were Parmeshwar Nath, Swaroop Nath, Baikunth Nath, Raj Nath, Sham Nath and Maheshwar Nath.

Pt. Swaroop Nath Mubayi was the third-son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi. He was born on 1st April 1904 at Lahore. He did his B.A. and LL.B. from the Government College, Lahore and then joined the British Indian army. He became a Colonel of the Indian army. He retired as the Central Provident Fund Commissioner, Ministry of Labour of the government of India around 1964. He died on 15th September 1988 at the age of 84 years in New Delhi. He was married with Anand Kumari on

10th May 1938 in Lahore who was the daughter of Pt. Brij Krishna Kitchlu.

Pt. Baikunth Nath Mubayi was the fifth son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi. He was born on 25th May 1908 at Lahore. He did his F.Sc. from the Government College, Lahore and then joined the Public Works Department. He then worked in the Water Supply Department of the Northern Railway. He retired as an executive engineer in 1968. He died in New Delhi on 16th April 1975 at the age of 67 years.

Pt. Baikunth Nath Mubayi was married on 27th October 1938 with Kunwar Rani in Lahore who was the daughter of Rai Sahab Pt. Manohar Nath Razdan. He had two sons Ashok and Vinod and a daughter Ranjana who is married with Ajay Haksar. Ashok Mubayi is married with Niti who is the daughter of Pt. Gyan Nath Raina of Kanpur and Vinod Mubayi is married with Joan.

Pt. Raj Nath Mubayi was the sixth son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi he was born on 25th November 1910 at Lahore. He did L.M.I. and retired as the Chairman of the Railway Board in the Ministry of Railways of the government of India in 1970. He died in New Delhi on 3rd July 1994 at the age of 84 years. He was married on 29th December 1938 at Agra with Raj Kumari the daughter of Pt. Tribhuvan Nath Kunzru. He had a son Kishan Mubayi who is married with Anjali Wanchoo and three daughters Malti married to Suren Srivastava, Mala married to Nagan Kaul and Madhu married to Arun Atal.

Lt. Gen Shyam Nath Mubayi is the seventh son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi. He was born on 20th October 1916 at Lahore. He did his B.A. from the Government College Lahore. He then after completing his military training from the Indian Military Academy Dehra Dun joined the British Indian army as second Lieutenant. He retired in 1975 as the director of ordnance stores, army headquarters New Delhi. He was married on 5th February 1948 with Krishna the daughter of Pt. Swaroop Krishna Zibbu of Jaipur. Now he lives in Delhi. He had two sons Arun is married with Mohini and Sanjay was married with Gunjan.

Pt. Maheshwar Nath Mubayi was the eighth son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi. He was born in 1918 at Lahore but due to ill health he could not marry. He died quite young in Delhi at the age of 30 years in 1948.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was the eldest son of Pt. Shiv Nath Mubayi. He was born on 31st December 1901 in Nagpur where his uncle Pt. Dwarika Nath Mubayi was posted at that time. He had his early schooling in Nagpur and passed his Senior Cambridge examination as a private candidate in 1918 with very good marks and got the government scholarship. He then did his B.Sc. from the Government College Lahore in 1920 with flying colours. He then appeared in the entrance examination of the then Thomson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee and was duly selected among the 20 students coming from Burma and other Indian universities. He did his C.E. (Hons) in 1923 from this prestigious institution of civil engineering of the country at that time, which was established by the British in 1853 During his student days at Roorkee he took an active part in various sports and cultural activities. He was a good player of Tennis, Squash and Racquets. He was Billiards secretary of his college. He also played other indoor games. He also took part in the annual rowing championships of the college Regatta and won several medals for that. He was also a keen swimmer. The then principal of the Thomson College Major. R.E. Sandes was highly impressed by the all round performance of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi in every field. He introduced the beauty competition in the college for the first time and while making the selection for the winner casually remarked at one of the participants that "Khandar bata rahe hain ki imarat buland thi" which sent every one present there roaring with laughter. He had a very hectic and eventful life at the Roorkee full of anecdotes and very interesting episodes.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi after becoming a well qualified civil engineer was then according to his first preference posted as an assistant engineer in 1923 in the north western railways.

The then Secretary of States for India then selected him on 1st October 1924 in the Indian Service of Engineers an all India cadre service and made him an assistant executive engineer attached with the headquarters.

The main job of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi on this important post was to organise the work for the various projects and to submit the designs for the new projects, which was naturally a challenging task for a new comer. But he did commendable work on this post and won the confidence of his superior British officers.

Because of his hard work, unflinching integrity and devotion to duty he got quick promotions in service and was selected by the British for the Inspectorate. In that capacity he worked as the government inspector for all over India tackling civil, mechanical and other technical problems concerning with engineering skills.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was posted in Calcutta (Kolkata) when India became free on 15th August 1947 and Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru became its first Prime Minister. In September 1947 Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was transferred from Calcutta to Bombay. He then started living in a double storeyed lovely bungalow on Malabar hill known as "Narayan Villa" near the seashore. As he had a lot of space for living at his disposal in that big bungalow so a number of people used to come to live with him for months together. Pt. Rishi Kumar Kaul I.C.S. who later on became the chairman of the Life Insurance of India also stayed in that bungalow with him for quite sometime.

A very special guest also came during this period to stay with him in 1952. He was Swami Purushottamanand a spiritual saint who was running a school at Vashishtha. Guha in U.P. Pandit Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi became highly impressed by the aura of the personality of this Swami and took him on a sight seeing trip around Bombay. This Swami later on gave "diksha" to Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi who then became an ardent disciple of this Swami.

In 1953 the centenary celebrations of the Thomson Civil Engineering College, Roorkee were organised on a grand scale Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru was the chief guest on this occasion. Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was also invited as an old student of this institution on this historic occasion and was duly honoured by presenting him a shawl and a memento Pt. Nehru then rechristened the Thomson Civil Engineering College as Roorkee University for its all round progress and development to fulfill the needs of an independent nation.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was then transferred from Bombay to Delhi and around February 1953 he became the Principal Technical Advisor to the government of India in the capacity of Chief Government Inspector of railways. He retired from this post in 1957 after attaining the age of superannuation.

After his retirement from active government service he preferred to settle down permanently in Dehra Dun in a calm and serene atmosphere far away from the maddening crowd of the metropolis. But the climate of Dehra Dun did not suit his wife so he was left with no other alternative except to shift back to Delhi again in 1964. He then started living at S-219, Panch Shila Park in New Delhi. He played his innings of life very well and to his fullest satisfaction and left this world on 24th January 2002 after scoring valuable 100 years of his life.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was married around 1924 with Kamla the daughter of Pt. Kunwar Narain Raina the judge of Mandi state, and granddaughter of Pt. Sheo Narain Raina "Shameem" of Lahore.

Pt Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi had a son Ravi Mubayi and a daughter Vineeta (b. 1935) married to Chiku Pt. Ravi Mubayi is a Tax Consultant based at Delhi. He is married with Nona who is the daughter of Pt. Sri Krishan Handoo. He has a son Piyush and a daughter Maithli who is married with Chaitanya Wanchoo of Lucknow.

Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Mubayi was a simple man with down to earth qualities. He was a devoted worker and a very hard task

master. He was soft spoken and highly cultured person always helpful to others. After coming in contact with Swami Purushottamanandji he somehow developed an inclination towards spiritualism and became religious minded. He never nurtured any ill will against any body and led a saintly life. His noble deeds and selfless work will always be a source of inspiration for others to emulate his qualities of head and heart. In the words of Hindi poet Ramesh "Shekhar".

*"Vidvesh ki ainak ko hatakar dekho  
Vishwas ka darpan jagmga kar dekho,  
Are duniya ko raasta dikhane walon  
Zara upne ghere se bahar aakar dekho"*



An eminent educationist and a reputed lawyer

## Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo

The Kashmiri Pandit community living in the then United Provinces (U.P.) during the British period has produced a galaxy of eminent lawyers who not only made a mark in the legal profession; but also earned name and fame all over the country for their sharp intellect and total command over the legal procedure and intricacies of law while arguing their cases in various courts, which used to hear their arguments with rapt attention just to come to the right conclusion before pronouncing their judgements.



The names of such outstanding lawyers like Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Pt. Moti Lal Nehru, Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru and Dr. Kailas Nath Katju are very well known to every body. They were not only the leaders of the Bar in their times but an institution in themselves and used to command a great respect from the society at large. If these legal luminaries reigned supreme in the High Court of Judicature at Allahabad, there were equally important lawyers at the various district courts of the province at that time like Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla, Barrister Bishan Narain Dar, Barrister Manmohan Nath Chak, Pt. Iqbal Narain Masaldan, Pt. Raj Narain Bakshi and Pt. Ram Narain Bakshi in Lucknow, Pt. Prithvi Nath Chak in Kanpur, Pt. Chand Narain Harkauli in Sitapur, Pt. Triloki Nath Kaul and Pt. Maharaj Kishan Hangal in Bahraich, Pt. Bisheshwar Nath Kaul in Farrukhabad, Pt. Shyam Behari Lal Sheopuri in Meerut, Rai

Bahadur Bisheshwar Nath Hangal and Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo in Faizabad, who made a mark for them in their respective districts for their razor like intellect and advocacy which was their own and in which they have developed an expertise through sustained hard work and great devotion towards their profession to achieve something great in life.

Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo's ancestors Pt. Mahtab Rai Shungloo and his brother Pt. Data Ram Shungloo came out from the Kashmir Valley around 1804 during the rule of Mughal emperor Shah Alam II (1759-1806) and after travelling through Muree, Rawalpindi and Lahore they finally reached Delhi and settled down in Bazaar Sita Ram a locality mainly inhabited by the Kashmiri Pandits in those days. Both of them were Urdu and Persian scholars.

Pt. Mehtab Rai Shungloo had four sons. They were Radha Krishna, Data Krishna, Kunwar Narain and Kanhaiyya Lal. Pt. Radha Krishna Shungloo married twice. From his first wife he had a son Daya Krishna and from his second wife he had a son Ratan Lal. Pt. Data Krishna Shungloo's son Pt. Maharaj Krishna Shungloo after completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in a Maktab in Delhi got a job in the East India Company and migrated from Delhi to Oudh during the rule of Nawab Wajid Ali Shah (1847-1856) around 1850 and settled down in a place known as Tanda in the Faizabad district. He was made later on an office Suprintendant in the Collectrate at Faizabad by the British when they took over the administration of Oudh in 1858.

Pt. Maharaj Krishna Shungloo had three sons Dr. Parmeshwar Nath Shangloo, Dr. Lakshmi Nath Munshi Shangloo and Ram Nath Shangloo besides a daughter Shammo who was married with Pt. Jagjivan Lal Zutshi, the principal of Harish Chandra Intermediate College Benaras (Varanasi) at that time.

Pt. Maharaj Krishna Shangloo's eldest son. Dr. Parmeshwar Nath Shangloo later on migrated from Faizabad to Allahabad and became an eminent Homoeopath there. His second son Dr.

Lakshmi Nath Munshi Shangloo also became a renowned Homoeopath and did his practice in Tanda, Faizabad. He was one of the prominent citizens of Tanda widely respected by everyone due to his philanthropist nature.

Pt. Maharaj Krishna Shangloo's third son Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo was born in 1893 in his ancestral house in Tanda tehsil of the Faizabad district. He had his early schooling in Queen's College, Benaras (Varanasi) from where he did his matriculation around 1911. He then did his F.A. from the same institution around 1913. He then went to Allahabad for higher studies and did his B.A. in 1915 and then LL.B. in 1917 respectively from the University of Allahabad.

After becoming a law graduate he started his legal practice in the civil side on 4<sup>th</sup> August, 1917 in the courts of the Faizabad district and established his chamber in his new residence in Rath Haveli mohalla of the city. He laboriously worked as a civil lawyer doing different types of civil suits mostly connected with inheritance and other property disputes for about thirteen years till 1930.

All of a sudden in 1931 he decided to try his luck in the criminal side as well and very reluctantly accepted to appear in a murder case. In spite of all his best efforts the four accused involved in that murder case were convicted and sentenced to death by the sessions court. But he did not lose his heart and remembering the words of wisdom of Robert Bruce he filed an appeal against this conviction in the then Chief Court at Lucknow. He again argued the case with great confidence citing various rulings in the course of his arguments before the court and ultimately succeeded in winning the case. The honourable Chief Court at Lucknow finally acquitted all the four accused persons for want of clinching evidence for their conviction. This case became a turning point in his career at the Bar and since then he became exclusively a criminal lawyer and left his civil practice.

After this episode Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo started

appearing in important criminal cases of the district which he used to handle with great distinction and ability. He soon became one of the most popular criminal lawyer of the city. The people of the city started calling him as "Panditji" due to sheer love and affection for him. In his long legal profession spread over six decades he did many important criminal cases which captured the head lines of the press in those days and brought him both name and fame, like the case of communal riots of 1935 in Ayodhya over the Ram Janam Bhoomi dispute in which about 84 persons belonging to both the communities were charged by the police for murder in the court of J.R.W. Bennett, I.C.S. the then district and sessions judge of Faizabad, who later on became a judge of the Allahabad High Court. All the accused persons in this famous case were acquitted.

Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo then appeared in the famous Bilasiya murder case of Lucknow in 1941, in which the police charged a high ranking I.C.S. official B.B. Singh for orchestrating the murder of his maid servant Bilasiya. It was alleged on behalf of the prosecution that B.B. Singh was maintaining a sexual relationship with his maid servant Bilasiya. It was only when he realised that she had become pregnant that he planned to eliminate her with the help of his driver just to save his honour and reputation in the society. This case became a talk of the town in those days.

In 1942 Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo appeared in yet another famous case in which some police officials were killed in Maveshi Bagh. This was a very serious case which was tried under an ordinance in the court of Sir Raghubar Dayal, I.C.S. the then district and sessions judge of Faizabad who later on became a judge of the Allahabad High Court and then a judge of the Supreme Court of India. In this case 25 out of 28 persons were acquitted by the court and the another three were later on let off by the reviewing judge Justice J.R.W. Benett of the Allahabad High Court under the benefit of doubt.

Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo was then engaged by the U.P.

government to defend the engineers and executive officers of Faizabad in the well known Ayodhya Pontoon Bridge Tragedy case of 1966, which was tried by a commission under the chairmanship of Mussaddi Lal I.C.S. In this particular case the engineers blamed the executive officers of the district for allowing a heavy load of traffic on the pontoon bridge as the main cause for the mishap, while the officers put the blame on the engineers for this ghastly tragedy in which many people drowned in the Saryu river. Pandit Shangloo very successfully argued before the commission using his wit and humour that no party should be blamed for this castastrophe as it was purely a Will of God beyond human comprehension. The commission accepted his submission without any reservations. Being highly impressed by the legal acumen of Pt. R.N. Shangloo J.R.W. Bennett I.C.S. during his tenure as the District and sessions judge at Faizabad once remarked "So long as Mr. Shangloo is here many guilty persons will go unpunished."

Dr. B.B. Singh who was suprintendant of the Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru Hospital and an old resident of Faizabad once said that the name of Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo became a legend in his life time. During his lifetime the people used to say quite often "in he mar kar theek kar do Pandit Ram Nath abhi zinda hein".

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo not only established himself as a reputed criminal lawyer in Faizabad, but even the people of the adjoining districts used to engage him to fight out their cases. He saved many people from the gallows, but he never accepted the brief to prosecute any innocent person.

Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo always maintained the highest traditions of his profession. He was a greatly respected person of the Faizabad Bar, a wonderful cross-examiner, who could bring out anything and everything suitable for him out of the witness in the dock. He had a computer like sharp memory and an inexhaustable treasure of anecdotes occasionally punctuated by wit and humour of which he was a superb master with no parallel of any kind whatsoever.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo was married with Prakash Rani Mushran the daughter of Pt. Shyam Narain Mushran of Farrukhabad around 1917. Pt. Shyam Narain Mushran was the uncle of Pt. Jagmohan Narain Mushran who became Chief Judge of the Benaras state after his retirement from the government service during the British period as district and sessions judge.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo had four sons Raj Krishna, Hari Krishna, Prem Krishna and Suraj Krishna besides two daughters Saroj and Kamla. The elder daughter Saroj was married with Pandit Chandra Prakash Adeeab who was a Superintendent of the Central Excise department in Faizabad, the younger daughter Kamla is married with Pt. Kailas Prakash Pulahru of Rani Katra, Lucknow who was Assistant Director in the education department of the U.P. government.

Pt. Ram Nath Shangloo's eldest son Raj Krishna Shangloo is an advocate of the Allahabad High Court. He started is legal practice at the High Court under the guidance of barrister Suresh Narain Mulla. He is at present President of the Oudh's Advocates Association. He is Ex-Senior Vice President of the High Court Bar Association. He is Ex-President of Allahabad Kashmiri Samaj and Chairman of the newly constituted Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru Memorial Trust. He is a very active worker and regularly issues press statements on various problems and issues confronting our community. He is married with Raj Rani who is the daughter of Pt. Ram Prasad Kitchlu, who was secretary of the Public Service Commission. U.P. at Allahabad.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo's second son Hari Krishna Shangloo remained unmarried althrough his life. He was a government counsel at Faizabad. His third son Prem Krishna Shangloo is a businessman; who is married with Sudha the daughter of Pt. Swaroop Narain Kaul of village Karim Nagar, in the Hardoi district. His fourth and the last son Suraj Krishna Shangloo is also an advocate at Faizabad. He is married with Raj who is the sister of Dr. Kapoor of Railway Hospital, Faizabad.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo was a deeply religious person with a Saint's heart. He used to do meditation daily early in the morning just to keep him fit and mentally alert. He was a trustee of the famous "Chandra Hari Temple" of Ayodhya, which was built by his ancestors in the 18<sup>th</sup> century. He used to donate a lot of money regularly from his income to the various charitable organisations working for the welfare of the people just to provide a succour to the suffering humanity.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo apart from his profession also did remarkable work in the field of education. His extraordinary contribution in spreading the message of light and learning among the masses can never be forgotten. He was the founder member of several educational institutions of the district. He was Senior Vice President of K.S. Saket Mahavidyalaya of Faizabad, manager of Shyam Sunder Inter College of Faizabad and Adarsh Inter College, Faizabad. He was also a founder member of Bisheshwar Nath Degree College, Akbarpur which was founded in memory of Rai Bahadur Bisheshwar Nath Hangal a big Zamindar of Akbarpur and a leading lawyer of the district. He liberally donated the money to the needy persons and destitutes who used to approach him for monetary help in the days of their adversity.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo during his very long professional career spanning over 63 years conducted very diligently scores of important sessions cases besides other disputes in Lucknow, Allahabad, Faizabad and Gorakhpur divisions. He was elected twice as the President of the Faizabad Bar Association. He was founder member of the Rotary Club of Faizabad and was also its president for quite some time.

Pandit Ram Nath Shangloo after enjoying his life in full measure left for his heavenly abode on 1st February, 1980 at the ripe age of 87 years in his ancestral house "Prakash Bhawan" in Rath Haveli mohalla of Faizabad. On his death scores of Muslim women and the women of other communities cried and wept, unashamedly as if they had become widows and left in this mad

world alone to fend their life with no one to help them. Thousands of men both Hindus and Muslims of the city accompanied his funeral procession upto the burning ghat on the bank of Saryu river and remained there till the late hours at night to pay their humble homage to their departed "Panditji" as they used to call him. This clearly shows how much respect, love and affection he had among the masses of the district. He was really a very noble man with a pious soul much above the ordinary human beings. The philosophy of his life can best be described in the following words of the Hindi poet Shanker Bhardwaj :

*"Durdino ko jo kabhi bhoola nahin.  
Taj pa kar jo kabhi phool a nahin.  
Hai wohi manav jo dukh se jud gaya  
Sukh ke jhule mein kabhi jhula nahin".*



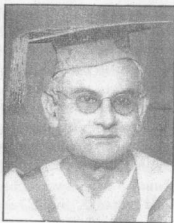
A great scholar and able teacher

## Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku

A good education, as we all know brings about not only a qualitative change in the personality of a person but also broadens his outlook. That is why the intelligent people always give due emphasis on acquiring good education for better future prospects.

In ancient times saints and sages were regarded as the repositories of wisdom and knowledge. The people used to send their sons to the Ashrams of these saints and sages for learning. In this Gurukul system of education a pupil had to devote some part of his life in the service of his Guru to acquire knowledge from him. The Guru after becoming satisfied with the performance of his pupil used to give him "Diksha" after which the pupil was supposed to carry out his life in accordance with the teachings of his Guru.

After the arrival of the British in our country they introduced their own system of education to prepare the young men of our country to suit their (British) interests. The British established a large number of educational institutions in different parts of our country to propagate their ideology and to make the people familiar with their language i.e. English. But in spite of this drastic change in the pattern of education in our country from the Gurukul system to the modern form of imparting instructions in schools and colleges evolved by the British, we have not completely forgotten our traditional values of life which are deeply embedded in our psyche.



To counter this British influence on our education and through it on the mental make up of our young men Swami Dayanand Saraswati did a lot of work in the country in the 19th century to bring about certain reforms in the Hindu society through Vedantic teachings. To prepare the young men of the country through Vedantic teachings and to inculcate in them our centuries old traditional values a chain of educational institutions were then established by the devotees of the Swami in different parts of north India with this main aim known as Dayanand Anglo Vedic Colleges to propagate the ideology of Swami Dayanand Saraswati. These D.A.V. Colleges have played a key role in shaping the destiny of modern India. A number of eminent people of their times have served as teachers in these institutions committed to certain ideology One such outstanding teacher and a man of great nationalist outlook was Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku who was not only a learned scholar but was also considered to be an authority on Mahakavi Tulsidas' immortal Hindi classic "Ramcharitmanas". For the information of the learned readers it must be pointed out here that Swami Dayanand Saraswati was born in 1824 in a small place known as Tankara in the then Saurashtra. He was dead against the idol worship and to propagate his ideology he formed Arya Samaj on 10th April 1875 at Bombay. He died on 30th October 1883 at Ajmer due to poisoning. After his death his followers and admirers on 8th November 1883 took a decision at Lahore to establish a suitable memorial for him to continue his legacy. Thus the first D.A.V. College came into existence around 1884 in Lahore followed by other D.A.V. Colleges in different parts of north India to achieve that objective.

According to the reliable information collected from this close blood relatives, the ancestors of Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku in all probability came to the imperial capital Delhi from the Kashmir Valley during the rule of Mughal emperor Shah Alam II (1759-1806) and started living in Bazaar Sita Ram. Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku's ancestor Pt., Ayodhya Nath Hukku was born around



1828 in Bazaar Sita Ram Delhi. He had his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in Delhi College. After completing his education he migrated from Delhi to Jodhpur around 1852 for a better job which was the biggest state of Rajputana then during the rule of Maharaja Takht Singh (1843-1892). In all probability he became a Mir Munshi there on the recommendation of Pt. Shiv Narain Kak a fellow Kashmiri Pandit from Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi who became the private secretary of Maharaja Takht Singh after migrating in 1846 to Jodhpur.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Hukku after getting the job then started living in Chandpole locality in Jodhpur which was having a small group of Kashmiri Pandits' population then, mostly migrants from Delhi.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Hukku had three sons Jeevan Nath, Jagan Nath and Janki Nath besides a daughter Mohini.

Pt. Ayodhya Nath Hukku's eldest son Pt. Jeevan Nath Hukku was born around 1850. He had a son Pt. Rameshwar Nath Hukku who was born in 1879. Pt. Rameshwar Nath Hukku had three sons Prithvi Nath, Munishwar Nath and Rajeshwar Nath besides a daughter Jai Kumari (b. 1915) who was married with Pt. Rajendra Nath Karvayun of Phagwara district in Punjab.

Pt. Prithvi Nath Hukku was born in 1903. After doing his B.A. and B.T. he became a Head Master of some school in Jodhpur. Pt. Munishwar Nath Hukku was born in 1908. He did his F.A. and then became an Inspector in the police department of the Jodhpur state Pt. Rajeshwar Nath Hukku was born in 1913. He did his B.A. from the Jaswant Singh College, Jodhpur and then joined the service in the customs and excise department of the Jodhpur state as an Inspector.

Pt Ayodhya Nath Hukku's second son Pt Jagan Nath Hukku was born around 1855. He had three sons Jogeshwar Nath Hukku who was born in 1887. Muneshwar Nath Hukku who was also born in 1887 i.e. twins and Tribhuvan Nath Hukku who was born in 1897.

Pt Ayodhya Nath Hukku's third and the last son Pt. Janki Nath Hukku was born around 1860. He had two sons Kameshwar Nath and Vishwa Nath besides a daughter Saraswati who was married with Pt. Sangam Lal Chak of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Pt. Kameshwar Nath Hukku was born around 1885 in his ancestral haveli in Chandpole locality of the Jodhpur State. After completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language he became a Mir Munshi in the court of Maharaja Sumer Singh of the Jodhpur state. Pt. Vishwa Nath Hukku did his B.A. and LL.B. from the University of Allahabad. He was then taken by the British in the judicial service of the then United Provinces. He retired as subjudge and settled down in Allahabad. He had a son Triloki Nath besides two daughters Shammo (Rita) married to Justice Pratap Narain Bakshi and Sheela married to Pt. Maheshwar Nath Kaul Akbarabadi of Faizabad.

Pt. Kameshwar Nath Hukku had only one son Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku as his wife died quite young after her first delivery due to some complications.

Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku was born in 1905 in his ancestral haveli in Chandpole locality. He did his early schooling in the Jaswant Singh College and passed his matriculation examination from this institution in first division in 1920. He then went to Benaras (Varanasi) to pursue his higher studies. He took admission in Central Hindu College and did his F.Sc. in 1922 with flying colours in first division.

Dr. Hukku then took admission in the Benaras Hindu University and did his B.Sc. (Hons) in Zoology in 1924, in first division. He secured the highest percentage of marks in this examination in the whole university and was awarded the Malviya Gold Medal. He had a keen desire to do M.Sc. in Zoology but somehow he changed his mind at the last moment and instead joined the postgraduate classes in the English literature. He did his M.A. in English literature in 1926 in first division.

While studying in the Benaras Hindu University he came into close contact with the people like Babu Shyam Sundar Das, Lala Bhagwan Din, Pt. Ram Chandra Shukla and Hariaudh who were then the teachers in the newly created Hindi department of the university and were well known figures of the Hindi literature. In their company Dr. Hukku developed a great inclination towards Hindi literature and asked for their permission to attend their Hindi classes which they very gladly given to him Dr. Hukku then started attending Hindi classes and passed his M.A. in Hindi literature in First division in 1928 with very good marks. Though Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku was a highly qualified person and it was very easy for him to get some good government job in those days, but under the influence of Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya at the B.H.U. he became such a strong nationalist that he decided not to work under the British dispensation on any job any where. He instead started his career as a teacher in a college in Khurja. He did this teaching job in Khurja for about two years upto 1930.

Dr. Hukku then went to Kanpur from Khurja around 1930 and joined the Hindi department of the D.A.V. College as a lecturer. He then started living in Nawab Gunj area.

Dr. Hukku soon became a very popular teacher of the college due to his style of teaching and sound knowledge of his subject. Dr. Hukku also took a keen interest in the extra curricular activities of the college like sports and games. He also used to organise debates and cultural functions regularly in the college, so that his students may get a chance to show their talents and abilities. Dr. Hukku apart from his college work also used to take an active part in the social and cultural activities of the city as well. He was connected with many organizations of the Kanpur city in one way or the other. He formed the Kashmiri Association in Kanpur and became its founder secretary.

Dr. Hukku during his teaching assignment in the D.A.V. College, Kanpur also took up an independent research work on Mahakavi Tulsidas' immortal Hindi classic "Ramcharitmanas"

without any guide and submitted his thesis for the Ph.D. degree. His examiners became so much impressed by the high quality and originality of his research work that they recommended that a D.Litt. degree should be conferred upon him instead of Ph.D and that too without taking any Viva-Voce examination. Consequently the Agra University which was established in 1921 due to the efforts of the great educationists like. Rev Canon. A.W. Devis, Munshi Narain Prasad Asthana, Dr. L.P. Mathur, Prof Gokal Chand, Lala Diwan Chand, Rai Bahadur Anand Swaroop and Dr. Brajendra Swaroop, then conferred the degree of D.Litt in 1939 directly upon Dr. Hukku and thus he became the first D.Litt. of the Agra University as a special case without doing a Ph.D. He thus created a new record in the long history of the Agra University.

In 1934 communal riots broke out in Kanpur in which many people lost their lives. Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku had a miraculous escape from the jaws of death when he ran away on a Ekka from that densely populated locality hiding himself from the back door of his house, wearing a Turkish cap otherwise the furious mob of rioters would have killed him. He then started living in Civil Lines which was a better area of the city at that time, with mostly big bungalows of the British. Dr. Hukku used to live in the famous Dudhwala Bungalow there.

On 9th August 1942 Mahatma Gandhi launched the "Quit India Movement" against the British imperialism and exhorted the students to leave their studies to join the freedom struggle. Some differences cropped up then over this issue between Dr. Hukku and the Board of Management of the D.A.V. College due to which Dr. Hukku submitted his resignation and left his service in 1944. Dr. Hukku after leaving D.A.V. College, Kanpur also worked for small periods in Rawalpindi and Viyavar in Rajasthan.

Dr. Hukku then went to Bihar and became the Principal of some college there in Muzaffarpur. He served this institution for about 8 years up to 1951.

On 25th July 1951 Saket Mahavidyalaya was established in a rented building in Angoori Bagh mohalla of the Faizabad district by the blessings of the then Ayodhya Naresh Sri Jagdambika Pratap Narain Singh and Dr. Hukku became its Principal in 1952.

Actually just after the independence of the country in 1947 Baba Raghav Das, Acharya Narendra Dev and Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Sapru took the initiative in 1948 to establish a degree college in the Faizabad district to provide the facility for higher education to the students of this region of the state, which finally took the shape of Saket Mahavidyalaya in 1951. Dr. Hukku was then requested to become the founder Principal of this college. The then education minister of the state Dr. Sampooranand on 22nd September 1951 formally inaugurated this college, which was then duely affiliated with the Agra University to conduct the examinations and for awarding the degrees.

Dr. Hukku with his untiring efforts and hard work developed this institution from a scratch to a reputed degree college. He enforced strict discipline in the college campus and always tried to maintain very high academic standards in the college. He also gave due emphasis on the other activities in the college like sports and games, so that the energy of the students could be utilized in a constructive manner. He used to command a great respect both from his staff as well as his students.

Feroze Gandhi had a great regard for Dr. Hukku and also had full confidence in his ability and experience as a teacher. So when Feroze Gandhi decided to open a degree college in his home town Rae Bareli he obviously requested Dr. Hukku to help him in this project and made him founder Principal of the Feroze Gandhi Degree College, Rae Bareli. Dr. Hukku then went from Faizabad to Rae Bareli to take up this new assignment.

Dr. Hukku then with great pains built up the entire infrastructure of the Feroze Gandhi Degree College and formulated the syllabus of different subjects for imparting in structions in this institution. Dr. Hukku also tried his best that in teaching,

high academic standards should be maintained for which he appointed well qualified teaching staff and enforced a very strict examination system for the proper evaluation of the students. He retired from the active service in 1964 after attaining the age of superannuation.

Dr. Hukku after his retirement from the active service then shifted to Agra and became the Professor Emeritus in the Agra University. He then started living at 1/75, Raja Balwant Singh Road with his family members. His main job was to guide the students for their Ph.D. thesis in Hindi literature. Dr. Hukku as per contract worked as Professor Emeritus upto 1969 for about five years. He then started a coaching institute for the students appearing in the civil services examinations. He worked in this institute till the last moments of his life. He died on 8th August 1974 due to a massive heart attack at the age of about 73 years at his residence in Agra.

Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku was married in 1930 at Bulandshahar with Roop Kumari the daughter of Pt. Tej Shanker Kochak who was the Principal of Government Agriculture College then. Dr. Hukku had three sons Kanti Mohan, Prabhat and Sameer besides a daughter Surbala who was married in 1971 at Agra with Dr. Amrit Nath Sharga of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Dr. Hukku's eldest son Kanti Mohan Hukku was born in 1935. He retired as the B.M. of the State Bank of India. He is married with Padma who is the daughter of Pt. Raj Narain Shivpuri of Jaipur. He has two sons Gautam and Uttam besides a daughter Poonam who is married with Kapil Kaul of Jaipur.

Dr. Hukku's second son Prabhat Hukku was born in 1949. Now he is running his private business in Meerut. He is married with Manju who is the daughter of Pt. Brij Krishna Kaul of Hardoi. He has two sons Anurag and Yuvraj.

Dr. Hukku's third and youngest son Sameer Hukku was born in 1951. He qualified the provincial civil services examination and became a P.C.S. officer. He was posted in Nainital as A.D.M. where he died in 1993 in a tragic road accident. He was married

with Durgesh, the daughter of Pt. Kunwar Krishna Soporey. He had three daughters Aparna, Maneesha and Shivani.

Dr. Harihar Nath Hukku was a very simple, down to earth and soft spoken person with pleasing manners. He was a tall man with good physique and very handsome personality. He was a man of independent character and very hard task master. He had an unquestionable honesty and integrity. He was very fond of travelling and used to go to different hill stations during the summer vacations to avoid sultry weather. He built a house in Ramgarh near Nainital for his living after retirement to avoid the summer season of the plains. He being a very strong nationalist never wore a European dress. His favourite dress was dhoti-kurta. He was a great lover of Indian classical music and had a very sound knowledge of Astrology.

Dr. Hukku visited a number of universities in connection with the examinations and for taking viva-voce of Ph.D. students. In Kashmir he used to be a state guest of Maharaja Hari Singh. He also used to go to Nepal to take the examinations in the Tribhuvan University there. Nepal originally was a conglomerate of many principalities of high caste Hindus mainly Brahmins and Rajputs who fled from India during the mediaeval period. When Prithvi Narain Shah became the ruler of Nepal in 1742 he captured all these principalities and made Nepal in 1769 an integrated nation.

After king Prithvi Narain Shah Nepal had a number of monarchs in quick succession like Singh Pratap Shah (1775-1777), Ran Bahadur Shah (1777-1797), Bikram Shah (1797-1816); Rajendra Bikram Shah (1816-1847), Surendra Bikram Shah (1847-1881), Prithvi Bir Bikram Shah (1881-1913), Tribhuvan Bir Bikram Shah (1913-1956) and Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah (1956-1975).

Whenever Dr. Hukku used to go to Nepal to take the examinations, in the Tribhuvan University in Kathmandu he was always been treated as a royal guest of king. Mahendra Bir Bikram Shah who used to give him due regards and respect

being a learned person of unmatched integrity.

Dr. Hukku started writing short stories from his student days in the Benaras Hindu University. Some of his short stories were published in the reputed Hindi magazines like "Madhuri" and "Hans". He also won the first prize in story writing Hindi stalwarts like Munshi Prem Chand and Harioudh used to give him due respect for his command over the language and for his style of narration. But some how he could not continue his writing work due to his total involvement, with the various research projects under him. Even then he made an immense contribution in enriching the Hindi literature in a different manner. His noble deeds and selfless work would be of great emulating for the future generations. In the words of noted Hindi poet Vijay Veer Tyagi the destiny of a person is always uncertain and one can never know as to what the future has in store for him.

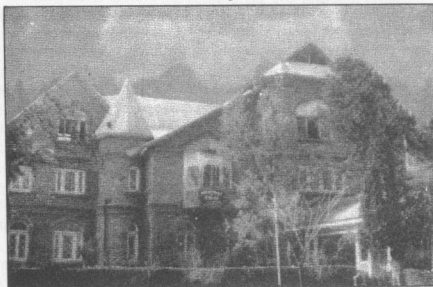
*"Ek path mein sah raha hai yatna  
Ek jiski hoti kahin aradhana  
Kis shila ke khand ko mahum hai  
kya se kya uska bana de bhavana"*



Kashmir's Temple of Higher Education

## Sri Pratap College

The British Parliament through a proclamation signed by Queen Victoria took over the administration of India in 1858 from the East India Company and after that to introduce the pattern of English education in this country, the British then established three universities in India at Calcutta, Bombay and Madras which were the three important port cities at that time.



The British then placed the whole of north India from Peshawar to Calcutta (Kolkata) under the jurisdiction of the Calcutta University for conducting the examinations and for awarding the degrees in tune with the pattern of education structured by Lord Macaulay.

Prior to this Lamartenier College was established in Lucknow in 1845 as per Will made by Maj. Gen. Clude Martin a French national for imparting English education. It was affiliated with

the Cambridge University, London. The Kashmiri Pandit boys residing in Kashmiri Mohalla at that time generally used to read Urdu and Persian in Maktabs which were the court language then to get good jobs. The progressive minded Kashmiri Pandit boys like Sheo Narain Bahar and Pran Nath Bazaz then took the lead and joined the Lamartinier College for English education much against the wishes of the community members. Their craze for the English education can be judged by the fact that they used to go to their college on foot which was at a distance of about 12 kms. from Kashmiri Mohalla. Sheo Narain Bahar also encouraged the other community members towards the English education for better future prospects.

In 1864 Canning College was established in Lucknow which was then affiliated with the Calcutta University. Some Kashmiri Pandit boys with progressive ideas under the guidance and leadership of Pandit Sheo Narain Bahar then joined the Canning College to have European education for better future prospects than having a traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in Maktabs. Pandit Sheo Narain Bahar just to propagate his progressive ideas and thoughts in the field of education and to bring about social reforms in the community then started a caste journal in 1872 known as Mursala-e-Kashmir. Through this journal he tried his best to galvanize the community towards English education, especially the young boys of the community so much so that in 1884 Pt. Bishan Narain Dar left for England to study law with his British Professor of the Canning College Prof. Gaul, when sea voyage was considered to be an unpardonable sin by the community members. He came back to India as a barrister in 1887. Such enlightened and educated Kashmiri Pandits then formed a club in Kashmiri Mohalla to carry out their ideology effectively especially in the field of education and for bringing certain reforms in the community.

Dr. Annie Besant an Irish lady came to India in 1893 to study Vedas thoroughly. She became so much fascinated with the Hindu Philosophy and way of life that she formed the

Theosophical Society of India in the country for the revival of Hindu nationalism and decided to establish a University in the country for teaching Vedantic philosophy. Her desire fructified in the shape of Central Hindu College which she started in a rented building in Karna Ghanta in Benaras (Varanasi) on 7<sup>th</sup> July 1898. A managing committee was then formed under Babu Govind Das as its Chairman to run this institution Dr. Arthur Richardson a Cambridge University graduate was then appointed as the first Principal of this college. Babu Upendra Nath Basu who was a member of Syndicate of the Allahabad University, was given the task for the recognition of this college from the Allahabad University, which was done on 6<sup>th</sup> August 1898.

Dr. Annie Besant then approached the then Kashi Naresh Raja Prabhu Narain Singh and requested him to donate a big piece of land for the expansion of this college. Raja Prabhu Narain Singh very graciously donated a big building and a piece of land in Kamachha for this college to her, where this college was shifted in March 1899.

Dr. Annie Besant made Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur who was a sub judge and a great educationist as the secretary of her Theosophical Society of India. She used to organise regular meetings of this society at the residence of Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur in Kashmiri Mohalla, where the other progressive minded Kashmiri Pandits of the locality like Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga, Prof. Chand Narain Bahadur Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu, Pt. Bishan Narain Dar, Pt. Sangam Lal Chak, Pt. Hari Krishna Kaul, Pt. Sri Krishna Tikku etc. who were the products of Canning College generally used to assemble. The main thrust in such meetings generally used to be the education of Kashmiri Pandit boys and social reforms in the community.

There was no provision for the higher education in the Kashmir Valley at that time. The Kashmiri Pandit boys generally used to go either to Lucknow or to Allahabad for higher studies where the University of Allahabad was established in 1887. This was both expensive and cumbersome. So in one of the meetings

of the Theosophical Society it was proposed to open a college at Srinagar for the benefit of those Kashmiri Pandit boys who were keen for higher studies.

Consequently Dr. Annie Besant herself with some of her trusted members went to Srinagar to explore the possibilities for establishing a college there. She then took a house in mohalla Bar Bar Shah on rent and started a school in it which she duly named as Sir Pratap Singh Hindu School after the ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Riyasat Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925). Exactly in which year this school was started in Sathu Bar Bar Shah is not known to any body now.

In 1902 Pt. Brijendra Nath Sharga went to England from Kashmiri Mohalla Lucknow to study law at Lincon's Inn. He met with a tragic road accident in London in 1904. From his death bed he donated Rs. 10,000/- to Dr. Annie Besant for developing the structural facilities for the education of Hindu students in Central Hindu College, Benaras. Consequently Dr. Annie Besant built a multipurpose magnificent "Sharga Hall" in the college from that money so that way the Sharga family came into close contact with Dr. Annie Besant. The other products of the Canning College, Lucknow like Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur a subjudge, barrister Bishan Narain Dar who became a member of the Viceroy's Imperial Legislative Council, Pt. Iqbal Narain Gurtu who became the Vice Chancellor of the Benaras Hindu University, Pt. Hari Krishna Kaul who became a district and sessions judge, Pt. Sri Krishna Tikku who became a government pleader and Pt. Sangam Lal Chak etc. also actively helped Dr. Annie Besant in her mission and donated money most liberally for this great cause.

Dr. Annie Besant then approached Maharaja Pratap Singh the then ruler of Jammu and Kashmir Riyasat around 1903 and requested him to donate a big piece of land so that a new building could be constructed for Sir Pratap Singh Hindu School for its future growth and development, which was functioning more or less as a branch of the Central Hindu College Benaras then.

On her request Maharaja Pratap Singh very graciously donated a big chunk of land in Kothi Bagh area near Amira Kadal for this institution and a new building of the college was built there from the liberal donations of the Kashmiri Pandits who were very close to Dr. Annie Besant at that time whose names have been mentioned earlier in this writeup.

This institution from its new premises near Amira Kadal on Maulana Azad Road was formally started functioning as an intermediate college in 1905 and Prof. M.C. Moore an Irish scholar and a graduate of the Cambridge University, London, was appointed by Dr. Annie Besant as its first Principal. The management of this college was then placed under the control of Central Hindu College Trust Benaras, which was affiliated with the Allahabad University at that time. Maharaja Pratap Singh laid the foundation of this college on his birthday and to appreciate his kind gesture for donating the land for the college. Dr. Annie Besant in her thanks giving speech said that "Maharaja had given a long awaited boon to Kashmir and Kashmir would be future Kashi of North Western India."

This college under the dynamic administrative control of Prof. Moore registered a marked development in all the directions, starting with a modest roll of eight students and only six teachers on its staff. Prof. Moore left this institution in 1908.

Dr. Annie Besant then in place of Prof. Moore appointed another British Prof. E. William Collie as the Principal of this college, but unfortunately he died a tragic death in a fire accident while staying in a house boat in Dal Lake. Prof. Vanmali Chakarborty a Bengali fellow was then asked by Dr. Annie Besant to take charge of this institution who functioned as Principal upto 1909.

Dr. Annie Besant then requested Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga who was an established authority on Hindu Philosophy with a vast teaching experience at the Bareilly College and Pt. Chand Narain Bahadur another product of Canning College, Lucknow to shoulder her responsibilities in a missionary spirit in the

interest of the community to give a new direction to her work in the field of higher education in the valley. Consequently Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga became the Principal of Sir Pratap Singh Hindu College in 1909 and Pt. Chand Narain Bahadur was made the Professor of English in the same institution by Dr. Annie Besant.

The society in Kashmir in general at that time used to be highly orthodox and superstitious. To remove the segregation between the Pandit and Muslim boys Prof. I.K. Sharga introduced the common tea club system in the college premises for their free mixing with each other without any inhibitions and preconceived notions. He used to subsidise this tea club from his own income. To tone up the over all academic excellence of the college he introduced the monthly examination system. Due to Prof. Sharga's untiring efforts this institution saw a rapid growth in every field and became a degree college in 1911. It was right from its inception in 1905 was affiliated with the Allahabad University. Here it should be kept in mind that even the intermediate examination at that time known as F.A. was being conducted by the university. The Benaras Hindu University was established by Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya much later in 1916. Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga also started the new tradition of celebrating the spring festival (Navreh) the new year of Kashmiri Pandits on a grand scale in the college premises.

The British government then became alarmed with all these developments and the growing influence of Dr. Annie Besant in the valley, who was a very strong votary for granting freedom to this country and was actively working for the revival of Hindu nationalism through Vedantic teachings. It was not to the liking of the British government.

The then secretary of states then wrote a note on the file observing thus "Mrs. Besant's influence is bound to have political consequences and her religious teaching certainly tends and I believe is deliberately meant, to promote the idea of an Indian nation, which is spreading gradually and which in course

of time assume a form adverse to the British rule."

The then Foreign Secretary then concurring with this view noted "that it was very desirable that the British Resident in Jammu and Kashmir through the Darbar should have a proper control over such teaching schools in the valley for deciding their policies and programmes" Under this policy the British then shot a letter to Maharaja Pratap Singh to take over the management of this college.

As a result of all these behind the curtain activities of the British, the management of this college gradually passed into the hands of the Darbar leading ultimately to its complete takeover in July 1912 by the Jammu and Kashmir government. To give it a so called "secular" look the word "Hindu" was dropped from its name and it was rechristened as "Sri Pratap College". It was then affiliated with the Punjab University of Lahore. There were in all 74 students at the time of its take over on the college rolls of these 15 were in the degree classes and 59 were in F.A. classes.

The Board of Trustees of the Central Hindu College, Benaras authorised Dr. Annie Besant to handover the college premises to the government of Jammu and Kashmir on receipt of Rs. 20,000/- in consideration of the cost of the building and furniture etc. erected and supplied by them out of the donations raised by them. On the birth day of Maharaja Pratap Singh in July 1912 it was formally taken over by the state government.

For the further development of this only prestigious institution of higher education in the valley at that time four new posts of Professors were created to appoint more qualified and efficient men. Upto 1913 it became a post graduate college with M.A. classes in Philosophy, English and Mathematics. Though Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga was simply a B.A. but he used to teach both Philosophy and English to M.A. students with great authority ably assisted by another product of Canning College, Lucknow Prof. Chand Narain Bahadur.

In 1915 and in 1916 the regular M.A. classes in Sanskrit

language and in history were started respectively. The teaching of the science subjects, upto the intermediate level also started almost simultaneously. The college started publishing its own literary magazine "Pratap" in 1916. A professor of the college was then sent to Lahore to learn the work of library management under Mr. Dickinson an American expert who was engaged by the Punjab University to train the people in the field of library science.

In 1918 the then Viceroy and Governor General of India Lord Chelmsford paid a visit to this college to inaugurate its newly constructed science block. Prof. Iqbal Krishna Sharga who was appointed by Dr. Annie Besant as the Principal of this college retired in 1921 after attaining the age of superannuation. After that the state government of Jammu and Kashmir Riyasat appointed Prof. Lawrence Marcdermat a British scholar as the Principal of this college. He continued on this post upto 1931. During his tenure additional blocks were added to provide proper teaching facilities to more number of students as their strength was increasing every year. For this purpose Rs. 22,759/- were sanctioned by the state council for higher education on 25<sup>th</sup> August 1924. For further expansion of the college to meet the growing needs of the students Wazir Buildings adjacent to the college were taken on rent on Rs. 100 per month to provide hostel accommodation for the outstation students. To properly maintain the accounts of the college the post of an Accountant and Cashier was added in the college office.

The college then made a rapid progress during the tenure of Maulvi Ibrahim, who took over the charge of Principal of this institution from Prof. Kanji Lal in 1931. During his tenure the science classes at the degree level were started in this college.

In order to cope with the unprecedented increase in the number of students and to maintain high academic standards the Darbar then appointed a committee under the Chairmanship of the director of education to thoroughly study the working of the college and to suggest necessary steps which should be taken



to tone up the efficiency of the college and to divert the students to other suitable channels. This committee had the privilege to have members like Dr. Zakir Hussain, who was the Principal of Jamia Millia Islamia, Delhi at that time and Prof. G.D. Sondhi, who was the Principal of Government College Lahore then. On their recommendations the bifurcation of the college into Sri Pratap Intermediate College and Amar Singh Degree College was carried out on 1<sup>st</sup> September 1942.

When the country was partitioned in 1947 Prof. R.C. Pandita was the Principal of this college. Since then Sri Pratap College has gone through a revolutionary change. Now it is purely a science college affiliated with the Kashmir University spread in an area of 6,42,000 sq. feet i.e. roughly 116 Kanals. The college has 11 teaching departments with a strength of 75 faculty members and 87 members of the non teaching staff. The college has its well equipped science laboratories and a library with about 65,000 books on its shelves. There are 12 buildings in its campus housing various departments and offices. Dr. S.G. Sarwar is the present Principal of this college who is taking great pains in maintaining the academic excellence of this institution for which it was famous once all over the valley.

The Kashmiri Pandits under the patronage of Dr. Annie Besant nurtured this magnificent edifice with their sweat and blood in its formative years with a missionary zeal to spread the message of light and learning in the entire valley. It symbolises their proud cultural heritage and represents not only their farsighted vision but also their valuable contribution for improving the prospects of the future generations by guiding their destiny for all times to come.

*"Sachchai chhup nahi sakti  
Kabhi jhote usoolon se,  
Ki khushboo aa nahin sakti  
Kabhi kagaz ke phoolon se."*

## A historic edifice of Kashmirian Philosophy Kashmiri Mohalla Girls College

Though some firebrand Hindu leaders now vociferously talk about Hindutva and often raise the demand of declaring India a Hindu Rashtra, but the real Hindu nationalism through Vedantic thoughts and preachings was propagated during the British period incidently not by any Hindu but an Irish lady who came to India in 1893 to study Vedas in depth. Her name was Dr. Annie Besant, who was a very strong votary of India's independence and women's empowerment.



A year later in 1894 Swami Vivekanand who was born in 1863 became the first Indian to propagate the richness of Hindu philosophy outside the country, when he kept the entire audience at the Parliament of world's religions held in Chicago, spell bound by his powerful oratory by addressing the gathering as the brothers and sisters of America. He got an instantaneous standing ovation from the people assembled there and became a world figure almost over night.

Dr. Annie Besant's immense contribution in the field of education and especially her outstanding work for women's empowerment can never be ignored. In 1898 she laid the foundation of the Central Hindu College Benaras in Karna Ghanta locality in a rented building. Dr. Annie Besant then inspired Lala Bal Kishan Das in 1903 to start a girls school in his historic haveli in the by lanes of Jama Masjid area in Delhi

who took up this challenge with a missionary spirit and in 1904 opened Indra Prastha Girls School in his historic haveli which was built in 1857. This Indra Prastha College is the oldest girls' institution of Delhi.

Dr. Annie Besant then with the liberal help and support of some farsighted Kashmiri Pandits of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow went to Srinagar, Kashmir and established a college there in 1905 which is now famous as Sri Pratap College and is the oldest institution of higher education in the entire Kashmir Valley.

Likewise Dr. Annie Besant inspired Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur (1867-1930) who was a subjudge then and secretary of her Theosophical Society of India to start a girls school in his historic 'haveli' in Kashmiri Mohalla Lucknow which was spread in a big area. Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur being her ardent admirer took up this task as a great challenge and started a girls school, in his haveli around 1900 against heavy odds with a missionary spirit to teach the Kashmiri Pandit girls of the locality. Incidentally he was from the last batch of graduates of the Canning College who were examined by the Calcutta University in 1887.

As the Kashmiri Pandit community was very orthodox at that time and the strict 'Purdah' system was being observed in the community so Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur had to face a very strong opposition from his own community members who used to consider sending their daughters to any school as a taboo as it would make them bold and thus hamper their marriage prospects. But Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur was a man of firm determination so to break this dead lock and just to set an example before his community members he enrolled his own family's daughters and daughters in law as the students of this school to make a humble beginning and to generate a sense of confidence in his community members to send their daughters to this school without any fear. He also ensured the community members about the proper safety and security of their daughters in the school.

After great persuasion and cajoling Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur ultimately succeeded in motivating the Kashmiri Pandits of the locality to send their daughters to this school and the number of girls in it started gradually increasing. Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur then felt a need for a bigger building to run this school properly and for its future expansion.

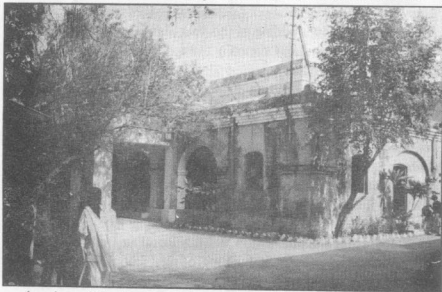
He then approached some prominent Kashmiri Pandits of the locality including his brother in law and my grandfather Rai Bahadur Pt. Shyam Manohar Nath Sharga, who was also a district and sessions judge for liberal donations for this school. The famous Tankha family of Lucknow provided their big chunk of land for the new building of this school in Kashmiri Mohalla which was then in 1904 formally started functioning from its newly acquired premises.

Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur then engaged a Muslim lady Jahanara Begum on Rs. 5/- per month to teach Urdu to the Kashmiri Pandit girls and Dr. Annie Besant provided the services of another Irish lady Miss Rosalina Inglis to teach English to them besides Hygiene and Home Science without charging any remuneration for this job. On the request of Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur his brother in law and my grand father Rai Bahadur Pt. Shyam Manohar Nath Sharga who was a big land lord then provided a free accomodation to Miss Rosalina Inglis for her living adjacent to the main building of this school. Two maid servants (Kaharins) were employed to bring the K.P. girls to this school and after the school hours again to send them back to their respective homes under full care and protection. My eldest bua Mrs. Janak Dulari Gurtu who was born in 1898 was a favourite student of Miss Inglis about whom she used to say fondly "Janak dalmein namak, but kitab like a chithra".

Soon this school started gaining popularity for its discipline and method of teaching. The members of the other communities living in the adjoining mohallas then started sending their daughters as well to this school for their proper upbringing and this school acquired a cosmopolitan outlook and started

admitting girls of different communities without any discrimination on the basis of their caste or creed and blood or breed. Thus Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur laid the solid foundation of this premier girls institution of the Lucknow city on the high ideals of secularism and communal harmony to mould the future generations in accordance with the real "Ganga-Jamuni" Tehzeeb for which the city is well known all over the world.

Pt. Suraj Narain Bahadur then due to his old age and failing health on the advice of the then executive officer of the Lucknow Municipal Board Pt. Maharaj Narain Chakbast who was the elder



brother of the famous Urdu poet Pt. Brij Narain Chakbast, then donated the entire assets including the land and infrastructure of this school to the Lucknow Municipal Board in 1908 for its better management and all round development.

Miss Rosalina Inglis was then appointed as the Head Mistress of this school in 1923 after its due recognition from the state government as a High School. She continued on this post upto 1929. After her retirement from service. Mrs. Durga Bai Gupta became the first Indian lady to head this institution. During the tenure of Mrs. Durga Bai Gupta, who was a very strict lady

Kashmiri Mohalla Girls College made a rapid progress in all the directions. Because of her discipline and hard work this institution soon achieved excellence in every field and the people from all over the city then started sending their daughters to this school as Mrs. Gupta used to enforce a very strict "Purdah" system in the college. She took pains in designing especial hand driven wooden carts fully covered from all sides to bring the girls from far off places to this college which was no where in vogue at that time. She added new buildings in the college premises and raised its status to an Intermediate College with excellent results in the U.P. Board examinations. Mrs. Gupta's memory was so sharp that she used to remember the name of each girl of her college and that of her parents.

It was because of untiring efforts of Mrs. Gupta and her good connections that teaching of science subjects upto the intermediate level became possible in this college. She was a lady with a great vision who became a legend in her life time for her pioneering work in the field of women's education and empowerment. She purchased two buses for the college to provide transport to the girl students on nominal charges to save their both precious time and energy while coming to the college from distant places. and then in again going back to their respective place after the college hours so that they could concentrate more on their studies.

This, one of the oldest and premier girls institution of the Lucknow city in its formative years had the patronage of the great nationalists and patriots of that time like Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru and Pt. Bishan Narain Dar who after coming from England as a barrister in 1887 raised his voice against the British imperialism and laid the foundation of our freedom movement much before Mahatma Gandhi who came into limelight on the national scene later on. Such great men of vision laid the solid foundations of this girls college with a missionary spirit to serve the humanity. They were not self seekers to glorify their deeds like our present generation of political leaders who

believe in encashing the slightest opportunity provided to them to derive a political mileage out of it without doing any sacrifice for achieving the same.

Mrs. Durga Bai Gupta who served this prestigious girls college as a Principal for a record period of 40 years brought great laurels to it by her sustained hard work with a missionary zeal. During her tenure there were about 3000 girls on its rolls studying different subjects of arts and science under the supervision and guidance of well qualified lady teachers. The girl students of this college also won various shields and medals both at the state level and at the national level in various competitions held from time to time thus bringing both name and fame to their institution.

Mrs. Gupta also had a keen desire to make this institution a degree college during her tenure as the Principal for which she approached my father Pt. Kailas Nath Sharga who was then A.D.M. (J) with a request that he should give his two adjacent houses to the college on a token money in the wider interest of girls education so that a new building for the proposed degree section could be constructed. My father readily agreed to that proposal and gave his two adjacent houses to the school on a token amount for its expansion.

In 1975 the then Administrator of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation Mr. Rajiv Ratan Shah emphatically declared in the annual function of this college before a big gathering that he would see to it that this institution would become a degree college soon so that the girls of this area may not have to go to other far off places for their higher studies.

On 6th December 1992 the disputed structure in Ayodhya was demolished by Kar Sewaks which was erected by Mir Baqi in 1528 over a temple. After this historic event some "Shohdas" in collusion with some other highly communal elements then tried to grab this secular institution founded and nurtured by the Kashmiri Pandits through their sweat and blood to convert it into another "Bhoj Shala" to disturb the centuries old Ganga

Jamuni Tehzeeb of Lucknow

Here the learned readers should keep in mind that the Bhojshala shrine was originally built in 1064 A.D. by King Bhoj of the Malwa region as a temple of goddess Saraswati to spread the message of light and learning. It was attacked and destroyed by a Muslim ruler Alla-ud-Din Khilji in the 13th century. On its ruins a Mosque complex known as Masjid Kamal Maula was built by Sufi Saint Maulana Kamaluddin Chishti around 1306-1307. Likewise in 1994 an attempt was made to rename this Kashmiri Mohalla Girls College founded by the Kashmiri Pandits as Maulana Kalbe Abid Girls Intermediate College. It was a well planned move to change the basic character of this college and to make it a minority institution which sent the shock waves in the entire Kashmiri Pandit Community of the country. But the timely intervention of the then education minister of the central government Mrs. Sheila Kaul due to the efforts of Dr. B.N. Sharga saved the situation from taking a very ugly turn.

This historic girls college of the Lucknow city would complete 100 years of its existence in 2004. Many girls institution of the city which were established much later are now enjoying the status of a degree or a postgraduate college. Some of them even do not have proper buildings and play grounds. But this oldest girls college of Lucknow is now lamenting on its affairs due to lack of interest on the part of authorities of the Lucknow Municipal Corporation. They are spending crores of rupees on the various developmental projects in the city but they have no money to improve the basic infrastructure of this college and to maintain it properly. They are running it like an orphanage without providing any facility to its students. This becomes all the more strange on their part when they loudly talk about women's empowerment and arrange functions at a huge cost to propagate that ideology among the masses. This also clearly indicates that there is some basic flaw in their perception of things. Because all that glitters is not always gold and all that is black is not always charcoal. We should be

intelligent enough to make the difference between the two. After all one can not promise moon to every one. One should have the capacity to take proper decisions in the wider interests of the people.

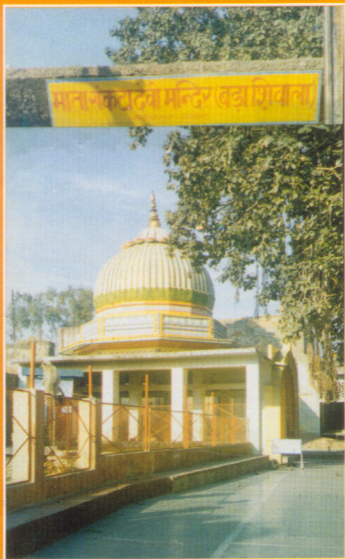




Dr. B.N. Sharga has done his doctorate in Chemistry from the Lucknow University. He then took up a teaching assignment and taught Inorganic Chemistry to undergraduate classes for about 32 years. He is a prolific writer in both Hindi and English language and so far has published about 400 articles on different subjects in the reputed magazines and journals. He is actively involved with many social, cultural and literary organisations. His long association with the activities of various K.P. organisations prompted him to take up this type of work. He has authored four volumes in Hindi of "*Kashmiri Panditon Ke Anmol Ratna*". He was declared as the MAN OF THE YEAR in 1998 by the American Biographical Institute, North Carolina, U.S.A. He got the silver plaque of Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru Memorial Trust, Allahabad in 2004.

Price : Rs. 300/-

# Kashmiri Pandits' Cultural Heritage



Bada Shivala, Rani Katra, Lucknow,  
which was built by Pt. Zind Ram Chaudhari  
Tankha in **1778**