

The Mighty Sikhs

**The Sikhs who reversed the tides of
History and shaped India**

*A Pictorial Document on Sikh Glory
&
A Comparative Study on Events
(Part I - II)*

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THE MIGHTY SIKHS (Part I & II)

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Late Mr. Amir Chand Tuli
(Father)



Late Mrs. Mannori Tuli
(Mother)

My parents who launched me on the path of Sikhism

Other Works by the Author :

1. Sikhs : The Supreme (First Edition)
2. Vilakhan Sikhs (Punjabi)
3. Encyclopaedia of Sikhism
4. Sikh Warriors
5. Sikh Martyrs
6. Sikh Women
7. Sikh Traditions
8. Saints in Sri Guru Granth Sahib
9. Know the Sikhs
10. Walking with the Gurus

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A Word from the Author's Desk

It was Sept 2000. “Pull out Ram from Guru Granth Sahib, what would be left there?” This statement was given by Ms Laxmi Kanta Chawla, a senior BJP leader and former Health Minister of Punjab. ਗੁਰੂ ਗ੍ਰੰਥ ਸਾਹਿਬ ਵਿਚ ਰਾਮ was published in ਗੁਰਮਤ ਪ੍ਰਕਾਸ਼ to issue a befitting riposte to Ms. Chawla's statement. On reading my article, an Airman of Indian Air Force, posted at Halwara Airbase, Ludhiana rang me up, seeking audience with me. During our meeting, he brought into my notice an article “The 100 Indians who shaped India” written by Ms. Tavleen Kaur and published in the millennium issue of *India Today*, in which not a single Sikh was considered worthy of mention. After sometime, I happened to be in Aligarh in connection with a marriage of the daughter of my friend S. Devinder Singh Bindra founder President of Gursikh Education Society (Regd.) Dehradun.

I was told by Mr. Bindra's elder brother about a question put before him by his son, “Papa, All Sikh Museums, stationed at big historical gurdwaras, houses the paintings of only martyrs. Did we, the Sikh not excel in latest fields, viz Science, Technology, Industry, Adventures, Judiciary, Sports, Armies, Diplomacy, Economics, Politics etc.”

These two incidents shook me from top to bottom and plunged me into the ocean of thoughts. The fact is otherwise. India would have not been India, had it not been for Sikhs *Agar Shamil Ho Na Kissa Hamara, Tumhari Dastan Kuchh Bhi Nahi Hai*. Sikhs have been shaping and leading India in all fields since their origin. I pledged to spread this truth and fact to each and every corner, (Minus my story nothing glorious will be left with you). I thank God to give me an opportunity to work in the field which has not been touched so far. Actually it

was a prestigious issue which could not get attention of any Sikh.

The result was my first book “Sikhs : The Supreme (The Sikhs who reversed the tides of History and shaped India) (A Pictorial Document on Sikh Glory) Part-I in 2011 and then “Know the Sikhs” and now this book “The Mighty Sikhs combined with Part-II”. These books give the readers the amazing facts about rare and outstanding achievements of the Sikhs in the modern fields, which establish the Sikh identity as “Sikh as a first Indian”, “Sikh as a first Asian”, “Sikh as a First Global”. Moreover these books deal with the old Sikh history in entirely new context, with new interpretation and tells the readers about profound contribution of the Sikhs to world civilization. I can safely say that mine is the first effort in this field.

My collection about the Sikhs' achievements got applause from the media and the Sikhs. These feats impressed me to the core of my heart. so much so that I got even my flat mortgaged with the Punjab and Sind Bank B/o. Guru Ram Dass Dental College, G.T. Road, Amritsar in Sept. 2008 for arranging the funds for gathering the facts. This book will convey facts to the readers which will have sobering riposte to the article "The 100 Indians who shaped India," and succeeded a bit in keeping the honor of my Sikh nation high. God bless my nation to see the reason.

Some Excerpts from Media & Prominent Persons

Had it not been for pure passion of those who spend life times recording achievements of others, the most celebrated of records ever created would have remained the biggest of secrets of the world. Thanks to Pritpal Singh Tuli from Amritsar, with whose efforts many startling facts about the Sikhs and their spirit of achievements over the past centuries have been bared for public appreciation.

Beginning from today, the Sector 34 Gurdwara will play host to the Sikh glory, as embodied by the 150 achievers, who brought laurels to the country on various fronts. Chronicled by Sardar Tuli who is humble enough to put his show under the title of an exhibition— the works are not works in literal sense of the word.

They are, in fact, pieces that open a whole new world to the viewer and flood him with information about his own land.

June 15, 2003

Aditi Tandon
The Tribune News Service
Chandigarh



Forty-five years of hard work and extensive travelling in addition to huge investment of money, has enabled Pritpal Singh Tuli to keep track and maintain a record of Sikh history, especially Sikh achievements throughout the world, dating right back to 1790. A retired bank manager, he has invested savings of his lifetime in fulfilling his passion of "making the Sikhs

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proud of their history" by keeping a record of Sikh heroes and the "Firsts, who were Sikhs".

Tuli is now seeking a place for these heroes of the past from different fields including defence, sports and literary field in the Central Sikh Museum at the Golden Temple but without success so far

July 15, 2003

Jatinder Kaur Tur
The Indian Express
Amritsar.

—o—

Meet Pritpal Singh Tuli. His passion for collecting clippings on famous Sikhs has brought several names out of oblivion.

Sitting in his well-furnished study in Amritsar, Pritpal Singh Tuli looks exactly like, your friendly neighbourhood grand father. But little does anyone know that this genial, laidback appearance hides a soul that's doggedly passionate about Punjabi heritage and culture. Tuli's unusual passion—that of archiving unknown or little known facts about Punjabi history—keeps this 67 year old on his toes. Over the past 48 years, this history buff has profiled over 200 Sikhs who have brought laurels to the country. And his record indeed brings forth startling facts.

For instance, how many of us know that the first social reformer of the country was Guru Amar Das and not Raja Ram Mohun Roy? How many can name the first Indian athlete to receive the Padmashree, or the first ever Indian marriage to be solemnised mid-air, the first Asian to start robotic techniques in heart surgery, the first Risaldar Major of the Indian Army or even the first Indian Air Force officer to get the highest gallantry award?

August, 2006

Purva Grover
India Today (Simply Punjabi)

—o—

ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੋਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਪਹਿਲੀ ਵਾਰ ਮੈਂ ਸੰਨ 2001 ਵਿਚ ਮਿਲਿਆ ਸਾਂ, ਜਦੋਂ ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ ਦੀਆਂ ਸਰਗਰਮੀਆਂ ਤੋਂ ਪ੍ਰਭਾਵਿਤ ਹੋ ਕੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਸੰਪਰਕ ਕੀਤਾ। ਪਹਿਲੀ ਮੁਲਾਕਾਤ ਵਿਚ ਹੀ ਮੈਂ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਅੰਦਰ ਪੰਥ ਨੂੰ ਹਰ ਦਿਨ ਚੜ੍ਹਦੀਆਂ ਕਲਾਂ ਵੱਲ ਜਾਂਦਾ ਵੇਖਣ ਦੀ ਇਕ ਤਾਘ ਸੀ ਅਤੇ ਉਸ ਵਿਚ ਆਪਣਾ ਢੁਕਵਾਂ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਪਾਉਣ ਦਾ ਚਾਅ। ਉਸੇ ਮਿਲਣੀ ਦੌਰਾਨ ਹੀ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੱਸਿਆ ਕਿ ਕੁਝ ਸਿੱਖ ਸ਼ਖਸੀਅਤਾਂ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੇ ਅਲੱਗ-ਅਲੱਗ ਖੇਤਰਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡੀਆਂ ਮੱਲਾਂ ਮਾਰੀਆਂ ਹਨ, ਦੀਆਂ ਕੁਝ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਸੰਖੇਪ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ। ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਖਾਉਣ ਲਈ ਬੇਨਤੀ ਕੀਤੀ। ਕੁਝ ਦਿਨਾਂ ਬਾਅਦ ਹੀ ਇਹ ਸਾਰੀ ਸਮੱਗਰੀ ਲੈ ਕੇ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਗਏ। ਵੇਖਦੇ ਹੀ ਮੈਂ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਕੀਤਾ ਕਿ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਦੱਸਣ ਤੇ ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਕੀਤੇ ਖਜ਼ਾਨੇ ਦੀ ਮਹੱਤਤਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਮਝ ਨਹੀਂ ਸਕਿਆ ਸਾਂ। ਇਹ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਨਹੀਂ, ਨਵੇਂ ਉਸਰ ਰਹੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਇਤਿਹਾਸ ਦੇ ਮੀਲ ਪੱਥਰ ਸਨ, ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਮੈਨੂੰ ਮਾਣ ਵੀ ਮਹਿਸੂਸ ਹੋਇਆ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਰਮਿੰਦਗੀ ਵੀ, ਮਾਣ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਦਾ ਕਿ ਮੈਂ ਉਸ ਸਿੱਖ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਹਿੱਸਾ ਹਾਂ ਜਿਸ ਨੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਦੇ ਹਰ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਵੱਡਾ ਮੋਹਰੀ ਸਥਾਨ ਹਾਸਲ ਕਰ ਕੇ, ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਸੰਸਾਰ ਪੱਧਰ ਤੇ ਉੱਚਾ ਕੀਤਾ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਸ਼ਰਮ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਦੀ ਕਿ ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਇਤਨਾ ਮਹੱਤਵਪੂਰਨ ਵਿਰਸਾ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਮੋਢੀ ਸੰਸਥਾ ਨੂੰ ਸਾਂਭਣ ਦਾ ਧਿਆਨ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਆਇਆ।

ਸ਼ਾਇਦ ਅਸੀਂ ਸਿਵਾਏ ਸ਼ਹੀਦੀਆਂ ਦੇ ਹੋਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀ ਨੂੰ ਕੌਮੀ ਵਿਰਸਾ ਸਮਝਦੇ ਹੀ ਨਹੀਂ। ਬੇਸ਼ੱਕ ਸ਼ਹਾਦਤ ਦਾ ਮੁਕਾਬਲਾ ਹੋਰ ਕਿਸੇ ਚੀਜ਼ ਨਾਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਕੀਤਾ ਜਾ ਸਕਦਾ, ਪਰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਇਹ ਮਤਲਬ ਵੀ ਨਹੀਂ ਕਿ ਹੋਰ ਦੁਨਿਆਵੀ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀਆਂ ਦਾ ਕੋਈ ਮਹੱਤਵ ਨਹੀਂ। ਜਿੰਨਾਂ ਚਿਰ ਜੀਵਨ ਹੈ, ਸਿੱਖ ਦਾ ਹਰ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿਚ ਅਗੇਤਰੀ ਕਤਾਰ ਵਿਚ ਖਲੋਣਾ ਵੀ ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਅੱਗੇ ਵਧਾਉਂਦਾ ਹੈ, ਕੌਮ ਦਾ ਨਾਂ ਰੌਸ਼ਨ ਕਰਦਾ ਹੈ। ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਨੇ ਬਾਣੀ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ ਫੁਰਮਾਇਆ ਹੈ:

ਆਗਾਹਾ ਕੂ ਤ੍ਰਾਘਿ ਪਿਛਾ ਫੇਰਿ ਨ ਮੁਹਡੜਾ॥

(ਡੱਖਣੇ ਮਹਲਾ ੫, ਪੰਨਾ ੧੦੯੬)

ਤੇ ਸੱਚਾਈ ਇਹੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਆਪਣੇ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਆਸ਼ੇ ਅਨੁਸਾਰ, ਅੱਜ ਦੀ ਸਮਾਜਿਕ ਦੌੜ ਵਿਚ ਵੀ, ਹਰ ਖੇਤਰ ਵਿਚ, ਹਰ ਕਤਾਰ ਵਿਚ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੇ ਮੋਹਰੀ ਸਥਾਨ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤ ਕਰ ਕੇ ਕੌਮ ਦੇ ਨਾਂ ਚਾਰ ਚੰਨ ਲਾਏ ਹਨ। ਸ. ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਕੀਤਾ ਇਹ ਅਨਮੋਲ ਖਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਇਸ ਗੱਲ ਦਾ ਪੱਕਾ ਸਬੂਤ ਹੈ। ਹਾਂ, ਇਹ ਅੱਡ ਗੱਲ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਾਪਤੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਚੰਗੀ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਿਆ ਨਹੀਂ ਗਿਆ। ਪ੍ਰਚਾਰਨਾ ਵੀ ਕਿਸ ਸੀ? ਭਾਰਤੀ ਤੰਤਰ ਤਾਂ ਬਿਲਕੁਲ ਨਹੀਂ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ

ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਦੁਆਰਾ ਮਾਰੀਆਂ ਮੱਲਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਉਸਾਰੀ ਵਿਚ ਪਾਏ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਦੀ ਬਹੁਤੀ ਚਰਚਾ ਹੋਵੇ ਤੇ ਆਪਣਿਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਨਾ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਵਾਧੂ ਗੱਲਾਂ ਲਈ ਵਿਹਲ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਨਾ ਹੀ ਇਸ ਦੀ ਮਹੱਤਤਾ ਬਾਰੇ ਜਾਗਰੂਕਤਾ। ਪਰ ਸੱਚਾਈ ਇਹ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਇਹੀ ਵਿਰਾਸਤ ਹੈ, ਜੋ ਕੌਮੀ ਨੌਜੁਆਨੀ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਨਵੀਂ ਅਤੇ ਨਰੋਈ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਣਾ ਦਿੰਦੀ ਹੈ, ਕੌਮ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਮਾਣ ਅਤੇ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਬਣਾਉਂਦੀ ਹੈ। ਕੌਮ ਅੰਦਰ ਇਕ ਸਵੈਮਾਨ ਦੀ ਭਾਵਨਾ ਪੈਦਾ ਕਰਦੀ ਹੈ ਅਤੇ ਨਵੇਂ ਟੀਚੇ ਸਰ ਕਰਨ ਲਈ ਤਾਕਤ ਬਣਦੀ ਹੈ।

ਮੈਂ ਤਾਂ ਇਹ ਸਾਰਾ ਖਜ਼ਾਨਾ ਵੇਖ ਕੇ ਉਦੋਂ ਹੀ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਸਾਂ ਕਿ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਕਿਤਾਬੀ ਰੂਪ ਬਣ ਜਾਏ, ਤਾਕਿ ਦੁਨੀਆਂ ਨੂੰ ਪਤਾ ਲੱਗੇ ਕਿ ਕੇਸਾਂ ਵਾਲੇ ਸਿੱਖਾਂ ਨੇ ਕੈਸੇ-ਕੈਸੇ ਕਾਰਨਾਮੇ ਕੀਤੇ ਹਨ। ਪਰ ਇਕ ਤਾਂ ਬਹੁਤੀਆਂ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ, ਅਖਬਾਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਰਸਾਲਿਆਂ ਵਿਚੋਂ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਗਈਆਂ ਸਨ, ਜੋ ਸ. ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਆਪਣੇ ਸੀਮਿਤ ਸਾਧਨਾਂ ਪਰ ਪੱਕੀ ਲਗਨ ਨਾਲ ਇਕੱਠੀਆਂ ਕੀਤੀਆਂ ਸਨ ਅਤੇ ਛਪਣ ਤੋਂ ਪਹਿਲਾਂ ਜਿਥੋਂ ਤਕ ਹੋ ਸਕੇ ਅਸਲੀ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਇਕੱਠੀਆਂ ਕਰਨੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਇਹਨਾਂ 'ਤੇ ਬਹੁਤ ਸਾਰਾ ਤਕਨੀਕੀ ਕੰਮ ਹੋਣਾ ਜ਼ਰੂਰੀ ਸੀ। ਦੂਸਰਾ ਮੈਂ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਪ੍ਰਤੀ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਦਾ ਰੁਖ ਅਤੇ ਹੁਲਾਰਾ ਵੀ ਵੇਖਣਾ ਚਾਹੁੰਦਾ ਸਾਂ। ਇਸ ਮਕਸਦ ਲਈ ਕੁਝ ਗੁਰਦੁਆਰਿਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਸਕੂਲਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਇਹਨਾਂ ਦੀਆਂ ਪ੍ਰਦਰਸ਼ਨੀਆਂ ਲੁਆਈਆਂ। ਜਿਵੇਂ ਆਸ ਸੀ, ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਵੱਲੋਂ ਭਰਪੂਰ ਹੁੰਗਾਰਾ ਮਿਲਿਆ। ਮਨ ਹੋਰ ਪੱਕਾ ਹੋ ਗਿਆ। ਸ. ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਨੇ ਵੀ ਥਾਂ-ਥਾਂ ਫਿਰ ਕੇ ਜਿਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਸ਼ਖਸੀਅਤਾਂ ਜਾਂ ਉਹਨਾਂ ਦੇ ਪਰਿਵਾਰਾਂ ਤਕ ਪਹੁੰਚ ਹੋ ਸਕਦੀ ਸੀ, ਵਧੀਆ ਤਸਵੀਰਾਂ ਅਤੇ ਉਨ੍ਹਾਂ ਦੇ ਜੀਵਨ ਅਤੇ ਯੋਗਦਾਨ ਬਾਰੇ ਵਧੇਰੇ ਜਾਣਕਾਰੀ ਇਕੱਤਰ ਕੀਤੀ।

ਮੈਨੂੰ ਪੂਰਨ ਆਸ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਸਿੱਖ ਸੰਗਤਾਂ ਇਸ ਕਿਤਾਬ ਨੂੰ ਇਸ ਦਾ ਢੁਕਵਾਂ ਮਾਣ ਸਤਿਕਾਰ ਦੇਣਗੀਆਂ ਅਤੇ ਇਹ ਕਿਤਾਬ ਕੌਮ ਨੂੰ ਵਿਸ਼ੇਸ਼ ਕਰਕੇ ਸਿੱਖ ਨੌਜੁਆਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਕ ਨਵੀਂ ਪ੍ਰੇਰਣਾ ਦੇਣ ਵਿਚ ਸਹਾਈ ਹੋਵੇਗੀ।

ਮੇਰੀ ਸਤਿਗੁਰੂ ਦੇ ਚਰਨਾਂ ਵਿਚ ਜੋਦਤੀ ਹੈ ਕਿ ਜਿਤਨੇ ਸੁਆਸ ਵੀਰ ਪ੍ਰਿਤਪਾਲ ਸਿੰਘ ਹੋਰਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਬਖਸ਼ੇ ਹਨ, ਉਹਨਾਂ ਨੂੰ ਇਸੇ ਤਰ੍ਹਾਂ ਕੌਮੀ ਸੇਵਾ ਵਿਚ ਲਾਈ ਰੱਖੋ।

ਰਾਜਿੰਦਰ ਸਿੰਘ

ਮੁੱਖ ਸੇਵਾਦਾਰ

ਸ਼੍ਰੋਮਣੀ ਖਾਲਸਾ ਪੰਚਾਇਤ, ਚੰਡੀਗੜ੍ਹ

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I have known S. Pritpal Singh Tuli for the last many years and am pleased to notice his skill to do endeavouring tasks dedicatedly and devotionally. He never lets any moment go waste and utilizes his expertise in researching on those issues which had not taken consideration by many scholars, writers and researchers. His book '**Sikhs : The Supreme**' is the testimony of the fact that he highlighted scores of international heroes of Sikh nation whose achievements were lying unnoticed under the dust for decades. S.Tuli laboured a lot to do research on many facets of those heroes and was successful in highlighting them in the most significant manner to enlighten the readers. I am satisfied that sincere efforts, which Mr. Tuli put in this field have earned him honour beyond words from lovers and human and especially of Sikh community.

S. Tuli is full of passion to bring into limelight many more sublime heroes so as to enrich the treasure of our otherwise rich heritage to its brim. According to Mr. Tuli, the Sikhs have a lot at their disposal to inform the country about their magnificent role in building Indian history. India owes to them in many ways. Sikhs have produced the warriors who surpassed their counterparts in the world history. Sikhs have also made dignified contribution to the world civilization. The concepts of "Freedom of Faith" and "Red Cross" are their gifts to the modern world. They are pioneer in restoring and upholding the dignity of woman too.

According to Mr. Tuli, the Sikhs have a lot at their disposal to inform the country about their magnificent role in building Indian History. India owes to them in many ways. Sikhs have produced the heroes who surpassed their counterparts in the world history. Sikh have also made dignified contribution to the world civilization. The concepts of freedom of faith and Redcross are their Sikhs to the modern world. The are pioneer inrestoring and upholding

the dignity of woman too.

I pray that he continues doing this yeoman service to the society for years to come and appeal to the community to co-operate with him to give more vastness to his prestigious project more enthusiastically.

I wish S. Tuli long prosperous and enterprising life.

—Sarup Singh Alag (Dr.)

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Further I am grateful to Dr. Sarpreet Singh Gill, S. Manmohan Singh (Railway Workshop Amritsar), and Sarabjit Singh Raju (of Fast Way). The services rendered by S. Jagjit Singh IRSS, New Delhi in vetting my book for the new edition deserves my special thanks. He has guided me in presenting this book free from many flaws.

S. Sukhvinder Singh Narula who has experience in the publishing field not only helped in bringing out this new and revised edition he has also translated this version to the Punjabi language. In this way long cherished demand of the Punjabi readers is now over as the Punjabi edition of this book is also available with the author. I have no word to express my gratitude for the herculean task Mr. Narula has done for me and special thanks to Dr. S.S. Gill for rendering me all financial help generously.

—P.S. Tuli

INTRODUCTION

SIKHS - The Masters of India's Destiny

BABAR, the king of Samarkand, after conquering Kabul, crossed river Sind and captured Delhi. He writes in his autobiography 'Babarnama' about India, a few lines of which read as under, "India does not have any such means for pleasure for which it could be praised. Its inhabitants are not handsome. They are also not gregarious and social. They do not possess good horses... They do not have gardens and canals. The houses are neither cross ventilated nor beautiful. People move bare footed. Men wear only a 'Langoti' and women a 'Lungi' half of it on head and half of it on waste. Gold and silver are available in bulk. We can find the people of every sect and skilled labour in good number. Here mangoes are of good quality. People pronounce 's' as 'sh'. They do not have cold water and ice." (Courtesy: *Dainik Bhaskar* - June 23, 2008) There seems no reason to disbelieve it. Even in Vedic era our towns and houses were not well-planned and art did not flourish.

Babar further lamented that the fruits of India were not delicious. Persian melons, Samarkand apples, Cherries and Apricots were introduced to us by Muslim conquerors and corn, tomatoes, potatoes and cheese by the Europeans.

If we go deep into the Indian history, we would find it full of frustration, failures, treachery and insults inflicted upon us. We were humiliated by calling 'Hindus', (a Persian word meaning — a slave, watchman, a robber, a servant, an infidel and black). We were being invaded, looted and young daughters of India taken alongwith booty to Gajni for sale in the markets.

Our temples were destroyed and gods disgraced. It continued till the rise of Sikh power in the north west of India. *We, perhaps, bore the longest period of slavery in the world history and are one of the few most corrupt countries in the world. Yet we boast and pretend to be a great nation.

For the first time in the history of this sub-continent, it was Guru Nanak who taught the lesson of patriotism and unity to the society divided in casteism and in many mythological gods. Before him the concept of patriotism and unity as a whole of the country was not known to Indians. Guru Nanak stirred the mental slavery of the Indian society and made them aware of their culture and language (mother-tongue). For the first time, Guru Nanak used word Hindustan for this sub-continent and envisaged it a single political unit. It was he who taught the Indians to live with dignity and glory. He said, “ਜੇ ਜੀਵੈ ਪਤਿ ਲਬੀ ਜਾਏ॥ ਸਭੁ ਹਰਾਮੁ ਜੇਤਾ ਕਿਛੁ ਖਾਇ॥”

Guru Tegh Bahadur sacrificed his life for Hindu Dharma. It happened for the first time in the history of mankind that a prophet sacrificed his life for a religion or faith other than of his own. Thus he founded the concept of Human Rights. Otherwise, before this great event this concept was not known to the world. The Guru made supreme sacrifice so that the others could live with freedom, without any fear. Even when the world did not know about the concept of the service of war victims (Red Cross), Bhai Kanhaya, a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh came at the service of war victims in 1704, 150 years before Jean Henry Dunant.

In 303 B.C. Chandra Gupta Mauriya defeated Seleucus. The army of Seleucus was an army of substance. It was and it continued to be our first decisive victory over a foreign enemy, till Indo-Pak war in 1971, in which General Jagjit Singh Aurora made India proud by ordaining second such decisive victory over a foreign enemy after a spell of 2300 years, in which 93000 strong army of the enemy surrendered which is a world

* By the way whom we should hold responsible for this longest slavery.

record in itself. It is ranked as a finest hour of the millennium in the history of India.

There are two more glorious moments in the Indian history to be proud of - firstly, when Maharaja Ranjit Singh, in 1819 captured Kashmir, a province of our traditional invader Afghanistan and made it a permanent part of his domain. Otherwise Kashmir would have continued to be a part of Afghanistan. And *secondly*, when in 1834, after more than 800 years. S. Hari Singh Nalwa liberated Peshawar from Afghanistan which was taken away from us in 1001 at the time of King Anangpal. I do not find any other occasion when we have defeated a foreign enemy.

Throughout the Indian history it was found ordained for the Sikhs to shape its political boundaries. Kashmir is the gift of Maharaja Ranjit Singh to India and so is Peshawar of Hari Singh Nalwa first to India and now to Pakistan for good. Ladakh was taken by the Sikhs in 1834 and annexed to the Sikh commonwealth. In October 1842, the Dalai Lama of Tibet and the Emperor of China as one party and the Sikhs, as the other party, signed the treaty that has given Indians sovereignty over Ladakh.

The present half of Punjab and Bengal are the gifts of Master Tara Singh to India. If we could retain Assam as an integrated part of India after partition, it is due to Sardar Bahadur Sardar Karnail Singh; and Kashmir and Ladakh in 1947-48 due to Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh, General Kulwant Singh and of course due to the Sikh soldiers of Sikh regiment like one Subedar Nand Singh. In 1947-48, the titles "The Defenders of Kashmir" and "The Saviour of Ladakh" granted by the government go to the Sikh regiment and Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh, respectively. It is worth noting here that in all our major operations against Pakistan, Sikh soldiers had been the major part of the Indian army involved in those operations and had leading role in winning the wars. And if Pakistan could be defeated every time, it could be possible due

to the valorous and daredevil Sikh Generals and soldiers. This is the truth revealed by none other than a Pakistani General himself. See what writes Major Gen Fazal Mugeem Khan of Pakistan army, a great admirer and witness of Sikh valour, in his book, “Pakistan’s Crisis of Leadership” on war 1971.

* “...the major reason of our defeat are Sikhs. We are simply unable to do anything before them despite our best efforts. Sikhs are very brave and they have great craving for martyrdom. They fight so fiercely that they are capable of defeating an army many times bigger than theirs”.

“The sky filled with the roars of ‘Yaa Ali’ and ‘Sat Sri Akal’. Even in this hand-to-hand fighting the Sikhs fought so bravely that all our desires, aspirations and dreams were shattered.”

“Alas a handful of Sikhs converted our great victory into a big defeat and shattered our confidence and courage.”

In 1965 war, if a slice of India (districts of Tarn Taran, Amritsar, Gurdaspur and of course J & K) could be prevented from going into the hands of Pakistan, the sole credit goes to General Harbakash Singh and his dignified team including General Joginder Singh Dhillon. Had it been for the then Army Chief General Choudhary, we would have lost the war as suggested by the media reports, mentioned in the next pages. In 1971 war too, had it been for the then Army Chief Gen. Manekshaw, we would have lost, as alleged by Major General J.F.R. Jacob, the then Chief of staff of Gen. Aurora and one of the members of think-tank who crafted the strategy of 1971-war, in an interview to Karan Thapar’s “India Tonight” programme on CNBC on June 30, 2007. As per Gen. Jacob, if Manekshaw’s plan had been followed, “we would not have been able to capture Dhaka.” Gen. Jacob sharply criticized war plans and tactics of Gen. Manekshaw alleging these could have denied India victory. These facts of both the wars obviously suggest that these are the Sikh strategists (Gen. Harbaksh Singh

* Courtesy : *The Excellence of Sikhism* by Dr. Sarup Singh Alag

and Gen. J.S. Aurora) who brought victory both the times over Pakistan and saved India from humiliation. In another interview in May 2007, Goher Ayub Khan, former Pakistan Foreign Minister, with Karan Thapar on “India Tonight” programme on CNBC# TV18, alleged that Gen. Manekshaw had sold battle plans to Pakistan in 1950s.

Sikhs gave India its (India's) best army generals, athletes, economists, engineers, strategists, adventurers etc. The most decorated and celebrated army battalion of commonwealth countries, the most decorated and celebrated soldier of Commonwealth, the most decorated and celebrated fighter pilot of India and most decorated and celebrated athlete of India, have been the Sikhs. The most chivalrous, daredevil and highest decorated IAF's officers viz. Marshal of IAF Arjan Singh DFC, Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh DSO, Air Marshal Tejinder Pal Singh Chhatwal, Air Commodore Mangat Singh, Wing Commander H.S. Mangat, Wing Commander Sadhu Singh Gill, Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon etc. all belong to Sikh community. Sikhs are the leaders of almost all India's first successful adventurous expeditions. Captain M.S. Kohli was the leader of India's first successful expedition to Mt. Everest and C.S. Vohra was the leader of India's first successful expedition to Antarctica (South Pole). Dr. P.S. Sehra was the first ever Indian Scientist who landed on Antarctica. All the three world records of flying on the highest altitude have been made by Sikhs – one in 1948 by Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh, 2nd in 1981 by Wing Commander Sadhu Singh Gill and 3rd in 1984 by Air Vice Marshal T.P.S. Chhatwal. In the post independence era we also gave India its Best Foreign Minister (S. Swaran Singh) and Best Finance Minister (Dr. Manmohan Singh).

Dr. Manmohan Singh, the father of economic reforms, saved India from economic collapse in 1991 and is remembered for turning India away from the path that led it nowhere. He was country's best choice as Finance Minister in 1991 and also

country's best choice as Prime Minister in May 2004. Master Tara Singh, Dr. Manmohan Singh, Gen. J.S.Aurora, Gen. Harbaksh Singh, S. Milkha Singh (unsurpassed athlete of India of all times), Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh, Sardar Bahadur S. Karnail Singh etc. are the most shining stars in the Indian history after partition, for they are the real life heroes who really had leading roles in shaping the country.

I do not count the political bosses as real heroes as sometime they have many other considerations, other than the interest of the country, on their priority list. It is alleged that at the last our national leaders were tired of freedom struggle and they were more interested in capturing the power from the Britishers as early as possible. Had they not shown irrational haste, the country perhaps could have been saved from division. It is also alleged that the problems of Kashmir and Tibet are the outcome of their personal image building exercise. As shown in 'GANDHI' by Ben Kingsley, if Pt. Nehru had agreed with Mahatma Gandhi in handing over the chair of P.M. of India to Mr. Jinnah, division of the country could again have been prevented. In 1947-48, during the Kashmir operation the ceasefire by India, when our forces were advancing, is still a mystery.

Sikhs have never been a party to put India in humiliation at any juncture and always kept its dignity high. In the Indian freedom struggle Sikhs not only made supreme sacrifices much more in comparison to their percentage of population, but not even a single incident is found when a Sikh bowed before the pressure of the Britishers and apologized to them, as against the other side, the people of the stature of Sh. Atal Bihari Vajpayee (former P.M. India) and Vir Savarkar (The hero of R.S.S) are alleged to have apologized to the Britishers.* We made sacrifices for the freedom of the country and not for its partition.

Valiant in battle, zestful in life and fearless in death –

* See media reports in the years 2003, 04 and 05 & *The Tribune* dated 5.4.04 and 24.8.04.

the Sikhs are all these. Maintaining their traditions, they are also progressive. Whether in the thick marshy forests having mosquitoes, insects, snakes etc. of Uttar Pradesh (Tarai Area) or tough deserts of Rajasthan, or rocky settings of South India, the Sikhs have always proved to be highly adaptable and venturers and this gregarious community always dared the challenges and odds unflinchingly. Sikhs by nature are courageous, hardworking and enterprising and are blessed with good physique and do or die spirit, the virtues, which helped them to emerge as victorious and get prominent place in every field, not only in their own country but in the whole world. In sports arena, India and Africa owe much to the Sikh community. Sikhs made substantial contribution to the sports of Kenya and Nigeria. Sikh players have represented, not only India but Indonesia, Malaysia, Canada and England in athletics and hockey. It is interesting that in the fourth Asian Games at Jakarta in 1962, the race became a prestige issue between the two Sikhs – one representing Indonesia (Gurnam Singh) and the other representing India (Tarlok Singh). If India had “Flying Sikh”, Milkha Singh, Kenya too had a “Flying Sikh” (Joginder Singh) and Indonesia also had own “Flying Milkman” (a Sikh). In 1972 Olympic Games held in Munich, the Uganda hockey team was represented by a Sikh Malkit Singh, who was acknowledged one of the fastest centre forwards and the highest goal scorer in the Munich Olympics. This was Uganda’s first and last participation in Olympic Hockey. Three Sikh brothers Hardial Singh, Hardev Singh and Jagjit Singh played for Kenya in hockey in Olympic Games between 1956 - 1968. Hardial Singh rose to become the Chief of the African Hockey Federation and Vice-President of the International Hockey Federation. Bindi Singh Kular played for Canada in the 2000 Sydney Games. Satinder Kehr and Kulbir Singh Bhaura led hockey team of England, Bubli Chauhan Canadian hockey team, Parminder Kenya hockey team and Surjit Singh Malaysian hockey team in various international tournaments. About 25 years back, it was never believed in England that a Sikh could not play

hockey. Sikhs won more than 60% of the country's medals in various international competitions. Since 1928, when India first entered its hockey team in the Olympic games, about two-thirds of its members have been Sikhs. Once in June 1998 at Utrecht World Cup, Sikhs represented three continents – Asia, Africa and America in hockey. Now a Sikh, Monty Panesar, is representing England in Cricket and earned the fame of “Winner Player” of the team and “Best Finger Spinner of the World”. Champions in golf have been Sikhs - Iqbal Singh Malik, his son Ashok Malik and Vikram Jeet Singh. Milkha Singh “Flying Sikh”, became an Indian legend, and most celebrated athlete of India of all times.

In 1958 Asian games, all the five gold medals won by India came from Sikhs - Milkha Singh (200 m and 400 m) Parduman Singh (Shot put), Balkar Singh (discus) and Mohinder Singh, triple jump. In 1962 Asian Games too all five golds, won by India were from Sikh athletes. Earlier in 2nd Asian Games also held in Manila in 1954, all the four golds mustered by India, had been won by Sikh athletes – Parduman Singh (discus and metal ball), Ajit Singh (high jump) and Sarwan Singh (110 hurdles). Out of total eight medals won by India, seven came from Sikh athletes. In 1960 Rome Olympics, India was represented by an all-Sikh hockey team with the sole exception of Lal Chand. The Sikhs have the distinction of having the country's first ever gold winner woman athlete - Kanwaljit Kaur Sandhu. The first Indian woman athlete winning a medal was also a Sikh – Manjit Kaur Walia who won a bronze in 80 metres hurdles in 1966 Asiad held in Bangkok. The first ever awardees of Padmashree (Milkha Singh) and Arjuna award (Gurbachan Singh Randhawa) among the athletes of the country are Sikhs. The first olympian of India was also a Sikh. India's first ever individual Olympic Gold, once slipped away from the hands of India's legend on track Milkha Singh (a Sikh) in 1960 Olympics was captured by Abhinav Bindra (another Sikh) in 2008 Beijing Olympic.

It were the Sikhs who brought down to their knees the

centuries old traditional invaders of India. Sohan Singh says (*Sikh Review*, June 2005), "Sikhs under Ranjit Singh in 1798 brought an end to foreign invasions. He was the first Indian in a thousand years to stem the tide of invasion which came through passes in Hindu Kush-Khyber Pass from time immemorial from Mangols, Greeks, Ghaznis, Ghauris, Tuglaks, Lodhis and Mughals." Dr. Kirpal Singh says (*Sikh Review*, January 2009), "The Afghans had been invading India for a number of centuries (1001-1798 A.D.). They had never seen a defeat at the hands of Indians whom they considered Kafirs and whom they contemptuously called 'Hindku'. For the first time of their history, they (Afghans) were decisively defeated at the battle of Naushehra, 1823 battle of Saido (1827) and battle of Balakot (1831) by Sikhs whom they considered 'Kafir'. Now they were bewildered and confused and began to say 'Khalsa hum Khuda Shud' "Khalsa too has become believer in God."

Maharaja Ranjit Singh restored the Hindu glory in India. It were the Sikhs who rescued every time thousands of young daughters of Hindus from Ahmed Shah Abdali, the ruler of Afghanistan who invaded India nine times, and saved them from humiliation. It were the Sikhs though constituted 1.66% of India's population in 1947 have 77.5% share of sacrifices-killed, exiled, hanged and/or sentenced to life imprisonment in freedom struggle of India. It were the Sikhs who brought back the golden portals of Somnath and Indian heritage of Golkunda mine, the Koh-i-noor from Afghanistan. It were the Akalis (Sikhs) who proved moral boosters for national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi and Pt. Nehru during freedom struggle. Indian freedom movement had its roots in the earlier Ghadr movement of the Candian Sikhs and Baba Gurdit Singh's Koma Gata Maru episode. The Akali movement of 1921-22-23 set a pattern for our later non-violent struggle. Gandhi ji called the victory of Sikh Gurdwara movement as the "FIRST victory of our freedom movement." The father, founder and inventor of GANDHIGIRI (social boycott of foreign goods and non-cooperation

movement) was Baba Ram Singh. Until 1940, the Muslims did "Waheguru Ji Ka Khalsa Waheguru Ji Ki Fateh". A Sikh ascetic udasi Totapuri was the "Guru" of Ramkrishna Parmahansa and so was the case with Tulsidas whose "Guru" was also a Nanak Panthi. It is the reason he praised doctrine of "Naam" in the Ramayana. The preceptor of Swami Dayanand was Swami Varija Nanda, (whose thoughts were greatly influenced by Sikhism) was a native of Sikh centre of religion, Kartarpur where his father was a sevadar in the local gurdwara and Rabinder Nath Tagore was no less fascinated by the personalities of Guru Nanak and Guru Gobind Singh. Tagore declared the Shabad "Gagan Mein Thaal" as possible national anthem of the future world. *It can be substantiated by the references from old Janam Sakhi and Pran Sanghli. Kabir says (old *janam sakhi*, p. 105) "ਲੈ ਉਪਦੇਸ਼ ਪੂਰਨ ਗੁਰ ਕਾ ਮਨ ਮਹਿ ਭਇਆ ਅਨੰਦ। ਮੁਕਤਿ ਕਰੀ ਨਾਨਕ ਗੁਰੂ, ਰੰਚਕ ਰਾਮਾਨੰਦ॥ ਜੁਗ ਜੁਗ ਸਤਿਗੁਰ ਨਾਨਕ ਜਪਿਆ, ਕੀਟ ਮੁਰਦ ਕਬੀਰਾ। Ramanand says (*Pran Sanghli* in Hindi by Sant Sampuran Singh p.39) ਕਿਰਪਾ ਕਰ ਗੁਰੂ ਨਾਨਕ, ਰਾਮਾਨੰਦ ਸਿਸ਼ਯ ਕੀਆ। ਖੰਡ ਮੰਡਲ ਕਾ ਬੀਚਾਰ ਦੀਆ। Madan Mohan Malviya, Mahatma Gandhi and Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru were also no less fascinated by the feats of the Sikhs. M.M. Malviya invited a great Sikh Saint of his time, Sant Attar Singh Ji, to lay foundation stone of Banaras Hindu University and urged every Hindu family to make their first son a Sikh. When the Sikhs won "Chabian Da Morcha" in 1921, Mahatma Gandhi hailed the Sikh victory as FIRST decisive battle for India's freedom. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru got arrested himself in "JAITO DA MORCHA" and announced that when he walked with brave Sikhs, he felt proud.

The seminal ideals of Sikhism and feats of the Sikhs have moulded and shaped the entire ethos and history of modern India. The face of the Indian history started glowing with pride thenceforth the Sikhs appeared on the screen, otherwise we were the divided nation of blind faiths,

* Courtesy : *Gurmat Prakash*, Dec. 1990, p. 57.

superstitions, failures and defeats. How much have been Sikhs indispensable for India, I quote a few examples from three non-Sikh sources. According to Indu Bhushan Banerjee, a great historian, all the famous historians are of the unanimous opinion that if the Sikhs, in 18th century, had not dared Nadir Shah and Ahmed Shah with their matchless sacrifices and magnificent courage, the territory upto Jamuna river would have ceased to be part of India forever and would have been merged with Afghanistan. A celebrated sufi muslim saint Bulle Shah has while paying glowing tributes to Guru Gobind Singh said, ਨਾ ਕਹੁ ਅਬ ਕੀ ਨਾ ਕਹੁ ਤਬ ਕੀ, ਬਾਤ ਕਹੁ ਜਬ ਕੀ। ਅਗਰ ਨਾ ਹੋਤੇ ਗੁਰੂ ਗੋਬਿੰਦ ਸਿੰਘ, ਸੁੰਨਤ ਹੋਤੀ ਸਭ ਕੀ। (I neither talk of past, nor future but of today that had it not been for Guru Gobind Singh, all the Indians would have been converted to Islam).

During the freedom struggle, paper Vande Matram owned and published by Lala Lajpat Rai used to praise the Akalis (Sikhs) a lot for their profound contribution to the freedom struggle. Once it carried a tribute to the Akalis as under.

ਨਰਸ ਹਮ ਰਕਾਬ ਉਠਾਓ ਜਿਧਰ ਕਦਮ
ਤੁਮ ਕੋ ਮਿਲੇਗਾ ਫਤਹਿ ਕਾ ਤਮਗਾ ਅਕਾਲੀਓ।
ਸ਼੍ਰੋਤਾਜ ਕਾ ਜੋ ਰਾਹ ਜੋ ਅਪਨੇ ਦੇਸ਼ ਮੇ
ਹੋਗਾ ਤੁਮਾਰੇ ਹਾਥ ਮੇਂ ਝੰਡਾ ਅਕਾਲੀਓ।
ਭਾਰਤ ਕੇ ਹਮ ਕਪੂਤ ਹੈ ਔਰ ਆਪ ਹੋ ਸਪੂਤ
ਹਰ ਘਰ ਮੇ ਹੋ ਰਹਾ ਹੈ ਯਿਹੀ ਚਰਚਾ ਅਕਾਲੀਓ।
ਈਮਾਈ ਮੁਨਕਸ ਔਰ ਤੁਮ ਹੋ ਪੈਰੂਏ ਮਸੀਹ
ਤੁਮ ਦਰਦੇ ਹਿੰਦ ਕੇ ਮਸੀਹਾ ਹੋ ਅਕਾਲੀਓ।

Major Gen. Muqem Khan of Pakistan Army has already been quoted on the previous pages.

The Sikh farmers brought green and the white revolution and not only fed the whole country but made it food surplus zone from a hungry country. Lauding the valour of Punjabis (Sikhs), Mrs Sonia Gandhi once said "they (Sikhs) had been torch-bearers in all fields, and had made country self-sufficient in agriculture, apart from making supreme sacrifices during

the freedom struggle". She further said "the country was proud of Punjabis (Sikhs) who fought on all fronts to protect the nation from internal and external threats. Their contribution forms a golden leaf in the Indian history and the countrymen would always remain indebted to them for times to come".

Now the Sikhism has been accepted as the fifth biggest faith in the world. And Sikhs now have global say and identity. They are now part of delegations of Presidents and Prime Ministers from America, Canada and Britain and they are the Chief Ministers of their states and Mayors of the cities. Sikhs have the honour to be the first ever judges, from any ethnic community in Britain, Singapore etc. to their respective apex courts.

Keeping in view the latest superb achievements of the sikhs as being the cabinet ministers like Defence Minister of Canada, MPs Army Chief of Singapore, Police Commissioner of Kualalumpur, which make India and Sikhs extremely proud, the Part-II the book has been generated and a attached text.

But a question as big as Himalaya stands whether Sikhs are aware of their achievements and contribution to history in true sense and whether have they ever been serious to promote their heroes and values.

—P.S. Tuli



Part-I

GURU NANAK, PROPHET THE ULTIMATE



GURU NANAK, the born Buddha; the LAST, FINAL and ULTIMATE prophet of God: in whom the earliest prophets found their completion and totality, and prophethood found its crown; the MASTER who travelled from China in the north to Ceylon in the south: from Sikkim and old Assam in the east to Rome and Russia in the west i.e. across the whole earth to cool the burning world with his sweet, sacred, wonderful and divine words and wash out the sins of whole mankind by the grace of NAAM. He gave the realization of TRUTH i.e. GOD who is one and only one and spread the message of love, peace, universal brotherhood, tolerance, equality and well being of all.

The whole world found a savior in HIM. To quote "Excellence of Sikhism" by Dr. Sarup Singh Alag, he was Guru of Hindus and Pir of Muslims. He was "Nanak Buddha" in Sri

Lanka; "Nanak Lama" in Tibet; Guru Nanak in India; "Nanak Pir"; "Pir Baba Nanak" or "Bal Gundari" in Arab countries; "Wali-Hind Baba Nanak" in vast Russia and Afghan Kingdoms; "Bhusa Nanak" in China, Mongolia and Vietnam; "Rimpochee" or "Rimpoji" in high mountains of Himalayas i.e. Bhutan, Nepal and Sikkim.

Universally recognized as a master of human race, no other prophet could equal him in getting such universal respect, recognition and reverence during his own life time in whole of the world.

To quote Prof. Puran Singh, "Name NANAK there will be fragrance of roses; write about him you will feel the shower of rose petals on those pages ..."

Guru Nanak is the master of Kaliyuga. Who so seeks refuge in Him, he embraces him and unites him with God.

The engraved stones and platforms; the sweet soap wart; the spring-falls and wells of sweet and hot waters, and the lakes spread all over the world in his memory, are witness to his spiritual sovereignty and superiority.

When Guru Nanak dived into the river Bein and appeared in the court of Lord, God Almighty addressed him as, "I am PARBRAHAM, thou are GURUBRAHAM, whomsoever thou shalt bless, shall be blessed by Me; whomsoever thou shalt forgive, shall be forgiven by Me."

To quote Prof. Abdul Majid Khan, "Baba Nanak was a prophet of universal love, a light-house for the whole of humanity,

a redeemer of all mankind. The task of emancipating human beings from the yoke of oppression, injustice, superstition and falsehood was entrusted to Guru Nanak – the Divine Master, by the God Almighty."

'O' Man! Take refuge in Guru Nanak who is always with us and get salvation from all the sins and sufferings; from all the pains and sorrows; from all the distress and cycles of free birth.

GURU NANAK, THE SUPERHUMAN



To quote Dr. Satish K. Kapoor, Guru Nanak Dev preached the equality of men more than two centuries before the birth of Rousseau and rationalized religion long before Europe heard of a Descartes or a Spinoza. His voice against the predominance of the priestly classes preceded Voltaire's crusade against ecclesiastical despotism of the France clergy, and his opposition to obscurantist beliefs and rituals may be said to have formed a prelude to modern progressive thought. He was the first prophet to revolutionize the thoughts of the world for upholding the dignity of the woman.

This is not the end of it. When people knew nothing beyond one sun and beyond one moon, Guru Nanak more than 500 years ago revealed the mystery of existence of uncountable suns and moons, uncountable skies and hades, uncountable universes and galaxies, uncountable earths, stars and planets where life exists, uncountable waters (seas) and airs, “ਪਾਤਾਲਾ ਪਾਤਾਲ ਲਖ ਅਗਾਸਾ ਆਗਾਸਾ॥” (ਜਪੁਜੀ-੨੨)

into a singularity. And process of unfolding the singularity will begin again, over and over, an infinitum. Fifth Guru Nanak predicted in Sukhmani

“ਕਈ ਜੁਗਤਿ ਕੀਨੋ ਬਿਸਥਾਰ॥ ਕਈ ਬਾਰ ਪਸਰਿਓ ਪਾਸਾਰ॥

Means many times before too the whole process of unfolding the singularity took place. The whole stanza reads as under:

ਕਈ ਕੋਟਿ ਖਾਣੀ ਅਰੁ ਖੰਡ॥ ਕਈ ਕੋਟਿ ਅਕਾਸ ਬ੍ਰਹਮੰਡ॥
ਕਈ ਕੋਟਿ ਹੋਇ ਅਵਤਾਰ॥ ਕਈ ਜੁਗਤਿ ਕੀਨੋ ਬਿਸਥਾਰ॥
ਕਈ ਬਾਰ ਪਸਰਿਓ ਪਾਸਾਰ॥ ਸਦਾ ਸਦਾ ਇਕੁ ਏਕੰਕਾਰ॥
ਕਈ ਕੋਟਿ ਕੀਨੋ ਬਹੁ ਭਾਤਿ॥ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਤੇ ਹੋਏ ਪ੍ਰਭ ਮਾਹਿ ਸਮਾਤਿ॥
ਤਾ ਕਾ ਅੰਤੁ ਨਾ ਜਾਨੈ ਕੋਇ॥ ਆਪੇ ਆਪਿ ਨਾਨਕ ਪ੍ਰਭੁ ਸੋਇ॥

(ਸੁਖਮਨੀ ਸਾਹਿਬ, ਅਸ਼ਟਪਦੀ ੧੦)

Thanks to the ignorance and carelessness of the followers of Guru Nanak who could not convey the message and realities narrated by Him, more than 500 years ago, about the universe to the world otherwise the results and many achievements in the science would have been preceded.

FATHER OF SOCIAL REFORMS IN INDIA :

Guru Amar Dass



For the first time in the centuries old Indian history Guru Nanak denounced untouchability and caste system (division of humanity on the basis of caste and discrimination on the basis of religion). Guru Amar Dass, the third Nanak, not only laid stress on this doctrine by not making himself available for a devotee not partaking of food from Langar (community kitchen), but he also denounced cruel Sati Pratha, Child Marriage, Parda Pratha (veil custom), Kanya Daan (charity of daughters), wailing of women and beating their breasts on the death of a person. He strongly advocated for the widow marriage and education for girls. All these reforms were proclaimed long before Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Mahatma Gandhi, Raja Ram Mohan Rai, Swami Dayanand or Ishwarchand Vidyasagar. The Guru made many women priests of Sikhism, not in practice in

religions till now. Thus for the first time in India, human and woman's dignity was restored and woman was given a place of regard and high esteem by Sikh gurus.

Guru Amar Dass was born in 1479 A.D. and merged with the Lord in 1574 A.D. He was contemporary of Emperor Akbar. He became Guru in 1552 A.D. The Guru built Goindwal, settled there and constructed there a Bauli (a deep well with steps) as the source of clean water to the villagers. The revelations of the Guru are recorded in Sri Guru Granth Sahib.

Emperor Akbar was greatly impressed by the 3rd Nanak, Guru Amar Das and on his persuasion stopped collecting Jaziah (tax on religion) from Hindus.

FIRST MARTYR OF SOUTH-EAST ASIA

Guru Arjan Dev



To quote Dr. Mohan Singh Diwana, " (Guru Arjan Dev) was destined for the role of a TESTIFIER to Eternal life, through self-offering to God Himself as the executioner" On that day he became eternal, what he was before his birth, before the birth of the play. He testified to man's faith in God and God's trust in man. The attestation of the Guru was: "God alone is the true King and Emperor. He is the God of all; He has asked me (in the words of third Guru) **ਆਪ ਮਰੈ ਅਵਰਹਿ ਨਹਿ ਮਾਰੈ**, Die rather than Kill. I have God's name to protect me from death-dealer and death". Long before the Guru shed his mortal cover and became reabsorbed in Him, he had sung: "His name is my army, my armour, my victory, my immortality, and he proved it."

Indian history full of traitors and frustrations, slavery

and cowardliness, found its saviour and FIRST Martyr in Guru Arjan Dev who sacrificed his life for the sake of justice, truth and peace. Martyrdom is not an Aryan or Indian concept. It is a Sematic concept and Sikh Religion took it to its climax. He faced inhuman torture at the hands of Emperor Jahangir and his Hindu courtier Chandu in May, 1606 at Lahore. Guru Arjan Dev was born on 15th April, 1563 A.D. His time (1563 A.D. to 1606 A.D.) was the time of Akbar and Jahangir. During a famine in 1598, Akbar met the fifth Nanak and on his persuasion he exempted 56% revenue of farmers in Punjab. Guru Arjan built the town of Tarn Taran with a lepers home, which was the first ever in India. Guru compiled Guru Granth Sahib and completed development of Amritsar town with construction of Gurudwara Santokhsar and Harmandir Sahib (Golden Temple).

FATHER OF HUMAN RIGHTS IN THE WORLD

Guru Tegh Bahadur



Long before the world heard about the term "Basic Human Rights" and long before the American constitution, which is termed as the first written document on Fundamental Human Rights, Guru Tegh Bahadur, the ninth Nanak, on November 11, 1675 sacrificed his life for the sake of freedom of faith, worship and expression. The Guru attained martyrdom so that others could live with full freedom, without any fear.

Tapan Banerjee rightly called Guru Tegh Bahadur "Srishti Dee Chaadar" (Cover of the whole world) in his book "Sri Guru Teg Bahadar".

When Aurangzeb started forcible conversions of Hindus in Kashmir, and found themselves unable to offer resistance, Kashmiri Pandits under the leadership of Kirpa Ram of Mutton approached Guru Tegh Bahadur at Anandpur Sahib for help

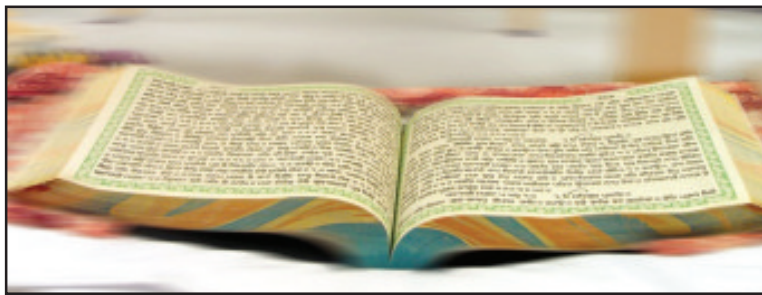
and sought protection of their faith. The Guru sacrificed his life to save their Tikka, Janeu and Bodi in which he did not believe. Henceforth, Guru was called "Hind Dee Chaadar" by Hindus. **The supreme sacrifice for a religion other than his own, has no match in the history of human race.**

Thus Guru Tegh Bahadur shaped the destiny of the country decisively, otherwise, it would have met the fate of Iran and Egypt. So there will be no exaggeration in reaching the conclusion that if Hindu civilization is alive in India, it is due to the profound sacrifices of Guru Tegh Bahadur and Guru Gobind Singh.

The Guru was born in 1621 A.D. at Amritsar and merged in God Almighty in 1675 A.D. in Delhi. He was contemporary of Aurangzeb. He was an apostle of detachment, and the king of martyrs. At the age of thirteen, he bravely fought the battle of Kartarpur. Due to valour, acumen and determination shown in the battle, his father Guru Hargobind, changed his name from Tyagmal to Tegh Bahadur. He built the town of Anandpur Sahib. The Guru preached the Sikhism as far as Assam in the east and awakened courage, fearlessness and bravery in the masses throughout the country. His revelations are recorded in Guru Granth Sahib.

LAST, FINAL AND ULTIMATE REVELATION

Sri Guru Granth Sahib



Guru Granth Sahib – the last, final and ultimate word of God—was compiled by Guru Arjun Dev, the 5th Nanak, by including the revelation descended upon Gurus, some Bhaktas belonging to different castes, religions and Bhatts. The final touch was given by Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Nanak, by including divine utterances of Guru Tegh Bahadur, the 9th Nanak.

In his presidential address at the TV international seminar on "Relevance of Guru Granth Sahib in new millennium" organized by Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar in August 2004, Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the then president of India, described Guru Granth Sahib, a NATIONAL TREASURE and UNIVERSAL GURU Speaking on the occasion, the then Governor of Punjab, Justice O.P. Verma said "if relevance of the scripture in the past 400 years. had increased manifold, it was because that it carried a **charter of great human values.**" He further said, "it is also a **charter of human rights**, rights of the weak, disadvantaged, downtrodden and particularly women who were subjected to all kinds of inhuman

indignities." The then Chief Minister, Captain Amrinder Singh, on the occasion, said, "Guru Granth Sahib is a symbol of humanism, pluralism, universal brotherhood and cosmopolitanism. It is a source of enduring wisdom."

Here some more witty remarks of certain scholars are given, which read as under.

"I have studied the scriptures of other great religions, but I do not find elsewhere the same power of appeal to the heart and mind as I find here ... (in Guru Granth Sahib)"

(Mrs. Pearl S. Buck, Nobel Laureate)

"I know too little about the Sikh community and its culture and a glance at these volumes (Sri Guru Granth Sahib) showed me how much I have been missing."

(E.M. Forster, Novelist)

"Gurbani is a source of comforting peace and unity of all.

Unlike the scriptures of other creeds, Sikh scripture does not contain love stories or accounts of wars waged for selfish considerations. They contained sublime truths, the study of which cannot but elevate the reader spiritually morally and socially" ...

(Macauliffe Max)

"The Sikh faith is a universal religion for the present space age. **The Guru Granth Sahib, of all the world's religious scriptures alone states that there are innumerable worlds and universes other than our own.** The previous scriptures were all concerned only with this world and its spiritual counterpart. To imply that they spoke of other world as does the Guru Granth is to stretch their obvious meaning out of context. (H.K. Bradshaw)

SGGS, over 500 years ago stated "There are worlds upon worlds, solar systems upon solar systems, galaxies upon galaxies, universes upon universes, spheres upon spheres, they function according to command of God. God gets joy by thinking of and beholding His Creation." (Janet Lant)

GOLDEN TEMPLE (HARI MANDIR)



ਹਰਿਮੰਦਰ ਹਰਿ ਸਾਜਿਆ ਹਰਿ ਵਸੈ ਜਿਸੁ ਨਾਲਿ॥

*GOD Himself built Hari Mandir; His very own presence
can be experienced here (by any visitor himself.)*

HARI MANDIR (Temple of God) popularly known as GOLDEN TEMPLE is the only temple on the earth in the name of GOD, the formless. It is the holiest of the holy places in the world where the Almighty is sung and praised day and night with devotion and dedication. In the sanctum sanctorum Sri Guru Granth Sahib, the LAST, FINAL and ULTIMATE revelation of God, is installed, before whom the devotees bow their heads with adoration. What Mecca is to Muslims and Jerusalem to Christians, Amritsar is to the Sikhs and bulk of Hindus. Its spirituality blended with cleanliness, beauty, holiness, art and architecture is unique and par excellence.

Evidences are found that during the construction of pool of nectar, many devotees felt the presence of God Himself at the site. God wished that a unique temple of His be erected here. So the TEMPLE OF GOD came into existence, through the 4th and 5th Nanak.

A renowned Indian poet and philosopher Nobel Prize winner Rabinder Nath Tagore has said in his poem on Golden Temple that a piece of heaven has come down on earth. Dear visitors! Seek refuge in Ultimate Divine Revelation (Guru Granth Sahib) and get salvation from all sins and sufferings; from all pains and sorrows; from all distress and cycles of rebirth.

WHEN TWO CHILDREN SET AN EXAMPLE OF UNIQUE VALOUR

Battle of Chamkaur Sahib

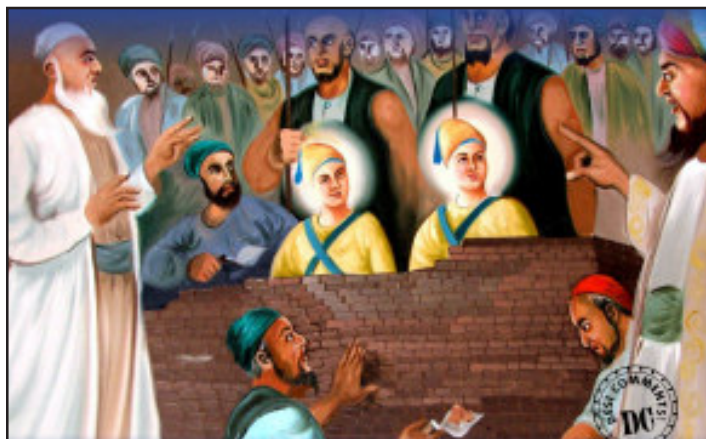


This battle was fought on Dec. 22, 1704 at the site of Chamkaur Sahib by two elder sons Baba Ajit Singh of 17 years and Baba Jujhar Singh of 14 years of Guru Gobind Singh. They fought against all odds with magnificent and dauntless courage and outstanding dash, and frustrated a huge well equipped and well trained Mughal army setting an example of matchless heroism in the world history and attained supreme martyrdom. **This battle has a mention in the first TEN most heroic and unequalled battles of the world.** After leaving Anandpur Fort when Guru Gobind Singh crossed river Sarsa, he was left only with two elder sons and four hundred cavalry. When Guru Gobind Singh reached Chamkaur Sahib, he had two sons and only 40 Sikhs left with him, when they were surrounded by well trained and well equipped huge Mughal Army estimated in lacs. Guru Ji and his Sikhs took shelter in a small Kachi

Garhi (fortress) and faced the enemy.

A great historian Dr. Indu Bhushan Banerjee writes that the valour displayed by the Sikhs in this battle is matchless in the history. No other battle in history can be quoted equal to it. Another historian Mohd. Latif writes in "History of the Punjab" that this battle was fought by Guru himself with the profound prowess and determination, and he himself killed general Nahar Khan and Garat Khan and injured another general Khawaja Mohd. of the Mughal Army. About this Battle, Guru Gobind Singh himself writes in Jaffarnama (Letter of Victory) to Emperor Aurangzeb that "we were only forty tired and hungry and yours were ten lacs even then they were so frightened from us that they kept praying to God for their security."

THE MOST TRAGIC AND UNPARALLELED SACRIFICE OF HUMAN HISTORY



ਬਸ ਏਕ ਹਿੰਦ ਮੇਂ ਤੀਰਥ ਹੈ ਯਾਤਰਾ ਕੇ ਲੀਏ
ਕਟਾਏ ਬਾਪ ਨੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਜਹਾਂ ਖੁਦਾ ਕੇ ਲੀਏ (ਅੱਲਾ ਯਾਰ ਖਾਨ)
ਜਿਸ ਦੇਸ਼ ਔਰ ਜਾਤੀ ਕੇ ਬੱਚੇ ਦੇ ਸਕਤੇ ਯੂੰ ਬਲੀਦਾਨ
ਵਰਤਮਾਨ ਚਾਹੇ ਕੁਛ ਭੀ ਹੈ, ਭਵਿੱਸ਼ਯ ਮਹਾਂ ਮਹਾਨ
(ਰਾਸ਼ਟਰ ਕਵੀ ਮੈਥਲੀ ਸ਼ਰਨ ਗੁਪਤ)

The most tragic and unparalleled sacrifice in the name of God in human history took place on Dec. 27, 1704 when two younger sons of Guru Gobind Singh (10th master of the Sikhs) named Zorawar Singh and Fateh Singh of 8 years and 5 years respectively were bricked alive in SIRHIND by Wazir Khan, the Governor of Sirhind, when they refused to be converted to Islam. This was the most daring sacrifice in the world history as the children of five and eight were never heard and read opting for death voluntarily, leaving aside the allurements of laurels, for the sake of truth, justice and freedom.

of faith. These two small children, after the supreme sacrifice, emerged as the bravest among the braves on the earth and prophets for the oppressed.

This matchless sacrifice has another side too which reminds us the most hateful and ungrateful act of a Brahmin named Gangoo, who served Guru Gobind Singh as his cook for 12 long years. When, after deserting Fort Anandpur in the night of 5-6 Dec. 1704, Guru Gobind Singh and his family reached the bank of SARSA river, family got divided when attacked by the enemy army. His two younger sons and his mother Mata Gujri ultimately took shelter in the house of their old servant, Gangoo in a nearby village. Gangoo back-stabbed his masters for the sake of wealth, fame and honour and informed the ruler of Sirhind about Mata ji and younger sons who were ultimately arrested and bricked alive. Thus this Gangoo Brahmin set an example of the most hateful act of treachery.

THE FATHER OF RED CROSS SPIRIT

Bhai Kanhiya Ji



The world is mistaken that Jean Henry Dunant was the first humanitarian at the service of war victims and that he founded Red Cross. More than 150 years before Henry, Sikhism produced Bhai Kanhiya Ji, a disciple of Guru Gobind Singh at his time, who was the first humanitarian at the service of war victims in the world history who ushered in Red Cross movement. In 1704 the combined forces of the Mughals and Hindu hill kings invaded Anandpur Sahib. The fierce battle left thousands of soldiers of both sides wounded. The sufferings of the wounded soldiers for water touched Bhai Kanhiya and he started to offer water and provided first-aid to the wounded without any discrimination and consideration, whether a friend or enemy.

Sir Henry Dunant adopted the same concept later during

the war of Solferino in 1859 which became the basis for Red Cross movement.

On receiving complaints, the Guru summoned Bhai Kanhiya. Bhai ji replied, "O Great Guru! I was taught the lesson of universal brotherhood and service of humanity without distinction of caste, creed, religion and race by you. So I am doing the same. In every injured I see you and I am serving you." On hearing this, the Great Guru ordered him to apply the ointment and dress the wounds also of the injured soldiers. Bhai Kanhiya was the true embodiment of these words of Gurbani "*Na Ko Bairi Nahi Bigana, Sagal Sang Hum Ko Ban Aai*" (enmity to none, friend for all).

Sikhs are requested to celebrate Sept. 20 as service to war victims and Red Cross and pursue the International Committee of Red Cross to recognize and register the services of Bhai Kanhiya in its charter and literature.

**LEGENDARY HERO OF SIRHIND VICTORY
AND
A MARTYR PAR EXCELLENCE
Baba Banda Singh Bahadur**



In May 1710, the Sikhs fought the battle of Sirhind at the site of Chapar Chiri and won against heavy odds under the command of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur. This historic victory not only brought to an end tyrannical Mughal rule but also established a four years Sikh rule in Punjab. The Sikhs for the first time became rulers of the land of five rivers and developed a feeling that they (Sikhs) had as much authority to rule as Mohammedans or Afghans. Had we not been divided, we would have achieved much more and much earlier than Maharaja Ranjit Singh. Our division not only broke our dreams but led to ruthless killing of Baba Banda Singh Bahadur, his four year

old son Ajai Singh, 740 Sikhs held with Baba Ji in 1716 and later on martyrdom of thousands of Sikhs.

Baba Banda Singh Bahadur reached Punjab in 1709 and established his capital at Mukhlisgarh between Nahan and Jagadhri. He attacked Samana and killed Sayyed Jalaludin (the executioner of Guru Tegh Bahadur) his brothers Sashal Beg and Bashal Beg (the executioners of the younger Sahibzadas). Then he raided Sadhaura and took revenge from the Mughal Chief Usman Khan responsible for the death of Pir Budhu Shah and his family. Then marching towards Sirhind, on the way he captured Banur. After that he defeated Subedar of Sirhind Wazir Khan, responsible for the martyrdom of younger Sahibzadas, at the site of Chapar Chiri in May 1710. Wazir Khan was killed in the fierce battle and Sirhind was captured.

Ultimately Baba Ji was captured alongwith more than 700 dedicated Sikhs at Gurdas Nangal, near Gurdaspur, after a siege of months together, followed by division among the community. He was put to inhuman and untold physical and mental torture. He was cut limb by limb and his flesh was torn apart from his body on 9th June 1716. His wife, his five year old son Ajai Singh and about 740 Sikhs were also hacked to death.

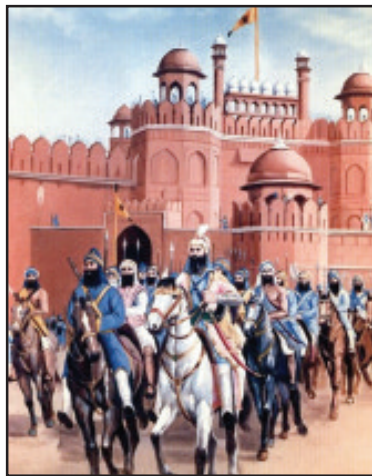
The events were recorded by Muslims like Khafi Khan, Mohd. Harisi and Mohd. Kasim as well as by East India Company officials like John Sarman, Edward Stephenson and Hugh Borker, who sent reports to Governor Robert Hedges at Fort William at Calcutta. **Rabindra Nath Tagore** gave a warm tribute to Baba Ji in his poem titled "Banda Bir", in Bengali, **which became the anthem for the revolutionaries of Bengal during Indian freedom struggle.**

Hari Ram Gupta, a noted historian, ranked him among great warriors of the world like **Alexander the Great, Halakoo, Changez Khan, Nadir Shah, Ahmad Shah Abdali, Napoleon Bonapart** and acknowledged him as a national Hero. He was the **First Indian** and second in world history who gave

ownership rights to cultivators and finished the practice of landlordism.

But it is very sad that till date this legendary hero has not received due recognition not only from Punjab but from his own community also. Punjab Govt. should also declare battlefield of Gurdas Nangal as National monument in order to give due recognition to the sacrifices of this superman warrior and a martyr par excellence.

THE CONQUERORS OF DELHI FROM MUGHALS LONG BEFORE THE BRITISHERS



Between 1765 to 1783, the Sikhs plundered and conquered Delhi many times; some say about fifteen times. Last time under the leadership of S. 'Baghel Singh Karosinghia, S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia and S. Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, in March 1783, invaded environs of Delhi with 60,000 cavalry and defeated prince Mirza Shikoh and emperor Shah Alam-II and took over the Red Fort. On March 12, 1783 S. Baghel Singh hoisted Sikh flag on the Red Fort. S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia ascended the throne of HINDUSTAN in Diwan-e-Aam. Some say five generals of the Sikhs, S. Baghel Singh, S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia, S. Jassa Singh Ramgarhia, S. Gurdit Singh and S. Bhag Singh sat on the throne.

While invading Delhi, the Sikhs on March 8, 1783 attacked King Mirza Shikoh who deserted fort Mehtabpur and

captured many parts of Delhi on March 9. Sikhs defeated Fazal Ali Khan, and son of Rao Deeraj Ram and captured more territories of Delhi. On March 10, Sikhs defeated Abdul Ahad Khan Majaddul-Daula, Mirza Safi Khan, Jaun-ul-Abidin and captured other parts of Delhi and on March 11, the Sikhs defeated emperor Shah Alam-II who deserted the Red Fort with his army.

However on the request of Begum Samru, under a treaty of having the right to raise Gurdwaras in the memory of the Sikh Gurus and a fine of Rs. 3 lac, Sikhs agreed to leave Delhi leaving S. Baghel Singh with his army at Delhi for construction of the Gurdwaras. After accomplishing the job, S. Baghel Singh left Delhi under an agreement with Mughal Emperor Shah Alam-II, that the emperor will regularly send 12.5% of the octroi of Delhi to S. Baghel Singh and in return he would ensure that the Sikhs did not attack the capital.

While invading environs of Delhi, which included Ghaziabad, Khurja, Aligarh etc. the loot was so large that it was sent back to Punjab with 30,000 cavalry and the Sikhs with rest of the 30,000 cavalry **first captured and then rested at the place now called Tis Hazari. This place got this name “Tis Hazari”** because of being the camping ground for 30,000 brave Sikhs, led by S. Baghel Singh. Later on, during his stay at Delhi, S. Baghel Singh Karoresinghia made Tis Hazari his headquarter. The Sikhs should try their best to get the Tis Hazari renamed as "S. Baghel Singh Tis Hazari". Delhi remained under S. Baghel Singh for many months who ruled over it from Tis Hazari.

This glorious moment was made memorable by S. Jassa Singh Ramgarhia by bringing with him a marble slab measuring 6' 3" long, 4' 6" broad and 9" thick which was used as throne by the Mughal emperors at the time of coronation, from the Red Fort, and installed it at the front side of Bunga Ramgarhia i.e. at the feet of Guru Ram Dass. It was the same throne (marble slab) on which S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia was made to sit and declared the emperor of Delhi.

THE RESCUER OF HELPLESS YOUNG DAUGHTERS OF INDIA

S. Jassa Singh Ahluwalia (1718-1783)



The king of Afghanistan, Persia, parts of central Asia and a great conqueror of his time Ahmed Shah Abdali (who styled himself (DURRANI) destroyed the Marathas as an all India power in the historic battle of Panipat, fought on Jan. 14, 1761. When he was returning to Afghanistan as victorious he was carrying about 2200 young Hindu women as war booty to be sold in the bazaars of Ghazni. None of the maharajas or Rajputs came forward to save the honour of these helpless women. The Sikh chiefs under the leadership of Sardar Jassa Singh Ahluwalia attacked Abdali near Goindwal and freed all of them and made arrangements to take them to their homes. Henceforth, he was called "BANDT CHHOR" (the Liberator)

by the Hindus. He was born in 1718 at Vill. Ahlu or Ahluwal near Lahore, established by his ancestor, Sada Singh. He studied Sikh scriptures under Bhai Mani Singh and was trained under supervision of Nawab Kapur Singh.

A great leader and organiser, a brave fighter and a great general and right hand of Nawab Kapur Singh, who nominated him Jathedar (Chief) of Dal Khalsa in 1748, S. Jassa Singh gave marvellous lead to Sikh nation from 1748 to 1783 against Mughal governors of Punjab viz. Zakria Khan, Yahiya Khan and Mir Manu etc. He conquered Amritsar in 1747, Multan in 1749, Jalandhar, Khwaspur and Fatehabad in 1753, Ambala and parts of Haryana and Rajasthan in 1754, Lahore in 1761, Malerkotla in 1763, Sirhind and Amritsar for the second time in 1764, Kapurthala in 1774 and Delhi in 1783. He was honoured with the title of "Sultan-ul-Qaum (Emperor of the Sikh nation) in 1761 after the victory of Lahore.

Thus after 800 years of Mughal domination, Punjab was made free. In fact he laid the foundation of the Sikh Raj. The history is witness to the fact that the Sikhs took the Maratha girls to their homes in Maharashtra many hundred miles from Punjab. The girls were made sit on horses and they (Sikhs) walked alongwith them on foot.

**THE LAST SOVEREIGN OF INDIA WHO
REVERSED THE TREND OF HISTORY AND
SHAPED INTERNATIONAL BOUNDARIES OF
FOUR COUNTRIES**

**Sher-e-Punjab Maharaja Ranjit Singh
(1780-1839)**



Since the advent of Aryans (2000-1500 B.C.) till Sadozi Duraanis (1818) India was being invaded from west to east across the Indus. Maharaja Ranjit Singh, son of S. Maha Singh, chief of Shukarchakia misl, for the first time in many thousand years of the Indian history turned the tide of invasion and brought the traditional conquerors of India, the Pathans and Afghans, to their knees, when he and SARKAR-E-KHALSA crossed over from the east to the west to build an empire which included Kashmir, Ladakh, Garo, Tuklakote and Rudok in little Tibet and which took in control every bit of territory through

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the N.W. Frontier upto Kabul apart from the whole present day Pakistani and Indian Punjab upto Jalandhar and Kapurthala and Himachal Pradesh. This was Ranjit Singh's vast empire, which Punjabis never saw and enjoyed before. Kashmir would have continued to be a part of Afghanistan if Maharaja Ranjit Singh had not conquered it in 1819 and made a part of his domain. Ladakh was conquered from Tibet and annexed to Sikh commonwealth, Sarkar-e-Khalsa by Maharaja Sher Singh, second son of the Maharaja. Some say Ladakh was taken by Sikhs in 1834, during the life time of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. **Thus Kashmir valley and Ladakh are the gifts of Maharaja Ranjit Singh to India who changed permanently the International boundaries of four countries of present day – Afghanistan, Pakistan, India and Tibet.** The Pashtu speaking North West Frontier Province of India and Peshawar were also liberated by Lahore Darbar after a span of more than 800 years, from Afghanistan. It is now a part of Pakistan for good, otherwise it would also have been a part of Afghanistan.

He raised India's most powerful fighting force equivalent to entire British India Army at the time of second World War in 1939. It included 92,000 infantry and 31800 cavalry and artillery with 384 heavy guns and 400 light guns.

A new fact about Ladakh and Gilgit came to knowledge, is narrated hereunder from the *Sikh Review* of August 1992. "In October 1842 the Dalai Lama of Tibet and the Emperor of China as one party, and the Sikh people, the Khalsa jio, as the other party, signed the treaty that has given Indian sovereignty over Ladakh now lost to the Chinese and about which the Historical Divisions of the MEA of Govt. of India is spreading falsehood that Dogra "Maharaja" Gulab Singh conquered Ladakh and Gilgit for India."

To quote Sant Singh Sekhon it was a dictum in Punjab at that time that God had incarnated Maharaja Ranjit Singh to rescue Hindus from centuries old slavery and humiliation at the hands of Muslims. In the opinion of Prof. Himadri Banerjee

of Rabindra Bharti University, Calcutta, the Maharaja was one of the greatest nineteenth century personalities who restored the lost 'Hindu glory' in Punjab after the lapse of one thousand years. He brought back the golden doors of Somnath Temple which were taken away by Mahmood of Gazni in 1024 A.D. and now are lying with Darbar Sahib, Amritsar, and Indian heritage of Golkunda mines, the Koh-i-Noor from Afghanistan.

Pandit Nehru says in *Discovery of India* : "He was remarkably humane at a time when India and the world seethed with callousness and inhumanity. He built up a kingdom and a powerful army and yet he disliked bloodshed. **Never was so large an Empire founded by one man with so little criminality,** says Princep. He abolished death sentence for every crime, however heinous it might be, whereas in England even petty pilferers had to face death."

One of the greatest military strategists and statesmen of his time, an astute diplomat, secular in true sense and foresighted

Maharaja Ranjit Singh was embodiment of chivalry, grit and determination; though illiterate, he had wonderful knowledge of world affairs and politics.

The legacy of Maharaja is the common legacy of all Punjabis including Sikhs, Muslims and Hindus and of course of both Punjabs—Indian and Pakistani. We, the Punjabis, should rise above the communal prejudices and must maintain this legacy which is a source of our pride. Maharaja is a hero and role model of Punjabi. His era was a golden era of both Indian and Pakistani history. His courtiers consisted of more Muslims and Hindus than Sikhs.

THE MARSHAL OF THE KHALSA AND TERROR FOR THE AFGHANS

S. Hari Singh Nalwa



Born at Gujranwala in W.Pakistan in A.D. 1791 in Uppal Khalsa Family in the house of S.Gurdial Singh and Sardarni Dharam Kaur, S. Hari Singh Nalwa was an astute statesman, a dashing general and a **most capable administrator of Lahore Darbar. The disappearing of vast Muslim Empire in India** from Kasur, Multan, Kashmir and Peshawar, was closely associated with the campaigns of General Nalwa, the marshal of the Khalsa and terror for the Afghans.

He created a unique and one of the most glorious events rather **second most glorious event (first being capture of Kashmir in 1819) of the Indian history of many centuries** having international legacy by liberating Pashtu-speaking North-West Frontier Province (N.W.F.P.) and Peshawar from our traditional invader Afghanistan after more than 800 years; annexed to the kingdom of Maharaja Ranjit Singh and subsequently made the territory the part of India, now a province of Pakistan for good. **So Peshawar and N.W.F.P. are the gifts of S. Hari Singh Nalwa to**

Pakistan. Peshawar became part of Afghanistan in 1001 after Anangpal and remained so for more than eight centuries until liberated by Gen. Hari Singh Nalwa on 6th May 1834. The British Govt. had a great regard for him for annexing a large slice of Afghanistan and making it a permanent part of the Kingdom of Punjab. They built a Gurdwara in the memory of Gen. Nalwa in the fort Jamrud and provided a granthi there for the Sewa. It is said that the Afghans, whose name was once symbol of terror for Indians and from Punjab up to Bengal in the east no Indian ever before dared them, were so afraid of S. Hari Singh Nalwa that mere a rumour of his invading (HARIA RAGLE DA) would cause abortion of pregnant Afghan women and would stop children from crying. "CHUP SHA-HARIA REGLE DA" was a saying on the tongue of every Afghani for stopping from crying their obstinate children.

Gen. Hari Singh Nalwa has shown such an exemplary valour in the siege of Kasur in 1807 that Maharaja Ranjit Singh honoured him with Jagir of Rs. 30,000/- and command of 800 strong cavalry. He had also played a major role and contribution in winning Multan and Kashmir by Lahore Durbar.

Keeping in view his distinguished services rendered to Sarkar-e-Khalsa and displaying outstanding leadership and valour, he was appointed Governor of Kashmir in place of Diwan Moti Ram, a mild administrator to rule recently conquered province. in 1820. Later on in 1822 he was appointed the governor of Hazara, a very turbulent north-west province under Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He accomplished the job at both the places with great tenacity. In 1823 fierce battle took place across the river Attock at the sight of Naushehra between Afghans (our traditional conquerors and invaders), thought to be invincible, and Sikhs under the command of Gen. Hari Singh Nalwa, in which the Afghans were defeated miserably. A lot of ammunition and guns were captured by Gen. Nalwa. This battle is known for maximum use of guns.

Under the instructions of Maharaja in 1836, Gen. Nalwa

constructed a fort at Jamrud. But, in 1837, in the battle between the Sikhs and Afghans for the fort, which had a strategic importance, Gen. Nalwa was wounded seriously and died. The death of the most indomitable general of the Sikhs was an irreparable loss to the Lahore Durbar army. With his death a saga of matchless courage ended. According to a scholar R.K.Misra, from Bhopal, "Hari Singh Nalwa was the bravest of the Sikh generals. At the time of his death S. Nalwa had been awarded a larger estate than any other courtier of the Lahore Durbar."

According to S. Tarlochan Singh, former chairman of Minority Commission, in reference to recapturing of Peshawar after more than 800 years by crossing River Sindh, he earned the **distinction of the FIRST EVER General (second General J.S. Arora) in whole of the Indian history, who crossed the border and defeated the enemy at its own land.**

Nalwa's valour and acumen placed him at the top of the generals and warriors of the world. As per K.J.S. Ahluwalia, a **very popular 19th century British newspaper *Tit Bits*** also made a comparative analysis of great grounds of the world and arrived at the conclusion, "Some people might think that Napoleon was a great General, some might name Marshall Hen Jen Burgh, Lord Kitchener, General Karobzey at Duke of Wellington etc. and some going further might say Halaku Khan, Changez Khan, Richard or Allaudin etc. **However, in the North of India a General of the name of Hari Singh Nalwa of the Sikhs prevailed. Had he lived longer and had he sources and artillery of the British, he would have conquered most of Asia and Europe.**

In August 2014, "Billionaires Australia" has compiled a list of Top Ten Conquerors of the history. **Sikh warrior Hari Singh Nalwa has topped the list**, followed by Genghis Khan, Alexander the Great, Attila the Hun, Julius Caesar, Cyrus the Great, Francisco Pizzaro, Napoleon Bonaparte, Hannibal Barka and Timur aka Tamerlane.

In the last of the year 2014 a thrilling news came when American President Barrack Obama enquired from the Sikhs that, how General Nalwa overpowered Afghanistan where Russia and America failed.

THE FIRST FREEDOM FIGHTER OF INDIA

Bhai Maharaj Singh



Neither was an ode sung in his praise, nor valued him, nor a memorial was erected in his memory. This is the story of first freedom fighter of India Bhai Maharaj Singh whose real name was S. Nihal Singh. He was one of the three saints of Naurangabad – Baba Bir Singh, Baba Khuda Singh and Baba Maharaj Singh who were most sought after by the Sikh masses and courtiers of Maharaja Ranjit Singh, for guidance after the death of Maharaja. Nine years before Mangal Pandey, said to be the first freedom fighter, Bhai Maharaj Singh organized a mass movement against Britishers in 1848.

To quote M.L. Ahluwalia and Kirpal Singh, "Bhai Maharaj Singh led the anti British campaign as part of his moral obligations towards his people and unlike others, he had neither any axe to grind nor any personal score to settle with the Britishers. For him it was a divine mission for which he staked his life." Britishers put a reward of Rs.10,000 on his head at that time. When he learnt about the likely removal of Maharaja

Dalip Singh from Punjab, he decided to secure the person of Maharaja in whose name the freedom struggle was to continue. He made a comprehensive plan and secured the help from all quarters. He deputed his envoys almost everywhere in northern India and sent his emissaries to Kabul, Kandhar and Peshawar to get the support of Persian brethren and Amir Dost Mohammad Khan and Sultan Mohammad Khan. The followers were divided into batches and were sent in various directions. But a well knitted plan to seize the Maharaja failed. Even then he did not lose heart. He made another plan to assault the cantonments of Hoshiarpur and Jalandhar on January 3, 1850. But on 28th December, 1849, he was arrested from a sugarcane field on the report of a Muslim informer. He was tortured to the extreme and was kept in William Fort at Calcutta and finally imprisoned in Singapore, where he attained martyrdom. He had thousands of followers who revered this saint-soldier like anything. This peerless patriot was forgotten in his own country, but his countrymen erected a memorial in Singapore. Lack of any memorial in his memory in Punjab is a very sad affair.

The Sikh scholars are urged to make efforts to get his entry as the first freedom fighter of India recorded in the Indian history, as 1857 mutiny cannot be called first war of independence at any cost. **It is either 1845 war led by General Sham Singh Attariwala fought between Sikhs and Britishers, which is termed as one of the ten wars of the World as per Milson's Book "10 Wars of the World" or it is 1848 led by Bhai Maharaj Singh. 1857 mutiny was just to change the masters from the Britishers to Mughals.** Major General Himmat Singh Gill (Retd.) has rightly said in an article, "If the Britishers were foreigners, then how would we like to define the Mughals." In "Discovery of India" Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru termed the 1857 mutiny as "Mutiny of Kings", who lost their territories or purses to Britishers. Therefore, the Indians who rose against the Britishers at that time had different motives for doing so. The political bosses have political reasons for calling the 1857 mutiny as the first war of independence.

**FIRST EVER RISALDAR MAJOR OF INDIAN
ARMY**

**Sardar Bahadur Risaldar Major Mann Singh
IOM, CIE, OBI**



S. Bahadur Mann Singh was founder of Major Hodson's Horse regiment (4 Horse Regiment), which he raised in June 1857 on the request of Mr. Robert Montgomery, who was greatly impressed by his vast experience of wars being an officer of the Sikh cavalry. He was Commander of elite Ghorcharas of the Khalsa Army and later adjutant of a brigade. Initially the force was known as "Montgomery Sahib Ka Risala" It was, under the command of S. Mann Singh, that on 23rd June 1857 three Risalas were sent off to Delhi for capturing it.

His ancestors belonged to Gajni who founded Distt. Gujranwala (Pak), as many districts of Punjab (Pakistan) were founded by the Sikh Sardars. In 1822 at the age of 25 he joined cavalry of Maharaja Ranjit Singh. He took part in the battles of

Afghanistan and capture of Peshawar and later on in Anglo Sikh wars fought at Ferozshah, Sabhrao and Mudki. His major role in capturing king of Delhi Bahadar Shah and his sons and finally to win Delhi on 22-9-1857 and capture of Lucknow on 13-3-1858 were golden pages of Hodson Horse Regiment. At the age of 60 he fought war of Oudh (1858-59). In this war when Hodson and his many officers were killed by the enemy, S. Mann Singh took command of the regiment and reversed the scene though he was badly wounded. He was appointed India's first ever Risaldar Major of Army (9th Bengal Lancers/ cavalry) on March 9, 1866. After that he was appointed Assistant Commissioner and Honorary Magistrate of Amritsar in 1879 and thereafter Sarbarah (Manager) of Darbar Sahib, Amritsar till the end of his life. He died on March 16, 1893 and was cremated in Parikarma of Harimandir Sahib.

He was decorated with 1. Order of Merit Class I (I.O.M.) on 24th June 1859 for conspicuous gallantry shown in the field on 13th June 1858, 2. Companion of the order of Indian Empire First type (C.L.E.), 3. Order of British India 1st Class (O.B.L), 4. Mentioned in despatches (honourably mentioned in despatches for his gallantry shown in Oudh campaign in 1858-59), 5 Sardar Bahadur. He was also awarded Jagir at Kot Bara Khan in Punjab and of seven villages in Oudh (near Lucknow).

During World War II, 4 horse was converted from horse to tank cavalry and fought in Persia, Tobruk, Benghazi, Egypt and Iraq. In 1965 war with Pakistan, 4 horse's major victory was at Phillora (W.Pak) where it won the Battle Honour Phillora and Theatre Honour Punjab.

It is unfortunate that a formidable war veteran and embodiment of courage and valour, Sardar Mann Singh was never remembered by his community. A statue of his must be erected in an appropriate place in Amritsar. Though the Sikh history did not value him, the Britishers have secured his tales of valour in their books.

WHEN BRITISH PARLIAMENT ROSE IN HONOUR OF THE SIKHS

Battle of Saragarhi



The epic battle was fought on Sept. 12, 1897 by 21 brave soldiers, largely from Doaba region, of XXXVI Sikh Regiment (now 4 Sikh) under the command of Hawaldar Ishar Singh a non-commissioned officer at a remote British army post SARAGARHI at the height of 6000 feet located between Fort Gulistan and Fort Lockhart (SAMANA) in Tirah region of NWFP (a province of Pakistan), against well armed 25000 tribals. Saragarhi was a small communication post on a rocky ridge, consisted of a small block house, not meant for fight since it was for establishing communication. While the Fort Lockhart and Fort Gulistan had 121 men and 175 men respectively for the defence of the forts, it had only 21 men. The fight started at 9.30 a.m. and ended at 3.40 p.m. when the last defender signaller Gurmukh Singh sought permission from Fort Lockhart commander, Lt. Col. Houghton to close down

the communication set, as now he was the last survivor, and picked up his rifle to fight.

In spite of offer for safe passage from tribals, if they surrender, they opted to fight and die. They all attained martyrdom shouting BOLE-SO-NIHAL after killing nearly 600 and injuring innumerable Pathans.

There was universal appreciation of this bravery and dauntless courage. The British Parliament gave a standing ovation when a full account of this unprecedented chivalry was narrated, last done for Nelson's Trafalgar battle victory. An award of IOM (Indian Order of Merit) Class-I, the then highest gallantry award equivalent to Victoria Cross and India's PVC today, was awarded by Queen Victoria to each of Saragarhi heroes with 50 acres of land and Rs. 500 to each, posthumously and declared 12th Sept. as permanent holiday for all units of Indian Army with Sikh troops, and this day is celebrated by the regiment as the Regimental Battle Honour Day.

This heroic battle is taught in French schools and is ranked one of the eight stories of collective bravery published by UNESCO and one of the five most heroic (most unbalanced and unequalled) battles in all military history of the world beginning with THERMOPYLAE fought by small Greek force against the mighty Persian army led by XERXES in 480 RC.

In the memory of one of the most daring and calculated feats of gallantry and devotion to duty ever read in the history of mankind, a gurdwara and a school in Amritsar and a gurdwara in Ferozepur were constructed. Behind this saga of dauntless courage and valour, the inspiration from Guru Gobind Singh, who fought with the mighty Mughal army of ten lakhs with his 40 men in a fortress Chamkaur Sahib, was certainly working.

A BLOODY TALE OF 1914

Saga of Komagata Maru



Sikhs had started struggle for the freedom of the country much earlier. The Anglo Sikh wars, Bhai Maharaj Singh, Kooka movement, Komagata Maru tale, GADRI Babe, Babbar Akalis, Morchas of Guru Ka Bagh & Jaito, Shaheed Udham Singh, Kartar Singh Sarabha, Shaheed Bhagat Singh etc. formed a chain of freedom struggle.

It was scene of Budge Budge Port. The bloody battle was fought by brave Sikhs against the mighty British police on the spot of Neta Ji Subhash Road, Calcutta **where a pillar, called Komagata Maru Smritistambha stands in the memory of brave men, inaugurated by Pt. J.L. Nehru on 1-1-1952.**

On 29th Sept. 1914, 376 Punjabis, under the leadership of Baba Gurdit Singh, a rich Singapore-based business man, who hired a Japanese steamship S.S. Komagata Maru, challenged a huge contingent of British Police. Police fired 177 rounds and fifty of the men were shot down instantly and a majority of them were injured grievously. This incident gave a boost to Indian freedom struggle.

Actually at that time the Canada government had imposed restrictions on the entry of Indians with the result many Punjabis, mostly Sikhs were stranded for months in Hong Kong and were unable to get tickets for their final destination -- Canada. To help the stranded Punjabis and to challenge the racial laws of Canada, Baba Gurdit Singh chartered a Japanese ship, Komagata Maru, in 1914 to go to Canada and named it "Guru Nanak Jahaj". The ship reached Vancouver on May 22, 1914 but entry to its passengers was not allowed by the Canadian Police and British Columbian authorities. The ship was attacked by the police at night and forcibly returned to Kolkata. Upon return, the British police at Budge Budge Ghat in Kolkata fired upon them and the bloody tale took place.

In September 2015 the Govt. of India has sanctioned a budget of 2.34 Crore to build a memorial of the heroic struggle of Punjabi immigrants at Budge Budge Ghat in Kolkata.

In 2016 the Prime Minister of Canada Mr. Justin Trudeau apologized in the parliament for this sad incident.

THE SCHOLAR WHO DARED SWAMI DAYANAND

Gyani Ditt Singh



During the period of Sikh rule the population of Sikhs rose to more than ten million. But in 1881 census it declined to 1.9 million. It was an alarming downfall. On the one side it were Christians with political might on their back and on the other side it was Arya Samaj; both seemed at that time to be in competition as who would be the first to absorb the Sikhs. At this crucial time Gyani Ditt Singh emerged on the scene. Born in 1853 in Patiala state in a Ravidasi caste, he was a sharp minded and brilliant scholar.

He was one of the founders of Singh Sabha, Lahore (1879) which was later converted to Sikh Diwan to counter the propaganda of Swami Dayanand and Christians. Irritated by the criticism of Sikhism and Sikh Gurus by Swami Dayanand, Gyani Ji dared Swamiji and in 1877 he overcame him in three

discussions on different dates in Lahore on different subjects. The subject of the first discussion was as to who was the creator of the world? The subject of the 2nd discussion was – Are Vedas the creation of God? The subject of the 3rd discussion was "SALVATION".

Gyani ji also started a Punjabi Newspaper to create awareness in Sikh masses regarding the prevailing threats. He had been Prof. of Punjabi Dept. in Lahore University and it was due to the unbeatable efforts by Gyani Ditt Singh and Prof. Gurmukh Singh that the Khalsa College Amritsar came into existence. Gyani ji received, for his unique contribution for Sikh cause and for his brilliance, many laurels such as ਮਲਾਜ਼ੁਮੀ ਉਲਮਾਂ ਵਾ ਫਾਜ਼ਲੁਲ ਫਜ਼ਲਾ in 1877, ਮਹਾਂ ਮਹੋ ਉਪਾਧਯਾਇ in 1877 and in the same year C.I.E. from the Govt. His two masterpiece literary works are "ਮੇਰਾ ਔਰ ਸਾਧੂ ਦਯਾ ਨੰਦ ਕਾ ਸੰਵਾਦ" and "ਦੰਭ ਵਿਦਾਰਨ", an analysis of 'Satyarth Prakash', the Bible of Arya Samaj written by Swami Dayanand.

It is a matter of great regret that Gyani ji did not get due regard from his own community. The Hindus have opened so many colleges in the name of Swami Dayanand but we do not have any such institution or memorial after the name of Gyani ji. A statue of Gyani Ditt Singh is a must in Khalsa College, Amritsar or at an appropriate place on G.T. Road, Amritsar.

THE HIGHEST DECORATED AND CELEBRATED BATTALION OF COMMONWEALTH

The Sikh Regiment (xxxvi)



Saviours of Dutch and French from Germans

It is the most decorated Infantry Regiment of the Indian Army as reported by '*Defence Review Annual*' 1995-96. Virtually, it continues to be the highest decorated regiment in the Indian Army and also enjoys the distinction of "HIGHEST DECORATED BATTALION OF COMMONWEALTH" with a total of 1604+ gallantry awards including 10 Victoria Cross, 21 Indian Order of Merit, 73 Battle honours, 38 Theatre honours, 2 Paramvir Chakras, 2 Ashok, Chakras, 2 Param Vishisht Sewa Medals, 14 Mahavir Chakras, 9 Military Cross and a lot of Vir Chakras, Shaurya Chakras, Kirti Chakras and Ativashist and Vashist Seva Medals. It also enjoys the title of "DEFENDERS OF KASHMIR".

The regiment which has its heritage roots in the teachings and sacrifices made by Sikh Gurus and chivalry of

Maharaja Ranjit Singh's erstwhile Khalsa Army, has completed 150 glorious years in the service of nation on August 1, 1996. The history of the Sikh Regiment is replete with examples of gallant and professional soldiering, selfless devotion, supreme sacrifices, emphatic triumphs, high spirit, valour, and achievements of the highest order. Apart from numerous heroic and valiant battles fought by the Khalsa Army of Maharaja Ranjit Singh on whose remnants the Sikh Regiment (4 Sikh/2 Sikh) was raised on August 1, 1846, has taken part in all the major wars and operations with which the British Indian Army was associated.

The outstanding dash and magnificent courage, great professionalism shown by Sikh Army in the whole world (Taku Forts Peaking, Ethiopia, France, Italy, Holland, Charasia, Afghanistan, Chitral, Egypt, Gaza and Megidoo), during world war-I and II ; after that in Kashmir and Junagarh Operation (1947-48) ; Hyderabad Police action (1948) again in J and K in January 1949; Goa Operation (1961), war with China (1962), in Rann of Kutch in 1964 ; War with Pakistan (1965) ; in creation of Bangladesh (1971) and then operation Kargil made the Sikh Regiment invincible and no army in the world could surpass the Sikh Army in courage, valour, determination, and sacrifice to answer all calls in accordance with its motto and creed "nischey kar apni jeet karon"

The bravery of Sikh soldiers shown at Saragarhi (which had special mention in British Parliament) does not find any parallel in world military history. **In the World War-I the valour displayed by Sikh soldiers on 4th June 1915 in the battle fought at GALLIPOLI and in the World War-II, how the Sikhs did save Dutch and French from Germans, is a glorious part of Indian Army history.**

No better tributes can be paid than that of **Maj. General Fazal Muqeem Khan of Pakistan paid to Sikh Army in his book "Pakistan's Crisis of Leadership"**, which reads as follows:

" ... the main reason of our defeat are Sikhs. We are simply unable to do anything before them despite our best efforts. Sikhs are very brave and they have great craving for martyrdom. They fight so fiercely that they are capable of defeating an army many times bigger than theirs."

" ... Alas a handful of Sikhs converted our great victory into a big defeat and shattered our confidence and courage."

The fourth Battalion of the Sikh Regiment deployed on a UN Mission in Lebanon was awarded with UNIFIL Force Commander's Unit Citation on Sept 5, 2006 for carrying out extraordinary humanitarian operations and saving of hundreds of lives during 34 days long conflict between Israel and Lebanon.

THE HIGHEST DECORATED AND CELEBRATED SOLDIER OF COMMONWEALTH

Jamadar Nand Singh



"The valour, devotion to duty shown by Jamadar Nand Singh the great son of India, cannot be expressed in words and even more difficult to equate anyone with him. It is not a thing of speaking and hearing but of seeing. Those who saw him in action would wish to follow his firm determination and heroism and those who will listen about his heroic deeds will remember him forever. He was an inspiration for his battalion and he is remembered till date."

This is the sort of appreciation of highest order recorded in the service book of Jamadar Nand Singh, a handsome, brave and obedient soldier who has the distinction of being the highest decorated and celebrated soldier of commonwealth countries. He was awarded Victoria Cross, the highest bravery award of British Empire, on 12th March, 1944 for his chivalry and courage shown in the hills of Arakan, during Burma campaign in the World War II. Inspite of being

badly injured six times by bullets and hand grenades, he alone himself killed seven enemy soldiers and captured three trenches one by one. All his company's soldiers were either killed or injured but no power on earth could stop him and he emerged as the bravest person on the earth.

After independence again he stood as rock in the way of enemy on 12 Dec.1947 in Jammu and Kashmir to save the motherland. Around 6000 Pakistani raiders infiltrated into the Uri sector posing a great threat to Indian garrisons and road leading to Srinagar and Poonch. A platoon of 'D' company led by Jamadar Nand Singh attacked the enemy. Jamadar, who belonged to village Bahadurpur Distt. Mansa, with his small detachment charged this large group of Pakistani tribesmen. He captured number of bunkers and his daring assault saved the battalion.

Despite an injured leg Nand Singh killed five enemy soldiers in fierce fighting with his bayonet. But then a burst of fire from a retreating soldier struck Nand Singh on the chest and he attained martyrdom making the Indian victory assured. This time he was awarded MVC (Maha Vir Chakra)-country's second highest wartime bravery award—in 1948 posthumously. A statue of his own has been erected in his memory in Bathinda, at a chowk named 'Fauji Chowk' of a leading road of the city.

THE HIGHEST DECORATED AND CELEBRATED FIGHTER PILOT

Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh DSO, MVC



"AN EXCEPTIONALLY GOOD PILOT" (Former Air Vice Marshal H.M. Grave), "A PILOT OF OUTSTANDING ABILITY" (Asghar Khan, Former Chief of the Air Staff of Pakistan), "ONE OF THE MOST CELEBRATED FIGHTER PILOTS OF WORLD WAR-II AND A PILOT PAR EXCELLENCE AND A DAREDEVIL" (Lt. Gen. Harwant Singh, Retd.), a legend in the sky and saviour of Ladakh and Poonchh ; Field Marshal Slim was whose great admirer, the hero of Royal Indian Force, and one of **the most valorous and daredevil pilots of any air force in the world**, is the name of Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh who was the hope and inspiration of the RIAF in 1940s World War II, who knew no fear when he sat in the cockpit.

For his brave feat in the hills of Arakan on the Burma front against Japanese, he was honoured with the second highest

gallantry award of the British Empire-DSO (Distinguished Service Order) next to Victoria Cross. He was the **FIRST AND THE ONLY DSO** in whole of the RIAF, whereas there were as many as 22 DFCs (Distinguished Flying Cross). Again when the gallantry awards were instituted, MVC (Maha Vir Chakra) was conferred upon him. Again he was also the **FIRST** officer of the IAF to be awarded MVC for the services rendered by him in Jammu and Kashmir in 1947-48.

Being fully adapt in piloting fighters, bombers and multi-engine transport planes, he did wonderful job of rescuing beleaguered American and Australian men, women and children in the Air Force Station of Habbaniyah during 1941 insurgency for which he was highly commended and next year evacuating refugees from Burma and from Pak in 1948. All the feats speak of his valour, courage, professional competence and devotion to duty. In 1942 he received a commendation certificate for his feat in SIND during HUR disturbances. **On May 24, 1948 he set a World Record of landing Dakota aircraft on the world's highest battlefield sans airstrip.**

Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh was the Air Officer Commanding no. 1 group of the RIAF during the 1947-48 Jammu and Kashmir operations. In May 1948 a besieged LEH was desperately in need of reinforcement. To accomplish the mission with Dakota was considered impossible till then. But Baba Mehar Singh gave a surprise not only to the manufacturers of the Dakota but to the world as a whole and set **FIRST** world record on May 24, 1948 when for the first time he landed Dakota aircraft on the world's highest battlefield LEH sans airstrip and made possible an impossible mission. This legendary event in the history of flying world opened the supply route to badly beleaguered garrison there and ultimately **LED TO THE RETENTION OF LEH WITH INDIA; OTHERWISE, IT WOULD HAVE BEEN OCCUPIED BY PAKISTAN.** Baba Mehar's this daring feat of May 24, 1948 finds a mention in the book entitled 'Defence Organisation in India', by Sh. A.C.

Venkateshwaran, Secretary, National Defence College, New Delhi as follows:

"....the most daring was the feat of Group Captain Mehar Singh DSO, IAF who flew over unsheltered mountain ranges without even oxygen and landed his plane at Leh on a dry river bed without even the apology of an airstrip. Never before any plane landed or flown over Leh....". Another press note of the Public Information Bureau of the Defence Wing of the Govt. of India, dated Feb. 1, 1948 reads as under: **"A dare-devil pilot, Mehar Singh, made history, when he pioneered the flights over the Himalayas across unchartered mountainous routes. It will be recalled that he was the first to land at the hurriedly constructed airstrip in the beleaguered town of Poonch and thereafter established the long-drawn airlift operation, thus saving 30,000 refugees."**

"A few months later, without adequate facilities for high altitude flying, he landed on one of the highest airfields in the world at Leh (Ladakh), thus securing the all-important Eastern Flank of the Kashmir Valley." (*Sikh Review*, Sept. 90)

In 1947-48 operations, IAF was short of bombers and in a high powered conference in J & K which included PM Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, Defence Minister S. Baldev Singh and Gen. Russial-the Army Chief, Major Gen. Kulwant Singh and Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh, when the army expressed its inability to sustain the Poonchh garrison unless air force supplied arms, ammunition, fuel and food, on that crucial juncture Baba Mehar innovated a novel idea of arming the Dakota, a supply aircraft. He carried out a bombing cum supply mission in Dakota with great effectiveness, magnificent courage and professional competence par excellence. **What he was doing was 'Sheer Suicide' as termed by Gen. Russial at the conference table,** but Baba Mehar always felt delight in playing with his own life. THIS DANGEROUS COMMITMENT NOT ONLY ENABLED THE ARMY TO SUSTAIN POONCHH BUT

CONTRIBUTED IMMENSELY TO THE ULTIMATE VICTORY OVER PAKISTAN.

Actually, he devised a method of fusing the bombs inside the aircrafts and then rolling them out of Dakota which meant playing with his own life and that of the crew.

For his unique qualities, prowess, acumen, grit and determination, he was given out of turn promotions leaving many of his seniors far behind. He was promoted to the rank of Wing Commandar in Dec. 1944, Group Captain on 1st Jan. 1947 and Air Commodore on 15th Nov. 1947. He was given the command of operational group of RIAF, whose duty was to conduct and control air operations from Kashmir to Kanyakumari and from Kutch to Chuakan in the east. **The untiring Air Commodore had kept the whole situation under his control alongwith General Kulwant Singh during Kashmir operation in 1947-1948.**

MANY LIKED TO COMPARE HIM WITH LORD MONTGOMERY OF WORLD WAR-II fame, in the operational role. But the fact is that while Lord Montgomery was shy of taking risks, Baba accepted the challenges gladly and result proved that his calculations of the situation were always right which paid rich dividends to the country.

His innumerable sorties logging as many as hundred hours a month and risky flying operations with shattered aircrafts are shining pages of any air force of the world.

HIS LEGENDARY FLIGHT TO LEH ON MAY 24, 1948, THEN CONSIDERED IMPOSSIBLE, SAVED LEH FROM GOING TO PAKISTAN. His extra ordinary achievements in the field of aviation world will ever hold a place of highest honour and would keep him immortal forever. The Sikh history did not value him but the Britishers have secured the tale of profound valour, determination great grit and prowess in their books.

When he joined the Royal Air Force College in Cranwell, England he stood first in flying with an impressive

score of 922 marks out of 1000. He won college colours in Hockey, the mile and half mile race. Baba Mehar Singh commissioned in 1936 in the Royal Indian Air Force, died in a tragic flying accident in March 1952. His career was full of hair raising feats of chivalry, which have inspired and would inspire generations of Air Force personnel. As a small tribute to the legendary flyer **his statue titled as "Saviour of Ladakh", has been installed at Leh airport - the country's highest attitude airport, on June 20, 2008.**

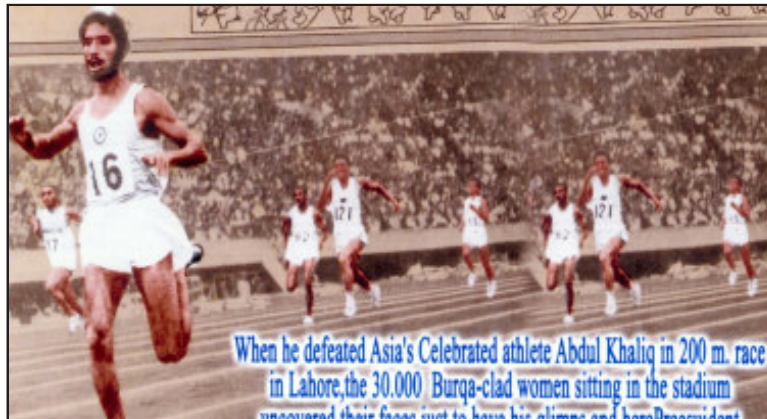
THE HIGHEST DECORATED AND CELEBRATED ATHLETE OF INDIA

Padmashree Milkha Singh



Before wishing to pen on this legend of international sports track, who won four gold medals in two Asian games: a gold in the commonwealth games—the FIRST and the LAST till date; ran 80 races all over the world winning 77—a world record in itself; was awarded the Helms World Trophy in 1959 by USA by virtue of being the best 400-metre runner in the world and broke Olympic record in the 1960 Rome Olympics, I would like to mention here a few lines of S. Harbans Singh Viridi, a notable journalist - historian and an international expert on sports events, from his book "Sikh Olympians and Internationals : **"Milkha Singh can be described as one of the most extraordinary athletes of our times. Milkha Singh was a genius and the genius is never trained.** Without any formal

training, without any financial reward and without any emotional support (he lost his parents during Partition and he had only an elder brother and a sister to look for help). Milkha Singh took on the greatest athletes of his time and proved himself as good if not better. **The burst of speed with which he broke the previous Olympic Games record of 45.9 seconds in 400 metres is now a part of folklore in Punjab.** The fairy tale is repeated as part of Punjabi's rich heritage. Milkha is no less popular than Pele in Brazil and Maradona in Argentina. Generation after generation in India will remember fondly his exploits with which he set the tracks ablaze whenever and wherever he ran..... **Twenty eight years have passed since Milkha hung his spikes yet no athlete has ever gone nearer Milkha's magical timing.** He was a product of that time when no facilities existed, no coach available, no reward offered and no job secured, yet armed only with an iron will and the will to draw his own course, Milkha reversed the movement of the wheels of destiny."



He came to limelight during the national games at Patiala in 1956. But his story of success began in 1957 in Cuttack National games, when he established new records in 200 and 400 metre race. In the third Asian games held in Tokyo

in 1958 he won two GOLD MEDALS in 200 and 400 metre race. After this success **he was acknowledged as one of the TOP SIX athletes in the world.**

Again in 1958 in the British Empire and Commonwealth Games at Cardiff (U.K.) he emerged as the PRINCE OF THE WALES, when he clinched the GOLD in 440 yards race - India's FIRST and LAST GOLD till date, in commonwealth games. The Indian High Commissioner, Vijaylaxmi Pandit, who was among the spectators, came down to congratulate him. Milkha's eyes were full of tears with joy. In the words of Milkha Singh, "Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru was so delighted with my success that he asked me what I wanted. I could have asked for land or money, but in all innocence, all that I requested for was a national holiday to celebrate my victory." Recalling those golden days, Milkha Singh lamented in an interview with the Tribune, "Despite vastly improved facilities and great incentives, no athlete has emulated me at the commonwealth games. **I was the first to do it, and I am still the only one."**

In recognition of his superb performances and achievements in Asian Games and the Commonwealth Games, that caused a stir in the athletic world, he was honoured with prestigious award "Padmashree" by the President of India in 1959. Thus Milkha Singh became the FIRST athlete of India to get this award. In the same year he was declared the BEST RUNNER in the world of the year 1959 and won coveted HELM'S Trophy given by USA and he was the ONLY ASIAN to be selected for participation in the FIRST Earth Run sponsored by UNICEF.

The biggest moment of his life came in the historic 400 metres race in 1960 Rome Olympics when he clocked 45.6 seconds and broke the previous Olympic Games record of 45.9 seconds. It is said, five decades are about to pass, Milkha's record is still unbroken.

Before actually landing in Rome, he kept on winning a number of races one after the other, in Europe enroute to Rome,

like a world conqueror and made many top athletes of the world bite the dust. Therefore, his fame had spread far and wide even before he reached Rome and Rome was eagerly waiting for Milkha Singh, to whom Romans thought a saint due to his long hair and beard, being unknown to a Sikh and Sikhism at that time and suspected how a saint can run so fast.

In the same year (1960), in an International Athletic Meet at Lahore (Pak.) he defeated one of the Asia's finest runner athletes and the best runner that Pakistan had produced, Abdul Khaliq in 200 m. race and delighted 60000 spectators in the stadium. When he breasted the tape, THE 10,000 BURQUA CLAD MUSLIM WOMEN SITTING IN THE STADIUM UNCOVERED THEIR FACE TO HAVE A CLEAR VIEW OF THIS WONDER RUNNER. And here Pakistani President Gen. Ayub Khan, who was present at the stadium in a VIP gallery, said in chaste Punjabi, "*Milkha Toon Dauriya Nahin, Toon Te Udeyan Aain*" (Milkha you did not run but flew) and honoured him with the title of "**Flying Sikh**".

Now the year 1962 came. Milkha Singh took part in the Asian Games held at Jakarta in this year and won two gold medals for the country, and said goodbye to athletics. He unluckily missed a chance to win another commonwealth gold as India did not send a contingent to Perth in view of the war with China. He is saddened by the fact that no Indian athlete has won a commonwealth gold medal after him.

IN 2001 MILKHA SINGH FOUND MENTION IN PARLIAMENT THAT HIS ACHIEVEMENTS AS HIS TRACK RECORDS HAD NOT BEEN BROKEN BY ANY INDIAN IN THE PAST FOUR DECADES. Milkha Singh got the honour to lead the Indian contingent comprising Sunil Gavaskar, Kapil Dev, Prakash Padukone, PT Usha, Michael Ferreira, Ajit Pal Singh, Karam Singh, Rajyavardhan Singh Rathore and Anju Bobby George, for the "India Night" on March 23, 2006 and the closing ceremony of the commonwealth games on March 26 at Melbourne.

S. Milkha Singh married Nirmal, former captain of the Indian Women's Volleyball team and the then Asstt. Director of Sports Deptt. of Punjab, in 1962 and became the FIRST "sports couple" followed by Ajit Pal Singh-Kiran, Paramjit Singh - Ninamol, J. Singh - Neelam, Balwinder Singh Shammi - Sukhjit Kaur.

S. Milkha Singh represented India in three Olympics and ruined the reputation of some of the established stars. His last participation in Olympics was in 1964, which as per S. Milkha Singh has no meaning for him, as he had said goodbye to athletics in 1962. Still standing tall record of 44.9 seconds in the 1960 Rome Olympics 400 m. final, Milkha came a close fourth with 45.60, losing Bronze only by 0.1 second, due to his own mistake of setting a glance in rear to his next athlete. Prior to it he had made 2nd world record in France by finishing 400m. race in 45.8 seconds Indian runners today are a pale shadow of the Flying Sikh who won India's first gold medal in athletics at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, U.K. in 1958. Five decades later, only two of his compatriots, Paramjeet Singh in 1998 and KM Binu in 2004, have dipped under 46. In July 2013 Milkha Singh, an all time great athlete, was honoured by U.K. House of Lords in its special function for his profound achievements in athletic arena. In July 2013 a film '*Bhag Milkha Bhag*' (Run Milkha Run) on his life was released.

In Feb. 2012 in an auction by 'Equation', a charitable institution of Bollywood actor Rahul Bose, the shoes of Milkha Singh wore by him in Rome Olympics, were sold for Rs. 24 lacs while the bat of Sachin for Rs. 11 lacs.

As himself admitted by S. Milkha Singh his SIKH IDENTITY (LONG HAIR AND BEARD) PAID A SIGNIFICANT ROLE in spreading his fame throughout the world. He attracted more crowd and admirers than his other counterparts due to his separate identity, as was in case of Capt. M.S. Kohli, the leader of India's first successful expedition to Mt. Everest. At that time Europeans, esp. Romans were not

aware of Sikhs and Sikhism, and world was fascinated by his appearance. The Romans thought him a saint due to his long hair and beard. Australian Sprint Queen Betty Cuthbert, a good friend of Milkha Singh, was also fascinated by his turban and beard. Thus Milkha Singh's **different headgear and his athletic exploits made him the darling of the crowd in the whole world.**

It is worth mentioning here that in 1970, Doordarshan had made a documentary of eight episodes on the life of this legend on track. In 2014, the feature film “Bhag Milkha Bhag” has got overwhelming response from the public and has won many awards.

For Milkha's selling director Mr Om Parkash Mehra the rights of using his autobiography's content for a token money Re. 1, the director showed his appreciation by sourcing for him a Re. 1 coin minted in 1958, the year he won India's first gold medal in athletics at the Commonwealth Games in Cardiff, U.K.

He also got the mention as one of the greatest Indians of all walks of life in President Barrack Obama's speech in Jan. 2015 when the later visited India.

THE SOLE FREEDOM FIGHTER FROM ANDAMAN AND NICOBAR ISLANDS

Diwan Singh Kalepani



It is said that the beauty of Kashmir inspired Pandit Nehru to write his finest prose and Bhai Vir Singh to write his finest poetry. But the tears of the helpless and condemned prisoners made Dr. Diwan Singh to write prose and poetry both. A godly man with great healing powers Dr. Kalepani built a house of God and named it "New Gurdwara" which became a rallying point for all Hindus, Muslims, Buddhists and Sikhs in the islands. Dr. Diwan Singh transformed himself into a mobile doctor available to all at all times and his house into a mini-hospital where the poor were given free treatment and food.

He came to Andaman and Nicobar in 1925 from Rangoon. On 19th March, 1942 the Japanese invaded the islands. First the Japanese needed Dr. Singh to consolidate their position and they appointed him Director, Medical Services with additional charge of Public Relations. But he came in frontal clash with the Japanese when they collected Indian girls

and women to supply to their 30,000 thousand soldiers as comfort girls. He condemned the act with full vigour, with the result, he was arrested on Oct. 23, 1943 and tortured to death. He was subjected to inhuman tortures in his solitary cell of cellular jail. Diwan Singh was suspended from the ceiling of his cell by his hair and mercilessly beaten. His hands and feet were tied and various parts of his body burnt. Pins and needles were thrust into his nails and toes. Electric shocks were administered to his body. His eye balls were gouged. This reminds us of Sikh martyrs of 18th and 19th century.

A crusader of freedom who played a significant role in India's freedom struggle during the Japanese occupation of the islands and Masiha of helpless young daughters of India passed away on the deadly night of Jan. 14, 1944. General T.S. Oberoi the former Lt. Governor of the islands, in his despatch dated 16 June, 1987 and K.R. Ganesh (c) former MP from the islands, during a debate in the Lok Sabha in Sept. 1969 on the question of renaming the islands, spoke about the supreme sacrifice and inhuman tortures Dr. Diwan Singh Kalepani was subjected to for the cause of freedom of the country and standing by helpless daughters of India.

On August 28, 1987 the Govt. of India acknowledged the supreme sacrifice of the brave son of Mother India for the freedom of the country and **declared Dr. Kalepani, a selfless humanitarian**, the ONLY FREEDOM FIGHTER from islands. Dr. Diwan Singh who became a legend in his life time and is legendary figure in this island even today. (Courtesy : Excerpts from an article by S. Mohinder Singh Gill in *Hindustan Times* on Jan. 21, 1990).

During the BJP regime, BJP Govt. gave due respect to their hero Veer Sarvarkar by renaming Cellular jail Portblair, after his name. Shall the ungrateful Sikh leaders concentrate on the issue to erect a memorial in cellular jail, Port Blair of Dr. Diwan Singh Kalepani, **whose sacrifice was many times bigger than that of Veer Sarvarkar, who allegedly managed**

his release from the jail by apologizing? Shall the Sikhs pressurise Govt. of India to rename the island after the name of Dr. Kalepani.

Many times in the history Sikhs made supreme sacrifice and rescued young helpless daughters of India from the clutches of Abdali and Mughal rulers of India. Again a Sikh Dr. Diwan Singh Kalepani made a supreme sacrifice for the cause of young helpless daughters of India, in the latest history.

**FOUNDER AND CREATOR OF AZAD HIND FAUZ
(I.N.A.)
General Mohan Singh**



We generally confuse in identifying the founder of I.N.A. (Indian National Army). It was General Mohan Singh. He was captain of 1/14 Punjab Regiment of Indian Army when at the time of World War-II, he along with his regiment was sent to Malaya for the defence of British kingdom. When Malaya was captured by Japan then Capt. Mohan Singh with consultations of Japanese Army commanders made a planning to form I.N.A. to liberate our country from Britishers. Consequently INA was formed in June 1942. The Indians from Japan, Malaya, Thailand, Philippines and Indonesia, 60% of which were Sikh youths, joined the army. Netaji appeared on the scene of INA in July 1943. The primary reason of Netaji's risky submarine voyage from Germany to South-East Asia at the height of World War-II, was the news of the birth of INA. As per Lt. Gen. Iwaichi Fujiwara the heroic attempt of General Mohan Singh on the Malayan front and the great achievements

of Netaji, who took over after him as Chief of the INA, were greatly responsible for awakening and arousing the peoples of the entire South-East Asia to a regional and oriental consciousness. INA has the immortal name in the history of Indian freedom movement. **Once Netaji said to Lt. Gen. Iwaichi Fujiwara about Capt. Mohan Singh " I prize his meritorious deed most highly. India is grateful to him to what he has done for the country."** He was also founder of All India Forward Block & twice had been the member of Rajya Sabha. No doubt that Subhash Chandra Bose was a great leader, but should we forget the person who initiated the idea of INA? Mohan Singh was a man of great statemanship.

AN ENGINEER TO SHAPE THE BOUNDARIES OF INDIA IN THE EAST

Sardar Bahadur S. Karnail Singh



Sardar Bahadur S. Karnail Singh created history and shaped political boundaries of the country in the east after partition, **when he accomplished 250 km. Assam Rail link (A dream of Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru) connecting West Bengal with Assam**, in a record time of less than three years, which was otherwise thought next to impossible by senior British engineers due to indispensable requirement of bridging more than half a dozen major West Bengal dashing rivers rushing from the Himalayas with big rocks. Nothing sort of this feat was ever heard about any other bridge engineer.

After partition, India lost its link with Assam due to separation of East Bengal. It was most essential to have rail links with Assam to keep its integration intact with the country. S. Karnail Singh did miracle which belied the then prevailing impression amongst senior British engineers that such a line could not be constructed at all, due to uncontrollable rivers

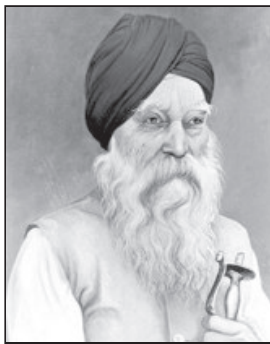
flowing from Himalayas to West Bengal. **Had it not been for him, it would have been difficult to keep assam intact with india.**

A bridge engineer par excellence, S. Karnail Singh, born in 1904 in Amritsar distt., linked remote parts of the country for the Indian Railways. An alumni of Khalsa College, Amritsar and Thomson Engineering College, Roorkee, he joined N.W.Railways (now in Pakistan) in 1928 and **Rose to the posts of chairman of the railway board in 1960 and principal secretary to govt. of india, before his retirement in 1962.**

Titled "Sardar Bahadur" in 1946, when he was with the N.W. Railways, he took the important job of surveys, construction of major bridges and **reconstruction of Quetta after the 1935 earthquake.** During this period he built new Railway lines including Hindubagh -- fort Sandeman in Baluchistan and fort Abbas-Hotwala in Bahawalpur. Later he also built Ropar Talwara Railway to serve the Bhakra Nangal Project.

A MASTER TO SHAPE THE BOUNDARIES OF INDIA IN 1947

Master Tara Singh



Master Tara Singh not only got integrated into India half of Punjab (Now Punjab, Haryana and Himachal Pradesh) but he was also mastermind behind the integration of half of Bengal which was also a Muslim majority province, into India. The Hindu leaders of Bengal, Mr. N.C. Chatterjee (a noted lawyer of the country at his time) and Shyama Prasad Mukherjee mooted the demand of partition of Bengal at the behest of Master Tara Singh to save a bit of it for India, and succeeded in their mission with his help. **Thus Master Ji shaped the boundaries of India in 1947 and became the tallest of all the national leaders** who allegedly for the hunger of power wanted to get rid of Britishers at the cost whatever it may be. This sort of leader – Master Tara Singh – did not get due recognition from the country and had to meet with the fate destined for a member of minority community perhaps all over the world. **Due to his feat, Mr. Jinnah had said that Master Tara Singh**

made his Pakistan Lame. The Muslims took revenge of this by burning down his house in Pakistan and hacking to death 59 of his relatives.

Here I would like to substantiate my above statement with the statement of Prithipal Singh Kapoor, Former Pro VC, Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar from *The Tribune* July 6, 2008, "**Historians have given their estimates about Master Tara Singh. They agree that it was due to his politics that the British had to partition Punjab, Bengal and Assam, which left a truncated Pakistan for Mohd. Ali Jinnah.** This was no mean achievement, particularly in the face of incessant efforts of Britishers at all levels to persuade the Sikh leaders collectively and severally to align with Pakistan."

A former professor and chairman, Deptt. of History, H.P., University, Shimla, Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia also writes in an article, 'Punjab: The Sikhs' Precious Gift to India' (*Sikh Review*, April, 2008), "In the long and historic struggle for independence, **the best gift the Sikhs gave to India was to save the Eastern half of Punjab** and make it the granary of India at an incalculable loss not only in terms of territory but our most precious heritage, the shrines that mark the landscape up to the Khyber Pass and beyond."

He was born on June 24, 1885 in a Hindu Malhotra family in village Haryal, Rawalpindi and embraced Sikhism at the age 14 and rose to be the tallest leader of the Sikhs who ruled the community over 40 years and whose one announcement would shake rulers in London and Delhi. During this period the politics of whole Punjab revolved around him. **He was a king maker**, S. Partap Singh Kairon (once his personal secretary), S. Baldev Singh (the First Defence Minister of India), S. Swaran Singh (Late Foreign Minister), S. Hukum Singh (Late Speaker of Lok Sabha), S. Buta Singh, (Former Union Minister) etc. were all his creation.

The historians shall remain divided over the issues whether Britishers had in mind some sort of Khalistan to offer

the Sikhs, and whether Mr. Jinnah had offered Sikhs some sort of autonomous state within Pakistan and that the demand of Punjabi Suba mooted by Master Tara Singh as an alternative of the betrayal of the Sikhs by the Hindu leaders, how far could benefit to Sikhs; but the decision of Master Tara Singh, to urge the Sikhs to join British forces and fight in favour of Britishers in the World War-II, paid in the long run not only to the Sikhs but the whole of India.

For deft and successful handling of Akali Morchas against British Govt., Master Tara Singh received a lot of praise from the national leaders like Mahatma Gandhi, Pt. Nehru and Moti Lal Nehru, who many times sought the help of Master ji and Akali Dal to run their shows successfully at many places like Chandani Chowk-Delhi, Bombay, Nagpur etc., whenever British govt. decided to deal with the Congress with the firm hands and used force. In a telegram to Master ji and S. Kharak Singh in 1921 after keys morcha, Mahatma Gandhi sought their help to free Big Gurudwara (India). These leaders always praised Sikhs for their bravery and determination and felt proud in joining hands with the Akali Dal.

The nation finally saluted Master Tara Singh, one of the greatest freedom fighters and one of the greatest sons of India, **by adorning his portrait in the central hall of Parliament on March 21, 2003. But it is certain that Sikhs have forgotten their great leader.** Neither a statue has so far been erected in Amritsar nor any significant memorial has been made in his memory nor a prominent place like new Bus Terminal of Amritsar has been named after him.

THE MOST SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN MINISTER INDIA HAD SO FAR

Sardar Swaran Singh



A statesman, jurist and administrator S. Swaran Singh is known for professional competence and deft handling of every portfolio assigned to him from Works and Housing to Food and Agriculture; Industries and Supplies to Railways; Mines and Steel to Defence. In short he adorned all ministerial positions in the Central Government except Home and Finance. But till date he is best remembered as the **MOST SUCCESSFUL FOREIGN MINISTER** of India in which capacity he rose to the status of a **Master Negotiator** for India on bilateral and multi-lateral forums. Former Pakistan Prime Minister Late Z.A. Bhutto had a lot of praise for him during Shimla Agreement. His speech in the UNO is even today quoted as an example. **India's diplomatic victory over Pakistan** in Bandung summit (Jakarta) in 1955, under his shrewd leadership, was a notable and glorious event of India's diplomatic history. **Swaran Singh - Feroze Khan Noon agreement** on the borders of India and

Pakistan made memorable his tenure as Foreign Minister for the Indian subcontinent. **He was the architect of the Tashkent agreement, the Shimla Agreement and the Indus Water Treaty with Pakistan.** Indus Water Treaty resulted in a large share of Ravi waters to India. To turn the world opinion in favour of India on the issue of Bangladesh, was one of his great achievements.

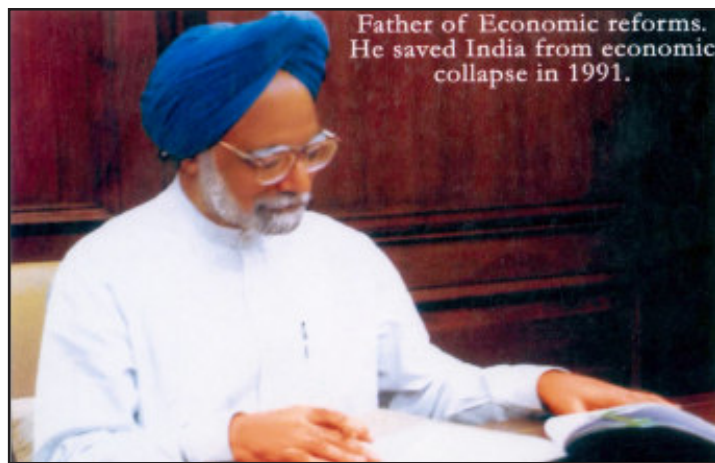
An Akali turned Congressman and a former minister on Akali quota in undivided Punjab before partition, S. Swaran Singh was the second Congress leader after Indira Gandhi, who worked with Pandit Jawahar Lal Nehru and Lal Bahadur Shastri and after that even with Indira Gandhi, **thus making a record of having longest cabinet experience of 23 years from 1952 to 1975.** He was the most durable member of the cabinet and this was because of his vast diplomatic and administrative experience and prowess in handling the affairs. **His wit and memory were remarkably sharp.** On one occasion the Indian team visiting Pakistan for negotiations on Indus Waters found itself in dilemma as the Prime Minister's office misplaced the file on the subject.

S. Swaran Singh represented India's case by recalling every paragraph of the file from memory, since he had already gone through the pages.

After his retirement from politics too he was most sought after **politician whom Indira Gandhi had to consult on many national and international issues.** He was born on Aug.19, 1907 and died on Oct. 30, 1994 in New Delhi. As a tribute to this great statesman of India, his portrait was unveiled in the central hall of parliament by Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh on Dec. 22, 2008.

THE WISEST AMONG WORLD LEADERS

Dr. Manmohan Singh



A former Chief Economic Advisor to PM, Secretary to Ministry of Finance, Governor of Reserve Bank, Deputy Chairman of Planning Commission, Chairman of University Grants Commission, Secretary General and Commissioner of South Commission in Geneva (1987-90), Economic Advisor to the Ministry of Foreign Trade, Governor at the Asian Development Bank and IMF and former Finance Minister (1991-96); a professor, a UN consultant, a world class economist, a topper in every class from school to college in Oxford and Cambridge; recipient of Wright's prize by Saint John's College in Cambridge for two successive sessions (1956 and 57 for distinguished performance), winner of prestigious Adam Smith prize by university in 1956 (Amartya Sen won in 1954), recipient of prestigious Wrenbury scholarship and role

of honour by prestigious Hindu Sabha College Amritsar for three successive sessions from 1950-51 to 1952-53 (also first recipient of role of honour of the college) ; the First Non-Hindu and First technocrat Prime Minister of India. Dr. Manmohan Singh, the architect of Indian economy and Nuke-deal is certainly the most educated, most celebrated, most qualified, and most decorated PM of India; and a most honest, a spotless politician who really wish India to take to its zenith, unlike other politicians of India who see their party's interest first.

The Tribune once in its editorial paid tributes to Dr. Singh in the words, **the nation is privileged to have a person of dr. singh's eminence and integrity at the helm.** In 1993 he was honoured with Erumoney magazine award for his feat of saving India from economic collapse in 1991 and was declared the BEST FINANCE MINISTER OF 1993 IN THE WORLD, and ONE OF THE BEST FINANCE MINISTERS OF THE WORLD.

The years (1991-96) as Finance Minister of India have been the most memorable years of his life. In 1991 India was teetering on the edge of bankruptcy with reserves only for a few days with no hope of foreign aid. Keeping in view the facts that **India did not have a match of Dr. Singh as an economist and he is the only Indian leader whom world community trusts most,** P.V Narsimha Rao, the then P.M. of India invited Dr. Singh to take the reigns of Indian economy in his hands. Dr. Singh, who at that time was preparing for an important assignment with the World Bank, kicked the prestigious job of World Bank and decided to serve the country. From moment he took oath of the office, foreign aid started pouring in and simultaneously on 24.7.1991 he presented the new industrial policy in the parliament paving way for the economic reforms in India and came to be known as THE FATHER OF ECONOMIC REFORMS IN INDIA. Thus HE SAVED INDIA FROM ECONOMIC COLLAPSE in 1991. The reforms were the momentous in the Indian History. For his this feat he certainly deserves BHARAT RATNA which is still awaited.

First in 1996, and second time in Dec. 2005 in a meeting of ASIAN countries he was declared the MOST ABLE AND

THE MOST HONEST HEAD OF A STATE IN THE WORLD. He is the FIRST and LAST till date to get this award. In this meeting of ASIANS it was opined that Dr. Singh had adorned such a wide range of posts to such a large number that HIS NAME SHOULD BE ENTERED IN THE GUINNESS BOOK OF WORLD RECORDS. In another survey again in May 2006, conducted by ASSOCHAM. The Associated Chambers of Commerce and Industry in which 250 CEOs took part, the govt., headed by Dr. Singh, ASSOCHAM was declared passed in FIRST DIVISION. Again in Dec. 2006 declared performance of his govt. as EXCELLENT and Dr. Singh was given 85% marks. In this month, he also received honorary Science degree from Prof. M.G.K. Menon, President of the Indian Statistical Institute, Calcutta.

Dr. Manmohan Singh is ONE OF THE TEN DIGNITARIES who have got honorary degree in Art, Political Science and Administration from Oxford University. In Nov. 2007 St. John's College of Cambridge University announced scholarships in the name of P.M. Dr. Manmohan Singh, a famous and eminent alumni of the college. Mr Stephen Teal, development director of St. John's College said, "THIS



Dr. Manmohan Singh and George W. Bush.

The Architects of Indo-US Civillion Nuke-Deal. The deal ended India's 34 years' of isolation and enabled it to stand with the big nations.

SCHEME HAS BEEN NAMED AFTER ONE OF OUR MOST NOTABLE ALUMNI - AND WE ARE PROUD OF OUR ASSOCIATION WITH DR. SINGH AND WHAT HE HAS DONE FOR INDIA."

In Jan 2005, the Canadian P.M. Paul Martin declared Dr. Singh "ONE OF THE GREAT FINANCE MINISTERS OF THE WORLD", KEEPING IN VIEW HIS FABULOUS CONTRIBUTION TO RESCUE INDIAN ECONOMY FROM CRISIS, in 1990s. At that time Mr. Paul was Canadian counterpart of Dr. Singh. In Feb. 2007, he was chosen the "CNN-IBN INDIAN OF THE YEAR 2006", for his all-round performance. He was also declared the "BEST POLITICIAN" of the year 2006. The awards were initiated in partnership with *The Hindustan Times*.

In July 2005, Dr. Singh was ONE OF THE FIVE NOMINEES SELECTED FOR CHATHAM HOUSE PRIZE, a new distinguished international award, and a British equivalent of the Nobel Peace Prize, which goes to an individual who has made the most significant contribution to improve international relations in the previous year. Chatham House which is also known as the Royal Institute of International Affairs, is a premier international think tank on strategic affairs. The citation for Dr. Singh says: "THE PRIME MINISTER OF INDIA IS BEST KNOWN FOR HIS FORWARD LOOKING APPROACH THAT TURNED AROUND INDIA'S ECONOMY WHEN HE WAS FINANCE MINISTER. HE IS NOW APPLYING THE SAME PRINCIPLES TO INDIA'S FOREIGN POLICY."

S. Khushwant Singh - world famous journalist and writer - on the eve of releasing ceremony of his book "The illustrated history of the Sikhs", in Jan. 2006, said, "Prime Minister Manmohan Singh has a combination of four very vital qualities - academic brilliance, experience, honesty and humility". Mr. Rajiv Shukla, a Rajya Sabha Member and a notable columnist writes in his article on 13-10-2007, "SOME MAY AGREE, SOME MAY NOT, BUT IT IS FACT THAT AS AND WHEN

DR. MANMOHAN SINGH FINDS A PLACE IN THE GOVT., THE INTERNATIONAL COMMUNITY AND CORPORATE SECTOR OF INDIA DISPLAY TREMENDOUS CONFIDENCE IN INDIAN ECONOMY." An emeritus professor of Economics and former Vice Chancellor of Punjabi University, H.K. Manmohan Singh writes on May 26, 2004 in his article, "Dr. Manmohan Singh is REMEMBERED FOR TURNING INDIA AWAY FROM THE PATH THAT LED IT NOWHERE " "with Dr. Manmohan Singh at the helm, the country has the best chance to go ahead with the process of economic reconciliation. He has a wide-ranging acceptability, which cuts across the partylines. He has a clear vision of the kind of global economy that is emerging" "I CONSIDER HIM BOTH A MAN OF THE MOMENT AND A MAN OF HISTORY". "Dr. Manmohan Singh's academic attainments are of exceptionally high order" "Mrs. Sonia Gandhi's choice of a highly capable and respected economist to head the government seems to have been prompted by thoughts similar to those of President Narayanan."

When Dr. Manmohan Singh took oath as P.M. of India the newspapers in the U.S.A., U.K. and Pakistan showered shouts of applause on him. The *New York Times* described him as, "The gentlemanly Oxford-educated economist who SAVED INDIA FROM ECONOMIC COLLAPSE in 1991 and began the liberalization of its economy." ... "IN MANY WAYS, MR. SINGH, THE ARCHITECT OF RESTRUCTURING OF INDIAN ECONOMY AFTER FOUR DECADES OF QUASI-SOCIALISM IS AN APT CHOICE TO LEAD NOW." ... "Mrs. Sonia Gandhi, raised a Roman Catholic, is making way for a Sikh Prime Minister who will be sworn in by Muslim President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam. "The *Guardian* highlighted, "a practicing Sikh, Mr. Singh will become India's MOST SCHOLARLY leader ... " *The Telegraph*, London wrote, "India's FIRST non-Hindu P.M ... " "Mr. (Manmohan) Singh, a scholarly figure who studied at both Oxford and Cambridge, has a

reputation as a BRILLIANT TECHNOCRAT."

Referring to Dr. Manmohan Singh's second speech made from the ramparts of the Red Fort on the Independence Day, that "there comes time in the history of a nation when it can be said that the time has come to make history. We are today at the threshold of such an era," and that, "The world wants us to do well and and take a righteous step on the world stage. There are no external constraints on our development. If there are hurdles, they are internal, we must seize this moment and grab this opportunity," Mr. K. Subrahmanyam, an expert on Atomic and defence matters made comments, "Dr. Manmohan Singh made a historic declaration which has not attracted adequate attention either in the domestic or foreign media." ... **"NO PRIME MINISTER, in the LAST 56 years has made such a statement with such optimism."** Really the tremendous self-confidence which was displayed in his speech was never seen in any Prime Minister's speech in the last 56 years. Not only this, the credit of nation's MOST DARING FOREIGN POLICY INITIATIVE SINCE INDEPENDENCE, **the Indo-US nuclear deal, also goes to Dr. Singh.**

Dr. Singh's Press Conference of 2005 is remembered "FOR HIS REMARKABLE WIT AND SPONTANEITY, strong defensive posture on non-political questions and cool response to a host of provocative questions" (*The Tribune*, Feb. 1, 2006). In this 90-minute press conference at Vigyan Bhawan nearly 55 questions were raised and at the end of the conference, MEDIA PERSONS COMPLEMENTED HIM ON HIS BRILLIANT HANDLING OF QUESTIONS.

VIR SANGHVI, the Editor of the *Hindustan Times*, New Delhi and a notable journalist while comparing Dr. Manmohan Singh, whom he says sage-like figure with Atal Behari Vajpayee, writes, "Compared to Vajpayee, he has one advantage; HE IS FAR SHARPER ON POLICY MATTERS THAN THE RELATIVELY INEXPERIENCED VAJPAYEE But he also has one disadvantage. Beneath his innocent exterior is a very

innocent interior. As much as he has learned to cope with politics and politicians, he is still an essentially innocent man. VAJPAYEE ON THE OTHER HAND, WAS A CONSUMMATE POLITICIAN WHOSE EVERY MOVE WAS PLANNED WITH BRAHAMINICAL CUNNING. (*Sikh Review*, July 2004)

Dr. Amartya Sen, a Noble Laureate and World famous economist writes in Times Magazine, "CAN AN ASTUTE ECONOMIST, a famous professor and a superb civil servant also be an outstanding Prime Minister? Can someone without a populist political base be secure as the head of a democratic government? Can a country in which more than 80% of the people are Hindus be comfortable with a blue-turbaned Sikh Prime Minister in addition to a Muslim President and a Christian leader of the ruling party? If the answer to those questions is yes (as seems plausible enough), that says something not only about the nature of India but also Manmohan Singh's deep humanity and breadth of vision, which inspire widespread confidence. (*Sikh Review*, June 2005)

Times Magazine ranked Dr. Singh among top ten leaders of the World. In an opinion poll conducted by C fore for the Hindustan Times (*Hindustan.Times*, 22-8-07), **78% of people declared that P.M. Dr. Singh is certainly more patriot than any other leader of the country.** In a public opinion poll conducted by SAMAY T.V channel on 10-05-2008, 88% people polled in favour of Indo-US nuclear deal. In another poll opinion conducted by NDTV on 22-05-2008, 75.5% declared Dr. Singh "a good PM" and 74.8% an 'honest PM'. Some 70% said they are proud of Dr. Singh being PM. **To another question of the poll regarding BEST PM, Dr. Singh got 27.1 % votes whereas A.B. Vajpayee 21.5 % and L.K. Advani 9.8%.** By running a coalition govt. successfully for a full term, he broke the myth that A.B. Vajpayee is the only champion of the field.

Dr. Manmohan Singh is a genius. He is a gem of Indian politics and an architect who shaped Indian economy. But it is the country where Phoolan Devi got elected and Dr. Singh

lost; and where political parties always prefer the interest of the party than that of the country and also do not rise above the considerations of caste and religion and have double standards always. It is the wit and personality of **Dr. Singh which overcame the super boss of the world, the American President George Bush and got the India-US civilian nuclear deal signed which is life line of future India, in nations favour on double concessions than those of China.** It got appreciation and support from all quarters and nations top scientists, experts, diplomats, strategic analysts and intelligentsia – some important of them are ... Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam, the former President of India and a great scientist: Brajesh Misra the Country's National Security Advisor in NDA's regime and key aide of Atal Bihari Vajpayee; Dr. M.R. Srinivasan and Dr. Anil Kakodkar, former and present president of Atomic Energy Commission respectively, Dr. K. Subramaniam, an expert on defence and atomic affairs, Dr. Ravni Thakur, Hon. Director of Euro Asia Institute; Mr. Ronen Sen, Indian ambassador in USA; Vir Sanghvi, Editor, The Hindustan Times; Dr. C. Udaibhaskar, an another expert on defence and atomic affairs. All these intelligentsia warned the BJP about the dangers and hurdles coming in the way of the country in future and that their opposition to the Indo-US nuke deal which is imperative for India's existence and without which India cannot progress, amounts to be the unpatriotic act. **But the BJP and left motivated from their selfish motives, are not doing the justice to the nation and the country though they boast and pretend to be the sole patriotic.** A poet beautifully said that there is no use of selling mirrors in the city of blinds.

But on 22nd July 2008, in parliament during the confidence motion on the nuke-deal, P.M. Dr. Manmohan Singh who razed to the dust the reputation of the opposition leader L.K. Advani, who always humiliated the P.M. by using sub-standard language for him and left, emerged as winner and strongest political leader after Sonia Gandhi, in the country.

In the last week of September 2008 during a tour of USA– Europe in connection with India-European Union top summit, Dr. Manmohan Singh, the highly acclaimed economist, was most sought after, on the issue of severe financial crisis which had gripped the world, by every world leader including US President George Bush. And Dr. Singh and US President, two leaders who understood each other and trusted each other, displayed such a personal chemistry which is rarely seen at summit level meeting. As per our Foreign Minister S.S. Menon, Bush said to Dr. Singh, "I thank you for coming to Washington from New York I appreciate your friendship and I appreciate your leadership. Mr Prime Minister, once again it's my honour to welcome you back to the Oval Office. And it will be my honour to share a meal with you tonight."

IT WAS THE HIGHEST REGARD EVER SHOWN BY THE HEAD OF THE SUPER POWER FOR A HEAD OF THE OTHER STATE.

Again on June 28, 2010, on the eve of G-20 summit, US President Barrack Obama rated him as an extraordinary world leader and said, "**When the Prime Minister speaks, people listen, particularly because of his deep knowledge of economic issues.**" Obama further said, "...I continue to believe that the extraordinary leadership that Prime Minister has provided not just to India, but to the world, had helped us navigate through some very difficult times." **It is the first time that a PM of India has been recognised and accepted as a leader of the whole world.**

In May 2011, a statement came from a former American NSA General James Jons that the world including America is fortunate enough that Dr. Manmohan Singh is the PM of India who, inspite of provocation at the border from Pakistan , did not get provoked. But he won't tolerate another attack like Mumbai.

On 28.9.13 after a meeting between Manmohan Singh and Barrack Obama at Oval in US, the US President walked

down to the White House to see off PM Manmohan Singh. Those familiar with protocol observed they had not seen such a gesture in the recent past.

In a poll conducted by Research Organisation C FORE among CEO's and senior corporate executives in six' metros on January 15 and 16, 2009, Dr. Manmohan Singh emerged as their first choice for Prime Minister followed by L.K. Advani, Rahul Gandhi and Narinder Modi respectively. Again in two surveys on the choice of the PM in April, 2009 one by Hindustan Times - C fore and the other by Central India New Service, Dr. Singh got 13% and 41 % votes respectively whereas Advani got 7% and 14% votes respectively.

In the G-20 meet in London in the first week of April 2009, Dr. Singh has been ranked at the top on the basis of performance by securing 4/5 marks whereas US President Obama and French President Nicholas Surkozy both got 3/5 marks.

He tops Newsweek Magazine's list of 10 world leaders who has won respect. In its article titled "The leader other leaders love", the magazine said the economist turned - politician, engineered the transition **"from stagnant socialism to a spectacular take off in the global economy"**. It also quoted former international Atomic Energy Agency director general and Egyptian Presidential Challenges Mohammed Eibardei as saying that **"the soft spoken Singh is the model of what a political leader should be."** (*Hindustan Times Dt. 19-8-2010*)

In 2014 he has been conferred two prestigious international awards; one in November from Japanese emperor. ***The Grand Cordon of the order of the Paulownia Flowers***, one of the top Japanese national awards for his contribution in strengthening Indo-Japan friendship and; second in December, ***The 2nd Asia Cosmopolitan Award*** by Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia (ERIA), an economic think-tank at a ceremony in Nara, Japan.

THE BEST OXFORD ECONOMIST OF HIS GENERATION

Dr. Montek Singh Ahluwalia



A Rhodes scholar at Oxford University, an eminent economist of the world level and a man of very high professional competence, Dr. M.S. Ahluwalia, on June 16, 2004 has been appointed Deputy Chairperson of Planning Commission in the rank of a cabinet minister by Dr. Manmohan Singh. He was a key member of the original think tank and Finance Secretary of India between 1991-1996, when Dr. Manmohan Singh as Finance Minister of India ushered in economic reforms. Earlier, he adorned the posts of Joint Secretary in Rajiv Gandhi's PMO, Commerce Secretary, Special Secretary to the PM, Economic Advisor of Ministry of Finance and Economic Affairs Secretary. In April 2001, when he was a member of Yojna Bhavan and of the Economic Advisory Council to the P.M., he got an assignment in IMF as its FIRST Independent Evaluator. Prior to this also he fulfilled many assignments with the World Bank as an economist for 11 years

from 1968 to 1979 and returned to India in 1979 as Financial Advisor to the Ministry of Finance, Govt. of India.

When he was Joint Secretary in the PMO, handling economic affairs during Rajiv Gandhi's regime, the seeds of economic reforms were actually sown at that time. Like Dr. Manmohan Singh, Dr. Ahluwalia an economic wizard is also among the few examples who rose to the top position in the bureaucratic hierarchy even though he does not belong to IAS cadre. His field has been economics and he has made a mark as an economist not only in India but in the whole world. His achievements in the field of economics were also recognized by the Khalsa Panth and he was decorated with the order of Nishan-e-Khalsa on the occasion of tri-centenary celebrations.

He has a Peshawari style of tying turban i.e. top fold goes to the left instead of usual right to left, which has become his symbol. A former president of Oxford Union Mr. Ahluwalia is remembered as BEST OXFORD ECONOMIST of his generation. His wife Isher Kaur Judge is also a top class economist. A former director and chief executive of Indian Council for Research in International Economic Relations is a visiting professor at Maryland School of Public Affairs. She was appointed a member of Punjab Planning Commission in 2005.

A Rhodes research scholar who did his M.A. and M.Phil. from Oxford University, the University, keeping in view his unique contribution made in the field of economics in the whole world, has honoured him with the degree of 'Doctor of Civil Law' on June 8, 2008. **He is one of the two Indian leaders (one Dr. Manmohan Singh) whom the world organizations trust most.** In November 2008, he has been conferred the coveted 'Sikh of the year' award for his contribution to the growth of Indian economy by Viscount Slim, a pro-India cross-bench peer, at a dinner organized by Sikh Forum International.

THE LEGENDARY HERO OF 1965 WAR
Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh VC, PVSM, PB, PV



Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then PM of India, in a welcome reception arranged by Delhi Gurdwara Prabandak Committee, who presented his robe of honour, given by D.G.P.C. to Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh said, **“India needs many a man like Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh who have displayed leadership of the highest order.”**

A man of destiny, and pride of a grateful nation and the bravest of the heroes Lt. Gen. Harbakhsh Singh under whose direction the 1965 war was fought and members of his exalted team viz. Lt. Gen. Joginder Singh Dhillon, Maj. Gen. Rajinder Singh, Maj. Gen. Gurbaksh Singh, Maj. Gen. Amrik Singh and Maj. Gen. Mohinder Singh and Sikh soldiers did a

miracle by bringing unexpected victory in 1965 war, against superiority of weapons and equipments of the enemy, and alleged depressing cowardliness of some of our on GOCs / Generals and many odds and mess at home. This war took the Sikhs at new height.

It is alleged that GOC, Maj. Gen. Niranjan Pd. and reserved Brigade Commander Pathak were found hiding in a sugarcane field by Gen. Harbaksh Singh during the war. The Jonga and briefcase of Gen. Prasad bearing papers and his diary captured by the enemy ultimately became the objects of our mockery on Lahore T.V. and markets of the city. It is also alleged that GOC 15 division had withdrawn his leading Brigade, out of fear, to Gosal Dial, 7 miles behind the Ichhogil Canal without orders. Gen. Harbaksh Singh had to scold the GOC for this. It is further alleged that without any risk posed to our aeroplanes, the Air Force Authorities, out of fear, withdrew their fighters from the forward airfields at Pathankot, Adampur and Halwara. Likewise, 13 Dogras allegedly left the position allotted to them without any enemy pressure. GOC-J corps also made mess in handling his forces as alleged. So Chawinda could not be captured and Gen. Harbaksh Singh had to take GOCI corps to task. And at last were the orders of apparently afraid and nervous Army Chief Gen. Chaudhary to Gen. Harbaksh Singh to pull back the army to the line of the river Beas. Had these orders been implemented by Gen. Harbaksh Singh like an obedient soldier, it would have resulted not only in plunder and rape of our motherland, but in losing a slice (Amritsar, Tarn Taran, Ferozepur, Pathankot and J & K) of our country to Pakistan. A HINDI DAILY "AMAR UJALA" REPORTED IN ITS EDITION DATED 19, SEPT. 2000, "GENERAL CHAUDHARY KI CHALTI TO ADHA PUNJAB NIKAL GAYA HOTA". Gen. Singh refused to obey the orders by saying that since it was a tactical order, he (Gen. Chaudhary) must come to the front for its implementation. But that day never came. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) B.M. Kaul was highly critical of

Gen. Chaudhary's orders and praised a lot Gen. Harbaksh Singh, Gen. J.S.Dhillon and Chief of I.A.F. Marshal Arjun Singh for saving the country in adverse circumstances, in his book "The Untold Story".

The Sikh Review writes in its edition Dec. 2003, " Against orders from Delhi to withdraw from Khem Karan sector, when Pakistan made advances there with its armed division of Patton tanks. **According to Maj. Gen. D.K. Palit, had Gen. Harbaksh Singh carried out the orders, half of the Punjab would have been under Pakistani occupation. Military account of the 1965 war is incomplete without a tribute to Harbaksh Singh on this courageous decision**". I. Ramamohan Rao writes, with reference to YB. Chavan's diary, in his article "How India won the '65 war' (*The Tribune*, June 17, 2007) that **"Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh opposed it (to pull back to the river Beas) and the proposal was dropped after heated exchanges"**, Chavan mentions.

S. Patwant Singh, a distinguished writer, writes in his article, "How 1965 Indo-Pak war was won", (*Sikh Review*, Sept. 2001) **"Nothing could be farther from the truth. It was Chaudhary who gave Harbaksh the advice to pull back to South of the river Beas.** Harbaksh Singh "was aghast at this suggestion and told him (the Army Chief) that since this was technical order. ... he would have to come to the front with me, and only then I would decide whether I would carry it out or not." But upto the end, the orders were never given. Pakistan's armour was routed, and India won the war.' S. Patwant Singh further says "An appropriate postscript to this would be the following paragraph from my book, of **Dreams and Demons** (1994). At a reception at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, which followed a presentation of awards for the 1965 operations, **President S. Radhakrishnan, with Harbaksh and Jogi Dhillon sitting on either side of him, said in a voice loud enough for Chaudhary to hear : "WE WERE TOLD TO EXPECT BAD TIDINGS, BUT BOTH OF YOU SAVED THE**

COUNTRY." It became common knowledge that Chaudhary had prepared Shastri and Radhakrishnan to expect a military reverse in Punjab.

As recalled by Gen. Harbaksh Singh in his autobiography that after war, the Defence Minister, Mr. Y. B. Chavan promised him a special award from Govt. of India with a rank of full General. But untimely death of Mr. L.B. Shastri, the then Prime Minister of India, as of Mr. Chavan, nothing could come out. He further recalls that Mrs. Indira Gandhi instead of rewarding, allowed him to retire, inspite of the fact that his name was considered and passed by the cabinet and the decision was informed to him on telephone by Mr. Malik of Intelligence for the next army chief. This is a sheer example how the things move in India on the whims of political bosses and real life heroes and great sons of the soil like General Harbaksh Singh **who not only did Indian army and India proud after the defeat in 1962 at the hands of China, but kept the political boundaries of the countries intact in 1965;** and Gen. Kulwant Singh, Gen. Bikram Singh - heroes of 1948 who saved Kashmir, Leh and Ladakh from going to Pakistan, did not get their dues from the nation as alleged.

During this war the Director General of military operation (DGMO) was Major General Narinder Singh. Air Marshal PP Singh was commanding 5 squadron of Canberra bombers at Agra air base, which bombed air bases in Pakistan as deep as Peshawar. PP Singh earned Mahavir Chakra for the feat and rose to the rank of Vice Chief of the air staff.

HERO OF BANGLADESH

Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora, PVSM, PV



The finest hour of the millennium for India descended on Dec. 16, 1971 at 4.51 p.m. when Lt. Gen. A.A.K. Niazi, GOC - in-C, East Pakistan, and his 93,000 strong army surrendered to Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora, GOC-in-C, India's eastern command, hero of this war, that gave birth to a new independent nation on the globe, only in 13 days. This is the only example of its own kind in the world history. In India's military archives, the most celebrated photograph is that of the surrender of Dhaka in 1971. **After a period of 2300 years, when in 303 BC, Chandragupt Maurya defeated Seleucus Nicator,** it was our FIRST decisive victory over any foreign army of importance. The architect who crafted this 13-day war was Gen. J.S. Arora who was paid tributes by none other than the Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw himself, the then Chief of Indian Army, in the words, "WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS"... "WHILE JAGGI DID ALL THE WORK,

I GOT THE BATON (of field marshal)". Once in an interview to Delhi Television's perspective, Gen. S.H.F.J. Manekshaw said, "I CANNOT DO BETTER THAN READ THE MESSAGE TO LT. GEN. ARORA." Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee described Gen. Arora as the "PRINCIPAL ARCHITECT" of 1971 victory and A GREAT WAR STRATEGIST.

Born on Feb. 13, 1917 in Distt. Jhelum (Pak), Gen. Arora got his primary education at Rawalpindi. After commissioning in Indian Military Academy, he was deputed as Commissioned Officer in Punjab Regiment in Jan. 1939. He took part in action against Kabaili intruders and Pakistani forces in May 1948 in Kashmir, as a Lt. Col. of Para Regiment-I (Punjab). In 1947 at the time of partition he was assigned the job of rescuing the refugees from Pakistan, which he accomplished with great tenacity. **In 1961 he was sent to Bhutan on special mission and he proved the main architect in shaping the military ties between India and Bhutan. Under his leadership, a unit of Indian army gave a befitting reply to Chinese forces when, in 1967 they attacked Nathu La.** It was a glorious moment for the Indian Army which was badly frustrated by Chinese Army in 1962. In 1966 he was promoted to the post of Lt. General and Dy. Chief of Army Staff. He served the army as GOC - in - C of Eastern Command from 1969 to 1973.

1971-war was **one of the swiftest military campaigns** in the world history and strategy of this war, crafted by Gen. Arora alongwith his chief of staff Lt. Gen. J.F.R. Jacob and DGMO Lt. Gen. I.S. Gill is taught in Military Academies all over the world as an example of brilliant planning. **The super hero of Indian army who changed the political map of Asia died in May 2005.**

Though Bangladesh, for its liberation, honoured him with "VEER ANANYA PURASKAAR" (Bir Pratik) but his own country, for his distinguished services rendered to Indian army and for displaying outstanding leadership and professional

competence of very high degree during 1971-war, awarded him only Param Vishisht Sewa Medal and Padam Vibhushan whereas for his superb achievements and **creating most glorious moment of Indian history after 2300 years**, he deserves BHARAT RATNA or the baton of Field Marshal posthumously, and atleast unveiling his statue at a prominent place in Delhi. On his death in 2005, George Fernandez, former Defence Minister and co-ordinator of N.D.A. **wondered why Gen. Arora was not honoured with Bharat Ratna.** It is an irony that our real life heroes, whatsoever the field may be and whatsoever the highest achievement may be, often do not get due from the nation. In the words of Major Gen. Himmat Singh Gill (*The Tribune*, 8-5-2005), "GEN HARBAKSH SINGH ALSO DIED UNSUNG, YET, HAD IT NOT BEEN FOR HIM, HALF OF PUNJAB WOULD HAVE BEEN IN THE PAKISTANI HANDS IN 1965. AT LEAST NOW, LET US RECOGNIZE GEN. ARORA'S PLACE IN HISTORY." Again Major Gen. Gill writes under the title "Gill, Arora real architects of Bangladesh victory", in *The Tribune* on July 27, 2008, "Finally, though Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw got all the credit, some of us who were right there do know that the nation should have better recognized Lt. Gen. I.S. Gill. the DGMO, who so often dashed with Sam in the Operation Room and stood up to Indira Gandhi and Jagjivan Ram in not prematurely launching the operations, and General Arora, **who engineered one of the greatest military victories in modern times.**" Arora always preferred to be in Dhaka instead of Delhi on the anniversaries of the occasion due to apathy of the governments.

As per S. Tirlochan Singh M.P. and former Chairman of Minority Commission of India, **there are only two heroes in Indian history available** who crossed the border and frustrated the enemy. One is S. Hari Singh Nalwa who crossed river Sindh in May 1834 and won Peshawar; and second is J.S. Arora who crossed the border in 1971 and defeated the enemy on his own land i.e. Dhaka and captured it.

We should also not forget the role of Brigadier H.S. Kler, the hero of Jamalpur, who in this war commanded mountain bridge of the Corps of Signals moved closer to Jamalpur near Dhaka and surrounded a Pakistani unit. He was awarded Maha Vir Chakra.

Likewise Maj. Gen G.S. Nagra, General Officer commanding 2 Division was also having an important role in this war.

We praise him or hate him but we cannot ignore the role of Maj. Gen Shabeg Singh who raised and trained Mukti Bahini which made our victory easy in 1971.

It was very sad for me when I learned from media reports in the month of May 2010 that all the record of 1971 war, one of the most outstanding events of world history, was destroyed.



Gen. J.S. Arora with Bangladesh President Sheikh Mujibur Rahman after capturing Dhaka

THE FIRST EVER MARSHAL OF INDIAN AIR FORCE

Marshal Arjan Singh, DFC, PV Bar-one



Air Chief Marshal Arjan Singh was handed over the baton of Marshal of the Indian Air Force by the President of India K.R. Narayanan on April 23, 2002, thus he got the honour of becoming the **FIRST EVER MARSHAL OF THE INDIAN AIR FORCE**. He was born in 1919 at Lyallpur (Pak.). His father, S. Kishan Singh, a Civil Engineer worked in Ceylon Railway. S. Arjan Singh got training of flying at the Royal Air Force, Cranwell, U.K. and he was commissioned in 1939. He took over as Commanding Officer of No.1 Squadron in Sept. 1943. **For gallantry and outstanding leadership shown by him against Japanese in the Burma campaign in 1943-44 during World War II, he was awarded with the "Distinguished Flying Cross" by British Govt.** At that time for an Indian to be decorated with such a high award was indeed a pride for the nation. He was called the **"Lion of Imphal" for his feat of seize of Imphal during this campaign.** He became chief of the

Air Staff in 1964. In 1965 the IAF, under his outstanding leadership and guidance, established her definite supremacy over the Pakistan Air Force for which he was awarded **Padma Vibhushan Bar-One**, the nation's highest honour. Lt. General (Retd.) B.M. Kaul paid great tributes to Marshal Arjan Singh in his book "The Untold Story" for his notable contribution in 1965 war with Pakistan.

In 1966 his post was upgraded to Air Chief Marshal and he became the FIRST Indian to get the rank. This was in lieu of his showing leadership of highest order in 1965 war with Pakistan. This year he was also appointed as the Chairman of the Chief of Staff Committee. "**An inspiring Squadron Commander**", a tribute paid to him in 1944 when he won DFC. He was a man of great professional skill, courage, high morale and outstanding leadership. He has completed many operational missions involving flights in very difficult situations in bad weathers, during his tenure in service.

He had also a distinguished diplomatic career. He retired from IAF in 1969. In 1971 he was appointed ambassador to Switzerland and at the same time he was ambassador to the Vatican. In 1974 he was High Commissioner to Kenya, in 1980 a member of the Minorities Commission and in 1989 Lt. Governor of Delhi.

The only Field Marshal of the Indian Air Force, S. Arjan Singh, who has been inspiring the generations of flyers ever since he joined the IAF in 1939, sold his farm near Delhi and gifted the proceeds of Rs. 2 crore to a trust established for the welfare of retired IAF personnels. Thus he set a unique example in using his personal assets for the welfare of others.

In April 2009 on his 91st birthday in a function, Mr. M.K. Rasgotra, a former foreign Secretary demanded Bharat Ratna for him.

President Pranab Mukherjee felicitated Air Marshal Arjan Singh, 96, during a ceremony in Sept. 2015 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the 1965 India-Pakistan war, at Rashtrapati

Bhavan in New Delhi.

President Pranab Mukherjee felicitated Air Marshal Arjan Singh, 96 during a ceremony in Sept. 2015 to mark the Golden Jubilee of the 1965 India. Pakistan War at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi.

The IAF on April 15, 2016 renamed its Panagarh airbase in West Bengal as Air Force Station Arjan Singh in Honour of the Country's only living five-star military officer, Marshal of the Air Force, on the occasion of his 97th birthday. This airbase was constructed during II WW by the allied forces as part of their China-Burma India campaign.

LEADER OF INDIA'S FIRST REPUBLIC DAY PARADE

Lt. Gen. Joginder Singh Dhillon



After Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh Lt. Gen. Joginder Singh Dhillon (JOGI) is the person to be credited with a major role in India's victory over Pakistan in 1965. Three unknown places Ichhogil canal, Dograi and Burki have become world famous after 1965, THIS IS ALL DUE TO THE INGENUITY AND DARING FEATS OF JOGI WHO BROUGHT HONOURS TO THE NATION BY CAPTURING 90 VILLAGES, 72 PATTONS AND 25 CHAFEEES AND SHERMANS, OUT OF WHICH 25 PATTONS WERE IN WORKING ORDER, AND DESTROYED PAKISTAN'S ARMOURED PRIDE with heavy casualties including an artillery brigadier and many other senior officers killed on their side which ultimately destroyed the enemy's morale, during this 17-days war of 1965 with Pakistan. He was Chief of Staff of Gen. Harbaksh Singh and Gen. Officer Commanding XI corps which was engaged against Pakistan in

the Lahore, Berki and Khemkaran sectors and fought decisive tank battle in Khemkaran sector. Jogi displayed great tenacity, strong determination and robust mentality and blunted not only the enemy's offensive potential but also destroyed a large part of its armoured strength. Lt. Gen. (Retd.) B.M. Kaul paid great tributes in his book "The Untold Story" to Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh and J.S.Dhillon and Air Marshal Arjan Singh for saving the country in adverse circumstances with their wisdom and strong determination. **He was honoured with Padma Bhushan by President of India in August 1966 in recognition of his great and decisive role in the 1965 war.** After that he was appointed GOC-in-C, Central Command, from where he retired on August 4, 1974.

HE HAS MILITARY SERVICES OF MANY "FIRSTS". He stood first in 1935 in the all India entrance exam of the Indian Military Academy, then won both the coveted gold medal and the Sword of Honour before joining the Bengal Sappers on Feb. 1, 1936.

Pandit Nehru was so impressed by him when in 1949, he met Gen. Dhillon at Roorkee, that he bestowed upon him the singular honour of selecting him TO COMMAND INDIA'S FIRST REPUBLIC DAY PARADE IN 1950. During World War-II he commanded field companies in Iraq, Iran, Burma, Malaya and Sourabay. He was an inspiring officer and always remained a source of inspiration for his juniors from Jawans to Commanders.

THE GENERAL TO TRAIN IRAQ ARMY

Lt. Gen. Kirpal Singh Randhawa



Born in Lahore in 1932, decorated with the AVSM in 1978 and PVSM in 1988 for his distinguished services rendered to the Indian Army, Lt. Gen. Kirpal Singh Randhawa is the man who was the favourite choice of Govt. of Iraq, who trained Iraq army between 1977-1979. General Randhawa was posted to Baghdad as the Chief Instructor, Indian Army Training Team, reportedly on a special request by the Government of Iraq.

Actually Gen. Saadi Tuma Abbas, the then Chief of the Army Staff of Iraq and also the right hand of Adnan Khairallah, Minister of Defence, had been the student of General Randhawa in Pune Army Training College in 1970. He was so impressed by General Randhawa's personality that when Iraq govt. took a strategical-cum-political decision to get his army trained by Indians, General Saadi availed himself of the opportunity to convince his government to make special request to Govt. of India for General Randhawa which was otherwise against the

norms of diplomatic world. This was a great achievement for a Sikh General.

A graduate of the Defence Services Staff College and Britain's Royal College of Defence Studies, General Randhawa earlier had two tenures in Laos and Vietnam as Secretary ADC to the Chairman of the International Commission for supervision and control of these states.

He had also many prestigious instructional appointments at the Infantry School, the Armoured Corps School and the College of Combat's Higher Command.

THE FIRST OLYMPIAN OF INDIA

Brig. Dalip Singh



Born on April 27, 1899 in a village Dolol in Distt. Ludhiana, late Brig. Dalip Singh has earned the honour of being the **FIRST Olympian of India** who took part in the Paris Olympic held in 1924, alongwith S. Palam Singh, another Sikh. Though he did not bring home any laurel, it is on record that he performed really well. In the long jump event, he narrowly missed a place among the first six.

He had also other two honours at his credit. He was the FIRST Indian to be the torch-bearer at the inaugural Asian Games at Delhi in 1951. In Amsterdam Olympics held in 1928, he was the **leader of the Indian Athletic Team**. He had been a good athlete from his school, college and university days. He had shown great skill in 100, 200 and 440 yards run; 120 yards hurdles and long jump.

Brig Dalip Singh, apart from being an athlete, was also

a good hockey and cricket player. In 1924 Olympics at first he was selected to play in the hockey team e.g. Patiala Tigers which was scheduled for the Paris Olympics, but keeping in view his worth as an athlete he was sent as such to the Olympics as an athlete. For his distinguished service in the world war II, while **he was in the Patiala Infantry, he was awarded M.B.E. (Medal for British Empire)**. He had joined the Patiala Infantry in 1924.

THE FIRST EVER INDIAN WOMAN ATHLETE TO WIN A GOLD MEDAL

Kawaljit Kaur Sandhu



Centre of Attention at the 1970 Bangkok Games was Kamaljit Sandhu when she recorded sensational win in the 400 Metres to set a new high for Indian women in the athletics arena. In the process she took Japan Nobuko Kawano and Israel's Avlin Belass right and left respectively.

By winning a gold medal for her country in 400 meter race in 1970 at the 6th Asian Games held at Bangkok, she earned the distinction of being the **First Indian woman Athlete to win a Gold Medal in any international competition** and set new highs for Indian women in athletics arena. She breached the tape in 57.3 seconds. In the process, she took Japan Nobuko Kawano and Israel's Avlin Balars right and left respectively. Thus 1970 Asiad turned milestone in the history of Indian athletics. At that time Kawaljit Kaur was only of 21 years and

was a college student at Chandigarh.

For her superb feat she was awarded PADMASHREE by Govt. of India. She had another feather in her cap of being the national record holder in 200 meter and 400 meter race for 10 years.

THE FIRST EVER INDIAN SCIENTIST ON ANTARCTICA

Dr. Paramjit Singh Sehra

Ph.D. (Science), F.R. Met. S. (U.K.) M.A.M.S. (U.S.A.), Formerly: Consultant, NASA/USA; Research Scientist, Academy of Athens, Greece and ICTP, Trieste, Italy; Professor of Meteorology, Al-Fateh University, Tripoli, Libya; Research Scientist, PRL SAC/ISRO, Ahmedabad, India and a Project Scientist, 17th Soviet Antarctic Expedition, under a joint Indo-Soviet agreement, Dr. P.S. Sehra of the Indian Space Research Organization, participated in a Soviet Scientific Expedition to the South Pole in 1971-73 **which led him to the distinction of being the FIRST Indian ever to spend a winter there,** circumnavigate and explore the Antarctica continent. Mr. Sehra spent 18 months in the Antarctica and participated in the meteorological rocket sounding of the upper atmosphere at Molodezhnaya. He and his Russian counterparts launched 60 rockets into the atmosphere. **For his commendable contribution made to 17th Soviet Antarctic Expedition, he was awarded with the prestigious Soviet Antarctic Medal, Soviet Antarctic Ribbon and the Soviet Polar Watch.**

His research work at Antarctica earned him fellowships to many international scientific societies such as the Royal Meteorological Society of the UK, the American Meteorological Society, and the Canadian Meteorological and Oceanographic Society. Sehra became a globetrotting scientist and academician,



working in institutions such as the World Meteorological Organization as WMO/UN Expert for conducting an advanced WMO class II, class I training programme at the Deptt. of Meteorological Services in Hararary.

In Sept. 2005, he was honoured with "Vijay Shree" by the International Friendship Society. The other Indian recipients of this award are, Mother Teresa, the former Vice President of India B.D. Jatti, film actor Dev Anand and Sunil Gavaskar.

It is a very interesting how Dr. Sehra got this golden opportunity. T.V. Jayan recalls in his profile "At that time Sehra was a young researcher in Ahmedabad based Physical Research Laboratory. Vikram A Sarabhai (the architect of the Indian space programme) had a keen desire of sending someone from India to the Soviet Launch Stations, especially the one in Antarctica, so as to avail of the rare opportunity provided by the Hydro-meteorological Services of the USSR, recalls Sehra in his book *A Visit to South Pole*. But none was ready for this venture because it involved great dangers and risk of life. The Indian Meteorological Department (IMD) had already withdrawn from their earlier commitment. (But then) Sehra was hand-picked by the great scientist and unlike the venerable IMD had no qualms."

T.V. Jayan further writes that Sehra came back as Antarctic Research enthusiast who wanted to share great experience with all. On August 15, 1972 he sent a letter to the then Prime Minister Indira Gandhi from Antarctica to impress upon her the need for India seriously looking at Antarctic studies. But, he did not get any reply. The government was not interested in him, but others were all over the world.

After serving in deptt of Agro Meterology, College of Agriculture, Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, now he is serving Akal University, Bru Sahib, Distt Sirmaur, H.P.

THE FIRST EVER INDIAN WOMAN ON ANTARCTICA

Dr. Kanwal Vilku



The ONLY Indian woman who has spent winters on the Antarctica is Dr. Kanwal Vilku. For her this feat she was honoured by the President Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam in New Delhi on the occasion of foundation day celebrations of the Department of Ocean Development on July 27, 2004. She stormed the male bastion at the age of 52 and spent 16 months from Dec. 1999 on Antarctica with a group of 24 scientists conducting experiments. Her job was to ensure that no member of the team had any medical problem. Besides she also studied the effect of the South Pole's magnetism on the human body. She has a masters degree in transfusion medicine from PGI Chandigarh. She had been with her husband Col.K.S. Vilku to the snowy high attitudes of Ladakh, H.P., Assam, Arunachal Pradesh and Mizoram. She has served as Chief Medical Officer, incharge of CGHF Dispensary in Sector 45, Chandigarh.

THE FIRST CIVILIAN SKY-DIVER OF INDIA

Captain Shamsheer Singh



The FIRST ever sky-diving by a civilian in India was made by Captain Shamsheer Singh on December 17, 1975 from the height of 7000 ft. He was a student of Miss Shantel, instructor of sky diving in a Flying Club in Paris. Later on she married Shamsheer. She married two months before the feat on the condition that Shamsheer will make her dream true of sky diving in India'.

THE FIRST WOMAN SKY-DIVER OF INDIA

Satinder Kaur Bathh



Satinder Kaur Bathh is the FIRST Indian woman skydiver. It is a pleasing co-incidence that Mrs. Bathh also ventured out for skydiving on inspiration of Mrs. Shantel Shamsher, French wife cum-instructor of FIRST civilian skydiver of India S. Shamsher Singh, in 1988 when Mrs. Bathh's husband, a paratrooper, was posted in Agra. She jumped down from 5000 feet in mid air. She also took part in the all-women Maruti rally. A multifaceted personality, Satinder is M.A., B.Ed. having passion in travelling, trekking, horse riding and swimming, reading and writing satires.

**THE COMMANDER OF INDIA'S FIRST
SUCCESSFUL EXPEDITION TO
MOUNT EVEREST**

Padma Bhushan M.S. Kohli



Recipient of Nation's top awards, PADMA BHUSHAN, ATI VISHIST SEVA MEDAL, ARJUNA AWARD AND ORDER OF THE KHALSA, a former President of Indian Mountaineering Foundation; Captain of Indian Navy; Commander and Advisor of Indo-Tibetan Border Police and Former Regional Director of Air India, M.S. Kohli has the **distinction of being the LEADER of India's FIRST successful expedition to Mt. Everest**, which scaled the peak in May 1965. Earlier two expeditions, one in 1960 under the leadership of Brig. Gyan Singh and the other in 1962 under the leadership of Major John Dias had failed. This 19-member expedition setup a world record by making four successful assaults on the highest peak in the world putting nine climbers on top.

This 19-member team included six turbaned Sikhs – Capt. M.S. Kohli (Commander of the team), Major H.P.S.

Ahluwalia who scaled the peak on May 29, 1965, Mr. C.S. Vohra (Later on became the leader of India's FIRST ever expedition to Antarctica), who set his foot on the peak on May 24, 1965; Major B.P. Singh; Col. Avtar Singh Cheema who climbed the Everest on May 20, 1965 became the FIRST Indian amateur to conquer the peak and wireless officer G.S. Bhangu. Col. A.S. Cheema was a captain in the 7th battalion of the Parachute Regiment then and later promoted to this rank of Colonel. He was awarded the Arjuna Award & Padma Shri for his superb achievement.

When Capt. M.S. Kohli landed at Palam Airport, Gulzari Lal Nanda, the then acting Prime Minister, was there to felicitate him and his team. The VESUVIUS of Indian mountaineering had 14 major expeditions to his credit and 17 narrow encounters with death. The Indian Navy's ascents of Nandakot in 1959 and of Annapurna III in 1961 met with success under this 'CLIMBING SIKH'S' dynamic leadership. He also led the India's FIRST ever expedition to the Saser Kangri in Korakoram. During his tenure with Air India, he became the **FIRST MAN IN THE WORLD TO INTRODUCE TREKKING IN THE HIMALAYAS** and wrote the **FIRST EVER** book on the subject. After returning from Everest expedition, he was picked up by the Govt. of India to **lead an Indo-American expedition to Nanda Devi and Nandakot summits to install nuclear sensors** for monitoring the missile launches in China and to detect their movements in the region. He authored 22 books. His book "Miracles of Ardaas" has been widely acclaimed.

Capt. Kohli recalls that his turban paid a great role in recognition and highlighting his personality all over the world. He got special attention in Australia, South East Asia, France and Lebanon, due to his turban. Morarji Desai, the then P.M., while in Sydney, praised him most for wearing turban and annexing a part of the Indian dress. In the words of Mr. Kohli ... The turban became my most cherished asset."

THE FIRST CONQUEROR OF MOUNT EVEREST FROM CHINESE SIDE

Commander Mohinder Singh



It was a unique achievement, because it was the first time Indian climbers approached the peak from Chinese side under the command of commandant of ITBP S. Mohinder Singh of village Rajpura, distt. Hoshiarpur, who scaled the peak on May 7 and May 10, 1996. **Thus he earned the distinction of being the first conqueror of Mt. Everest from China side,** which is much harder than the Nepal side from where most expeditions scaled the peak. **But this feat went unnoticed and**

un-rewarded due to rapid political changes in New Delhi.

When he left home for the expedition it was Narsimha Rao as our prime minister, when he set his foot on the peak it was Atal Behari Vajpayee as our prime minister and when he came back as victor it was Deve Gowda as our prime minister. So no one thought of rewarding him with Arjuna Award, Padmashree or Padma Bhushan. This is unbecoming and very unfair to those who take risk of lives to bring glory to their country.

He also led the joint venture of Indian Mountaineering Foundation, (IMF) and Govt. of Mongolia to scale the "Jaunli" peak in Garhwal region at the height of 21,760 feet and many other Himalayan peaks. Under cultural programme, **Govt. of Mongolia honoured him in 1995 with her highest civilian award "KHAN GARID"**.

Earlier on June 7, 1973 he made a new record by raiding the 25,170 feet high summit "Saser Kangri". He voluntarily served D.G.B.R. for 3 years during China assault in 1962. **He was instrumental in searching many new peaks;** bridging valleys in mountains; construction of temporary bridges and rope-ways ; and sustaining hanging bridges.

His other achievements are to scale the peaks 'Kalandikhel' (19996 feet); in 1970 'Trishul' (7120 mts.); 3 peaks of Alps (Europe) mountains in 1971; in Kumaun an anonymous peak (21,000 feet); in 1972 peak Panchuli (6037 mts.); in 1981 'East Nanda Devi' peak; in 1996 'Mana' peak and 3 anonymous peaks in Leh-Ladakh in winter season for the first time.

He retired as commandant of ITBP, which he joined in 1965. He had been Principal of Mountaineering and Skiing Institute, Ouli (Joshimath), run by ITBP, for 7 years. He also wrote a book on successful expedition to Mt. Everest. Now he is settled in America. For all his superb achievements, he was awarded with major police medal in 1997 and in 1998 Maharaja Ranjit Award by Punjab Govt.

THE SOLE TO CLIMB MOUNT EVEREST AND TO LAND ON ANTARCTICA AS WELL

Director General C.S. Vohra



Born in Mirpur (J & K) C.S. Vohra has **the rare distinction of being the FIRST and the LAST** who not only climbed the summit of Mount Everest but also landed on Antarctica. He was a member of 15-member FIRST successful Indian expedition to Mount Everest in May 1965 whose 6 members including its leaders (M.S. Kohli) were Sikhs. Mr. Vohra was one of the 9 members (3 Sikhs including Mr. Vohra) who actually scaled the peak. Mr. Vohra set his foot on Everest on May 24, 1965 and became the FIRST Indian mountaineering atop Mt. Everest.

Again in 1981-82, he was the LEADER of the landing group of FIRST Indian expedition to Antarctica. The repetition of the sort by anyone in future seems to be a difficult one.

For these superb achievements, he was decorated with

PADMASHREE, ARJUNA award, SPECIAL award on 50th anniversary of India's Independence and National Mineral Award.

He retired as Director General, Geological Survey of India. He is the ONLY personnel too from Geological Survey of India to have conquered the peak.

A SIKH ATOP MOUNT EVEREST

Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia



Recipient of country's top awards Padma Bhushan, Padmashree, Arjuna Award and a National awardee and a War-Hero of 1965, Major H.P.S. Ahluwalia became the 3rd Sikh to climb the Mt. Everest. He placed a tableau of GURU NANAK on the summit on May 29, 1965. He was a member of the First successful Indian expedition to Everest in 1965, under the command of a SIKH, Capt. M.S. Kohli, after two earlier expeditions, under the leadership of Brig. Gian Singh in 1960 and under the leadership of Major John Dias in 1962, which had failed. Despite being handicapped in the 1965 war, he travelled to China by road via Uzbekistan, Kyrgystan, Kazakhstan and Western Tibet and returned to Delhi via Lhasa and Kathmandu covering 14000 kms of Silk and Z route under cultural expedition (CACI) in 1994. Beside the above laurels, he was awarded fellowship by the Royal Geographical Society of **London** and for his contribution to adventure sports he was felicitated by **Argentina Govt.** He is the founder and chairman of Asia's biggest spinal injuries centre at Vasant Kunj, New Delhi, first in Asia of its kind. He was also honoured with **Nishan-e-Khalsa** award on tri-centenary celebrations of the Khalsa Panth.

THE GREATEST RESCUER IN MINING HISTORY

Er. Jaswant Singh Gill



A rescuer in mine disaster in 1989 S. Jaswant Singh Gill, who was earlier declared the "BEST ALL INDIA RESCUE CAPTAIN" is the ONLY living recipient of coveted Sarvotam Jeevan Raksha Padak, one of the highest civilian gallantry awards, which has always been given posthumously, for his extra ordinary feat of saving 65 lives, a record number. He was honoured with the award in 1991 by President R. Venktaraghvan with four others who received it posthumously for conspicuous courage under circumstances of danger of grave bodily injury to the rescuer.

On the night of Nov. 13, 1989 during a time blast at the Mahabir Colliery, Burdwan in West Bengal when 71 miners got entrapped in a mine and all entry and exit points had got blocked. **Mr. Gill, risking his own life, went inside and miraculously saved 65 miners out of 71 miraculously, when some of the officials felt the situation was hopeless and it was a waste to try and launch a rescue operation.** His seniors had asked him not to go inside since he was a senior officer. But for him the lives of his team members were more important.

A graduate from Indian School of Mines, Dhanbad, in mining he retired as Engineer-in-Chief, Coal India Ltd. from Dhanbad and settled in Amritsar, Mr. Gill without caring for his own life, when he came down in the mine at 2.30 a.m., on the night of 15-16 November, 1989, it was total pandemonium and complete chaos. It took 20 minutes per person to reach the top and total operation ran for about 30 hours. When he came out there was gathering of about a lac including media persons and kith and kins of the victims. **The Chief Secretary and other top ministers of West Bengal, picked him up. The Chief Minister of West Bengal Jyoti Basu also felicitated him for his daring feat, which was the outcome of a single man Brigade – Jaswant Singh Gill.** Had he not shown dauntless courage and prowess, all the 71 miners would have died. It was for the first time in the history of mine explosions that a hole was bored and the miners were rescued. Mr. Gill felt that it was the grace of his Gurus behind all this accomplishment. Still at the age of 74, he is actively involved in social work. In 2008, he was selected as member of the Disaster Management Committee, Amritsar. On Nov. 29, 2009, he was given India's **first 'Lifetime Achievement Award for Mining' at New Delhi by ISMAA.**

This rescue is unparalleled in the history of mining the world over and therefore qualifies as a World Record. It must also go the credit of Er. J.S. Gill that a much simpler rescue operation in Chile saved 33 miners using the same capsule

method but it took them 120 days to bring out the miners with the assistance of NASA.

On 1st November 2013 he was honoured with Lifetime Achievement Award and Rs. One lakh by Union Minister Sri Prakash Jaiswal on the occasion of celebrations of 39th Foundation Day of Coal India Ltd. His name has been included in the **Limca Book of Records in 2005 edition as national record holder for the most successful & largest rescue operation in mining history.** The other awards are Swami Vivekanand Award of Excellence (2013), Vijay Rath National Award from IICM, Ranchi, Excellence in Safety Award from Coal India Ltd, at Calcutta and in memory of that event a bulletin was also released; Bhagat Puran Singh award from Guru Arjun Dev Mandal Patiala; Outstanding Services to Humanity Award (24-12-2014) from Harman Educational & Social Welfare Society, Amritsar and Farishta-E-Kaum award from Sache Patshah Magazine, New Delhi.

The others who actively contributed to this daredevil feat were S. Harvinder Singh Sahni, Additional General Manager of Mines, Dhanbad and another Sikh fitter from another department, whose name is not remembered by Mr. Gill.



THE SOLE IAF OFFICER RECIPIENT OF PVC

Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon



Born on July 17, 1945 in village Isewal, district Ludhiana, Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon, one of the most valorous and daredevil pilots of Indian Air Force, **has the distinction of being the I.A.F.'s ONLY Param Vir Chakra (PVC) winner**, which is the highest gallantry award of the country. He won this laurel (posthumously) for setting an example of sublime gallantry, determination and supreme sacrifice in 1971 war with Pakistan. Mr. Sekhon, with his squadron of Gnat fighters, was stationed at Srinagar (J & K). On Dec. 14, 1971 a battery of six Pakistan Air Force Sabre Jet Fighter aircrafts attacked the airfield of Srinagar airbase with the intention to destroy it, in order to make the IAF ineffective. But the great son of India, Flying Officer Sekhon stood like a rock in the way of the enemy. In a dogfight, he managed to shot one Sabre Jet down and set another on fire. But ultimately

in an unequal battle with the other four Sabre fighters, his Gnat (Ajit) fighter was shot down and he laid down his life for the sake of the glory of the country.

This gresome dogfight got mentiomn in flight magazine and also in other magazines of thw world related to flight.

It is said that when he intercepted six Sabre fighters dashing towards Srinagar airbase he did not waste time in wearing uniform including helmet. When his plane crashed he ejected and jumped out of it. But while diving down his head sans helmet collided with a tree which caused the death of a superman of Indian Air Force. The helmet which he did not wear cost him his life but saved the country. Mr. Sekhon made his squadron known as "Defenders of Kashmir" the only squadron to have been awarded PVC.

The PVC was received by his widow Mrs. Manjit Kaur from the President of India, Sh. V.V. Giri. On September 22, 1972 a documentary on him titled "SHARDHANJLY" directed by Hakumat Sarin was also released. The write up, alongwith the statue of Flying Officer Sekhon and a replica of his Gnat (Ajit) is displayed in the Air Force Museum at Palam, New Delhi, which is deemed its most impressive section and at Halwara air base, Ludhiana to inspire the coming generations of fighter pilots of the country.

THE LONE IAF OFFICER RECIPIENT OF TWO MEDALS IN A SINGLE PARADE

Wing Commander Mangat Singh — Vir Chakra



The then Squadron Leader Mangat Singh has the distinction of being the **ONLY recipient of the two medals of honour in a single parade.** Vayu Sewa Medal and Vashisht Sewa Medal were bestowed upon him by the then Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal in a parade held at Air Force base repair depot., Kanpur during 1971-72 for his distinguished services rendered to the Air Force.

This daring IAF officer also had shown a marvellous grit, determination and professional skill during 1971 war with Pakistan. During the war, he was on a bombing mission in the western sector, when his aircraft fell victim to enemy's firing and lost most of the rudder and tail section, he was advised to abandon the plane and eject. But he flew the aircraft to the base and succeeded in landing it safely

For his this feat he was awarded VIR CHAKRA.

THE SECOND WORLD RECORD OF FLYING ON THE HIGHEST ALTITUDE

Wing Commander Sadhu Singh Gill



*Wg. Cdr. Sadhu Singh receiving the memento a replica of the
Western Air Command crest, from Air Marshal L.M. Katre*

Wing Commander Sadhu Singh Gill set a **World Record on June 30, 1981 when he landed the AN-12 aircraft**, meant for delivery of supplies of stores and equipments, **for the 1261st time at LEH**, which has highly fluctuating temperature varying from 30°C in summer to minus 30°C in winter. This was the **maximum number of landings carried out by a military pilot in the world**, on the highest air-field of its kind. This is the actual terrain which tests the grit, determination and skill of a pilot. Wg. Cdr. Gill, a flight commander of Squadron No.44 of I.A.F., **has flown over 10500 hrs including 8800 hours as captain of the AN-12 aircraft**. This brave feat earned Wg. Cdr. Gill at the age of 40, a silver memento, depicting Western Air Commands crest was

presented to him by the then Air Marshal L.M. Katre at a special ceremony at Leh on 30.6.81. It is significant that the breaking of the world record coincided with the completion of 20 years of air maintenance by Russian-built AN-12 in the Ladakh Region.

Wg. Cdr. Gill spent most of his 19 years career in the Himalayan region and became the man of the Himalayas. Speaking at the ceremony, the Air Marshal Katre admired Wing Commander Gill and said, "Wg. Cdr. Gill has proved that with consistent effort and dedication, a man can do the impossible."

It is also significant that this world record followed the venture of late Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh of landing on the unprepared air strip at LEH on May 24, 1948, against heavy odds viz. unpredictable weather, absence of roads and communications, which paved the way for the supply of troops, ammunition and supplies to the eagerly-awaited besieged garrison and could save Ladakh in 1948.

THIRD WORLD RECORD OF FLYING ON THE HIGHEST ALTITUDE

Air Vice Marshal T.P. Singh Chhatwal,
AVSM, SC, VSM



Tejinder Pal Singh Chhatwal, the then Wing Commander, wrote a golden chapter in the annals of history of the I.A.F. on July 25, 1984 when he set a 'WORLD RECORD' for high altitude operations, which has not been equalled by anyone so far, by undertaking **42 sorties in one single day**, by Soviet made helicopter M.I.8, airlifting more than 23 tons of load to the forward posts at Siachin to a besieged garrison, during 'Op Meghdoot'. This was a matchless example of helicopter operation. He accomplished the job against the obvious heavy odds of Siachin and in the midst of enemy firing. Earlier this record was for 20-25 flights. Risking his life, he continued operation from 7.00 am to 7.15 pm without taking any break, though he kept on changing his co-pilots. **Due to**

his daring feat, the Indian Army could capture a post of strategic importance.

Again on 25th July setting his 2nd WORLD RECORD (otherwise 3rd world record of flying on the highest altitude after earlier two records - one in 1948 by Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh and 2nd in 1981 by Wg. Cdr. Sadhu Singh Gill) he flew the helicopter at altitudes higher than 5.7 kms. i.e. about 18500 ft. for which it was not meant, for over an hour at 5-10 metres above the ground level for which helicopter had no facilities, **to accomplish another daring task of filming the entire Siachin Glacier.** It was a great surprise to its Soviet manufacturers as well as to the world. To fly from a distance of only 5 to 10 mtrs. from the ground level at such a height was again a unique task and ANOTHER WORLD RECORD. This write up is available in the Airforce Museum at Leh.

These above 'World Records' and daring feats, in which he exhibited professional competence, acumen, courage and devotion to duty of an exceptional order, earned him SHAURYA CHAKRA on 26th January 1985 and **entry in the Guinness Book of World Records and Limca Book of Records.** As per Limca Book, this record is till date unbroken and unchallenged. On 26th January 1993, Mr. Chattwal was honoured with ATI VISHIST SEWA MEDAL (AVSM). Earlier too he was awarded VAYU SENA MEDAL on 26th January, 1984 and commendations by AOC-in-C, IAF on 26th January 1978 and commendations by CAS, IAF on April 1st, 1978.

He also had a great role in the 1971 war with Pakistan. He was the **FIRST to land in DHAKA.** He was selected for the Senior Defence Management Courses in 1990. He retired on 31st Dec. 2004.

But the other side of the coin is very gloomy. It is alleged that in spite of seniority and merit this great achiever and hero of I.A.F., was denied the promotion to the rank of full Air Marshal by forging his annual confidential report and he was degraded from point nine to point five. The facts were

discovered during the proceedings of a writ petition in the Hon'ble Delhi High Court and accordingly the verdict was given in his favour. *The Times of India* reported on Dec. 18, 2003, "HC finds out that Air Vice Marshal TS Chhatwal's ACR was fudged." Further it says, "Justice Vijender Jain and Justice RC Jain read the confidential report and observed that a case should be registered against the Defence Secretary who should be sent to Jail". But even then the govt. denied the promotion to Mr. Chhatwal and approached the Supreme Court wherein his case is still pending for the last many years.

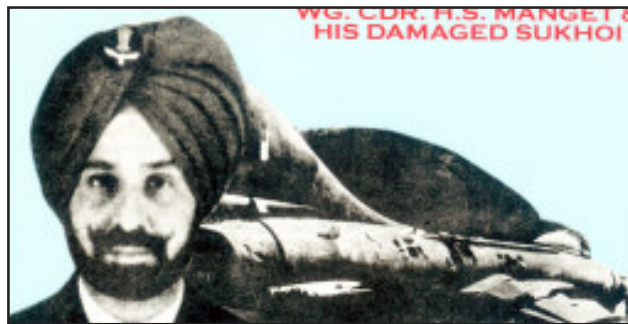
As alleged in many essays on the subject in the media from time to time that some of the most shining stars from the forces, who created golden leaves of the history in their respective forces, were denied full rank or their due inspite of their seniority and merit. Lt. Gen Kulwant Singh, Lt. General Harbaksh Singh, Lt. Gen. J.S. Arora, Brig. Devinder Singh of 70 Brigade lauded for his performance in Kargil operation, Air Vice Marshal M.S. Brar, Air Marshal Manjit Singh Sekhon and Air Marshal Shivdev Singh are some more alleged examples to be quoted. In case of Mr. M.S. Sekhon it was alleged that a routine letter written by him to Parkash Singh Badal, C.M. of Punjab, was made a pretext and he was forced to submit the resignation. It is further alleged that Mr. Badal also did not support Mr. Sekhon during the sad episode. In case of Air Marshal Shivdev Singh, who had a singular distinction of commanding all the three operational commands of the IAF and was awarded PVSM in 1968, it is alleged that O.P. Mehra, three places junior to him, was promoted to full rank of the IAF after P.C. Lal.

In case of Brig. (Retd.) Davinder Singh, his annual confidential report (ACR) was tampered with by his senior officers Lt. Gen (Retd.) Lakhan Pal to belittle his achievements, as held by the Military Tribunal, as per media reports in the last week of May 2010, which cost the Brigadier the promotion to the rank of Major General and Mahavir Chakra. In the process,

Lakhan Pal falsified the accounts of some of the battle 'OP Vijay' of Kargil war in 1999 as further held by the tribunal. The tribunal directed the army to rewrite portions of the war in Kargil and consider the Brigadier (Retd.) Devinder Singh, who commanded the Batalic based 70 Infantry Brigade during Kargil war, for a notional promotion to the rank of Major General.

A TALE OF VALOUR IN THE SKY

Wg. Cdr. H.S. Mangat—Vir Chakra



During the 1965 war with Pakistan, Wing Commander H.S. Mangat was serving in a bomber squadron. His job was to raid the various airbases of Pakistan, which he accomplished with great tenacity. He surprised them **with the raid as deep as Peshawar, which they never expected. He raided the Pakistan airbases as many as 15 times and was awarded the Vir Chakra for gallantry.**

During one such raid when he was returning with his SU-7 Sukhoi after successfully attacking and damaging Chander airbase, near Sargodha, two Mirage jets of the enemy chased him but failed to stop him. He was assigned the job of destroying the airbases as well as army installations of the enemy in West Pakistan diving close to the earth. After many successful raids, ultimately his SU-7 Sukhoi fell victim to bullets of ground batteries of the enemy, in which the plane lost its balance and caught fire. The weight and speed of the plane started to reduce. But Wg. Cdr. Mangat set an example of courage and valour when he succeeded in landing his Sukhoi on his own base.



**THE SOLE ASIAN JUDGE
FELICITATED BY THE
INTERNATIONAL BAR
ASSOCIATION**

Justice Kuldeep Singh

Born in 1932, in Jhelum District of Pakistan, a retired Judge of Supreme Court of India, Justice Kuldeep Singh, popularly known as "GREEN JUDGE

OF INDIA", for pioneering green revolution in the country's courts, was felicitated by the International Bar Association for his outstanding contribution in the field of urban environment, ecology and human rights, in an evening ceremony titled "THE INTERNATIONAL BAR ASSOCIATION SALUTES JUSTICE KULDIP SINGH" in 1997. He is the FIRST Asian and SECOND in the world after South African President, Mr. Nelson Mandela to be honoured by the Association. His honour by the IBA is a great pride for the nation and honour for the judiciary of India.

The IBA president, Mr. Desmond Fernando, who presented the plaque of honour to Justice Singh said, "**we hope other judges will take Justice Singh's example and give such judgements**". Speaking on the occasion Justice Singh said, "It is the duty of the court to enforce the law, particularly when executive and legislature are not functioning in accordance with the provisions of the constitution and there is rampant corruption in the society."

A barrister from Lincoln's Inn, with a master's degree in Law from London University, Justice Kuldeep Singh's appointment to the Bench, after a short stint as Additional

Solicitor General, was a rare honour. After working as Advocate General of Punjab from May to August 1987, he was appointed as the Additional Solicitor General of India and on Dec. 14, 1988, he joined the Supreme Court.

He retired from the Supreme Court on December 31, 1996.

Justice Singh has given a new direction to the concept of justice and displayed tremendous commitment to the cause of urban environment and ecology. He has also contributed a lot in the field of public interest litigation. He actually gave teeth to PIL and wanted that PIL should be encouraged. His judgements on handcuffing, telephone tapping, uniform civil code, capitation fee, child labour and cleansing the country's environment infused a new blood to the law. He was honoured with the "ENVIRONMENTALIST OF THE YEAR" award in 1997 at a function held in New Delhi. **In fact if one were to think of the most significant judgements in judicial history of the country** from bringing doctors within the ambit of Consumer Protection Act to set up sewage treatment plants and to clean up river Yamuna, all had the stamp of Justice Kuldeep Singh. Historic judgement to protect the Taj Mahal came on the day he retired. Saviour of the Taj Mahal and known for judicial activism and his innovative ways, he was appointed Chairman of the Delimitation Commission in August 2002 and entrusted a job of readjustment of the territorial constituencies for the Lok Sabha and state assemblies. **A distinguished jurist, Justice Kuldeep Singh is a superman of Indian Judiciary with an extra-ordinary vision.**

The gloomy side of this shining star of Indian judiciary was that he and Chief Justice A.M. Ahmadi, both were appointed to the Supreme Court on the same day. Justice Kuldeep Singh was three months senior to Justice Ahmadi, even then he was placed below later, for the reasons best known to the bosses or the God.

THE FIRST EVER JUDGE FROM ETHNIC MINORITY COMMUNITIES IN ENGLAND

Justice Mota Singh



Can you expect a judge from England sans wig and wearing turban? Answer to this question is yes, there is. It is really surprising but it is fact that Justice Mota Singh was the first and the only judge to wear a turban (white) instead of a wig.

Justice Mota Singh has many distinctions to his credit. Apart from being the **FIRST ASIAN JUDGE** of a British Court, he has also the honour of being the **Queen's Counsel, Member of the Parliament of Kenya and Secretary of the Law Society of Kenya**. He recalls that at that time he was the first and the only judge with a turban sans wig.

He was born and brought up in Kenya. He left for England in 1954 to study Law. After that he returned to Kenya and practiced for eight years. Then he became Member of Parliament and Secretary of the Law Society of Kenya. In 1965,

he left for England and started practicing at Bar. Within 11 years, he became the Queen's Counsel. Subsequently, he was elevated first as a part time, then a full time judge, **which earned him the honour of being the first judge in England from any Ethnic Minority Community.** After retirement he settled in England.

During his tenure as a judge, he received respect and affection from everyone he came in contact. His superb achievements have raised the profile of Asian community in the west.

This first Asian judge of UK, who is also the lawyer of the Queen was honoured with 'KNIGHTHOOD', the highest civilian award of UK, in December 2009, alongwith some other prominent Sikhs viz. Paramjit Pal Singh Bassi, Sujinder Singh Sangha. Now 'SIR' is added at the beginning of their names. He retired as a **crown court judge.** He retired as a Crown Court Judge one level below the High Court.

Now again history repeated itself when Justice Rabinder Singh was appointed as a First Asian Judge to the High Court of UK, one of the country's most influential and prestigious legal appointments. Now he is automatically running for Chief Justice as and when the post becomes vacant. He is a leading human rights lawyer, who successfully appeared on behalf of Indian doctors in an immigration case in 2002.

THE FIRST INDIAN NOMINATED TO THE BENCH OF ANY APEX COURT OUTSIDE INDIA

Justice Choor Singh



Mr. Justice Choor Singh is the FIRST INDIAN to be nominated to the bench of the Supreme Court of Singapore and he thus earned the distinction of being the FIRST Indian nominated to the bench of any Apex Court outside India.

In Singapore, he was often respectfully known by the nickname "THE HANGING JUDGE". He came to Singapore in 1917 at the age of 6 during the first world war. He created history as he rose from a son of a night watchman to the pinnacle of society in Singapore by becoming a **justice of its Supreme Court** with legal credentials from UK. In felicitating Justice Choor Singh on his appointment as a judge of the Supreme Court in 1963, the Chairman of the Law Society remarked, "**Your Lordship has earned a special place with history of this country as the symbol for a self-made man**".

On his retirement, the Chief Justice of the Supreme Court of Singapore paid tribute to him in the words, " ... in 17 years on the Supreme Court bench, his comprehensive knowledge of the criminal law and procedure and his wide experience in the administration of criminal justice has been of immense help to me and to my colleagues and we will miss him....."

As gleeful from his 105 judgements reported in the Malaysian Law, he was an all-rounder and sound in all branches of the law with a special aptitude for criminal law. He was quick to reach the core of the matter in seconds and his judgements displayed such a depth of learning and research that, the record reveals, **THAT NO JUDGEMENT OF THE COURT OF CRIMINAL APPEAL DELIVERED BY JUSTICE CHOOR SINGH WAS EVER DISTURBED BY THE PRIVY COUNCIL IN ENGLAND.**

With all his success, he remained rooted to his SIKH HERITAGE and spent his spare time and money in collecting old book and rare manuscripts on Sikh history and religion and wrote on Sikhs and Sikhism.

FATHER OF FIBRE OPTICS WHO BENT LIGHT

S. Narinder Singh Kapani



An outstanding achievement with more than 120 patents to his name who made research on fibre optic communications, lasers, bio-medical instrumentation, solar energy and pollution monitoring and has been at the centre of high-tech world for over 50 years, Dr. Narinder Singh Kapani has earned the title of "FATHER OF FIBRE OPTICS" for his invention and introducing the revolutionary fibre optics that affected changes in ways that had seemed inconceivable earlier. It is the technology which is behind the devices from endoscopy to high capacity telephone line that has brought a revolution in medical, communication, business and telecom industry in the world.

Dr. Kapani is the man who "BENT LIGHT". The Fortune magazine-in its issue "Businessman of the Century" dated Nov. 22, 1999 ranked Dr. Kapani as **ONE OF THE SEVEN UNSUNG HEROES**. He has received many awards for his

invention including EXCELLENCE 2000 from Pan Asian American Chamber of Commerce, USA in 1998. He is a fellow of numerous scientific societies including British Royal Academy of Engineering, the Optical Society of America etc. and a Regent professor and Visiting professor at many Universities in America; and Lecturer to various national and international scientific societies; and a former Director of the Center for Innovation and Entrepreneurial Development at the CSC. As an author, he has written and published over hundred scientific papers and four books on opto-electronics and entrepreneurship. He is one of the 12 recipients of the prestigious 'PRAVASI BHARATIYA SAMMAN AWARD IN 2004'. Born in Moga (Punjab), raised in Dehradun and studied optics in London, Dr. Kapani founded four companies including K2 Optronics Inc. (Optics Technology Inc.) and Kaptron Inc. in the USA. From 1991 to 1999, he was an AMP fellow heading the Entrepreneur and Technical Expert Programme and served as Chief Technologist for Global Communication Business. He also served as a trustee of the University of California and Santa Cruz Foundation USA.

A versatile, Dr. Kapani is also an art lover and has specialized in Sikh art. He has been the founding chairman and major funder of the SIKH FOUNDATION and has been pursuing its activities. He was the prime mover and donor for the internationally acclaimed 'Arts of the Sikh Kingdom' exhibition. As an artist, Dr. Kapani has created 40 "dynoptic sculptures" which have been viewed at museums and art galleries in Chicago, Monterey. In 1998, he endowed a Chair of Sikh Studies at the University of California. His son is also a hi-tech executive and his daughter is an attorney and film maker.

AN OZONE SCIENTIST FOR WHOM U.S. CONGRESS PASSED A SPECIAL BILL

Dr. Jagir Singh Randhawa



Born on Nov. 1, 1922 at Vahila Teja in Gurdaspur, Mr. Randhawa, a boy from a very poor family who lost his father at the age of 5, once rejected by Khalsa College, Amritsar and Indian Air Force, **was given a red-carpet welcome by the US army as a Research Physicist years later.** Actually, after doing his masters in Physics in 1957 from the University of Colorado at Boulder on Scholarship, he did his Ph.D from New Mexico State University at Las Cruces. **His thesis on Ozone got the attention of the scientists at the Atmospheric Science Laboratory at White Sands. They did not want to lose this bright scholar and talented technocrat.** But there were many technical and legal hurdles in the way. Keeping them aside, out of the way, he was given green card and US citizenship immediately, and rules were got changed by the Congress. A Bill was passed in the US Congress to grant Dr. Randhawa full rights as a US citizen.

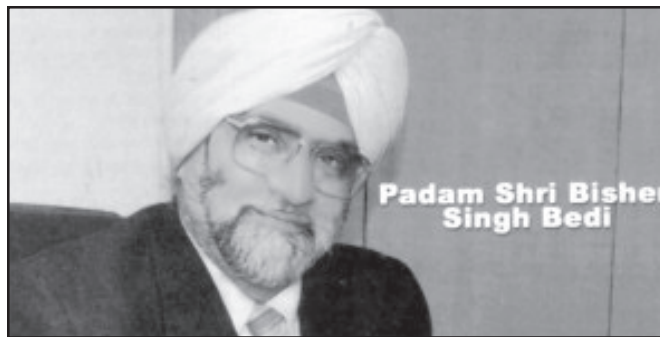
He developed a device, for which he was given patent, by which the physicists could measure the impact on the ozone layer of the nitrous oxide released during supersonic flights. **This compelled the US government under Jimmy Carter to reconsider its plans on supersonic planes.** This was a notable achievement in the world of science.

He worked for 30 years in the field, and travelled all over the world, presenting papers in international conferences and seminars, and carrying out rigorous research work. Now after retirement, he is busy with farming of grapes in his farmhouse in California.

Living upto the Sikh and American traditions of sharing, he donated \$30,000, after the death of his wife, to sponsor a scholarship in her name at California State University, Fresno for the recipient familiar with Sikh culture. In 2003, he donated Rs.25 lacs to the Guru Nanak Dev University to set up a Baba Budhaji Chair, who belonged to Randhawa Clan, to encourage research on him. About discrimination he spoke that in America, there is no discrimination at all.

AN ALL TIME GREAT IN INTERNATIONAL CRICKET

Padmashree Bishan Singh Bedi



One of the finest spin bowlers in the world, S. Bishan Singh Bedi, born on Sept. 25, 1946 at Amritsar and an alumni of Khalsa College Amritsar, has MANY DISTINCTIONS and FIRSTS to his credit. He captained the India cricket team in 22 Tests in a row which was a RECORD in itself. Second to him was Mansoor Ali Khan Pataudi who led the team in 21 Tests. He is also the ONLY Indian bowler to claim over 1560 wickets in first class cricket. At one time he was FIFTH biggest wicket taker in the world. Had he not been sidelined unceremoniously by the Board of Control for Cricket in India, he would have become **the top wicket-taker in the world.**

Bedi always stood for the principles of morality, merit and sportsmanship and dared to attack those to whom he found fallen from these principles. May 11 would be remembered as red letter day for Asia as on this day Mr. Bedi earned the rare honour of being the FIRST Asian to address the United Nations.

He spoke from the United Nations platform in New York against racial segregation in sports practised by South Africa. After delivering speech he was introduced as "ONE OF THE FINEST SPIN BOWLERS IN THE WORLD" by the then Nigerian Chairman of the Committee.

Bedi was a bowler of extra-ordinary potential with extra-ordinary sight whose bowling baffled many great batsmen in the world, and razed to dust the reputation of some of them. It is said that **Bedi finished the career of some fine cricketers prematurely.** Great cricketers like Australia's Doug Walters found himself many times helpless before Bedi.

After getting recognition on state and zone level, he rose at the national platform. But he was put to several tests of playing against a very strong team like West Indies. In second Test played at Calcutta from Dec. 31, 1966 to Jan. 5, 1967, though India lost, Bedi won the hearts of both the spectators and selectors. From then he started to scale the ladder of success.

In 1975, he was adjudged NUMBER ONE player in India. In 1974-75 he broke the record of 58 wickets of Venkat by taking 64 wickets in 8 matches and he along with Andy Roberts of West Indies were the ONLY TWO BOWLERS who completed the goal of taking 100 wickets each in British Cricket.

For his superb achievements in cricket he was honoured with Arjuna and Padmashree awards.

Bishan Singh Bedi's name, alongwith two other Indian Cricketing legends. Kapil Dev and Sunil Gavaskar, figured among the 55 former greatest achievers in the Cricket, named in the ICC's inaugural Hall of Fame list on January 2, 2009 as part of its centenary celebrations in Sydney.

THE FIRST EVER INDIAN TO TAKE A HAT-TRICK IN TEST CRICKET

Harbhajan Singh



Born on 3rd July 1980 Punjab off spinner Harbhajan Singh made history at the Eden Garden Kolkata on March 11, 2001, when he became the FIRST EVER Indian, 4th Asian and 29th cricketer in the world to take a hat-trick in the test cricket. **No Indian ever before could achieve the feat since the country started playing test cricket more than 75 years ago.** The FIKKI KING took all the five wickets in his 16th over trapping Ricky Ponting, Adam Gilchrist, Shane Warne with his consecutive deliveries.

Again on 22nd March at Chennai he, who was the best bowler on either side with 32 wickets, held the "**Man of the Series Trophy**". *The Tribune* wrote on March 23, 2001 "The Punjab LAD DID IT FOR INDIA" – "A special toast should be raised for the young Sardar from Punjab Harbhajan Singh. Seldom has a single bowler dominated the entire series as he did."

In February 2002, the Indian Turbanator, made **second fastest half-century** in England by scoring 50 runs in 32 balls in a test cricket against England. He lags behind by only one ball in breaking the record of England's all rounder Botham which he made in 1986 against New Zealand. In Nov. 2002, he was decorated with the "MAN OF THE SERIES" award, while playing against West Indies.

Again he added a feather in his cap when on April, 18, 2003 in national stadium of Dhaka, playing one day international against South Africa, he completed century of wickets. Thus he became, on this day, the **youngest bowler of India** who took 100 wickets in one day matches, dislodging Ajit Agarkar who claimed the achievement at the age of 23 years and 4 days.

In Dec. 2004 he won "**Man of the Match**" award in Kolkata test match. In March 2005, Indian young off-spinner Turbanator earned the distinction of "MOST SUCCESSFUL OFF SPINNER" and "NUMBER ONE OFF SPINNER" of India, on the 2nd day of test match against Pakistan in Kolkata. In June 2005, he brought grand victory to Surrey against Hampshire by taking 8 wickets on the 3rd day of county match. In Oct. 2005, in the 3rd test match between India and Sri Lanka, in Ahmedabad, Sri Lanka scored only 131 runs against India's score of 398, for the loss of five wickets, out of which four were taken by Harbhajan and he was declared "MAN OF THE MATCH".

In March 2006, in the first match of the seven-match one day series between India and England, this off-spinner compelled England to fold up with 164 runs only and was conferred the "MAN OF THE MATCH" award. In April 2008 an ace off-spinner Harbhajan Singh surpassed Bishan Singh Bedi's mark of 266 test wickets and earned the distinction of India's **THIRD HIGHEST** wicket taker after Anil Kumble and Kapil Dev. Not only this, HARBY (as popular in foreign media) was declared "MAN OF THE SERIES" due to his star

performance against South Africa in Green Park of Kanpur.

Hindustan Times (March 8, 2008) paid tributes to star off-spinner of India in the words, "Bhajji part of Folklore ... Love him or hate him, you can't ignore Harbhajan Singh... when the story of India's Triumph in Australia is written, one man will be talked about much more than the others Let us give the devil its due: Harbhajan Singh, the man who launched a thousand controversies and some how, in the end, emerged as a genuine hero. Love him or hate him you just cannot ignore him anymore In 2001, he was the real artful dodger, who with his turn and twist, bemused the world champions so much that the Australians were ambushed by underdogs of India."

In November, 2008 Harbhajan Singh became the **third Indian**, 22nd cricketer in the world and **second Indian spinner** to claim 300 or more wickets when he took wicket of Australian captain Ricky Ponting on the second day of the fourth and final test in Nagpur. He was also destined to lead the spin attacks in Perth to Galle (Sri Lanka) tests this year. On January 26, 2009 Padmashree was awarded to him for achieving excellence in his field. In April 2009, he became the **highest wicket-taker for India in the Test Series** inspite of adverse conditions for spin bowling.

In Nov. 2010 at Hyderabad in India - Newzealand Test series, he made history in batting by making two centuries consecutively in two tests and turned the Batting Master. His tally of 295 also made him the highest run-getter in this contest so far. Rahul Dravid may be declaring him modern Gary Sobers but as per his coach India got another Kapil Dev in Harbhajan Singh who while batting at 8th place became number one batsman.

ENGLAND'S LETHAL WEAPON IN CRICKET

Monty Panesar



Though many Sikhs have represented England in hockey as well as in track and field, but Madhusudan Singh Panesar nick named Monty, a tall, long fingered and left-arm bowler is the first Sikh to represent England in Cricket, who was termed as "BEST SPINNER OF ENGLAND" by coach Mr. Kepler Wessels of Northamptonshire, the county once represented by Bishan Singh Bedi, now Monty played for, when Monty 23-year-old turbaned spinner, took 46 English county championship wickets at an average of 21.54. Though he made debut in first class cricket in 2001, he first time joined national squad of England in Jan 2006 when he was selected as its member in place of experienced Ashley Giles for the tour of India. During the tour, Rahul Dravid and a high profile wicket like master blaster Sachin Tendulkar became his first test victims.

No rookie has managed to capture public imagination like Panesar in the very short period of one year of his debut. The miraculous professional competence displayed by Monty

in winning the matches one after one for England since his debut in 2006, made him a legend and darling of everyone, especially of Britishers and Australians. Soon applauses were showered on him by declaring him "ENGLAND'S LETHAL WEAPON", "MORE ATTACKING BOWLER AND WICKET TAKER THAN GILES", "BEST SPINNER OF ENGLAND", "BEST FINGER SPINNER OF THE WORLD", "MONTY-A MATCH WINNER" and so on. England's coach Duncan Fletcher, was fascinated by his classical action and attitude which had given his team "control" in a test in Nagpur against India. Talismanic all rounder of the yester years and former England captain Ian Botham said, in his *Daily Mirror* column in August 2006, "MONTY PANESAR IS THE ANSWER TO ENGLAND'S QUEST FOR A MATCH-WINNING SPINNER".

An expert on Athletics, Mr. AR Hemant wrote on March 8, 2007 in a column about Monty, "After a year in international cricket, let's take a look at the roles Panesar has played : England's leading spinner in the period, saviour of the dying breed of left-arm orthodox bowlers, a cult hero for Asian expats, a trigger-happy tail-end batsman. Remember him dropping MS Dhoni in Mumbai." ... "But already, there have been glimpses of Bishan Singh Bedi. Panesar could, perhaps, lay new benchmarks for aspiring left-arm spinners who haven't had great heroes to look upto. Ashley Giles and Daniel Vettori have been good, but they were never great."

In Dec. 2006, Monty earned the honour of being the **FIRST ENGLISH SPINNER to take five test wickets in an innings** in a test at the WACA while playing against Australia on the third Ashes test in Perth. In June 2007, in a test series against West Indies, he brought victory to England by grabbing 10 wickets on fourth day of the third test at old Trafford in Manchester. Thus he became the **FIRST ENGLISH SPINNER** to do so in 10 years, and was declared 'MAN OF THE MATCH'. At the start of the four- Test series against West Indies, Panesar, who was ranked 33rd in the world, clinched the sixth rank

after the series, due to his outstanding performance in bowling – 23 wickets in four tests - which led England to victory 3-0.

There was a time when India was dominating in spin bowling. INDIA GAVE THE WORLD BEST SPIN BOWLERS LIKE BISHAN SINGH BEDI AND HARBHAJAN SINGH. But with the dawn of Monty Panesar, now it seems to be the turn of England to lead. Monty has found a place among the TEN TOP bowlers of the world and has distinction to be the FIRST SPINNER of England who got the position in the last 30 years.

When in 2006 Pakistan toured England, Panesar proved very tough for them to be handled. In the first innings of the test at old Trafford, he took three wickets. In the second innings Monty-Harmison, the pair took 19 of the 20 Pakistani wickets which culminated in an innings - and - 120 - run victory.

It is beyond doubt that his **Sikh-look** (which he kept intact and will make him the role model for the Sikh youths all over the world) has paid him immensely, like Capt. M.S. Kohli and Milkha Singh to make him darling of everyone and attracting crowd and admirers. **In 2006, he beguiled Cuban leader Fidel Castro and won the 2006 Beard of the year award.** The Beard of the year award is a prize awarded in December of each year in the U.K. by the Beard Liberation Front (BLF) to acknowledge someone in the public eye who has created positive publicity for beards. **The beard of Monty was declared as a magnificent** beard by Keith Flett, a BLF organizer. Archbishop of Canterbury, Rowan Williams and veteran trade union leader Paul Mackney, both were tied for the third place after a vote of BLF supporters for the hirsute person who has made the most impact on public life in 2006.

In the last week of Nov. 2012 in Mumbai in test matches between India and England, Monty has made Indian batsmen dance to his tune on a pitch laid out for the home spinners. It is said he removed the cream of the Indian batting line up. In India's second innings he grabbed 5 wickets out of 7. Tendulkar was clean bowled by him.

THE ONLY INDIAN TO REPRESENT INDIA IN HOCKEY IN FOUR CONSECUTIVE OLYMPICS

Udham Singh



Village Sansarpur (Jalandhar) born S.Udham Singh is the **ONLY Indian hockey player** who donned national colours in four successive Olympics and won 3 gold medals (1st in 1952 in Helsinki Olympics, 2nd in 1956 in Melbourne Olympics, 3rd in 1964 in Tokyo Olympics) and one silver medal (in 1960 in Rome Olympics). This feat, an unprecedented in the history of international hockey, recorded his name in GUINNESS Book of World Records. He could have become the only Indian to represent India in five successive Olympics, had he been fit for selection for the London Olympics in 1948 but injury prevented him from acquiring that honour.

During the tenure of hockey career he captained India hockey team thrice, first in 1953 when the Indian team went on a tour of Warsaw (Poland), secondly when team of India

was on a tour of East African and European countries in 1959, and last time when the team was on a tour of Austria and New Zealand in 1961. He was deputy captain of the team which represented India in 1964 Tokyo Olympics. He had been the national coach of Indian hockey team from 1966 to 1972. He coached Indian hockey team sent to 1968 and 1972 Olympics. On account of his magnificent role in Indian hockey, he was awarded the coveted **Arjuna award** in 1965. He died on March 23, 1999.

He is remembered as a versatile forward who could play at left-inside, right-inside, centre-forward or centre-half. He dedicated and devoted his whole life to hockey. First he served Punjab Police and then he joined B.S.F.

WINNER OF FIRST CHAMPIONS CHALLENGE TROPHY

Olympian Baljit Singh Dhillon



S. Baljit Singh Dhillon was the CAPTAIN of Indian hockey team which won its **FIRST Champions Challenge Trophy** after 2-1 victory over South Africa in the final of Champions Challenge Hockey Tournament in Kuala Lumpur in Dec. 2001. It was India's **FIRST** big event in Hockey, after the 1987 Asian Games gold, in which Dhillon also won **MAN OF THE MATCH** award for his superb performance.

He first joined national hockey team in 1993 and was included in the team which toured South Africa in the same year and **Baljit scored 6 goals** against South Africa in Johannesburg. In 1998, Bangkok Asian Games gold was won by India after 32 years, in which **Baljit scored 7 goals** against the opponents. In 1999 India-Pakistan series, he was declared '**MAN OF THE SERIES**' in which he scored 9 goals. Also in the same year, he got place in All Star Team of F.I.H.

BALJIT CAPTAINED INDIAN HOCKEY TEAM THRICE – first in 1999 for Asia Cup, secondly in 2001 for Champions Challenge Hockey Tournament and thirdly in 2002 for the World Cup. HE REPRESENTED INDIA IN THREE OLYMPICS - In 1996 (Atlanta), in 2000 (Sydney) and 2004 (Greece).

He played total 326 matches and scored more than 100 goals. He also represented India in 1998 Commonwealth Games and in the same year he was awarded coveted Arjuna Award. He is best known for his dashing raids which would spell terror among the defenders of the opposite team, whenever he succeeded to enter in their field. He is also remembered as the last inheritor of classic hockey.

WINNER OF FIRST AND LAST WORLD CUP HOCKEY

S. Ajit Pal Singh



S. Ajit Pal Singh, one of the **best centre halves** in the world of his time, was the **Captain** of the Indian hockey team which clinched the **FIRST** and **LAST** World Hockey Cup in 1975 at Kuala Lumpur after 2-1 victory over Pakistan in the final of Third World Cup.

S. Singh was also the captain of the B.S.F. hockey team who won Nehru Hockey Cup on Dec. 5, 1975 after the 3-0 victory over Punjab Police at Shivaji Stadium, New Delhi in

Nehru Cup hockey tournament.

Born in April 1947, Ajit Pal Singh also belongs to Sansarpur village, which is known as the nursery of the Indian Hockey. He first took part in an international hockey tournament at Bombay in 1960, **then represented India in Japan in 1966.** He got first real break, when he was selected in the Indian team to play in Pre-Olympic Hockey Tournament in London in 1967. In 1968 he showed such prowess in hockey in **Mexico Olympic Games** that he was selected in the **World Hockey teams of 1971, 72 and 73.** In 1974, he represented India in the Asian Games at Tehran. In the same year, he was included in the **Asian All-Star Hockey XI.**

But in 1976, India faced defeat in the Montreal Olympic Games under Ajit Pal Singh when they finished seventh, though India had almost fielded the same team which had won the third World Cup title. God knows what went wrong. Fed up with the criticism, he got retirement from the international hockey. Then he started playing for the B.S.F. In 1980 when he played in the Champions Trophy Tournament at Karachi, that became his last international appearance. He was awarded



Mohinder Singh Munshi Kissing the World Cup

the **Arjuna Award** in 1972.

Ajit Pal Singh participated in 3 time in Olympics, 3 time World Cups and 2 time in Asian Games for the country. In April 2012 he was declared the leader of Indian squad to Olympics in England.

The star performer of 1975 mega event of Indian Hockey, was Mohinder Singh Munshi, who played a leading role in Indian win. At one time it was famous that his every stroke turned into a goal. S. Munshi died at the age of 24 only.

The vice-captain of the Indian Hockey team who won the world cup was also a Sikh, Brigadier Harcharan Singh. In world cup he shot five goals, the memorable of which was the goal against Malaysia in semi-final which led India to final. In 1978 he was awarded Arjuna and in 1981 Vishisht Sewa Medal (VSM).

THE HIGHEST HOCKEY SCORER IN THE WORLD

Padmashree Prithipal Singh



S. Prithipal Singh had the distinction of being the **highest scorer** (hockey) in the world throughout the Olympics viz. Rome (1960), Tokyo (1964) and Mexico (1968) and won a gold, a silver and a bronze. He remained at the helm of affairs in the world of hockey and maintained these honours **throughout three Olympics**. In Rome Olympics-1960, he scored 11 out of 22 goals and was adjudged as BEST **full back** in the world in hockey. At that time he was famous as **Penalty Corner King** in the media. In 1967 he was made Captain of Indian Hockey Team. In his captaincy the Indian team toured Uganda and brought medal from Mexico Olympics. He also played a major role in **bringing gold to India in 1960 Bangkok Games**.

It was due to him that India could keep the tricolor flying in three Olympics in hockey. The presence of Prithipal in the field always spelt terror for the opposing team members,

many of whom frisked away on one pretext or the other. It was then well known about Pakistani hockey players that they could face any player except Prithipal Singh. His hits were so forceful that many a times the defending goalkeepers used to turn their face away to avoid being hurt. It were his forceful hits which made the record not only of tearing hockey nets but also **compelled the sport authorities to alter the short corner rules.**

Born on January 28, 1932 in Nankana Sahib, Distt. Shekhupura, Pakistan, Prithipal passed high school in 1947 with 69.2% marks. After partition he joined Agriculture College, Ludhiana wherein he won the college colours and roll of honour award and was made captain of the hockey team of the college in 1953-54.

For his great achievements and brilliant record in the game of hockey, he was honoured with the Railway Minister's Medal, **Arjuna Award** in 1961 and PADMASHREE in 1966.

The best fullback and penalty corner king was mercilessly shot dead by some unidentified miscreants in May 1983.

ONE OF THE BEST DEEP DEFENDERS OF INTERNATIONAL HOCKEY

Padmashree Pargat Singh



Born on March 5, 1965 at Mithapur near Jalandhar and an alumni of Lyallpur Khalsa College, Jalandhar, which like Khalsa College Amritsar, gave country a number of players of great caliber, **former captain and chief coach of Indian Hockey team, charismatic Pargat Singh became an ideal for an entire generation of hockey players**, for he was the player who could match the Europeans in their own tactics while retaining the Asian artistry. In recognition to his outstanding contribution made to Indian hockey, he was decorated with PADMASHREE by the Govt. of India.

He appeared on the international scene in 1983 and had the distinction of leading the country in all major international events—Olympics, World Cups, Asian Games, Champions Trophy and Asia Cup. **He played 313 international**

matches, out of which 168 matches were captained by him. With abundant natural talent and profound self confidence, Pargat Singh played in three successive Olympics (1988 at Seoul, 1992 at Barcelona and 1996 at Atlanta), two world cups—1986 at Willender and 1990 at Lahore; two Asian games—1986 at Seoul and 1990 at Beijing; four Champions Trophy Competitions and twice was the member of the **Stars All Asian team, which he also captained in 1991.**

The most talented and most skilful player and one of the best defenders of the hockey in the world of his time, in whose time Indian hockey revolved around his stick work, full back **Pargat captained** Indian hockey team in two successive Olympics—first at Barcelona Olympics in 1992 and second at the Atlanta Olympics in 1996 and thus became **FIRST player to lead India in two successive Olympics.** At the start of his career, he had first represented India in the 10-Nation hockey tournament at Hong Kong in 1983 at the age of 17 and donned national colors in the Asia Cup, the World Cup and the Asian Games. In 1989, he was selected **to lead senior national team and held the berth for consecutive eight years** except once in 1993-94.

May be any player got more fame, but in his time, when India faced tough time, Pargat caught the eye of every body. At every competition it seemed the Pargat would emerge from full back like a dashed centre forward, and earn penalty corner. His principle was "Attack is the best form of defense".

Pargat had marked his presence in the top echelons of International Hockey, when in one of the greatest fightbacks in the history of the game, in the Champions match **against Germany** at Perth in Australia in 1985, with only a few seconds to go, Pargat collected the ball from his own half and ran down the field **which helped India to draw parity in the dying moments, making 5-5 goals. Pargat Singh repeated the feat in the next Champions Trophy and adorned India with a 3-2 victory over Holland.** But one of his most satisfyinbg

moments were the SAF Games gold medal **beating Pakistan in Madras in 1995**. India's mainstay of his time, Captain Pargat Singh retired in Jan. 1997. In 2007 he was elevated as Director Sports of Punjab Govt.

In February 2009, in a meeting of the the governing body of International Hockey Federation (FIH) he was nominated as a **member to the FIH Hockey Rule Board**.

THE GREATEST OLYMPIAN ICON OF INDIA

Padmashree Balbir Singh (Sr.)



Born in 1924 in Haripur (Jalandhar), Balbir Singh Dosanjh's (Senior) name was a terror for the opposing teams. In his time the victory of India was taken for granted if Balbir, **one of the best centre forwards in the world**, is present on the field. He represented the country in the hockey in **three successive Olympics** e.g. 1948 (London), 1952 (Helsinki) and 1956 (Melbourne), which is a great achievement in itself, **and won the gold medals in all the three Olympics**. In 1956 Olympics, he captained the Indian team.

Thus he got distinction of being the first Indian in Hockey of Independent India to take Hat-trick of Gold in Olympics. Not only thus he made India proud by getting his name included in the list of 16 great Olympians of the world of

all games since 1896 till date. He is the only Indian sportsperson (Neither Dhyan Chand not Sachin Tendulkar) to get thus distinction.

In 1956, India could win because Balbir gave a surprise to the opposing teams. Due to a fracture in his arm he could not play in the preliminary matches. But he surprisingly appeared on the field in the semifinal against Germany and Germany had to change their strategy to encircle Balbir. But it was of no avail and the opportunity was availed of by the co-forward Udham Singh who scored the goal. **The same story was repeated in the final against Pakistan and India won the gold for the sixth time in the Olympics and also Balbir completed his hat-trick in Olympic gold medals.**

In 1948 London Olympics too Balbir appeared in 2nd match against Argentina and scored six goals one after another making the country victorious over Argentina with 9-1. After a pause in some matches he again suddenly appeared on the track in the final **against Britain** and emerged victorious over England with 4-0. Two goals in the first half were scored by Balbir. **In 1952 Helsinki Olympics,** Balbir scored 3 goals against Britain in semi-final and five goals against Holland in final and brought the gold for the country. **In 1975, when India won its only World Cup under the captaincy of Ajitpal Singh at Kuala Lumpur, Balbir was manager and chief coach of the team.** He was also the manager/chief coach of the Indian Hockey teams in 1970-1971 (World Cup Barcelona) and 1982 Asian Games, and Trophy at Amsterdam and Esanda Cup at Melbourne. He was also the member of the Indian team that won the silver medal at the Asian Games in 1958 and 1962. Apart from this, he had the honour of being **flag bearer** of the Indian Olympic contingent at the 1952 and 1956 games. Retired as Director of Sports Punjab in 1982, he was also the national selector from 1970 to 1974 and he was adjudged the "INDIAN SPORTSMAN OF THE CENTURY" in an opinion poll held in New Delhi that year.

Keeping in view his brilliant career and laurels brought for the nation, when he was honoured with **Padmashree** in

1957, he became not only the **FIRST hockey player** but the first sportsman of India to get the award. After retirement, he wrote his biography named "The Golden Hat trick My Hockey Days".

Besides he also holds **two Olympic records**—most goals in any olympic semi final and final and also most goals in any Olympic i.e. in 1948 Olympic he played two matches and scored 8 of 13 goals by India and in the 1952 Olympics he featured in three games and shot 9 of India's 13 goals.

He was also honoured by International Olympic Committee during 2012 London Olympics for his superb contribution to the Olympic games.

In March 2015, the wizard of hockey Balbir was bestowed upon lifetime achievement award at **the inaugural Hockey India Awards in New Delhi**. He received the trophy for Major Dhyan Chand lifetime achievement award alongwith a cheque of Rs. 30 lakhs. It is learned that a film in Hindi and Punjabi on his life and achievements is going to be produced.

WHEN SIKHS REPRESENTED THREE CONTINENTS IN HOCKEY

Hardial Singh Kular



It was a unique scene in June 1998 at UTRECHT World Cup when three generations of KULAR SIKHS from village Sansarpur (Jalandhar) represented THREE different continents in International hockey otherwise FOUR. While Hardial Singh represented Kenya and Africa, Bindi Singh Kular represented Canada and North America (a member of playing side of Canada representing North America) and Col. Balbir Singh (Services) represented India and Asia. The fourth continent Europe was represented by EIKKY who played for Great Britain in test matches.

Earlier in **1968 Olympic** Games at Mexico, eight Sikh players from Sansarpur played in Olympic hockey competition; **five for India and three for Kenya. Also in 1964 Tokyo Olympic** Games, four Sikhs represented India and two Sikhs represented Kenya in Hockey. **It was never heard in the history of Olympic Games and international meets** that players from a village have played in the same meet representing two

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or more different nations and continents. Hardial Singh along with Hardev Singh (both brothers) played for Kenya.

S. Hardial Singh Kular, nicknamed "Hardie", the pioneer of Sikh Union Hockey Club in Kenya and omnipresent at all FIH tournaments rose to as high as to become the **Chief (Chairman) of African Hockey Federation** and Kenyan Hockey Union, which he headed for many years; and **Vice President of the Federation Internationale de Hockey** (F.I.H. - International Hockey Federation). He was honoured with the **Olympic Order** by the International Olympic Chief Mr. Juan Antonio Samaranch himself on the eve of Utrecht World Cup in 1998 for promoting hockey in African continent. The African continent and specially Kenya shall always remain indebted to invaluable contribution made by Kular family to their hockey. S. Hardial Singh Kular also remained a coach as well as administrator of hockey in Africa for three decades.

S. Hardial Singh was instrumental in **replacing wooden stick with the synthetic stick**, inspite of tremendous pressure from Australian and European manufacturers of synthetic sticks, to the great relief of the sports goods industry of India (Jalandhar), and Pakistan (Sialkot). He had association with various international meets as technical delegate and Tournament Director and supported India and Pakistan on various issues at the international fora. Even just before his death in 1998 at Nairobi he was present at Kuala Lumpur and associated with Commonwealth Games there.

The younger brother of Hardial Singh, Hardev Singh Kular, who retired from Kenyan Police Force as Chief Prosecuting Inspector, represented Kenya in Hockey in the 1956 and 1960 Olympics. After the death of S. Hardial Singh in 1998, **Hardev Singh became the Chairman of the Kenyan Hockey Union and retired in 2004. In 2005, Hardev Singh became the Chairman of the Kenyan Olympics Association.**

THE BEST FOOTBALLER OF ASIA AND LION OF BENGALIS

S. Jarnail Singh



Born in Lyallpur (Pak) in 1936, a **legend and a star performer of Indian soccer, S. Jarnail Singh** reigned over the hearts of Bengalis and his achievements are still part of Kolkata's folklore. Bengalis called him “LION” and his photographs can be seen in the houses of football lovers of Kolkata. **What Bobby Charlton or George Best were to English soccer, Jarnail was to Indian soccer.**

In 1962 Asian Games at Jakarta, **HE CAPTAINED THE TEAM AND MADE INDIA ASIAN STAR.** This was India's FIRST AND LAST achievement in football in any international meet. In this meet, in spite of his head injury having 7-8 stitches he played against Vietnam and South Korea and it was due to his victory goals against Vietnam and South Korea that India could win the Asian Championship. Due to his this

feat he was declared BEST FOOTBALLER of the year. In the year 1964, he was decorated with ARJUNA award and was declared BEST PLAYER of Calcutta. Punjab Government promoted him as Joint Director in Sports Department.

From 1965 to 1967, he **captained** Indian football team, **Mohan Bagan**. He was the only Punjabi who led glamorous red and maroon brigade. **HE ALSO CAPTAINED ASIAN ALL STAR FOOTBALL TEAM FOR 2 YEARS**, in 1966 and 1967. A footballer of tremendous guts and stamina, Jarnail had football in his blood. In 1960 Rome Olympics, he played so well that he was selected as FULLBACK OF WORLD ELEVEN, and was declared BEST STOPPER BACK in soccer in the world. Playing as stopper back, he played a key role in many memorable Bagan wins. **In 1959 Mohan Bagan won DURAND cup for the first time, due to Jarnail Singh**. Once Sir Stanley Rouse, the President of International Football Federation (FIFA) commended him as BEST ASIAN FOOTBALLER.

In 1974 he brought Santosh Trophy for Punjab. The first rank footballers of China, Japan and Korea feared this 'JARNAIL' of Indian footballer. It was a matter of pride for India that the Captain of his own team was also the Captain of All Star Asia Football Team. It was in 1966 during the Bangkok Asian Games, that he was selected as the CAPTAIN OF ALL STAR ASIAN TEAM. With the passing away of Jarnail Singh on October 14, 2000, golden era of Indian soccer has come to an end.

The other Indian footballer, who captained All Star Asian Football Team, was S. Gurdev Singh. Retired from the Punjab Police as a commandant ISTC Kapurthala in April 2008, he is another one of the finest soccer players of the country, who represented India in 1974 and 1978 in Asian Games and also captained the team in 1978. He was honoured with Arjuna Award in 1978-79. The other players who made Indian football proud were S. Inder Singh and D.S.P. S. Kuljit Singh.

THE BEST TRIPLE JUMPER COUNTRY HAS EVER PRODUCED

Capt. Mohinder Singh Gill



An Asian Games and Commonwealth Games Gold Medallist, Capt. Mohinder Singh was a legend in track and field. In 1956 in Commonwealth International Athletics Meet at Bendiga City in Australia, he won a **gold medal** for the country in triple jump with a distance of 50' -7". In the same year, he also represented the country in Melbourne Olympic Games. In the third Asian Games held at Tokyo in 1958, **he again won a gold** by establishing new Asian records in triple jump with a distance of 51'- 4" (15.62 m).

In the Sixth Asian Games held at Bangkok in 1970, he broke his own record of 1958 and **won his third gold medal** with a leap of 16.11 m. (silver in the triple jump was also won by a Sikh Labh Singh, who also won bronze in the long jump during this meet).

In 1972 Olympic Games, just a few days before his actual competition he pulled a muscle and had to stay out of the event. He had his best preparations and tough training for the event but the injury denied him opportunity. In 1974 Commonwealth Games at Christchurch, he had to satisfy himself with a **silver as the foul jump of his rival, a Ghanian, was okayed and there was no official from India** who could lodge a formal protest. So he was denied gold, otherwise, it would have been **his fourth Gold**.

He also had a very bad day in 1967, when the organizers of the National Athletic Meet in New Delhi decided to cancel the triple jump event as the then national champion, Labh Singh was not well. Mr. Gill was so disappointed that he decided to leave India and went to USA, but kept on playing for India.

Besides the above, his other great achievements are: A Bronze in 1970 Commonwealth Games held at Scotland; a Silver in 1971 Munich World Championship; a Gold in 1973 Asian Athletics Championship held at Manila; a Silver in 1974 Tehran Asian Games; A Gold in 1975 Asian Athletics Championship Philippines.

**THE FIRST EVER TABLE TENNIS NATIONAL
CHAMPION FROM NORTHERN INDIA AND
DELHI**

Manjit Singh Dua



Born and brought up at Delhi S. Manjit Singh Dua, a star on the national table tennis circuit, created history in 1973 when he was declared National Champion of Table Tennis in a competition held in Madras. It was for the **FIRST** time that a player of table tennis from North India got the honour. In 1974 **he repeated the feat** when under his captaincy Delhi T.T. team stood at number one and won the national title for the **FIRST** time in the history. Again in the National T.T. Championship in 1980, Delhi T.T. Team won National Title for the **2nd time under his captaincy**. In 1974 he was ranked **number one** T.T. player in the country, besides **best sportsman of Delhi** and was honoured with ARJUNA award. In 1973 he also won national title for North India in Table Tennis at Jalandhar by over powering Mr. Mir Kasim Ali, the reigning champion and clinched for himself the honour of new Table Tennis Champion.

In the years 1976 and 1979 he again captured the **title of National Table Tennis Champion for the second and third time.**

M.S. Dua is the player who dominated the Indian Table Tennis for the **longest ever period.** Hardly any other Indian T.T. player could claim such long innings. Since 1973 he had been representing India in all the major table tennis events all over the world and had won all major tournaments for the country while captaining Delhi. In the Commonwealth Table Tennis Championship at Bombay in February 1982 he won a bronze in the men's Singles.

Mr. Dua who caught the public eye in 1967 when he was selected for the Delhi Table Tennis team and very soon started to be considered a star performer of the Indian table tennis. **He represented India** in T.T. World Championships in Calcutta (India), Birmingham (U.K.), Jarajevo (Yugoslavia), Pyongyang (Korea) and Novisad (Yugoslavia); in the Asian T.T. Championships at China, DPR Korea, Malaysia, Japan, Calcutta and Indonesia and the Commonwealth T.T. Championships at Cardiff, Australia, Scotland and Bombay.

**THE ONLY INDIAN TO HOLD FOUR
NATIONAL RECORDS IN FOUR DIFFERENT
SPORTS**

Gurbachan Singh Randhawa



Former Olympian, a versatile athlete and an Asian Decathlon Champion G.S.Randhawa is the **ONLY** Indian to hold **FOUR** national records in high jump, javelin throw, 110 m hurdles and decathlon in the sixties. He represented India in 1960 Rome Olympics. In 1962 Jakarta Asian Games, he was adjudged the **BEST athlete**. In 1964 Tokyo Olympics, he finished fifth in 110 M hurdles with a timing of 14 seconds. It was the **best ever performance by an Indian athlete other than Milkha Singh**, who finished fourth in 1960 Rome Olympics. He also held the **Commonwealth record** in high hurdles (14 seconds) and Decathlon (6912 points) at one stage.

President's Police Medal was conferred upon him for his distinguished services. In 1961 he was honoured with **ARJUNA award**. He thus earned the distinction of being the FIRST ARJUNA AWARDEE athlete.

Dhanwant Singh Bhogal, an industrialist from the Bhogal Group of Industries, Ludhiana, who represented India in the late 50s in events like the 10 thousand meter walk and 50 km.walk, recalled, "I remember, I ran in the Olympic as an outsider for there was no Indian official or runner with Gurbachan Singh Randhawa. When he won the race and collapsed on the track, the Italians asked me to come and pick him up for he had no one accompanying him. This was the state of affairs at that time and not like the present that the champions and the winners have a whole range of officials and relatives along with him."

Randhawa retired as DIG of CRPF. After retirement, he was appointed a member of the Indian Olympic Committee.



**THE ONLY INDIAN TO HOLD
FOUR NATIONAL RECORDS IN
FOUR DIFFERENT WEIGHT
CATEGORIES**

S. Balbir Singh

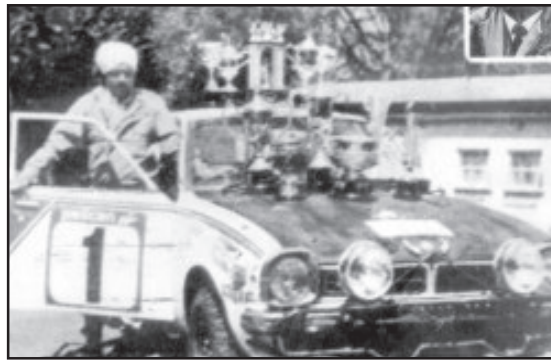
An ARJUNA award winner and a bronze medallist of the 1970 Bangkok Asian Games, former international weightlifter, S. Balbir Singh is the **ONLY Indian** to have established national records in **FOUR different weight categories. He has also distinction of being UNBEATEN national champion for 13 successive years in weightlifting.**

In 1973 when he won the national crown for the 13th successive year, he was still good enough to carry on for another couple of years. **But he voluntarily withdrew in favour** of a youngster named Dalbir Singh who won the title with a performance much below Balbir's standard.

On Sept. 25, 1984, he received the prestigious PIERRE DE COUBERTIN trophy for fair play, at UNESCO house in Paris by the Paris based International Fair Play Committee for his adherence to the rules of fair play. He was **third in the world** after former wrestling coach Guru Hanuman and former world Billiards champion Michael Ferreira to receive this trophy. He is also the **ONLY Indian** to lift more than 300 pounds and having a three-lift total of plus 900 pounds to his credit.

THE FINEST MOTOR-RALLY DRIVER IN THE WORLD

Flying Sikh Joginder Singh



The Sikhs have become part and parcel of Kenya's life, who made notable contribution in developing it. The Sikhs have earned the fame in Kenya as hard-working, trusted, open hearted and professionally skilled people. The Sikhs led Kenya in sports and adventures. Here is one name who earned fame for Kenya in adventure.

Known as "Flying Sikh", S. Joginder Singh, a household name all over East Africa, was widely regarded as the FINEST Motor-Rally Driver in the World between 1965 and 1974. Joginder Singh won the **East Africa Safari Rally** – the toughest motoring event in the world - **first time in 1959 and repeated the feat in 1965 and 1974**, completing nearly 4000 kms. course sixteen times. Thus he became the first man to win the Safari Rally thrice.

He had been the **Kenya Rally Champion FIVE TIMES** and had been well placed in many other rallies in many parts

of the world. His services as a rally driver were most sought after by car manufacturers everywhere.

He owned a flourishing business as a motor-car dealer in Nairobi and held exclusive franchises for a number of well-known makes. In 1975, a pictorial biography on him was published.

He died in London in October, 2013 as news was reported by leading Kenyan newspaper, ***Daily Nation***. On his death a London based noted Safari Rally Journalist Shamlal Puri, wrote, “Joginder Singh has left behind a legacy that has charmed across continents and his powerful persona as a rally driver will never find an equal, for none came even remotely close for decades after he hung his driving gloves.”

AN OUTSTANDING ASIAD ATHLETE

S. Parduman Singh



Resident of village Bhagta Bhai Ka, Distt. Patiala and a soldier of Horse Regiment retired as honorary captain from army in 1972, with a 6' - 1" height, a robust body and robila face, S. Parduman Singh clinched the national championship in hammer throw in a national meet held at Cuttak, **by breaking record of first Asian Games** made by one Madan Lal from Ludhiana (45ft) by tossing metal ball to 47'-3". This was his first achievement. The further successes came when he clinched, in the second Asian Games held at

Manila (Philippines) from May 1 to 9, 1954, TWO GOLD MEDALS, first on second May in discus throw and 2nd on 5th May in shotput and emerged as a **star athlete of second Asian Games**.

Again in **Third Asian Games** held in Tokyo (Japan) in 1958, he re-wrote a new record in his name in shotput when he tossed metal ball to 15.03 m. breaking his own previous record of 14.14 m at Manila and WON A GOLD and A BRONZE in discus throw for the country. Here, along with Parduman Singh, Milkha Singh did the country proud by winning two golds in the 200m and 400m races .

In 4th Asian Games held at Jakarta (Indonesia) from Aug. 24 to Sept. 4, 1962, he could win only Silver in discus throw because of being wounded during practice, otherwise history would have been different. Thus one of the country's finest achievers in the Asian Games and an ace thrower Parduman participated in its three editions **winning 3 golds, 1 silver and 1 bronze for the country**. All this he achieved without any coach and technical training.

Due to apathetic attitude of the govt. since inception, he retired from sports in 1962 and could not fulfill his dream of winning a gold in Olympics, otherwise he would have earned many more medals for the country. It was irony of fate that he was honoured with ARJUNA award after 42 yrs. of his achievement when he had been bed-ridden with paralysis for the last 20 yrs. His 3 gold and 2 other medals could not fetch him even minimum basic necessities and left the star in abject poverty. He breathed his last in March 2007 at Adesh Medical College and Hospital, Bathinda, facing multiple medical problems.

THE OLDEST MARATHONER IN THE HUMAN HISTORY

Baba Fauja Singh



An icon of Sikh identity in Europe and also the brand ambassador of Adidas shoe and apparel company, a living legend, adorning billboard in cities like London, Toronto and New York and hitting the headlines ever since he took to running marathons **who smashed several WORLD RECORDS**, London based Baba Fauja Singh hailing from Beas (Distt. Amritsar) entered the **Guinness Book of World Records as the World's Oldest and Fastest 90-Plus marathoner in 2004.**

In 2000, he participated for the first time in the London Flora Marathon at the age of 89 when he clocked 6 hrs. 54 min. Next year (2001) also he clocked 6 hrs. 54 min. and set his **FIRST World Record in 90-yrs age group. SECOND WORLD RECORD OF FASTEST** Runner in over-90 age group was set by him at the age of 92 by finishing race in 5 hrs. 40 min. in the Toronto Marathon in 2003 and **THIRD WORLD RECORD** on 5th Dec. 2004 by completing race in 6

hrs 7 min. in the London Marathon at the age of 93 for a nonagenarian marathoner.

In 2002, he clocked 6 hrs. 45 min. At the Great North Run Half Marathon in Oct. 2002, he clocked 2 hrs. 39 min. **He has run successfully near about a dozen of 42-km marathons and many times 21-km half marathons** including Lahore International Marathon in 2005 at the age of 94 and Chamkaur Sahib marathon at the age of 93 the great North Run Half marathon in Oct. 2002 and Edinburgh marathon in June 2005. **His aim is to break the record of 98 year old Greek, Dimitrion Yordandis** by staying active upto 100 years. to be the oldest man to complete a marathon.

In early 2004, **he replaced** footballer David Beckham, Boxer Laila Ali (Daughter of Mohd. Ali) and Johny Wilkinson as the new **poster boy of Adidas Company**. To acknowledge Fauja Singh who can give inferiority complex to men one third of his age, poster boy status on the basis of his achievements and world records, Adidas has signed a deal with him for a major advertising campaign called "**Impossible is Nothing**", which is a big achievement in itself, over which he is very happy. In Dec. 2004, he was among the **distinguished persons invited by the queen** for a reception at Buckingham Palace. He had been torch bearer carrying the Olympic flame on Day 22 of the Athens 2004 Olympic torch relay in London on June 26, 2004 and was referred to as MARATHON MAN.

Fauja Singh does not run for himself only. In 2004, he was in New York to run for Sikh identity. He also ran for the British Heart Foundation. PETA (People for the Ethical Treatment of Animals) has also been using his name as a symbol of Vegetarianism.

His achievement of extraordinary nonagenarian have raised the profile of the Asian Community in the west, and pushed back human boundaries in more ways than one. **He has never been beaten by any veteran. World record of 5 hrs. 40 minutes in marathon set by him is still unbeaten.**

S. Fauja Singh, nicknamed “Turban Tornado”, who turned 102 on April, 2013, became the oldest man to run a full marathon in 2011. In February 2013, he retired from competitive events as a “very happy man” as he finished his last race at Hong Kong in one hour, 32 minutes and 28 seconds.

In January, 2015 at the age of 103, he was honoured with British Empire Medal by Queen Elizabeth-II.

A WORLD CHAMPION OF CYCLING

Pritam Singh



Seventy two years young S. Pritam Singh, a resident of village Bohan, Distt. Hoshiarpur, **created history** when he won his **Seventh gold in a row** in the world cycling championship in 70-74 age group held at Melbourne in Australia from Oct. 5 to 13, 2002. Earlier, he won his **maiden gold** in Oct. 1994 in World Masters Game in Brisbane (Australia) in 60 km race with a speed of 52. This was his first chance to compete in any international meet. His subsequent success came when he finished 560 km. non-stop Marathon challenging race from London to Glasgow in a record time in Dec. 1996. Third gold was won by him in Canberra in Oct.1997. Continuing a chain of gold, he won his **fourth gold** at Dunedin (New Zealand) on

5th Feb. 1998. He clinched his **fifth gold** at Portland, Oregon (USA) on 22nd Aug. 1998 and his **6th gold** at Adelaide (Australia) on Oct. 3, 1999, by finishing cycle race of 60 Kms. in 1 hr. 4 minutes 17.1 seconds, with a speed of 56 Km/hr.

He retired as Headmaster in 1991. After clinching State-championship in 1992, he won National Championship in Delhi in the same year. **In 1993, he got his name recorded in Guinness Book of World Records for cycling 357 km. per day.** The distinction of winning of seven gold medals in World Masters Games and being winner of many National and International competitions in cycling **tells the story about this wonder of cycling.**

Like others, he is also the victim of his nation's apathy. Govt. has not recognised his great achievements so far and not found him fit for any award. He has to take part in international meets at his own expenses.

A TWO TIMES ASIAN GAMES SHOT PUT CHAMPION

Joginder Singh



An outstanding athlete and Arjuna awardee, Joginder Singh is the **two-time Asian Games Shot Put champion. He won the bronze medal** in the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games and went on to win **GOLDS in next two editions in 1966 and 1970** at Bangkok Asian Games with a record throw. A former army major, Joginder, crossed the 17-metre barrier when he won the gold medal in the 1970 Asian Games tossing the ball to a distance of 17.09 m. After that he served the country as a **coach and helped Bahadur Singh in winning** the Asian Games gold medal twice in 1978 and 1982 and Asian Championship gold medal in 1975. He was also part of the coaching panel who trained athletes for New Delhi Asian Games in 1982. He was fast friend of S. Gurbachan Singh Randhawa.

A STAR PERFORMER IN SHOT PUT

Bahadur Singh Padmashree

Bahadur Singh Sagoo won his **FIRST GOLD MEDAL** by tossing the ball to a distance of 18.53 metres in IX Asian Games held in New Delhi in 1982. In 1986 Asian Games held at Seoul, he led India's 300 squad. In Busan Asian Games in 2002, he clinched **2nd Gold** for the country in Shot Put. **This gold has a special significance as it was by India after 20 years in shot put, that by Bahdur Singh himself.**



A part from above Bahadur Singh **WON GOLDS IN VARIOUS OTHER INTERNATIONAL COMPETITIONS.** In 2004, he won gold medal in shot put in an athletic competition held at Kiev (Ukraine) and qualified for the Athens Olympics. **Here he got the honour to be a member of 13-shot putter squad who could toss the ball to a distance of 20.40 metres.** He represented the country **in two Olympics** – 2004 Athens and 2006 Sydney Olympics. In 2005 he was selected as the **chief** coach of Indian athletics team. Keeping in view his notable contribution to Indian athletics he was awarded Padmashree in 2006. **Bahadur Singh represented India in more than thirty international meets.**

Gold won by him in 1982 Asiad was actually his 2nd Gold. 1st Gold was won by him in 1978 at Bangkok Asiad besides Asian Championship Gold in 1975.

A WORLD RECORD SETTER IN VETERAN ATHLETIC MEETS

Golden Gulab Singh



One of the world's finest veteran athletes, Golden Gulab Singh has won so many Gold medals in the International Veteran Athletic Games that **his name became synonymous with gold** and he was called Golden Gulab Singh. Born in 1905 in a village of Sirsa (Haryana) and resident of Mandi Dabwali Golden Gulab Singh **won 41 gold, 6 silver and 3 bronze medals for India and set four world records in international veteran athletic meets** in America, New Zealand, Singapore, Rome, Hongkong etc. **His main events** were long jump, high jump, triple jump, 100 and 200 metre race and discus throw.

He retired as Nayab Subedar from Burma (Mayamar) army in 1946. From 1947 to 1960 he worked as P.T.I. in Govt. High School, Mandi Dabwali. He entered in the arena of international sports in 1981 and continued to shine the name of his country in the International Veteran Athletic Meets upto the age of 94. He died on 27th March 1998 due to sudden

heart attack.

As usual, in India he was also a victim of govt. apathetic attitude. He was not honoured with any award from state or central govt. Only once Haryana govt. gave him fare for his New Zealand tour. Once his well-wishers in America gifted him a car but due to shortage of money for paying custom duty he could not bring it to India. **If a nation does not respect its heroes, past and present, the time will come when it will have nothing.** His one son and one daughter from his second marriage are also good players of football and hockey respectively.

THE MOST HIGH PROFILE TRAFFIC POLICE COP OF THE COUNTRY

Dr. Parvinder Singh Pasricha



A 1970 batch officer and a poet Dr. P.S. Pasricha has the **distinction of being the most High Profile Traffic Policeman** in the country. In 1984, when he was supposed to be Bombay's traffic messiah, he was un-ceremoniously replaced in July '84 instead of being allowed to fulfil his dream of streamlining the city's hurried traffic. A poet at heart, Dr. Pasricha gave vent to his grief with a couplet, "In the city of the blinds where is there place for a man who sells mirrors"?

But in 1990s when he was again given the traffic charge in Bombay, he maintained his reputation of 1984 as the most **efficient traffic police cop in the country**. Master degree holder in Traffic Management, he was awarded with the **President's medal** for his distinguished services in the field.

In Nov. 2003, he was elevated as **Police Commissioner** of Bombay. He is the second Sikh officer after Amarjeet Singh Samra in the 1990s, to hold the post of Police Chief of Bombay. **The Maharashtra Govt.** decided in favour of Pasricha from among several other candidates in his favour in which his public relation skills along with his high efficiency paid him much as per bureaucrats in the Maharashtra govt.. Dr. Pasricha has public relations skills as another important feature of his personality.

In Dec. 2004, he was adoring the post of **D.G.P. of Anti-corruption Bureau**, in Maharashtra. During this period he caught a big fish of corruption, Rahul Sharma A.D.G.P. of Maharashtra Police Housing Board. After that he was promoted as D.G.P. of Maharashtra. He retired from the post on Feb. 27, 2008.

Immediately after retirement, he was nominated as Chairman of Management of Gurdwara Sachkhand Sri Hazoor Sahib, Nanded (Maharashtra) and entrusted a very important job of overall development of Takhat Sri Hazoor Sahib and Nanded town with the aid of crores of rupees from Maharashtra Govt. and Central Govt. for the occasion of 300th Gurta Gaddi Diwas of Sri Guru Granth Sahib's celebrations. He accomplished the job with great tenacity and proved an **administrator of excellence**.

The high profile police officer is author of a number of technical publications on traffic management. **His book "You Live Only Once"** on safe traffic practices has been translated into a number of languages. **His presentation and guidelines on traffic management on national highways was endorsed by the Union Ministry of Surface Transport as essential guidelines.** An ace, Dr. Pasricha is a man of great intelligence and fearlessness. He is among the very few top police cops of India who earned fame for their ability, professional skill, leadership and honesty.

FATHER OF INDIAN PHARMACEUTICAL INDUSTRY

**Padmashree and Padam Vibhushan
Bhai Mohan Singh**



An eminent industrialist and a visionary Bhai Mohan Singh is the **FOUNDER** of pharmaceutical giant RANBAXY which has the distinction of being India's **FIRST** pharmaceutical multinational company. One of the great entrepreneurs of India, Bhai Mohan Singh is known as the **FATHER** of the Indian pharmaceutical industry. He was decorated with the Padmashree for his notable contribution to the nation and was nominated for the PADAM VIBHUSHAN, nation's highest award, in 2005. He died on 27th March 2006.

Doyen of Indian pharmaceutical industry and a devout Sikh, Bhai Mohan Singh was born in 1917 in Rawalpindi district of Pakistan to a Hindu father and a Sikh mother. Being descendents of Bhai Gurdas, they prefix Bhai with their names. They migrated to Delhi after partition and started the business of money lending.

Ranbaxy was originally an Amritsar based company by two cousins Ranjit Singh and Gurbax Singh who named it RANBAXY after their names. When it was defaulted on a loan, Bhai Mohan Singh purchased it in August 1952 for Rs.2.5 lakh. His son Dr. Parvinder Singh, a visionary having global ambitions, took it to new heights, with a team of professionals like Dr. D.S. Brar coupled with investment in the research.

The production of cheap and quality medicines and aggressive marketing led the company to foreign market particularly the U.S. In the last few years, Ranbaxy took over many overseas pharmaceutical companies, important of which are South Africa's Adcock Ingram in 1999 and again South Africa's fifth largest pharmaceutical firm Be-Tab's Pharmaceutical (P) Ltd. in 2006 and TERAPIA, the largest independent generic company in Romania also in 2006.

Dr. Parvinder Singh's sudden death caused a shock to the company. But his trusted lieutenant Dr. D.S. Brar translated his boss's dreams and vision into reality. Dr. Brar stepped down as the CEO and M.D. in Dec. 2003 in favour of Dr. Parvinder Singh's sons Malvinder Mohan Singh and Shivinder Mohan Singh. Malvinder and Shivinder took the company too to its zenith and made the Ranbaxy the nation's largest pharmaceutical company and also a research oriented global pharmaceutical company. They have also promoted Fortis Healthcare, a revolution in health sector.

AN INTERNATIONAL NEUROLOGIST HAVING MANY FIRSTS OF ASIA

Padma Bhushan Dr. Jagjit Singh Chopra



A versatile personality, former head of the Deptt. of Neurology at the PGI Chandigarh for 27 years ; founder Principal-Director of Sector 32, Govt. Medical College, Hospital ; founder President of the Indian Academy of Neurology ; recipient of several prestigious awards, including Pelipa Surya Kumari Award, Dr. B.C. Roy National Award (1986), MS Sen Oration Award, Amrut Research Award and also Indian Council Medical Research and University Grants Commission awards and a visiting professor to a number of medical institutes the world over, Dr. J.S. CHOPRA IS ONE OF **THE BEST NEUROLOGISTS IN THE WORLD**, and the **FIRST and the youngest Indian** to receive fellowship of Royal College of Physicians of Edinburg in 1969.

Prof. Chopra is not only the **FIRST INDIAN** but also the **FIRST ASIAN** whose name for the presidential election was cleared by the nominating committee of the World

Federation on Neurology in 1997. Again he is the **FIRST ASIAN** who was appointed Editor - in - Chief of the *World Neurology*, a journal of WFN, in 1998 for four years and management committee again decided to extend his term as Editor-in-Chief for another four years in 2002. He is the **ONLY international neurologist** who has been associated with the world body in one capacity or the other for the past 20 years. He is the **FIRST INDIAN** who was conferred with honorary membership of the American Academy of Neurology in 2002. He had also been the **FIRST** ex-officio Secretary, Medical Education and Research, Chandigarh Administration. He is again the **FIRST** neurologist from developing nations and Australasia (Australia and Asian Continents) who was in line to head the WFN, for which he was a strong contender.

In January 2007 he was awarded with Lifetime Achievement by Madras Neuro Trust. He was the **FIRST** Indian to become the Secretary General of XIV World Congress of Neurology held at New Delhi in 1989. Holding responsibilities of at least ten international journals and publishing books on Tropical Neurology, Dr. Chopra is the **FIRST INDIAN** neurologist to be honoured in the US. A professor emeritus at PGI and at the National Academy of Medical Science in New Delhi, Dr. Chopra was honoured with **PADMA BHUSHAN** on the eve of Republic Day in Jan 2002.

A SURGEON OF MANY FIRSTS

Dr. Kuldip Singh



Dr. Kuldip Singh, Professor of Surgery at DMC, Ludhiana is the **FIRST surgeon from developing nations** who tackled difficult gall bladder stone cases laparoscopically. In the beginning of laparoscopic surgery in 1991, the cases of gall-bladder were not taken up for laparoscopic surgery due to difficult dis-section and fear of complications. But Dr. Kuldip Singh innovated a method of his own for such surgeries which got world-wide recognition and he became **the first surgeon of his kind in developing countries**.

In 2000, he was invited to demonstrate and deliver a guest lecture and chair a "free paper session" on laparoscopic gall-bladder surgery in the Seventh World Congress of Laparo-Endoscopic Surgery held from May 31 to June 4 in Singapore. Thus he became **the first laparoscopic surgeon from Northern India** to get this distinction from the World Congress. In March 2004, he again became the **FIRST Surgeon from North India** to be elected as President of the Indian Association of

Laparoscopic Surgeons that too unopposed. Again he was invited as main speaker and to chair two sessions in World Conference held in Dec. 8 to 11, 2004 in Japan and he became again **FIRST Laparoscopic surgeon from North India** to get this honour. He spoke extensively on the gall-bladder stone operations laparoscopically in the World Congress. In March 2003, he was invited in the 10th International Conference of Surgeons of Pakistan held at Lahore. **In Pakistan**, he demonstrated his technique of doing difficult gall bladder surgery laparoscopically and got great applause from the surgeons of developing countries. Pakistani surgeons also invited him to train them in this type of surgery.

In Aug. 2005, he was invited to chair the plenary session of VII Asia Pacific Congress of Endoscopic Surgery organized by the Endoscopic Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia (ELSA) held in Hong Kong. The pioneer laparoscopic surgeon, Dr. Singh was conferred the Fellowship of the Royal College of Surgeons (FRCS) of England in 2006. Dr. Singh contributed more than 50 research papers and delivered guest lectures at several national and international meetings and seminars. In Feb. 2006, during the National Congress of Endoscopic Surgery held in Bangalore, he was elected unopposed second time as President of the Indian Association Gastro Endo Surgeons for a period of two years (2006-2008). He was also nominated as a member of the Governing Council of the International Federation of Endoscopic Surgical Societies. He also represented India as a member of the Governing Board of Endoscopic the Laparoscopic Surgeons of Asia Associations.

He is the organizing secretary of ASICON. He is the **FIRST Surgeon from India to hold the post of the Secretary General of the Asian Pacific Laparoscopic Society. He is ONE of the five** Indian surgeons to be conferred FRCS - Edundum by the Royal College of Surgeons in England. He has been awarded by the state of Punjab with its highest honour for his contribution to science of surgery.

THE FIRST AND THE LAST INDIAN CONNECTION WITH THE TRIBES OF ISLANDS

Bakhtawar Singh



Port Blair, based S. Bakhtawar Singh born on March 9, 1915 in a village near Khanna in Distt. Fatehgarh Sahib, who joined the Andaman and Nicobar Police in 1935, **was the first and the last who established close relations with JARAWAS and other tribes of Andaman and Nicobar and thus created history.** Jarawas, otherwise known for their hostile behaviour towards strangers and inlanders, who kill their target with poison-coated arrows were in friendly relations with Mr. Bakhtawar Singh. Jarawas whose population was just around 270, consider the sea as devil and hate it and never worship it. S. Bakhtawar Singh started efforts in 1962 to bring Jarawas and other tribes in Middle and South Andamans about 65 km from Port Blair, closer to the mainlanders and ultimately succeeded to win over them. This success he got risking his life, as many times he survived their attacks. He used to take

fruits for them. Slowly and steadily, they started having faith in him and became his friends. S. Bakhtawar Singh learnt their language to converse with them. The tribes who earlier resisted the development work in their area and shot dead many PWD officials, had full faith in him.

He retired as Deputy Superintendent of Police in 1973. But keeping in view his exceptional work on Jarawas and other tribes he was given extension for three years and made **commandant** of bush police. Later on, he was elevated as **Executive Secretary** of the Andaman Adi Janjati Vikas Samiti. A great masiha of Jarawas and other tribes died on January 9, 2005 at the age of 89 years following a heart attack, shortly before tsunami waves. **With his death, a strong link between Jarawas and other tribes with India was lost.** Such a genius, for his supreme services rendered in islands for tribes, deserves a befitting memorial/ statue in Port Blair. Would Govt. of India and the Sikh leaders concentrate on this issue?

Sikh connections of Jarawas and other tribes in Andaman and Nicobar is a matter of pride. Otherwise also, **Sikhs have a historical link with islands which started from Diwan Singh Kalepani** to many Sikh revolutionaries, about 4,000, who settled there after release from cellular jail at the time of independence. In 1969, 110 ex-servicemen from Punjab were allotted land in Nicobar islands. In 1970, also many ex-servicemen from Punjab were made settled in Campbell Bay by **late Prime Minister Indira Gandhi** in order to protect the island from illegal poachers and to maintain and sustain **Indian control on all the islands.**

A DIPLOMAT HAVING LONGEST PERIOD AS SPOKESMAN OF MEA

Navtej Singh Sarna



Mr. Sarna who was designated India's ambassador to Israel in March 2008, **has the distinction to enjoy the longest tenure as Spokesman of the Ministry of External Affairs (MEA)** from Oct. 2002 to March 2008. He took over this key post of Joint Secretary (External Publicity) in MEA in Oct. 2002, during the regime of BJP and continued with it even after the Congress led UPA came in power. Before this, he was Minister (Press, Information and Culture) in the Indian Embassy in Washington. He had also useful stints in Tehran, Thimpu, Warsaw, Moscow and at the permanent mission of India to the United Nations at Geneva.

Mr. Sarna belongs to the 1980 batch of the Indian Foreign Services having craving for always doing something new and extra. At heart he is a great writer, who has literature in his genes. He is son of renowned writer S. Mahinder Singh Sarna, a Former Accountant General, Government of India

and his mother Mrs. Surjeet Kaur Sarna is also a Punjabi poetess and fiction writer. A suave diplomat, Mr. Sarna is a lone exception who writes novel. He recently published his fiction book on the life of last Maharaja of Punjab, Duleep Singh. It is hoped that the world will discover a brilliant writer alongwith a brilliant diplomat in him. A striking feature of tall, turbaned and imposing personality is his piercing eyes. Besides diploma in Journalism he is a Commerce and Law graduate.

Senior diplomat Sarna also had been Ambassador to Israel and on July 30, 2014 he was appointed as Secretary (West) in the M.E.A. In November 2015 he took charge as India's High Commissioner to the United Kingdom (UK).

Sarna was the longest serving spokesperson of the ministry and the most visible face from 2002 to 2008.

A CHIEF OF PROTOCOL (MEA) HAVING RECORD FOREIGN DIGNITARIES

Manbir Singh



S. Manbir Singh (4th from left) with President of India Mr. K.R. Narayanan

An extremely soft spoken and career diplomats S. Manbir Singh joined the Indian Foreign Services in 1976. His first destination was Tehran in 1978 as Second Secretary (Press and Information) and subsequently as Head of Chancery. During his tenure, he witnessed revolution in Iran, in 1979, which made it an Islamic Republic. After four years tenure in Iran he proceeded to Toronto as Deputy Consul - General. After spending three years in Toronto, he returned to New Delhi as OSD (PR) in the External Publicity Division. In 1989, he moved to Moscow as Commercial and Economic Counsellor in the Indian Embassy and saw dramatic disintegration of erstwhile USSR into 15 states in Dec., 1991.

In 1992, he moved to the Permanent Mission of India in Geneva. In 1995, he was posted to the UAB as Minister-in-

Charge of Political, Press, Counsellor and labour wings when he had direct involvement with the repatriation of 60,000 Indians during an amnesty granted by the UAE government.

In 1999, he again returned to head quarters in New Delhi and got the key post of protocol, in the MEA, when he saw the visit of a record of 66 foreign dignitaries in one year - 2001. During his tenure as chief of protocol, he interacted with a host of world leaders like Bill Clinton, Vladimir Putin, Tony Blair and Gen. Parvez Musharraf. In June 2002, he was posted as Ambassador in Hungary. After completing his tenure as ambassador in Iran, he was designated as country's ambassador in Holland in January, 2009.

He retired on Sept. 30, 2011 from MEA and on Sept. 3, 2012 he took oath of office & secrecy as a member of UPSC.



AN OUTSTANDING DIPLOMAT TO INFLUENCE US CONGRESS IN FAVOUR OF INDIA

Taranjit Singh Sandhu

The US Congress passed a series of resolutions for two years, whether it be a resolution congratulating India and Premier Vajpayee's Government or condemnation of Pakistan for Kargil, they have been passed with an overwhelming majority.

The reason, it is understood, is an Amritsar connection in the Capitol Hill. The man responsible for the good relations with the US Congress is a young diplomat who hails from the city of the Golden Temple. The Indian Embassy's First Secretary (Political), Taranjit Singh Sandhu, comes from the well known Samundri family. He is the grandson of famous freedom struggle martyr Sardar Teja Singh Samundri and son of Bishan Singh Samundri, the founder Vice-Chancellor of Guru Nanak Dev University.

Sandhu's finest hour in Washington came when during a meeting with the Prime Minister, Mr. Atal Behari Vajpayee, **Congressmen Gilman and Gejdenson paid compliments to the very effective role of Taranjit Sandhu on Capitol Hill.** Sandhu has been picked up for a new assignment to Colombo and will be leaving Washington shortly at the end of his tenure. His wife, Reena Sandhu, an IFS officer, was the embassy's Commercial Officer.

At present (Aug. 2015) he is Deputy Chief of Mission at Indian Embassy in Washington D.C.

**THE ONLY INDIAN -
INTERNATIONAL EXPERT
ON DISASTER
MANAGEMENT**

Dr. Sky Chadha



Dr. Sky Chadha is an expert in International Aid Management **who led projects across 67 countries and an Indian having a rare doctorate in international project management** from Sweden. He is not only the FIRST Indian expert on Disaster Management but he is the only Indian sort of expert of his kind.

He has worked in many countries and has supervised various aid projects including 1991-cyclone in Bangladesh. In 2005, he was International Development Advisor to the World Bank, UNDP, UNICEF, USAID and Asian Development Bank. He was involved in several analysis studies on the flow of international aid to HIV/AIDS victims in Bangladesh. According to Dr. Chadha, all developing countries including India are ill-prepared and ill-equipped to handle the flow of aid in terms of disaster. He stressed on manual to guide of funds during calamity like Tsunami.

He has authored various development related books for Scandinavian donor countries, and UNICEF. Among his most famous books, one is "Managing Projects in Bangladesh".

In 2005, he visited India after 25 years to establish a Regional Institute of Project Management and Govt. of India worked out modalities with him as reported. But Bihar floods in August-September 2008 proved that we are a total failure in Disaster Management.

A GENIUS IN MINIATURE ART

Channan Singh



Born in 1925 in a village Jhatowali. Distt. Jalandhar. a former draftsman of Survey of India. Dehradun, S. Channan Singh IS really a matchless miniature Artist in the world, **who has broken all world records and Guinness Book records in subtle art.** The Canadian Artist Gerard Legare entered in Guinness Book of World Records by drawing a shortest picture on the pinhead of 8 mm diameter. S. Channan Singh broke this record by drawing four pictures in the same diameter. The record of Dutch artist Gurt Twite entered in Guinness Book of World Records in 1980 for drawing a picture named "My small country Holland", in an area of .1819 mm, **was broken by S. Channan Singh** by drawing a picture of Golden Temple in an area of .0077 mm on a hair which was shorter by 2.347 times. He drew the map of the USA on the thickness of a hair in sky color. He further **broke the record** of an American Artist of writing full Lord's Prayer of 277 words in one mm space, by writing this full prayer in only .66 mm space. In 1974, he

created a record by writing 4052 letters on a grain of rice and 1245 letters on a grain of mole.

His **superhit creation** is a picture in 1 mm space containing Tri-color and eight famous monuments of India e.g. Golden Temple, Kutub Minar etc. As per Canadian Journalist Donald Grant, this picture was **four times smaller than the record picture of 1977**. He drew a globe on a pinhead displaying 25 countries in different colours with their names. **In 1961 Queen Elizabeth** visited India and gladly accepted her own picture drawn by S. Channan Singh on a grain of rice, by **breaking her own tradition** of not accepting any gift from any individual.

There is a long list of such superb achievements of this great genius, who did not receive due recognition from his own countrymen. He resigned from Survey of India and left India on May 31, 1981 due to apathetic attitude of the nation, whereas he got a lot of respect, praise and appreciation in Western Countries.

THE FIRST INDIAN RECIPIENT OF MALAYSIAN HIGHEST CIVILIAN AWARD “DATUK”

Gurbux Singh



Born in 1912 in village Kaler, Distt. Ropar and a citizen of Malaysia, S. Gurbux Singh Kaler is best remembered as **'Encyclopedia' & a pioneer of games in South East Asia**. He was founder of Amateur Athletics wave in Malaysia and **took the Malaysian games at its zenith**. He had been in the field for four decades and **represented Malaysia in athletics in four Olympics** e.g. in 1956, 1964, 1968 and 1988, and became the Ambassador of Malaysian sports.

He had been **Editor** of *Asia Track News Letter*, a govt. magazine of A.A.A.A. (Amateur Athletics Association and Asia Athletics Digest). He also adorned the high posts in sports Deptt. of Malaysia. He died on March 12, 1997.

For his great contribution to Malaysian sports, he was conferred "DATUK", the top Malaysian civilian award by the Malaysian Government. Thus he earned the honour of being the **FIRST INDIAN** to get this award. **Film actor Shahrukh Khan** is the second Indian to get this award who received it in Dec. 2008 from the Malaysian Government.

His elder son Dilbagh Singh Kaler also represented Malaysia in 1964 Tokyo Olympics.

THE BEST GLIDER PILOT OF NORTH INDIA

Avtar Singh Chana



A postgraduate in public relations and advertising and holder of Gallantry Award for bravery (NCC) S. Avtar Singh Chana started gliding in Oct. 1978 at the age of 17 and won the titles of "THE BEST GLIDER PILOT OF NORTH INDIA" and "THE SECOND BEST GLIDER PILOT OF INDIA" in 1980, and many times thereafter also. Mr. Chana is a man of many talents. A commercial artist and graphic designer Chana is also a computer literate and outstanding national level bhangra dancer who **performed in the IX Asian Games and 2nd International Rome Festival and several feature films and on Doordarshan.**

Beside being an outstanding cadet of NCC he had been captain of Folk Dance Teams of many schools and colleges of Chandigarh during his tenure of study from 1973 to 1982 and headed the dance troupes in many Zonal and National Cultural

Exchange Programmes. He was the ONLY participant from India in a programme at Laban Centre of Dance, London in 2001-02 in which the dancers from several countries took part. He imparted training of folk dances and Bhangra to many students from various European countries. Beside popularizing folk dances of Punjab, he is also creating interest in supporting Sikh Turban **abroad. In 2003, he was enrolled a member of the International Dance Council.**

A KING OF THE WORLD OF FASHION

J.J.S. Vallaya



A Turbaned Sikh designer U.S. Vallaya was one of the five top designers of Delhi in 1990s and is one of the select beneficiaries of the media spotlight on fashion for the last more than two decades. He happens to be a designer of the opulent stream and his customers include royal families of Middle East, Dukes and Duchesses and Italian Counts and Countesses.

In 1991, he graduated from NIFT and won the Prix de incitation (International Young Fashion Designer Competition) sponsored by Air France. He borrowed Rs.10,000 from his father and set up a studio in his own house. Since then he never looked back. His bare-midriff, full-sleeved, scooped neckline cholis entrusted with chunky beads and shells became the rage of the time and have been copied by others in the market.

Later on Vallaya started use of crystals in his creations which created a thrill in Fashion designing. His crystal dresses were a hit in a fashion show in Hotel Le Meridian in Oct. 2004.

Earlier in an evening in Kathmandu his designs got a great applause from the public. The show was organized by Export International and AR Fab Creation, one of the largest manufacturers of silk in U.P. He has been keeping on setting new highs in Fashion designing.

He married a pretty girl Meghna from Jalandhar. In Jan. 2001, he was awarded a **Millennium Sikh Award** at Anandpur Sahib.

An Ace fashion designer, Mr. Vallaya has today become an industry in himself. He is **founder member on the Board of Governors of the Fashion Design Council of India** since 1992 when he started the house of Vallaya and he has been marketing the J.J. Vallaya brand both in the country and overseas. Known as style Guru, J.J. Vallaya has a tenure of more than 28 years in the fashion industry and made the industry indebted with his lofty designs. He has been appointed as brand ambassador of SWAROVSKI India (P) Ltd. for its Crystal Components Division (CCD) in the country on 5th Sept. 2001. **The costume for Shekhar Kapur's ELIZABETH was done by Mr. Vallaya.**

MR. RECORD - A UNIQUE MAN OF MULTIPLE AND MAXIMUM WORLD RECORDS

Surinder Singh Azad



Based in Amritsar, born on August 9, 1942 a retired Superintendent from Custom and Excise Department, Amritsar S. Surinder Singh Azad popularly known as Mr. Record is an extraordinary record setter. He entered in the Limca Book of Records, for the first time, in 1990 for having largest chest expansion of NINE inches, A WORLD RECORD, thus breaking his own record of 7" expansion written by him on 19-5-1971.

Mr. Record has 25 National and International records to his credit out of which 11 have already been entered in the latest Limca Book of World Records and 10 are in line which has earned him a name "Mr. Record and honour of having maximum entries in the Limca Book.

This unique record setter has been innovating, setting and breaking his own records for the last more than 30 years. His records include driving of his Bajaj Chetak non-stop to and from Amritsar to Pinjore (534 Km.) in the fourth gear;

slowest scooter driving in the fourth gear by travelling 2.35 KMPH; achieving a fuel efficiency of 70 KMPL; fastest clapping 12178 times and finger snapping 11510 times in an hour on October 19, 1997; clapping and snapping his fingers simultaneously for 6500 times each (13000 together); carrying a record number of 10 passengers on his scooter; sending a one digit fax, a unique record in itself ; fastest wrist twist (292 times in a minute) on June 30, 2001; writing identical leave application in English with both hands on May 10, 1999; writing simultaneously with both hands and mouth he became the FIRST such man in the world; driving scooter only in the fourth gear since 1979; first non political man who has been in media for the last more than 30 years continuously; the FIRST man who has been making and breaking records for the last more than 30 years and having maximum entries in the Limca Book of Records. He is the FIRST person in the world having a world record in his name of being a person of maximum international records.

**A BABA –THE PROTECTOR
OF THE BORDER,
GRANTER OF BOONS AND
AN ANGEL OF PEACE
REVERED BOTH BY
INDIANS AND CHINESE
ARMY**

Baba Harbhajan Singh



THE REGIMENT'S FIRST casualty, since it was raised in 1966, was reported missing after he had gone escorting a mule train to one of the regiment's remotest outposts. It took the army three days to trace his body, which was later cremated with full honour.

But it was after this that a legend began taking shape around the Sepoy-Saint's mysterious life. Decades on, the Sepoy today is worshipped as "Baba Harbhajan Singh, the protector of the border, granter of boons and an angel of peace."

Lt. Col. (retd.) P. Dorjee, Harbhajan's company commander on that fateful day of October 4, 1968, when Harbhajan went missing, recalls the sepoy as a "religiously" inclined man.

"His mates in the regiment used to call him "Baba", for his holy crusader-like approach to soldiering. "My Sr. JCO reported that "Baba had been appearing in his colleagues' dreams and imploring that a Samadhi be erected in his memory." Lt. Col. Dorjee recalls.

The regiment obliged and raised a Samadhi in

Harbhajan's memory at Tuk-Ia where his company was posted. Soon it was time for more and more such visions and shared tales of Harbhajan's holy ghost.

Today, the legend is firmly established. Soldiers posted to the difficult terrain on Nathu-la and Jelep-la in east Sikkim believe the Baba guards the border for them and will give them a 72 hour warning before anything untoward happens. Some officers point out that even the Chinese claim that the Baba has promised them a 72 hour advance alert if India plans anything funny along the border. The soldier saint, for both sides, is angel of peace. THERE ARE UNCONFIRMED REPORTS THAT THE CHINESE ALWAYS SET ASIDE A CHAIR FOR HIM WHENEVER THEY HOLD BORDER MEETINGS WITH THEIR INDIAN COUNTERPARTS.

No officer posted to the region is comfortable taking charge until a "pilgrimage" has been made to the Baba's Samadhi, now at a new location enroute to the Nathu-Ia Pass. The Samadhi was shifted from Tuk-Ia to its new location some years ago so that many more would be able to visit the Baba's shrine. The earlier location is much less travelled. The devout keep jugs of water at the shrine overnight and take it back as holy water the next day. Border lores have it that the Samadhi is a place where wishes are granted. THE BABA'S STATUS AS THE GUARDIAN DEITY OF THE BORDER GETS REINFORCED EVERYDAY AS CONVOYS TO NATHU-LA MAKE IT A POINT TO STOP AND PAY HOMAGE TO HARBHAJAN.

As happens with most places of worship, the devout invariably express their devotion in cash. No wonder, over the years, the hundi at the Baba's shrine spilled over with cash and officers looking after the establishment had to set up a "Baba Harbhajan Singh Fund". With the General Officer Commanding 17 Mountain Division, as its Patron, this fund sponsors various humanitarian activities along the border.

Providing medical facilities to the civilian populace,

assisting children of the villages adopted by 164 Mountain Brigade, holding vocational training camps for the locals, the money always comes from collections at the shrine. Incidentally, every month, Rs.1050/- is money ordered to the Baba's mother in Punjab. The most interesting sub-text to the legend, however, is the Baba's annual leave. Every year, on 14 September, an army jonga pulls up at the Samadhi and departs with the soldier-saint's belongings in what is said to be his spirit going on leave to visit Kuka. Harbhajan's native village in Kapurthala district, Punjab. Regular railway reservations are made for him and an orderly accompanies the "spirit" to Kuka, where it is handed over to the regiment posted there. (Courtesy: *Sikh Review* May, 2001)

..... Harbhajan Singh is now worshipped as Baba Harbhajan Singh. On October 4, 1968, North Bengal, and Sikkim were having heavy rainfall. Sepoy Harbhajan Singh of 23 Punjab Battalion was accompanying a mule caravan when he fell into a stream and died. His loss was reported, but search parties could not find him. On the fifth night of his disappearance, his colleague Pritam Singh had a dream whereby Harbhajan told him the exact location of his fall. When other officers also started having the same dream they searched in the areas told and found his remains.

A Samadhi was constructed for him at Chhokya Cho. Harbhajan Singh **continued to appear in the soldiers' dreams**, warning them about various activities along the border. Chinese **soldiers have also reported seeing him**. The Indian Army, as a **mark of respect, has built a gurdwara** near his Samadhi where he has earned the title of Baba. He was not struck off the rolls and was promoted as an Honorary Captain. He also enjoys two months of leave from September 15 to November 15. His orderly escorts him to the station where a berth is booked in his name..... "

(Courtesy : *The Tribune*, Sept. 14, 2006)

Part-II

After 320 years Kashmiri Pandits again in Refuge of Guru Tegh Bahadar



Agonised by Iftikar Khan's relentless campaign, a group of Kashmiri Pandits led by Kirpa Ram Dutt of Mattan came on May 25, 1675 in the refuge of Guru Tegh Bahadar at Anandpur Sahib and submitted the petition for the safety of their religion and life. After 320 years, again on April 16, 1995, some 1200 Kashmiri Pundits from all over the world went to Gurdwara Sis Ganj Sahib, New Delhi and Bhora Sahib (Anandpur Sahib) and installed a SHILALEKH which reads their petition as under:-

"O thee, the fountainhead of India's civilization, we pay our obeisance to you.... You created history by your epochmaking martyrdom. Once again, we are facing extinction. The forces of fundamentalism, drawing sustenance from timid politics of the Indian State, have forced us out of our homeland. O Divinity Incarnate, awaken the spirit of the nation."

GENERAL GALLERY

The Sikhs have earned a lot of fame and name by performing profoundly in different fields the world over. The tiny minority community has superb achievements at her credit too much disproportionate to her population. Besides their own country, they are adorning high positions in foreign armies, police, judiciary, parliaments, diplomacy etc. and in India they are foremost in adventure.

Messiah of Human Service



A pious soul and a messiah of physically, mentally and emotionally crippled, Bhagat Puran Singh looking like the Rishis of old ancient times and the Khalsa of Guru Gobind Singh, was spiritually such a high personality that I, neither have capability nor words to write about him. I can say only this much that **world may not be able to produce second Bhagat Puran Singh in the field of selfless service of the people.**

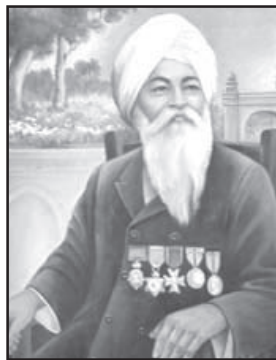
Khushwant Singh says,

"Mother Teresa had the backing of the powerful Roman Catholic church, the English Press and innumerable foundations to give her money. Bhagatji had nothing except this single-minded dedication to serve the poor and the needy. And yet he was able to help thousands of lepers, mentally and physically handicapped and the dying."

It is highly sad that Indian government, people and media neither could recognise his own gem nor get him duly recognised by the world. Had he been Christian or in western world, he would have been a saint of the whole world.

An Outstanding Architect Sardar Bhai Ram Singh OBE

Bhai Ram Singh, MVO (Member of the Victoria Order) an eminent architect of world fame was the architect of Khalsa College, Amritsar as well as the AITCHISON College, Lahore which was established in Nov. 1886. The architectural design of both colleges was conceived by Bhai Ram Singh. **He was also the FIRST Indian Principal of Mayo School of Art, Lahore,** now known as National College of Art. Prof. Sajida H. Vandal, Principal of Lahore National College of Art, when visited India in 2004 told that **Bhai Ram Singh who had a place in the history of Pakistan “is one of the forgotten heroes who deserves to be talked about”**. She specially visited Amritsar to see Khalsa College, 2nd architectural wonder of Bhai Ram Singh and to meet his descendants. At that time she was working on a book on Bhai Ram Singh.



His other works are Durbar Hall, Osborne House; Lahore Museum Governor House in Shimla. He was one of the most sought after Indians in the late 19th and early 20th century.

Once when he participated, on the initiative of John Kipling founder Principal Mayo School of Arts, in an international exhibition, **he was adjudged the best model of traditional style of Indian architecture** and his work attracted the attention of top architects of Europe. **Even Queen Victoria** granted him special audience and she was so impressed by his art and craftsmanship in woodcarving that she invited him to design a **Durbar Hall in the**

Royal Palace which he meritoriously accomplished. **He was awarded the ORDER of the BRITISH EMPIRE (OBE).** He also designed buildings in the then princely states of Jind, Nabha, Patiala, Mysore, Bahawalpore, J&K etc. When Bhai Ram Singh was in London, Queen Victoria summoned her court artists to paint his **(Ram Singh) portrait which still hangs at the entrance to the Durbar Room at Osborne house.** But it is very sad that the gem of architecture did not get his due from his own people.

A Tireless and Selfless Crusader



Dr. Sarup Singh Alag is a tireless, selfless and zestful crusader of Sikh Panth. He has profound zeal in his heart to take the excellence of Sikhism to each and every individual in the world. Dr. Sarup Singh Alag has the burning passion to spread the sublime message and greatness of Sri Guru Granth Sahib which sings praises of only One and One God, provides understanding about Omnipresent and Omnipotent Creator of the universe and gives us the message of love, peace, fraternity, truthful living and sense of humility.

many languages, about 400 articles and 60 discourses highlighting the dignified glory of Sikhism. The astonishing fact is that for the last 35-40 years he has been distributing the books of international standard on Sikh studies free of cost and perhaps till date tens of thousands of books have been distributed by him free of cost with the avid support of the esteemed donors. Really an unbelievable fact.

Dr. Sarup Singh Alag **M.A. (in 5 subjects) Ph.D., D.Litt and having knowledge of eight languages** viz, Punjabi, English, Urdu, Hindi, Sanskrit, German, Persian and Bengali, a writer, journalist, orator and scholar is a Gem of Sikh Panth. **He has about 60 national and international honours and awards (out of which 3 from Canada Govt.)** including Punjab Government 'Shiromani Gyan Chetna Award' carrying two lakh fifty thousand rupees in cash and 'Sewadar-E-Kaum' award carrying Rs. Five Lakh in cash from Shiromani Gurdwara Prabhandhak Committee in May 2012 at his disposal which he was bestowed upon for his meritorious services in the field of religion, literature, harmony, civil service and friendship. He is also honoured with 'Sewa Ratan' prestigious Award by Guru Nanak Satsang Mandal Patiala during its Golden Jubilee in the year 2012.

He is pride of Sikh Panth and it is a matter of pride for us that Dr. Alag has been recognised and mentioned in Six “outstanding personalities” in Asia & American biographical directories, besides mention in supplements released by the newspapers. He is indeed pride of India.

May God bless him with sparkling health and long life, so as to tread miles and miles in such constructive endeavours.

Father of Nephrology in India

Dr. Kirpal Singh Chug – MD, FRCP (London) FACP (USA), FAMS, FICP, D.Sc (Guru Nanak Dev University, Amritsar) D.Sc.(Panjabi University, Patiala)



An Emeritus Professor of Nephrology (PGIMER) Dr. Chug is a world renowned Nephrologist and is recognized as the “Father of Nephrology” in India. He is former Chairman, Department of Medicine and Professor & Head, Department of Nephrology. He has pioneering contribution to the development of Nephrology in India and South East Asia.

He joined PGIMER in January 1963 and set up the first separate department of Nephrology at the Institute. The name of Nephrology did not exist at that time. After a long struggle Punjab University approved MD (Medicine) with “Genito-urinary diseases” as the special. This paved way for recognition of Nephrology as a distinct specialty like Cardiology etc., this credit goes to Dr. Chug. In 1970 Dr. Chug was responsible for training more than 75 of the senior nephrology consultants in the Country. He has been the post-President of Asian- Pacific Society of Nephrology, Indian Society of Nephrology, Association of Physicians of India, Indian College of Physicians, Indian Society of Organ Transplantation and Founder President of the Indian Society of Homodialysis. He also served as Chairman, South-East Asia Commission on Global Advancement of Nephrology (COMGAN) and Vice President, Organizing

Committee of this World Congress of Nephrology held in Sydney, Australia in May 1997. He has been member of the Advisory Committee on “Classification of Tropical Renal Disease.”

He has received over 50 National and International awards. International Society of Nephrology has conferred on him the prestigious Bywaters Award, which was presented to him during the World Congress of Nephrology at Cape Town in 2015. The awards include B.C. Roy National Award as “Eminent medical man of the country (1992).” In the same year (1992) he was honoured with Padma Shree Award. He has been Associate Editor of API Text book of Medicine and Associate Editor of Text Book of Nephrology in the Asian Physician (Region). He is the Founder Editor of the Indian Journal of Nephrology. Regarded as a living legend in Nephrology, **the ISN has included him amongst 50 top Nephrologists of the world.**

Doyen of Indian Strategic Thought

Jasjit Singh was a 2006 recipient of the Padma Bhushan, a decoration established in 1954 by the President of India and given for distinguished service of high order in any field. He was also honoured with **AVSM, VrC and VM**. Air Commodore (Ret) Singh is a **former director of Operations of the Indian Air Force and former director of the Institute for Defence Studies and Analyses (IDSA)**. He has published extensively and is the author and editor of more than two dozen books on strategic and security issues of South Asia. He was currently active in the Academy's program on nuclear disarmament. With his death in August 2013, **India lost the doyen of Indian strategic thought**.



Delivering the first Air Commodore Jasjit Singh (Retd.) Memorial lecture in New Delhi on July 17, 2014 J.K. Governor N.N Vohra said that Jasjit Singh 1971 War Veteran, headed the Centre for Air Power studies (CAPS) and was **regarded as one of the finest strategic and thinkers in the country**. He led IDSA with distinction for full 14 years.

A Commentator Par Excellence



Who does not know about the excellence of S. Jasdev Singh in the field of commentary and broadcasting. An ace Commentator Jasdev Singh made commentaries of **Olympic Games** nine times, **Asian Games** six times, **World Cup Hockey**-eight times and a number of cricket matches and over 250 documentaries. An outstanding figure in the field of sports commentary, Jasdev Singh has the unique distinction of doing commentary of **Independence day and Republic day celebrations for 43 years.**

He has also the distinction of making live commentary of **1975 World Cup Hockey win, moon expedition of Rakesh Sharma, occasion of bronze win of P.T. Usha in Olympics, tours of President Bush and President Musharraf and Vajpayee-Musharraf Summit** talk from Agra. Be it hockey commentary, cricket commentary or Independence day or Republic day commentary, people still remember him and his voice which has not lost its booming quality and resonance with the passage of time. He has made the commentary both on Radio and TV.

Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru and Indira Gandhi were his great fans. He was honoured with **Padam Shri** in 1985 and **Padma Bhushan** in 2008 and with **Olympic Order by International Olympic Committee** in 1998 for his meritorious services in the field of commentary and broadcasting.

India's Ambassador to UN



An intelligent and crafty S. Hardeep Singh Puri was the India's ambassador to UN. In January, 2011 Mr. Puri was appointed as Chairman of Anti-Terrorist Committee, an important body of UN Security Council. In August 2011 India added a feather in its cap after 19 years when Mr. Puri took over as President of UN Security Council for one month.

In Dec 2013, Senior Diplomat H.S Puri was sent on a brief mission by GOI to end Devyani case. He served at various diplomatic posts in Brazil, Japan, Sri Lanka etc. He joined the Indian Foreign Service in 1974. After retirement from UN as India's permanent envoy, he was appointed on a prestigious post of Secretary General of an Independent Commission on Multilateralism (ICM), launched by a global think tank with the aim to evolve a strategy to face global challenges. The ICM, launched by International Peace Institution (IPI) will be chaired by the former Australian Prime Minister Kevill Rudd, and co-chaired by Foreign Minister of Norway Borge Brende and the Canadian Foreign Minister John Baird. IPI will serve as the secretariat under the leadership of its Senior Advisor Sardar H.S. Puri, who would be Secretary General of the Commission. He was born on Feb. 15, 1952 in Amritsar.

Hero of Tsunami 2004



If there is one person who has received all round kudos for effective handling of disaster after Tsunami, he is the Cuddalore's District Collector, S. Gagandeep Singh Bedi, IAS who set the model for Rehabilitation. With a working fluency in Tamil, Mr. Bedi spearheaded the rehabilitation work in the affected areas efficiently by using the resources at hand and coordinating 500 NGOs. On day of Tsunami he was on holiday but rushed immediately to Mahabalipuram and during 2-hour road journey he supervised relief work through his mobile phone.

In Dec. 2006 when tennis ace Roger Federer was playing cricket in Cuddalore Mr. Bedi was rescuing labourers from bondage uncovering an organized racket. He rescued 15 bonded labourers and 5 children. In 2015 Mr. Bedi was adorning the post of Principal Secretary, Tamil Nadu. On 24 April 2015 he was presented the E-Panchayat Award by PM Narendra Modi, in New Delhi.

Father of Manali – Leh Highway



There was a news in Dec. 2012 that a daring and an intelligent officer, can rightfully be called the **“Father of Manali - Leh Highway. Mr. Sukhdev Singh Gill** was extraordinary brilliant. He had cleared and obtained high position in all India Engineering competition as well as IAS. He successfully completed the survey and prepared estimate of 490 km. Manali -Leh in about 1956-57. It was most difficult and terrible job, where no one was ready to go. After this accomplishment Govt. of India deputed him at Gyantee (Tibet) for another mission to carry out the survey of border roads for defence purpose. It was also equally daring job where no one would like to go in such dangerous and high altitude area, less oxygen, acute mountain sickness area. There he stayed about one year and carried out the survey of other border roads at high altitude connecting Tibet/Leh-Ladakh to other hilly region, for defence purpose. After that he suddenly fell ill and unfortunately breathed his last during this second important mission at Gyantsee (Tibet) at a very young age of 27 years. He laid down his life for the safe of country. **After 54 years of his death the nation**

recognized his supreme sacrifice for the country and a memory stone has been installed during the end of 2012 at Sarchu Manali-Leh Highway. The words etched on the memory stone are reproduced as under.

“Lest We Forget--Shri Sukhdev Singh Gill, Assistant Executive Engineer (CES-I) was the first officer to successfully carry out the survey of Manali - Leh Highway.

A daring and an intelligent officer, can rightfully be called **“Father of Manali-Leh Highway”** the officer breathed his last at a very young age of 27 years at Gyantsee (Tibet) for the sake of our country.

Border Road Organization and people of Himachal Pradesh Salute the gallant officer for his contribution.”



First Scientist to Get National Award on Women's Development



Dr. Jatinder Kaur Arora is the First Scientist who was conferred upon a National Award for the work on “Women's development through science and technology”, by **the President of India on May 11, 2007 on the occasion of Technology Day.**

Dr. Arora is a doctorate in Microbiology and has brilliant academic record. After serving in PAU Ludhiana as an assistant professor, she joined the Punjab State Council for Science and Technology in 1990 and she was Jt. Director in the Department in 2007, and **then rose to the post of Director.** She was also presented Indian Television Academy Award. **Mrs. Arora is among the top 10 inspiring Women Business Leaders in India** and participated in B10 International Convention 2011 at Washington, DC, USA. **In Jan. 2014, She was CEO of B10 Processing Unit GOI, Mohali.**

The First Ever Woman Chairman of NDMC



Ms. Parminder Mandip Singh is the **First Ever** Woman to take over as Chairman of New Delhi Municipal Council (NDMC). She took over charge in Nov. 2002. She is an **IAS Officer** of the 1977 batch having done her master degree in Geography. She also worked as **Commissioner** in the Food, Supplies and Consumer Affairs Deptt., Govt. of NCT of Delhi; as **Chairperson**, Delhi Subordinate Services Selection Board; Commissioner Excise & Transport and as MD of Delhi Tourism. But her **stint as the District Collector of Arunachal Pradesh** was memorable for her. She worked in the fields of welfare of women as opening of hostels for working women and building of shelters for the homeless etc.

India's First Woman Pilot

Mrs. Beant Kaur (right) is India's First Woman Pilot. She is widow of **Air-vice Marshal Harjinder Singh, the IAF's First Indian Technical Officer.** A pilot as well as an Engineer he was compatriot of Marshal of the IAF Arjan Singh and IAF's legend Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh. **Harjinder Singh was instrumental in the indigenous production of Avro transporters in India. His story is the story of the birth and growth of Indian Air Force in its**



early days. He retired as AOC-in-C of the maintenance Command in 1964. A locality in Kanpur near Air Force Station has been named as Harjinder Nagar after his name. P.M. Jawaharlal Nehru used to fly with him.

Mrs. Beant Kaur had obtained her private pilot's license from Lucknow.



*Air-vice Marshal
Harjinder Singh*

India's Chef-de-Mission S. Ranjit Singh



India's Chef-de-Mission S. Ranjit Singh (left) receives the South Asian Champions Trophy from Sri Lankan Sports Minister Jeevan Kumaratunga in Colombo on August 27, 2006. S. Ranjit Singh said, on the occasion, that India had been pleasantly surprised by the gesture though it was not obligatory on the part of Sri Lanka to present such an award, but having done so they have made the games all the more memorable for us.

This champion trophy was presented to Indian contingent for winning the highest number of medals in the 10th South Asian Games.

The Architect who Built Bunkers for Saddam Hussain



Mr. Manmohan Singh Virdi is one of the persons behind the architectural design of MUSCAT (Capital of Oman) and IRAQ. Before attacking IRAN in 1979, President Saddam Hussain asked Mr. Virdi to ensure that all the houses, car parkings, markets, schools, clubs and all other buildings in all townships had a bunker each to escape the bombings. When they reported him about the completion of task, he ordered to start bombings on Iran & war continued for 10 years. After that Mr. Virdi immigrated to MUSCAT where he served as **CHIEF ARCHITECT for 15 years.** At that time the king of OMAN asked him to work on medicinal values of herbs & set up an institution for that. **He had been Diwan of Royal Court.**

The First Indian to Win Tamandayu Championship



Indian Golfer S. Sujan Singh recorded his win over Tamandayu championship in July 2012 in Indonesia and thus earned the title of **First Indian to do so out of India**. He is the First Indian to win Asian Development Tour.

This Panchkula lad won Indonesian golf tournament, he also won a golf championship for India in the United States. He triumphed nine other golfers and won the IAPGA tour competition across 22 cities in the USA.

The First Indian Economist to write book on Foreign Trade & Foreign Finance



For Bank employees **G.S. Lal** is a household name. His books have the importance of Geeta for bank employees. He is the **First Indian** to write book on Foreign Trade and Foreign Finance. "**The Encyclopaedia of Banking Terminology**" is the only book of its kind. In 1957 he was selected to the Indian Economic Services. Prior to this he was with the Lloyd Bank and Punjab National Bank.

A Leader and a Model for Indian Dairy Industry

R.S. Sodhi



Mr. R. Sodhi is a leader and model for the Indian Dairy Industry. For the meritorious services given to the country in the field of business, he was conferred upon QIMPRO Gold Standard Award in 2013. In view of his exemplary leadership to India's biggest food and dairy company having annual turn-over of Rs. 21000 crore, he was given an extension for another five years in November 2015 as Managing Director. In 2010, he became M.D. of Amul India Limited, a giant MNC of food and dairy in India. His aim is Rs. 50000 crore annual turn-over by 2020. He is planning to invest about Rs. 2500 crore to raise its milk processing capacity.

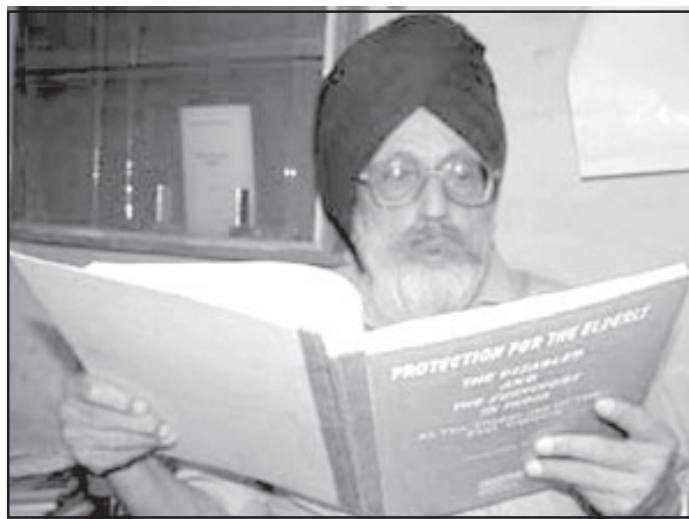
A Mastermind of Several Prestigious Art Conservation Projects in India

Mr. S.P. Singh, Director (Conservation), National Museum, New Delhi, is the mastermind of several prestigious art conservation projects in India. This ace conservationist in 2004 supervised restoration work of the famous **“Qajar painting” at the Rashtrapati Bhavan** and restoration work of **rare paintings in the Central Hall of Parliament in Delhi** and two other significant projects, which includes the training of 30 Indian Air Force men in the preservation of rare regimental collections in India and the **training of 50 Lamas in the preservation of 500 monasteries across Ladakh**. Twenty five volunteers from Punjab were also trained in the art of preserving heritage objects. He also supervised the conservation of **India's first oil painter Raja Ravi Verma's works**.



Mr. S.P. Singh has special love for Punjab's heritage. He compares Amritsar to historical cities of Ujjain, Kashi and Banaras. He says that Punjab has an unmatched collection of heritage objects like cannons, arms and ammunitions, textiles, manuscripts, medals, wall paintings etc. He is sad over the neglect of medals gallery of Patiala.

Father of Pension Schemes in India



Known as **FATHER of Pension Schemes in India** **S. Parduman Singh** has been a ray of hope to the downtrodden and the distressed. In 1980s, he conceived an old age, disability and survivors' pension scheme and put his proposal before the Central Board of Trustees. The Board accepted the proposal and government announced such a pension scheme for 40 crore private and public sector employees on Nov. 16, 1995.

In a function held on Nov. 23, 1996, on the eve of completion of one year of pension scheme, S. Parduman Singh was greeted as the **“FATHER of the Pension Schemes”** by **Mr. P.A. Sangma**, the then Labour Minister and others.

Chairman of IAS Shimla

Former Vice Chancellor of Guru Nanak University Dr. J.S. Grewal was appointed as **Director** of the Indian Institute of Advanced Studies (IIAS), Shimla, a prestigious and high profile institute of Govt. of India, and later on **he was promoted as Chairman of the Governing Council of the Institute.**

A great historian, Dr. Grewal's special fields in history are medieval India and Sikh history. His book "Guru Nanak in History" published in 1969 **earned him D.Lit degree from the University of London.**



For his outstanding contribution to academics he was conferred upon **Padam Shree by the President of India.** After getting Padam Shree, Dr. Grewal indicated about drastic reforms to be brought in the functioning of the Institute, in 2005, in view of saffronisation of the Institute. He himself said, "more than NCERT books, saffronisation is more at intellectual centres like IIAS. **Two volumes of 'History of Medieval India' by Dr. Grewal were published by the Oxford University Press.**

**Chief Editor and Jt. Director of
National Book Trust**



Dr. Baldev Singh Badhan received his Ph.D. degree from Panjab University, Chandigarh in 1991. **He was bestowed upon Sahitya Academy Award in 1999.** He joined National Book Trust as Editor in 1996 and took over as **Chief Editor and Jt. Director of the Trust in 2002 and he was on the post till Oct. 2007.** He is the **author of 40 books.** His books 'Fight for Freedom', 'Maharaja Dalip Singh' and 'The Fall of Sikh Empire' are the authenticated books on Sikh history.

Pioneer of Cooperative Movement



Mr. Surjit Singh Puri, an IAS Officer of 1949 batch is one of the **pioneers of the cooperative movement in the country** who held many prestigious posts in the State, the Centre and at the UN. He started his career as **D.C. of Gurdaspur and Kulu and initiated the cooperative movement in Punjab** & became the Registrar of Cooperatives, Punjab. Then he was **selected by Jawaharlal Nehru for permanent commission in the Union Cadre**. In 1977 Punjab requisitioned his services as **Chief Secretary**. In 1979 he returned to Centre as **Secretary, Planning Commission** and later **Secretary, Agriculture** and then **Secretary Textile**. In 1981, he was appointed India's **Ambassador** to EEC at Brussels. But since his interest was agriculture and cooperative, he preferred to join the **Food & Agriculture Organisation of the United Nations (FAO) in Bangkok** as its **Assistant Director General** in 1982 and remained in the position for seven years. After retirement he settled in Delhi and died in Dec. 2002. A topper throughout his career, he migrated to India during 1947 partition from **Rawalpindi**.

One of the Most Charismatic Ambassadors of India



S. Raminder Singh Jassal, who expired on March 11, 2011 in Ankara had distinguished diplomatic career of about 4 decades. He was spokesman of MEA during India's 1999 Kargil war. He served as India's Ambassador to Israel, United States, and Turkey. **Sr. diplomat Mr. Jassal was one of most charismatic ambassadors of India.** He also served as Jt. Secy. of External Affairs before going to Israel as Indian's envoy.

Dr. Devinder Singh a Jurist Par Excellence



Dr. Devinder Singh a senior member of the Amritsar Bar Association, has created history by being the **ONLY Law Graduate in the country who was enrolled for the Ph.D. without possessing the master's degree in law.**

He had to his credit of about 52 years of practice at District Courts, Jalandhar, Punjab & Haryana High Court and local courts and teaching of Law in Guru Nanak Dev University. Guru Nanak Dev University conferred upon him a Doctorate in Philosophy of Law (Ph.D) in 1983, terming his research work as excellent, most exhaustive and commendable.

A writer of many articles in many National Law journals, gave his expert advice on radio & television on the topics from constitutional amendments to probation of offenders and clemency powers of Governors. In the field of social service, he offered free consultation to the needy persons on telephone.

Canada Gets its First Asian Defence Minister Harjit Singh Sajjan



A decorated Lt. Colonel of Canadian army also served in Canadian Police for 11 years has the distinction of being the First Asian to be defence minister of a country outside Asia. He was born in village Bombeli in Hoshiarpur District in 1970. He migrated to Canada with his family when he was five years old. During his tenure in Canadian army he proved mettle in Afghanistan. He was decorated as National Defence Minister of Canada in November 2015. He married to Dr. Kuljit Kaur, a family doctor. He has a son and a daughter. **Mr. Sajjan's profound achievement made India and Sikh Community extremely proud.**

The First South Asian Top Law Prosecutor in U.S.



An Indian American Sikh attorney S. Gurbir Singh Grewal 42, was sworn in as acting Bergen county Prosecutor in January 2016. Bergen is the most populous county in New Jersey. **He is first South Asian appointed as the top prosecutor in U.S.** He is a former federal prosecutor who had fought major white-collar crimes as U.S Attorney's office. Recently he was serving as the Chief of the Economic Crimes Unit in New York and has good experience of prosecuting cases in U.S Courts. He joined the U.S. Attorney's office in 2010. Grewal described his appointment as "honour and privilege". He replaced John Molinelli who served on this post for a long period of 14 years.

First Asian Judge of UK High Court



Rabinder Singh, a leading lawyer had **been sworn in as the first Asian Judge of the High Court at the Royal Courts of Justice, London** in October, 2011. Thus he made India and Sikhs proud and created a history. The three Indians who shined in the Judiciary of other countries and rose to high positions, are Sikhs. He came in limelight when he advised that the British intervention in the Iraq war was unlawful. He has experience in advocacy in all fields, from employment tribunal to the House of Lords, The Privy Council, The European Court of Justice and the European Court of Human Rights.

In January 2007, the British Channel-4 came under flak, after the racist comments on **Indian actress Shilpa Shetty** and her co-mates in its reality show. Shilpa Shetty was there to participate in the show. **The channel-4 engaged for its advocacy NRI human lawyer S. Rabinder Singh QC.**, a barrister at Matrix Chambers, which he co-founded with the **Prime Minister's wife Cherie Blair**.

The First Indian in African History



S. Upjit Singh Sachdeva, who was appointed Honorary Counsul General of Indian to Liberia in 1998 and still continuing, was conferred with Liberia's **Highest Award “Knight Grand Commander”** during the country's 164th independence day celebrations, by Her Excellency Madam Ellen Johnson Sirleaf, **President of Republic of Liberia**, on **July 26, 2011**, for his **outstanding contribution to the socio-economic development, recovery and reconstruction of Liberia after the civil war**. Thus Mr Sachdeva earned the distinction of being the **FIRST INDIAN in the history of African Countries** to have got highest award. Sirleaf made a special reference to Sachdeva's efforts in forging friendship between Liberia and India and his enormous contribution to the growth of Liberia's commercial sector.

Earlier in January 2011 President Pratibha Patil had also honoured Mr. Sachdeva with the **PRAVASI BHARTIYA AWARD** for enhancing India's global image.

He made India proud when on Jan 10, 2016 he was appointed as Head/Dean of the Consular Corps (Group of Ambassadors) in Liberia, by the Government of the Republic of Liberia, through its ministry of Foreign Affairs. This appointment is based upon precedence of appointment as between Head of Consular Post, in accordance with article 16 of the Vienna Convention on Consular Relations of April 24, 1963 and Mr. Sachdeva was informed about this appointment through a letter signed by the Acting Chief of Protocol of the Republic of Liberia.
It is a sort of history.

Mr. Sachdeva was born and brought up at Jalandhar and later settled in Liberia.

A Sikh Elected Head of Police Services Board in Canada



On January 31, 2016 an Indo-Canadian Sikh S. Amrik Singh Ahluwalia has been unanimously elected as the Chief of Canada's Peel Police, the third largest municipal police force in Canada. He was backed for post by the mayors of Brampton and Mississauga.

After Navdeep Singh Bains and Harjit Singh Sajjan, who became the first Sikh Cabinet Ministers in Canada, Ahluwalia is the third Indo-Canadian to rise in the country's government affairs.

Ahluwalia has organised several youth camps and served as president of Sikh Society, Calgary. Ahluwalia immediately after unanimous vote, said, "my first thoughts are, what a wonderful country we live in." He came Canada decades ago and now he is bestowed with this honour and responsibility.

A Sikh Diplomat Representing Australia in India



In February 2016 Australia appointed a veteran career diplomat Harinder Kaur Sidhu as its High Commissioner to India. She is the second Indian origin Australian high commissioner in India after former diplomat Peter Varghese, who served in India from 2009-12.

She is the Senior Career officer with the department of Foreign affairs & trade and has been serving as first assistant secretary of the multilateral policy division. Previously she also represented Australia in Russia and Syria. She will also have non-resident accreditation to Bhutan as Australia- Bhutan enjoy a warm relationship.

Sidhu who holds degree in law and economics from the University of Sydney, also served as senior advisor in the department of Prime Minister and Cabinet.

Afghan of the Year for 2009 - A Sikh girl



A Sikh Afghan girl Anarkali Kaur Honaryar d/o an Er. Kishan Singh Honaryar, a dentist by profession and a social activist, who has been struggling for the rights of women and religious minorities, is a household name in Kabul. **India felt proud** when in 2009, she was named “**Afghanistan's Person of the Year**” for 2009. Now she has been working for International Council for Human Rights (ICHR). She was also appointed as **a member of Afghan's Constitutional Committee**. She had been a representative for Hindus. She has travelled to Germany, Italy, Sri Lanka, Qatar and once India for human rights conferences. **She is pride of Sikhs as well as of India. UNESCO also honoured her with an award for bravery.**

The First Indian as V.C. of Universities Outside India



Dr. Hargurdip Singh Saini has the honour of being the First Indian Vice-Chancellor of the Universities outside India. At present Vice President of University of Toronto, he has been appointed as Vice Chancellor of Canberra University, Australia. An alumni of Punjab Agricultural University, Ludhiana, he got doctorate in Plant Physiology from Adelaide University, Australia and after that he worked on many prestigious posts of different academic and research institutes in Canada. In 2000 he served in National Science and Industrial Research Institute in Canberra.

**A Sikh Police Commissioner in a Muslim
Country
S. Amar Singh**



The government and media (especially electronic) of India may not take notice but the Sikhs in other countries are making profound achievements one after another making the India highly proud. Now in March 2016 a Sikh, S. Amar Singh (58) has been elevated as the Police Commissioner of Kuala Lumpur the capital of Malaysia, a Muslim dominated country. He succeeded Tajuddin Mohammed.

I urge the Indian to take the Sikh achievements as their own because those are large and unique and made the India proud throughout the history.

First Chief Justice of Sikkim H.C.



Mr. Justice Manmohan Singh Gujral was the First Chief Justice of Sikkim High Court. In 1969 he was elevated as a Justice of the Punjab and Haryana high court and he assumed the office of the Chief Justice Sikkim high court in 1976. He retired in 1983 and expired in 2015 at the age 95. Some of his friends from judiciary dubbed him as an outstanding and excellent judge and one of the best Judges of Indian Judiciary. He was known as honest, fine and knowledgeable judge having all qualities of a judge. It is said that he was tipped to be a Supreme Court judge but was never elevated for the reasons best known to the government.

Awardee of Indonesia's 2nd Highest Decoration Award



Harbinderjit Singh Dhillon, 70, a prominent Sikh in Indonesia was conferred the Bintang Mahaputra (Star of Mahaputra), the second highest decoration award by the President of Indonesia at the state palace in Jakarta on the eve of Indonesia's 70th Independence day in Sept. 2015. He served in many senior government positions especially in the field of agriculture and poverty alleviation and remained active in Indonesia's politics for more than two decades. In 2011, he was made president's 'special envoy for poverty alleviation.

The Mahaputra award is similar to India's Padma Bhushan and entitles him to the title of National hero and to be cremated at Kalibata, the National Heros Cementery, similar to the US Arlington National Crematory. He was also a member of the national economic committee from 2010-2012. He also headed the coordination agency for national Poverty alleviation in 2001.

First Sikh Chief of CBI



S. Joginder Singh, IPS is a former Director of Central Bureau of Investigation (CBI). Before him, CBI was a blackhole which was being used to hide the corruption of powerfult. Transparency came in CBI with Director Joginder Singh. During his period CBI always remained in daily headlines exposing corruption. He took charge of CBI nation's premier investigation agency on August 1, 1996.

First Sikh Chief of I.B. – N.S. Sandhu

A 1973 batch IPS Officer of Bihar Cadre was IB Director during 2010-12. He took over as Deputy National Security Advisor in Dec. 2012, as a Deputy NSA he was Prime Minister's special envoy on counter terror.



First Woman Mayor in Newzealand



Sukhi Gill Turner (Sikh Girl born Sukhinder Kaur Gill) when elected Mayor of Dunedin Southern Newzealand, **created history as the first woman to be elected as a Mayor in Newzealand.** She married Glenn Turner by Sikh traditions in Gurudwara.

The First Indian World's Best Dressed Model

Grasim Mr. India 2002-03

Mr. Tourism International 2003-04

S. Jaspal Singh Sehgal, born and brought up at Bombay has the distinction of being the **First Indian best dressed Model**. This success touched his feet in 2003 when he represented the country in a world competition of 25 countries in America and was declared Best Dressed model for wearing best national costume and Mr. Tourism International 2003-04.



Earlier in 2002 he hit the headlines when he was declared Grasim Mr. India - 2002-03, out of 15000 candidates who took part in a modelling competition, (Grassim Mr. India 2002) in Bangalore.

He is son of Jaimal Singh and Ram Kaur. His father was running a shipping industry. The great thing is that he achieved supermacy in the world of modelling and fashion without discarding his Sikh FORM. Thus he gives a strong message to the Sikh youth that success in the field of fashion, modelling and film does not require discarding of Sikh Form. In Oct. 2003 he was honoured with “Sikh Pride” in Amritsar by Akal Purkh ki Fauj.

The Youngest Millionaire in the World **(S. Ruban Singh)**



Popularly known as Bill Gates of Britain, the British Ambassador for Entrepreneurship S. Ruben Singh has found mention in **Guinness Book of World Records** as youngest Millionaire, a millionaire at the age of 27. He is the genius of many firsts to his credit. Apart from a mention G.B.W. Records as youngest million- aire, he is the first & **only Indian to have his portrait installed Englands' national gallery** & first Indian to be honoured with European Entrepreneur of the year 2002 award & many more. He gives credit for his achievements to his unflinching belief in Sikhism.

After passing intermediate from Manchester University at the age of 17, he ventured into business and started a retail shop. In less than a decade he became the chairman of the biggest 24 hour personnel assistance service providing British firms and now he heads 15 companies.

The Highest Paid Banker in the World

The only Indian in the list of top people in business of fortune 2014. Born in 1960 an entirely India educated financial analyst **S. Ajaypal Singh Banga**, former Asia-Pacific CEO of Citi Group became the highest paid banker in the world in 2009 when he was offered a package of Rs.90 crore from a service firm, MASTER CARD for joining as its President and CEO. In June 2015 his salary was 9.67 million as CEO



and President of Mastercard. US-India Business Council president and Mastercard CEO A.S Banga was appointed **to a key administration position by Prez. Barrack Obama in Feb. 2015.** He also has been CEO and president of Mondex International Ltd, Hindustan Lever and many other prestigious companies. He is the son of Lt Gen (Retd) Amrik Singh. His name is included in the list having top 50 CEOs in the world including Google's CEO Larry Page. **His name is also included in the fortune's 2014 list of top 50 people in business.** He was honoured with Padma Shri by President Pranab Mukherjee on March 28, 2016. On April 15, 2016 US President Barrack Obama nominated Master Card's Indian- American CEO Ajay Banga as head of US Cybersecurity Commission. Mr Banga has been heading Master Card, a global financial services corporation, since 2010 during which period he also took charge of the US -Indian Business Council. He also Co-

chairman of the American Indias' Foundation.

Once Sardar Banga initiated a **Sikh-Jews meet** in NewYork in which Mr. Prabhun Dayal, the counsel general of India and his Israel counterpart Mr. Edo Aharomi participated. At the time S. Navtej Singh Sarna was the Indian Ambassador in Israel. The jews liked an English movie "the Holi Kitchen" on Sikh Langar.



*S. Ishar Singh Bindra & Teji Bindra are seen in the meeting
between Sikhs and Jews*

An International Hotelier and Restaurateur



Indian-American Sikh Businessman, owner of the Bombay Palace chain of Hotels S. Sant Singh Chhatwal, who is considered close to former US President Bill Clinton and his wife Hillary Clinton, is the **Chairman of Indian-American Democratic Committee, who played a pivotal role on Civil Nuke Deal between India and America**, a deal which is lifeline of India and ended India's 34 year's isolation. For his **meritorious service to India's interests in America**, he was awarded with **Padma Bhushan, Rajiv Gandhi Award and Pravasi Bhartiya Award**. He is also the **trustee of America-India Foundation**. In 2008 he endorsed Senator Barack Obama for the Presidential post of America. New York based Indo- American hotel magnate Sant Singh Chhatwal has an estimated net worth of 10 millions.

The Highest Income tax Payer (Individual) of the Country



Born in 1954, S. Analjit Singh S/o Bhai Mohan Singh (the father of pharmaceutical industry in India) founder and chairman of Max India group is the highest income tax payer in the country. In 2009-10 he paid Rs. 99.7 crore as income tax. Billionaire Analjit Singh in Jan. 2015 decided to split his insurance and healthcare firm Max India.

An Indo-German Sikh Scientist



S. Harpreet Singh Jasuja is a scientist in Germany, who was a member of a **German Scientific Entrepreneur Delegation, which visited India in Feb. 2007** on the invitation of Govt. of India. **Earlier he was honoured with 'BEST Entrepreneur ' award by German Govt.** Harpreet studied chemistry, bio-chemistry and in 2002 got Ph.D. degree from Immunology Institute. Dr. Harpreet Singh Jasuja MD is **Chief Scientific Officer** at Immatics Biotechnologies, Tuebingen, in Germany. **He married a German girl Stophany,** with Sikh traditions in a Gurdwara Sahib. His son was given a name “Kyan Singh”.

America's Campaign Guru



E-WONDER Ravi Singh was dubbed “America's Campaign Guru” by **USA Today** in April 2007. Mr Ravi is the founder and CEO of election mail.com - **one of the largest campaign and election technology firms in the US**. He successfully campaigned for both President Bush and Senator Hillary Clinton, without ruffling feathers on either side. He has done some amazing work with international campaigns. He is an American entrepreneur author and former politician, speaker and ‘golfer’ **His twitter is Ravi Singh - CEO @ Campaign Guru.**

The Conquest of Everest



Five out of nine were the Sikhs in the first successful expedition of India under the vesuvius of Indian mountaineering, Capt. M.S. Kohli in May 1965 which made India the fourth country in the world to conquer the Everest.

A Man Conquered Highest Road on Bicycle



A Punjab Police constable and Eco-friendly S. Gurbachan Singh (L) is the leader of the team which made history by scaling the highest road in the world Khardung-La at a height of 18380 ft. on cycles in June 2007.

A Detective of Corporate Frauds

S. Jasvir Singh Gill is the CEO of VIRSA, a silicon valley's hottest company which helps big corporate houses detect their internal financial irregularities and frauds. Mr. Gill migrated to USA in 1985 and he founded VIRSA in 1996 after the Enron and World Com scams had rocked the financial world. The turnover in 1st quarter of 2007, of the VIRSA was \$8 million which made it the hottest company in the silicon valley.



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An IB Officer is being honoured for his meritorious services by the Home Minister P. Chindambram at Vigyan Bhavan on August 25, 2010.



The Protocol Officer of MEA welcoming US President Barack Obama at Indira Gandhi Airport, New Delhi, on Nov. 6, 2010.



Mr. R. S. Grewal, the Finance Secretary of India during the tenure of Pranab Mukherjee and P. Chidambaram as Finance Minister.



The Rajamata of Jaipur Gayatri Devi coming out of a museum in Kooch Behar distt. of West Bengal in April 2005, alongwith Dr. Ravi Inder Singh, the Distt. Magistrate of Kooch Behar. In 2011 he was Director of Internal Security in the Home Minister.

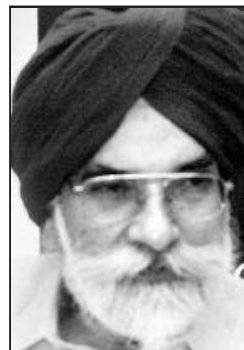
The First Cabinet Secretary of India



Late Mr. S. S. Grewal, former Cabinet Secretary, Govt. of India. **He belonged to the 1st batch of the IAS after the Independence** of the country. He was the husband of former Madhya Pradesh Governor Mrs. Sarla Grewal. He had the **distinction of being India's first and only Sikh** to be appointed Cabinet Secretary.

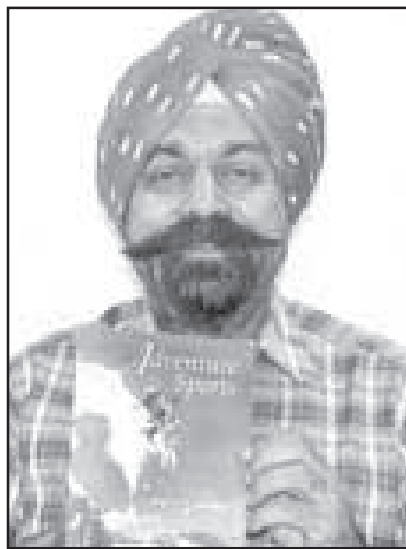
Former Chief Secretary of Bihar

Mr. G.S. Kang, former Chief Secretary of Bihar (2005) Mr. Kang having a master degree in history and English served the Govt. of Bihar in various capacities, between 1970 and 2006.



Sailing Guru

Leader of Army's First Sailing Expedition



Mohali based Brig T.P.S. Chowdhary had led the **Army's First Sailing Expedition around the World on a single-mast boat** during 1985-87. His name will forever be associated with the story of ocean sailing in India. He was commissioned into the Bombay Sappers in 1962. He has written a book "Adventure Sports" which gives a glimpse of some adventure activities.



Former Chief Secretary Goa

Mr. J. P. Singh, former Chief Secretary, Goa (2006). He belongs to the 1976 batch of the IAS. He is a Gold Medallist & graduate in Mechanical Engineering from the Indian Railways Institute of Mechanical & Electrical Engineering. **He has held important positions in Delhi, Goa and Arunachal Pradesh as well as in the Central Government.** In May 2011 he was appointed as member of Himachal Pradesh Public Service Commission.

Former Chief Secretary Uttar Pradesh

Mr. D.S Bagga, former Chief Secretary to Govt. of Uttar Pradesh (2002). He belonged to 1967 IAS batch.



A Food Angel for the Poor and Homeless Australians



S. Tajinderpal Singh has been named, “Australian of the Day” on Aug. 31, 2015 for feeding the homeless in locals of Northern Darwin. He works by day as an air condition mechanic and by night as a taxi driver. He has been feeding the poor and homeless locals of the Darwin for the last 3 years. He, on the last Sunday of every month, cook, 30kg. Indian food and alongwith his son Navdeep Singh keeps in a van which carries the slogan “ Free Indian food for hungry and needy people, Provider Sikh Family”, to feed the needy. Commonwealth bank sponsored the Australian of the years Award for over 35 years, recognising extraordinary Australian. The local media quoted him as saying, “my religion says 10% of our income should go to the needy no matter (whether) they belong to your religion or any other religion.”

SIKHS IN SECURITY FORCES ALL OVER THE WORLD

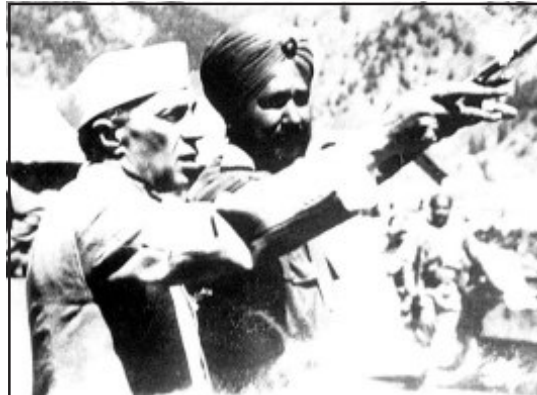
*Punjab (Sikhs) is known as sword-arm of India. Since the rise of Sikh power in Punjab, Sikhs have been the sole masters in shaping India's boundaries in the North West of India. All the distinguished historians and experts on Indian history are unanimous, had there not been Guru Tegh Bahadur, Guru Gobind Singh and Sikhs, India would have met the fate of either **Iran or Egypt** and the territory upto river Yamuna would have been a part of either **Iran or Afghanistan** in 18th/19th century and of Pakistan in 20th century. Major General Fazal Mugeem Khan of Pakistan confessed in his book, "Pakistan's Crisis of Leadership" on War-1971 **that Pakistan lost all the wars and battles against India due to Sikhs**. All Anglo-Sikh wars in 19th century proved Waterloo for Britishers. Had there not been treachery by the Dogras, Beharis, Britishers could have been pushed out of India at that time. **Among the ten most heroic battles**, in all military history of the world, three are fought by the Sikhs viz. Chamkaur Sahib, Saragarhi and Anglo-Sikh war-1845. Sikhs contributed 25% of British army inspite of being 1½% of total Indian population. Britishers admired Sikh valour like anything. Sikh soldiers saved the Dutches, the French, the English and the Italians in World Wars from German Nazis and Malaysians from Japanese in World War-II. In World War-I, the valour displayed by Sikh soldiers in the battle fought at Galli Poli is a glorious part of Indian Army's history. Among the Indian warriors, only two who crossed the border and frustrated the army, are Sikhs viz. General Hari Singh Nalwa and General J.S. Aurora.*

Indian Army

Here are Some Rare Pictures of Sikh Valour



Just after partition in 1947-48 when Pakistan attacked Kashmir, the Sikh soldiers and officers of Indian Army frustrated the enemy and saved Kashmir for India. The then Prime Minister of India Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru reached Kashmir to admire the Sikh soldiers. Behind Pt. Nehru, General Harbaksh Singh (Hero of 1965 war with Pakistan) is seen.



A file picture of former Prime Minister Late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru with a Regimental Officer when he visited 15 Punjab during the Zoji La operations in the Northern sector.



It is another picture in which Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru is seen honouring the Sikh heroes. How the Sikh valour touched Pandit Nehru's heart, can be judged from a citation of his own, which reads as under.

“The Sikh Regiment played a gallant role in the Kashmir Operation and reached SRINAGAR just in time to save the country from the aggressor. Valour and spirit of sacrifice displayed by the men of the Sikh Regiment were examples worthy of emulation.”



Former PM late Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru with Veteran heroes (Retired Sikh Soldiers)



After the battle of Shelatang, late Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru with Lt. Col. (Later Major General) Rajinder Singh Sparrow, MVC at BAR



Pt. Jawaharlal Nehru taking salute from contingent of INA soldiers. Behind Mr. Nehru, Gen Mohan Singh, S. Partap Singh Kairon and S. Swaran Singh are seen.



The Hero of Zoji La battle in 1948 and Sialkot tank battle in 1965, Major General Rajinder Singh 'Sparrow' is seen making a point to Defence Minister Late Y.B. Chavan (2nd from Left). In 1948 he was honoured with Maha Vir Chakra (MVC)



In the armoured operations in the 1947-48 war, Col.(Later Lt. Gen) Rajinder Singh "Sparrow" of 7-Light Cavalry took tanks through the 12,000-feet-high Zoji-La pass in Kashmir and threw back Pakistan forces. It was due to this feat of Col. Sparrow that DRAS could be recaptured in 1947.



A group photo taken on Feb. 2, 1947 in Nanking (China) of Sikhs in Military Police of America. The photograph was obtained from S. Mohinder Singh (inset) who was then Attache in the Indian Embassy in China, from 1969 to 1971. Last assignment of S. Mohinder Singh was as First Secretary to Indian Embassy in Sweden from 1969 to 1971.

Lt. Gen Kulwant Singh Pannu MVC



Lt. Gen. Kulwant Singh was surpassed by Lt. Gen. Thimaya who became army chief out of turn in 1947-48 for the reasons best known to Government of that time. How great General was Kulwant Singh, we can estimate from the news, given below.

During Vietnam War (1.11.1955 to 15.5.1975) USA wanted Lt. General Kulwant Singh to utilize his services as a full General of US Army. But after heated discussion in Parliament Indian government declined USA request. Then again USA demanded him on deputation, but it was again declined.

(Source : Lieutenant (Retd.) Indian Navy, S. Mohinder Singh Virk, Mohali.)

During Pak raid in 1947, Maj. Gen. Kulwant Singh landed in Srinagar on Nov. 5, 1947 and took charge as the commander of forces. He alongwith the legendary air ace, Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh saved Kashmir.

In 1952 a committee was set up under him to study the war threats to our northern border.

Hero of O.P. Vijay 1961



An unidentified Portuguese Sr. Commander with his troops surrendering to late Lt.Col. Sucha Singh (Later Brig.) on Dec. 19, 1961 at Panjim.

Goa was captured by Portuguese in 1510 and the Portuguese ruled over it for 450 years. A Sikh Army Officer Late Lieut Col. (Later Brigadier) Sucha Singh entered Panjim on Dec. 19, 1961 at 9 am with 1 Para & 2 Sikh L.I. and liberated it. **The Portuguese troops surrendered to Lieut Col Sucha Singh at Panjim.** Sucha Singh was awarded Vir Chakra and Military Cross for his feat. Wing Comm. Surinder Singh, alongwith Air Vice Marshal Erlic Pinto of Western Command, had also a major role in frustrating the Portuguese Air Force.

Another Sikh Army Officer Major Shivdev Singh Sidhu had also a leading role in surrender. Though Indian Media did not highlight him, but as per "New York" report a Sikh Major said to Goa Police Commander Capt. Baraj, "we do not harm anyone and would not open fire and you should also not open fire."

It is said that Major Sidhu had received a letter from Army Commander of Panjim intending to surrender.

Dragon Killer



*Statue of Gen. Bikram Singh at
Bikram Chowk in Jammu*

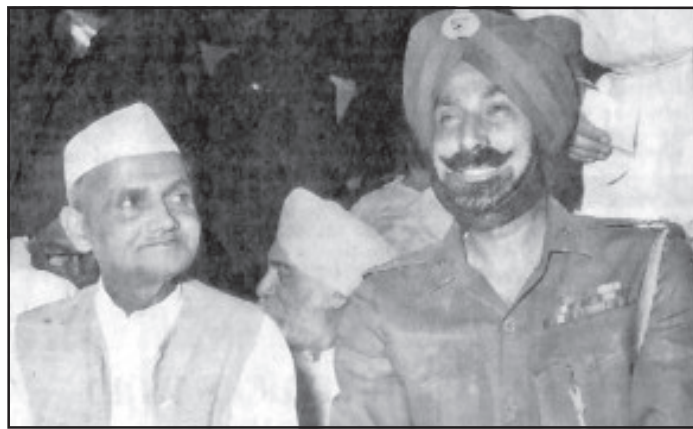
During 1962 war with China **Lt. Gen. Bikram Singh VSM Class-I** conducted the operation in Ladakh and halted the 'Yellow Huns'. He is remembered as '**Dragon Killer**' and he was dreaded by the Chinese due to his prowess, boldness and fearlessness. He had become a legendary hero among the Lamas in the **Gumpas**, Buddhist Monasteries of Ladakh. His valour is still part of folklore in Jammu, Kashmir and Ladakh. He died in a Helicopter accident at Poonchh.

He was awarded VSM Class-1 posthumously. During a long and distinguished career he held a number of important appointments which included command of Assam Area and of a Division in Jammu and Kashmir. During World War-II he was in active service in Middle East. He was commissioned in army in

1993. During China aggression he was corps commander in the rank of Lieutenant General responsible for the defence of Ladakh. He displayed exemplary leadership in handling the operation in Ladakh.

A square (Chowk) in Jammu has been named after him as Bikram Chowk where his statue has been installed as a mark of respect for the supreme services rendered to Jammu and Ladakh region where every year people gather to garland the statue and pay tributes.

The Greatest Soldier of Modern India Hero of War-1965



Had it not been for Lt.Gen. Harbaksh Singh, the pride of a grateful nation, 1965 war with Pakistan would have been lost by India. A noted writer S. Patwant Singh writes in his book “Of Dreams and Demons” (1994). “At a reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi, which followed a presentation of awards for the 1965 operation, President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan, with Harbaksh & Jogi Dhillon (Lt.Gen. Harbaksh Singh & Lt. Gen Joginder Singh Dhillon) sitting on either side of him, said in a voice loud enough for J.N.Chaudhary (the then army chief) to hear, “we were told to expect bad tidings, but both of you saved the country.”

I would like to substantiate my above statement with the following examples, Shekhar Gupta, a senior journalist and T.V. anchor writes in his article, “युद्ध जिसमें पाक हारा, भारत नहीं जीता” published in a Hindi ‘*Dainik Bhaskar*’ on Sept. 15, 2015, reads as under :

“पाकिस्तानी कमांडरों का अहंकार। जीत की घोषणा जल्दी करने की दिली तमन्ना। इसका अच्छा उद्वाहरण खेमकरण में इसका टैंकों से किया हमला है, जो एक

वक्त इतना खतरनाक लग रहा था कि जनरल जे.एन. चौधुरी व्यास नदी के पीछे गई रक्षा पंक्ति तक जाना चाहते थे (सौभाग्य से हरबख्श सिंह ने दृढ़ता से उन्हें ऐसा न करने के लिए प्रेरित (किया) इससे पंजाब का ज्यादातर हिस्सा पाकिस्तान के पास चला जाता। यहां पर उसकी कार्मड डिवीजन के नष्ट होने से मैदान में पाक की आक्रामक क्षमता काफी कुछ खत्म हो गई। भारत की बेहतर रणनीति और नेतृत्व। पहाड़ों पर रात की लड़ाईयों में बेहतर प्रदर्शन। भारत ने कश्मीर के पहाड़ी इलाकों में जबकि किया जबकि छंब में उसे बड़ा हिस्सा खोना पड़ा।”

Mrs. Harmala Kaur D/o the General in her article, "Remembring my father, Lt. Gen Harbaksh Singh" published in *Hindustan Times* in Sept. 2015, writes,

"In the thick war as the then army Commander, he had famously stood up to army chief Gen. JN Chaudhury's verbal order to pull back troops to the Beas Bridge on GT Road and instead went ahead with an offensive thrust, fighting fierce and decisive battles that eventually changed the course of the war."..... ".... his reputation as a strategist par excellence during a long and distinguished career that took him to every battlefield of Independent India till he retired in 1969."

He died in Nov. 1999 unsung. Capt. Amrinder Singh, the then ADC of Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh, writes in his article "But for Lt. Gen Harbaksh Singh, Punjab would've been lost" published in *Hindustan Times* dated Aug. 30, 2015. "It was 3:30 am on September 9 when I heard the phone ring.... I asked who was calling and it was then chief of Army Staff Gen. J.N. Chaudhury who asked me to wake Lt. Gen. Singh up. I shook the General from his sleep. Chaudhury asked him to withdraw Indian troops in Punjab to which Lt. Gen. Singh replied : "you cannot just give orders without seeing the situation on the battlefield and I cannot execute them. I am tired and going to sleep."....**If we had weak General at the time, the morale of Indian forces would have been hit and Punjab lost."**

In the above picture, Late Sh. Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then P.M. of India, presents the sword of his siropa (presented by Delhi Gurdwara Prabandhak Committee at a reception to 1965 war heroes) to Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh for displaying leadership of the highest order and bringing victory to the country.



*President Dr. S. Radhakrishnan investing
Lt. Gen. Harbakhsh Singh with Padma Bhushan*

Lt. Gen. J.S. Dhillon Padma Bhushan



Lt. Gen. Joginder Singh Dhillon (1914-2003) Chief of Staff of Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh, who had a decisive role in 1965 war victory, seen with PM Late Lal Bahadur Shastri in front of a captured Patton tank in Lahore Sector in 1965. Gen Dhillon was a brilliant tactician and was a celebrated Indian Military war hero.

Indo Pak War 1971 Picture Gallery

India's Most Glorious Moment



The most celebrated photograph of India's Military Archive

The finest hour of the millennium for India descended on Dec. 16, 1971 at 4.51 PM when Lt.Gen.A.A.K. Niazi, GOC-in-C, East Pak and his 93000 strong army surrendered to Lt. Gen. Jagjit Singh Arora, (The super hero of Indian Army) GOC-in-C, Indian Eastern Command in Dhaka, the capital of Bangladesh.

"We are proud of your achievements" (Telegram)

"while Jaggi did all the work, I got the baton" (of Field Marshal...)

*"I cannot do better than read the message to **Lt. Gen. Arora**"*

(Field Marshal SHFJ Manekshaw's tributes to Arora)

"General Arora was the Principal Architect of 1971 victory and a Great War strategist"

(Pranab Mukherjee, Former Defence Minister of India)

"I wondered for not honouring Gen Arora with Bharat Ratan"

(George Fernandez former Defence Minister and Co-ordinator of N.D.A. in 2005)



Maj. K.S. Chandpuri (Later Brigadier) briefing Britains CIGS, Field Marshal RM Calver, who especially visited the battle scene a few weeks later to see himself the miracle at Longowala, on the Longowala battle in the Rajasthan Sector. Mr. Chandpuri, the then Company Commander, who took the brunt of the attack by Pakistan and fought with great grit, courage and determination, was bestowed upon Mahavir Chakra (MVC) and VSM. The celebrated Indian film “Border” was based on this Longowala battle. This battle was fought on Dec. 5, 1971.



Indian Army Company which was surrounded by Pakistan Tanks at Longowala in 1971. Brig K.S. Chandpuri (then major and Company Commander) is seen 3rd from left.



Graveyard of Pakistan's Tanks destroyed by Indian Hunters at Longowala in Rajasthan sector in 1971.



Gallant soldiers of 23 Punjab Regiment performing Bhangra on a captured Pakistani T.59 Tank at Longowala, Major Kuldip Singh Chandpuri, who was the commander of the post, is standing with his back to camera.



Maj. Gen. Rao Farman Ali (first in front row), Senior Army Officer and men discard their weapons during surrender ceremony held in 1971.



Brig. Mohammed Yahat of the 107 Brigade of the Pakistan Army in Bangladesh surrendering his belt and revolver to Maj. Gen. Balbir Singh GOC of an Indian Infantry Division in 1971.

जो बोले सो निहाल! सत श्री अकाल! जय भारतेर पंजाब!



The war cry of Mukti Vahini was "Bole So Nihal, Sat Sri Akal" as disclosed to S. Khushwant Singh (A distinguished Journalist and writer) by a German Journalist Tilo Bode, who covered this war.

Likewise, the Indian army which entered Dhaka on Dec. 18, 1971 was comprised of almost all Sikh soldiers. Here are two media reports worth to be noticed, which are witness to the fact.

<p>जल्दी हम ढाका पहुँचेंगे और ढाका को भी इस आखिरी हुकूमत से आजाद करा देंगे। सिपाही जोस से नारा लगाते हैं— "जो बोले सो निहाल! सत श्री अकाल!" और इस नारे के साथ ही सड़क पर खड़े मुक्ति-वाहिनी के सैनिक नारा लगाते हैं: "जय बांग्ला!" और कीबिए उनका नायक दूसरा नारा लगाता है? "जय पंजाब!" इस बार प्रत्युत्तर कुछ धीमा है, नायक अपनी गलती सुधारता है "जय भारतेर पंजाब!" और गगनमोदी नारा उठता है: "जय भारतेर पंजाब!" मेजर बलवीर सिंह हमारी ओर देख कर मुस्कराने लगते हैं.</p>	<p>18 दिसंबर, 1971 का अनिष्टा जो सिख दिसंबर आदि... (संस्करण) —असहनी कुमार</p>
<p>धर्मयुग 20-2-1972</p>	<p>सगघाटी 12-1-2001</p>

Bravery Beyond Comparison



Subedar Major and Honorary Capt. Bana Singh who exhibited prowess, exemplary courage, supreme gallantry and commitment to the nation to capture a Pakistani post of strategic importance at the height of 20,000-ft. at the Siachen glacier on April 18, 1987. Later, the post was named after him. **It is now Bana Singh Post or Bana Top. After three unsuccessful attempts, a team led by Naib Subedar Bana Singh captured the post Quaid.** For this feat he was honoured with **Paramvir Chakra**, nations' highest gallantry award on 26th Jan. 1988 by the then Prez Sh. K. Narynan. But Bana Singh was paid a petty sum of Rs.166/- per month as honorarium from the Jammu and Kashmir Government. How sad! See the nations' apathy for the heroes who risk their lives to keep the honour of the country high. He joined army on 6th Jan. 1969 and retired on 2nd Oct. 2004. In his memory a colony was also raised in New Delhi named Bana Singh Enclave, Mahipalpur.

A Great General of Modern Times



Maj. Gen Shabeg Singh (1925-1984) AVSM, PVSM was a great general of modern times who was known for his service in training and guerrilla war. He was a war hero who trained Mukhti Bahini fighters in 1971 war which ultimately made Indian victory in war easy. In June, 2003 he was GOC MP, Bihar, Orissa area. After training in the Indian Military Academy, he was commissioned in the 2nd Punjab regiment as a 2nd lieutenant. For his leadership of high order provided to the army, he was awarded AVSM and PVSM.

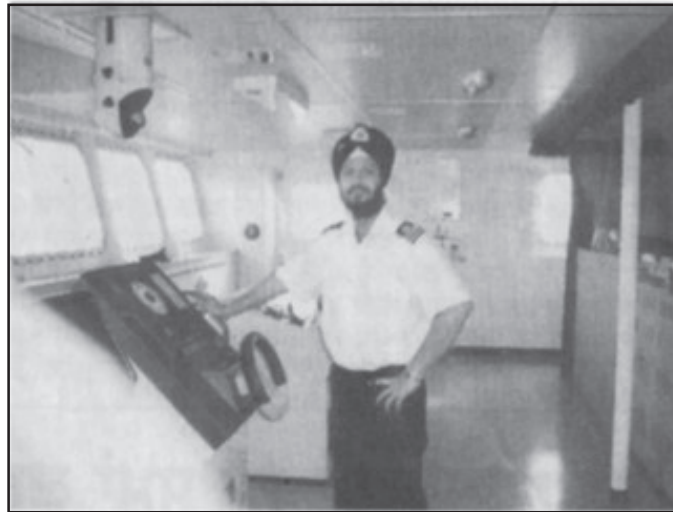
A General Awardee of Two MVC(s)



A veteran of WW-II Brig Sant Singh took part in all wars viz 1948, 1962, 1965 and 1971 and was decorated with two Maha Vir Chakras, (MVCs) one in 1965 and another in 1971, which is a rare feat. Thus he made history. He participated in 1965 war as a Lt. Col. and won his medal for action in Mendhar sector of J&K's Poonch district where a cantonment is named after him as a token of respect. Keeping in view his meritorious services to the nation and his grit and determination in discharging duties, his name was also recommended for Param Vir Chakra (PVC). He expired in Chandigarh in 2015 at the age of 95. From 2002 to 2006. He remained nominated councillor of Chandigarh Municipal Corporation.

During the 1971 war, one of the most highly decorated solidiers, Brig Sant Singh was commanding the FJ sector in the eastern sector. He advanced 38 miles almost on foot to secure Mymensing and Madhopur in eight days. During this operation he cleared heavily defended positions at several places, personally leading the troops, which paved the way for Indian army to capture Dhaka. He was among the first officers to enter the headquarters of the East Pakistan Commander, Lt. Gen AAK Niazi. A framed picture of Niazi and a desktop time piece seized by him from Niazi's office, were his war trophies displayed at his house.

Saviour of Chinese Crewmen



S. Gurvinder Singh 2, Captain of an Indian Cargo Vessel rescued 11 Chinese Crewmen out of 19 (8 died immediately on the spot after mishap) from a sinking Panamaian vessel off the coast of Philippines on March 20, 2007.

On receiving the emergency signals from a Chinese Cargo Vessel Unicorn Ace, Capt. Gurvinder and Prabhu Yuvika immediately commenced the rescue operation. Unicorn Ace ultimately sank about 135 km west of Huz on in the Philippines, within half an hour.

Capt. Gurvinder Singh received a lot of applause not only for his feat but also for his attractive Sikh appearance from Counsel General of Chinese Embassy in Manila (Philippines) and Chinese Crewmen. In those days he remained in headlines in China and Philippines.

India gets its First Sikh Army Chief



General J.J. Singh, **known as Tiger in the army**, was the first Sikh Army Chief. He was one of the highly decorated soldiers who was awarded with PVSM, AVSM, VSM, War Wound medal, and Commendation by the chief of Army staff. He had wide experience of assignments, which includes serving as the Addl. Director General in the Directorate General of Military Operations during Kargil war. He commanded a strike corps during operation Parakram and was wounded during anti-terrorist operation as a Brigade Commander. At the time of taking charge as Army Chief on 30.01.2005, he was Commander-in-Chief of western command. After retirement, he was made Governor of Arunachal Pradesh and took charge as Governor on 27 Jan. 2008.

India also gets its Second Sikh Army Chief



Gen. Bikram Singh who has the distinction of being decorated with PVSM, UVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, ADC took over charge as the 25th Chief of the Indian Army on May 31, 2012. A highly decorated soldier is known as "BIKKI" to his friends. He was an epitome of hard work, sincerity, dedication and above all superb moral character and integrity. **He had vast International experience having served in three U.N. Peacekeeping missions.** He was commissioned in the Sikh Light Infantry in 1972. He was honoured with the Hon'ry post of Commander-in-Chief of the **Nepalese Army**, when he visited Nepal on an official tour.

Singapore gets Second Sikh Army Chief



Brig Gen. Ravinder Singh S/o S. Harchand Singh is the SECOND Sikh Chief of the army of Singapore who took charge as Chief on March 25, 2011 from Maj. Gen. Chan Chun Sing. He is the first non-Chinese Chief of the army in nearly 30 years. Brig Gen Singh, 41, also served as Assistant Chief of General Staff (Plans), head of Jt. Communications and Information Systems deptt, Deputy Secretary (technology) at the Defence Ministry and Chief of staff, joint staff.

Prior to Brig. Gen Singh, in 1982 **Colonel Mancharan Singh Gill** became the chief of Singaporean army who earned the distinction of being the **FIRST ever Non-Chinese Chief of the army.**

Both are the **pride of Sikhs who made India proud** by becoming the first ever Indian chiefs of the army of another country outside India. **Sikhs have the special blessings of God.**

Indian Navy

India's Strategic Vice Admiral SPS Cheema PVSM, AVSM, NM, ADC



Vice Admiral Cheema is a **brilliant officer of Indian Navy**. He was commissioned into the Indian Navy on 1 Jan 1977. He is a graduate of the NDA, Khadakwasala; DSSC, Wellington and CNW, Mumbai.

He is a specialist in missile and gunnery, and has spent majority of his time on afloat appointments. He was the Commissioning Commanding Officer of missile boat INS Nishank, Mauritian coast guard OPV Vigilant and the stealth frigate INS Trishul. He also commanded missile corvette INS Khanjar and India's only aircraft carrier INS Viraat. He also adorned the post of the Commandant of the Naval Academy and Commanding Officer INS Mandovi. He has the unique distinction of winning both the Lentaigne and Scudder medal at DSSC.

He was awarded Nau Sena medal gallantry award while commanding INS Viraat. **In 2013-14 Vice Admiral Cheema was the chief of strategic force command. In that capacity he was also chief of Nuclear Command Authority (NCA) which has command over the use of nuclear weapons.**

The fourth senior-most naval officer, Mr. Cheema currently (2014-15) is the Flag Officer Commander- in- Chief of the Mumbai-based Western Naval Command.

Vice Admiral Anup Singh PVSM, AVSM, NM



*Vice Admiral Anup Singh being honoured by
Smt. Pratibha Singh Patil President of India*

Vice Admiral Anup Singh, after relinquishing the post as the Flag Officer Commanding Western Fleet, took over charge of **Deputy Chief of Integrated Defence (Operation)** in April 2007. As the Fleet Commander, he had led **Operation Sukoon**, the evacuation of civilians from war-torn LE BANON in July 2006 which came to be the **largest post independence civilian evacuation operation** undertaken by Indian Navy.

He was the Sailing Master of the **FIRST EVER** Square-Rigged sail training vessel, '**VARUNA**', in 1981-82. He skippered the Naval yacht, '**Samudra**', for the Pacific crossing during her round-the-world voyage in 1989. In 2010-11 he was Flag officer commanding-in-chief of the Eastern Naval Command.



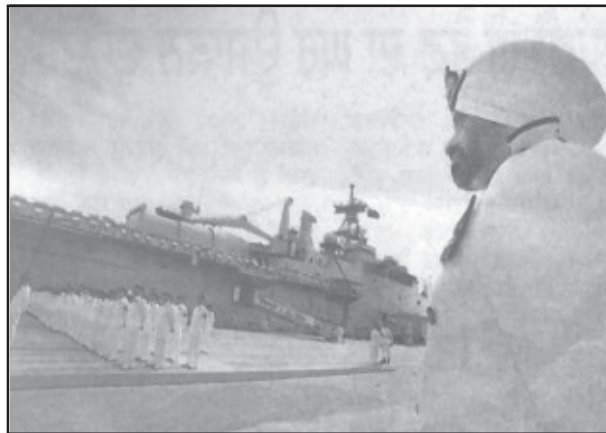
Defence Minister Pranab Mukherjee presents the President's Tatrakshak Medal to Inspector General Surinder Pal Singh Basra during a Coast Guard investiture ceremony in New Delhi. Basra was instrumental in steering his forces in the Andaman & Nicobar region on December 26, 2004, to combat the Tsunami disaster and mobilise scarce resources in a precise manner.



Vice Admiral, Flag-officer Commander-in-Chief of Southern Naval command J.S. Bedi being bestowed upon Param Vishisht Sewa Medal (PVSM) in an award ceremony by President APJ Abdul Kalam in March 2000, for meritorious services rendered to the Indian Navy. He retired after a distinguished career in Navy of 40 years, in May 2009.



Vice Admiral J.S. Bedi, Flag Officer Commanding-in-Chief,
Southern Naval Command (Aug.. 2007)



Capt. Barjinder Singh Ahluwalia at a Naval Station in America,
on the deck of warship to be inducted into Indian Navy. This
warship, part of American Navy, was purchased for 36.7 million
dollars (June 2007).



Southern Naval Command Chief, Vice Admiral Jagjit Singh Bedi dancing with Navy Queen Parbati Omna Kuttam at Kochi Naval harbour on the eve of a ceremony for Navy Queen on Nov.10, 2006.

The Indian Navy Officers at a ceremony of induction of INS Bias Warship into Indian Navy at Kolkata on July 11, 2005. The turbaned officer is Mr. J.S. Bedi, Vice Admiral



Three Sikh youths each from Royal Navy, Army and Royal Air Force of England are seen with Bibi Mandip Kaur, who has already been serving in Armed Forces of England from Oct. 2005. (May 26, 2007)

Indian Air Force

Honouring an Icon



President Pranab Mukherjee felicitating the **First Air Chief Marshal**, and **only Field Marshal** of the **Indian Air Force** and Lion of Imphal Arjan Singh DFC, PV Bar-One, 96, during a ceremony to mark the golden jubilee of the 1965 Indo-Pak war, at Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi on 23-9-2015.

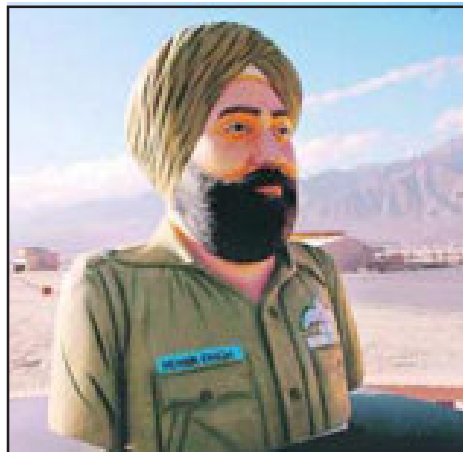
**An all time most extra-ordinary
Fighter Pilot in the World**



An all time most extraordinary Fighter Pilot in the world Air Commodore Baba Mehar Singh **DSO, MVC, whose statue, titled “Saviour of Ladakh”** was installed near the Leh Airport on June 20, 2008. He was the **ONLY DSO** in the Royal Indian Air Force (RIAF) and **FIRST recipient of MVC** in Indian Air Force in independent India. Many liked not only to compare this dare-devil pilot with Lord Montgomery of W.W.-II fame in the operational role but to keep him above in taking risks and accepting challenges, who flying over mountains and peaks from 15000 ft. to 24000 ft, with minimal navigation tools and cartographic aids, landed his Dakota at the highest altitude in the world on a dry river bed without even the apology of an airstrip on May 24, 1948, thus converting impossible into possible. **Never before any plane had landed or flown over Leh. This legendary flight led to retention of LEH**

with India and first world record of landing any plane at the highest altitude in the world. After this he kept on carrying out a bombing cum-supply mission by Dakota, sheer a supply aircraft risking his life, which was termed a “sheer suicide” by Gen. Russial, the then our Army Chief. This “Dangerous Commitment” not only enabled the army to sustain Poonchh but contributed immensely to the ultimate victory over Pakistan. Baba Mehar Singh was declared as **one of the most celebrated fighter pilots of WW-II and pride of any Air Force in the world.**

In the main Bazar of Leh, there is a tree said to be **planted by Guru Nanak**, which has miraculous powers. Stories abound about the tree, once the tallest in Leh. An inscription there says, “**Sacred Tree**” known as **Datun Sahib** is everlasting memory of Sri Guru Nanak Dev Ji, (Rimpoche Lama) the great prophet who sanctified this place by his sacred visit during the year 1517 while on his second missionary tour (2nd Udassi 1515-1518). Guru Nanak put a Datun (Miswak) here, which **became a huge tree in Ladakh area where there was no tree at that time. This sacred tree is well known among our Muslim and Budhist brethren for its sacredness, and they revere it.**



Statue of Baba Mehar Singh

The First Indian Military Aviator



Hardit Singh Malik was the person who made it possible for Indians to join the Royal Flying Corps during the First World War.

He was born on November 23, 1894 and was studying at Oxford when the war broke out in 1914; he obtained his degree in 1915. On the recommendation of his tutor Gen. Henderson, he was offered a cadetship in the RFC at Aldershot on April 5, 1917. **His professional acumen was exemplary.** He earned his wings in less than a month's training. After successful completion of training, he was posted to No 62 Squadron on June 22, 1917 and then to 28 Sqn. in France in October 1917. At Biggin Hill, he earned the affectionate epithet "Flying Hobgoblin." **After the war, he joined the ICS and rose to be India's Ambassador to France,** and then High Commissioner to Canada. He, the FIRST official of Royal Indian Air Force, broke the myth that Indians are unable to handle hi-tech machines viz aeroplanes, Rly Engines and even cars. In, 1952 he was **honoured by the France with its highest Civilian award Lizia 'D' Honor.**

One of the most Outstanding Commanders of the IAF



Air Marshal Shivdev Singh, one of the most outstanding commanders of the Indian Air Force, had the **rare distinction of commanding all the three operational commands of the IAF** i.e. Central Air Command, Eastern Air Command and Western Air Command. He flew almost **30 types of aircraft**. He took part in several **bombing raids over Germany during W.W-II**. He was awarded **PVSM in 1968** for distinguished services of the most exceptional order.

He was the senior most officer poised to take over command of IAF from Air Chief Marshal P.C. Lal in 1972-73. But for reasons best known to political leadership, O.P. Mehra, three places junior to him was promoted as Air Chief Marshal. As per the version of his wife, Shivdev Singh was punished for his honesty. He was commissioned in IAF in 1940 and died in 1994. He was the last survivors of the batch of 24 Indian Air Force Pilots trained in England and rose to the status of Vice Chief of Air Staff.

Air Marshal M. S. Sekhon, Vr. C, VM



Air Marshal M.S. Sekhon, one of the highest decorated officers of IAF-awardee of Vr. C, VM and 16 more awards for carrying forward the highest traditions of service to the nation set by the fellow pilots like Flying Officer Nirmaljit Singh Sekhon (the lone PVC awardee IAF officer), was denied the post of IAF Chief inspite of seniority and merit as the regime of BJP did not want to see a Sikh IAF Chief, for the reasons best known to them, otherwise a recommendatory letter from Chief Minister P.S. Badal would have not been made a lame excuse to deny promotion to Mr. Sekhon by Prime Minister A.B. Vajpayee. He was forced to resign.

Our bad luck was that our leaders, Sikh MPs and CM Badal could not muster courage to dare this communal decision, as every Sikh leader keeps his interests first. CM Badal's letter to PM Vajpayee recommending transfer of Air Marshal Sekhon to Western Command as Chief of the command happened to be costlier to this episode. It is worth noting that all Sikh Chiefs of Army or IAF happened to be in the regime of Congress, though there are also examples of injustice to many Sikh commanders like Lt. Gen. Kulwant Singh, Lt. Gen. Harbaksh Singh & Lt. Gen. J.S. Arora.

Air Marshal D.S. Basra PVSM, AVSM, VM



Air Marshal Darshan Singh Basra was appointed Air Officer Commanding-in-chief of the southern command on Jan. 16, 1999 and was also one of the highly decorated soldiers.

Commissioned as a fighter pilot in 1962, Air Marshal Basra is a graduate of College of Air Warfare and Inter Armies Paris in France. He has logged more than 3700 hours as a fighter pilot and has flown a variety of fighter aircraft which include Mig-21, 23 and 25, Jaguar, Mirage and F-86 (Sabre).

He has the rare distinction of participating in all the three operations 1962, 1965 and 1971 and has held various command and staff appointments. He is one of the **founder members of the prestigious tactics and combat development and training establishment.**

Pride of South Western Air Command



Air Commodore Devinder Singh of Jamnagar airbase in Ghandinagar, is being awarded “**Pride of South Western Air Command**” by Air Chief Marshal S.P. Tyagi, on Jan. 28, 2007 for his meritorious services rendered to command.

An IAF Hero led from Front in 1965 War

Air Marshal P.P. Singh commanded No.5 ‘Tuskers’ Squadron during the 1965 war. The squadron was equipped with Canberra bombers stationed at the Agra airbase. The squadron bombed bases in Pakistan as deep as Peshawar, earning the Air Marshal a Mahavir Chakra (MVC), for gallantry. Then Wing Commander PP Singh between Sept. 6-9 took six offensive and tactical close support operations over Sargodha, Dab, Awal



Marud and Peshawar and also bombed Pak troop and armour concentrations. He subsequently rose to be the Vice Chief of Air staff. **He was awarded the AVSM** in 1972 and PVSM in 1985 for his meritorious services of exceptional order. He was commissioned in IAF in 1950.

Wing Commander H. S. Mangat, VC

Wing Commander H.S. Mangat served in a bomber squadron in the 1965 war. A navigator, he took part in nearly 15 raids on various airbases of Pakistan and was awarded the Vir Chakra (VC) for gallantry.



Air Chief Marshal Late S. Dilbagh Singh PVSM, AVSM, VM

Air Chief Marshal Late S. Dilbagh Singh was the **First to command both transonic and supersonic squadrons** of the Indian Air Force and **led one of the First Spitfill Operations** that threw out the invaders sent by Pakistan from Kashmir in 1947. He was the Chief of Air Staff from Sept 1, 1981 to Sept 1984. From 1985 to 1987, he served as India's Ambassador to Brazil.



**Air Marshal G.S. Chaudhary VSM, AVSM,
PVSM**



The first two Hawks, the Advanced Jet Trainer (AJT) aircrafts, part of a fleet of 66 Hawk MK-132 aircrafts, paving the way for the gradual replacement of the “flying coffins”- The MIG 21, were received on Nov. 12, 2007 at Bidar Air Force Station, by Air Marshal G.S. Chaudhary, seen at the desk.



A motorcycle rally led by **Capt. J.S. Midha** was flagged off on Dec. 21, 2008 from Bathinda and received at its culmination by Lt. Gen. R.S. Sujana GOC, Chetak Corps on Jan 1, 2009 at Bathinda which has run 3500 Kms through Punjab, Rajasthan and Haryana as part of 40th Raising Day of Parbat Ali Paltan which was raised on Jan. 1967.

Sikhs in Armies of Other Countries

Sikh Heroes on Aussie Memorial Plaque



Traditionally, Sikhs have always had a huge representation in the Indian Army and have been known to fight in the frontline for the British Imperial army during the first part of the 20th century. But who would have thought that there were **Sikhs in the Australian Army way back in the early 1900s, and that some of them actually fought the First World War as Australian soldiers.**

Pakistan Police gets First Sikh Officer



In Nov., 2007 when S. Ghulab Singh joined Pakistan Police as Sub Inspector, he earned the distinction of being the First Sikh Police Officer of Pakistan. He gave credit of his job to S. Amrinder Singh, former Chief Minister of Punjab. He is a baptized Sikh in full Sikh form like S. Harcharan Singh who also joined Pakistan Army in Oct. 2007.

Pakistan Army gets its First Sikh Officer



In Oct, 2007 when S. Harcharan Singh (21) joined Pakistan army as an officer, after graduating from the Pakistan Military Academy, he earned the distinction of being the First Sikh army officer of Pakistan. He was the resident of Nankana Sahib. He is in full Sikh form.

Royal Canadian Air Force gets its First Sikh Officer



In July 2008, the Royal Canadian Air Force saw a turbaned Sikh Officer joining the ranks, its first. S. Jasbir Singh Tatla, 35, having a post graduate engineering degree from PAU-Ludhiana joined Royal Canadian Air Force as Lieutenant (an Air Field Engineer). The post 9/11 anti-turban hysteria cost him his technical job. Then a driver in Vancouver, he became Director of Blacktop and Checker Cabs Limited Company in Vancouver, Canada. At last Lieutenant of RCAF after taking training from Venture Naval Officers Training Centre Esquimalt, Victoria.

American Army gets its First Sikh Officers



Two Sikh turbaned doctors of American Army, one Dr. Tejdeep Singh and the other Dr. Kamaljit Singh who joined American army in 2009 after taking military training. Both belong to Amritsar.

US Army gets Sikh Soldier



Simran Preet Singh Lamba on Nov.11, 2010 became the first enlisted Sikh soldier in the US Army. In picture he is carrying the unit flag during the basic training graduation ceremony at Fort Jackson in the US.

Sikh soldiers served in the US army as far back as World War-I. Thousands of Sikh soldiers helped liberate France in WW-II. **Today Sikhs serve in the militaries of England, Canada, India and Austria.** They fought in Iraq and Afghanistan alongside American soldiers.

Queen Elizabeth-II gets Sikh Bodyguards



In 2009 the two turbaned and Armed Sikhs, one Simranjit Singh, 26, from 21st Signal Regiment based in Chippenham, Wiltshire, and the other Sarvjit Singh, 28, from 3rd Regiment, Army Air Corps based in Wattisham, Suffolk, were deputed as bodyguards of Britain's reigning monarch, Queen Elizabeth-II. They took over their royal duties in May 2009.

New Zealand Air Force gets its First Sikh Officer



Bir Beant Singh Bains is the First Sikh Officer of New Zealand Air Force. In October 2012 he was appointed as Flying Officer after rigorous initial training. He landed at New Zealand in 2000 with his family and in 2010 he got degree of engineering from Auckland University of Technology. In photograph he is participating in New Zealand's Air Force parade in Oct. 2012. His grand father was Captain in Indian Army.

Singh on Israeli-Lebanon Border



Indian United Nations peacekeepers keep watch along the Israeli-Lebanon Border from their observation point just inside Lebanon on August 25, 2006



American Commander of the UN peacekeeping force in Haiti, Maj. Gen. Joseph Kinzer with Major R.S. Sahota, who is incharge of the 120-member Indian contingent of the UN force, at the Muleskinner base in Port-au-Prince on April 7, 1995.



U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon (L) walks next to Major-General Claudio Graziano of Italy, commander of the U.N. peacekeeping force in Naqoura, southern Lebanon.



U.N. Secretary General Ban Ki-moon makes a speech in front of U.N. peacekeeping units in Naqoura, southern Lebanon.



Army Chief Gen. Deepak Kapoor (Left), after taking over as the Army Chief, on the visit to valley, accompanied by Corps Commander Lt. Gen. A.S. Sekhon (3rd from left), another Sikh Lt. Gen. and Lt. Gen. H.S. Panag (2nd from Right) Oct. 2007.



Defence Minister A.K. Antony and army chief J.J. Singh on the visit to Valley, alongwith Lt. Gen. A.S. Sekhon, Lt. Gen. H.S. Panag and other Senior Army Officers (2007).

Former Sikh Generals of Indian Security Forces



In an award-ceremony at Rashtrapati Bhawan on May 14, 2008, the above Sikh officers of Army, Air Force and Navy were awarded for their leading role played for the security of the country, by President Pratibha Singh Patil.

Rear Admiral Hari Simran Singh Malli - AVSM

Vice Admiral Varinder Singh Randhawa - PVSM

Lt. Gen. Sarabjit Singh Dhillon - PVSM

Air Commodore Gurvinder Singh Cheema - AVSM

Lt. Gen. Harcharanjit Singh Panag - PVSM

Lt. Gen. Samarpal Singh Dhillon -AVSM

Lt. Gen. Ajit Singh Bajwa -PVSM

Nayak Rajan Singh - Shouria Chakra



On the death of Lal Bahadur Shastri, the then PM of India, at Tashkent, the Indian Army officers giving shoulders to his coffin. The Sikh prominence can be seen here. Out of 4, 3 are Sikh Generals.



Britain's Prince Charles (right) meets surviving veterans of the Sikh Brigade of the British Army at an event to mark the religious and cultural festival of Baisakhi at St. James's Palace, London on April 24. Prince Charles praised the courage of Sikh soldiers who fought in the Second World War.



*Rear Admiral
M.S. Grewal*



Rear Admiral Kirpal Singh



Air Marshal G.B. Singh

When Sikhs Occupied Peking



*(L to R) China Medal with clasps, Peking 1860; Abyssinia Medal;
Afghanistan Medal, 1878; Kabul to Kandahar Star, 1880.*

The Indian troops sacked Peking in 1860 and again in 1900. Interestingly the soldiers were from the Sikh Light Infantry (the erstwhile Sikh Pioneers). Above are the medals awarded to Subedar Sant Singh of 23 Sikh Pioneer Regiment, grand father of Vice Admiral Satyandra Singh AVSM.

SPORTS GALLERY

Sikhs took India to zenith in sports and athletics. When there were no coaches, no turf, no training, no institution, no other facilities, Sikhs made history and did miracle in keeping the tri-color high in the field of games. Sikhs are born genius, and made India proud.

In 1932 Munich Olympics, there were 30 Sikh players in hockey teams of India, Kenya, Malaysia and Uganda. In Beijing Olympics many Sikh players played for Canada. In 1968 Mexico Olympics as many as 13 players of Indian hockey team were Sikh. In International arena Hockey is considered incomplete without Sikh players. In June 2009 India got out of medal's race in Junior World hockey tournaments held in Malaysia & Singapore for ignoring Sikh players. There were 9 Sikh players in Indian Hockey team which won its first and last World Cup in 1975 at Kuala Lumpur. The Indian hockey team which won GOLD in Jr. World Cup Hockey Tournament in Australia, was captained by a Sikh Gagan Ajit Singh and also had 9 Sikh players.

The name Balbir has a glorious record in India hockey. It finds mention in 5 Olympics and 2 Asian Games and bagged 12 medals 7 gold, 2 silver and 3 bronze.



A Sports Administrator par excellence Raja Randhir Singh

An Asian Games gold medallist in shooting, Shooter Randhir Singh **represented India in Six Olympics** from 1964 Tokyo Olympics to 1984 Los Angeles Olympics, thus made a history and record. Earlier no other Indian sportsman could achieve this. Not only this, in 2011 he has been re-elected **Secretary General of the Olympic Council of Asia (OCA) also for the sixth consecutive term**. Just see the coincidence of destiny. All through this period he has also been retaining the post of Secretary General of the Indian Olympic Association (IOA), post which he has been holding since 1987 and member of International Olympic Council (IOC).

It is a testimony to recognition of prowess and commitment to the games of this lad. India felt proud when 45 countries reposed trust in him and no foreigner has raised any objection about his continuing on this post **for the sixth time**. It is worth noting that **Randhir Singh was re-elected without being present at OCA General Council in Tokyo, which shows the high regard in which this Indian sports administrator holds in the International arena.**

A former olympic level trap and skeet shooter born in 1946, now a sports administrator, is the sole representative for India on the International Olympic Committee.

The World's Fastest Drag-Flicker



Drag Flicker Sandeep Singh today is the face of Indian Hockey. **He was the captain of the team, which won Azlan Shah title after 3-1 victory over Malaysia, after 13 years, in 2009.** Earlier India won title in 1985, 1991 and 1995. Prabhjot Singh, Shivendra Singh and Arjun Halappa scored for India. S. Kelvinder Singh, a Sikh, was the member of Malaysian hockey team.

Sandeep Singh is one of the most decorated Indian hockey players in the modern times. He is India's answer to Sohail Abbas. In 2014, he was the top scorer in the first two editions of the HILs, scoring 11 goals in each. At a time he was said to have the best speed in the world in drag flick. Once poster boy of Indian Hockey, Sandeep is a world class drag-flicker.



Drag-flicker Sandeep is the backbone of Indian Hockey. **Feb. 26, 2012 was a historic day when Indian hockey team under the captaincy of Sandeep Singh gained 8-1 victory over France** and qualified for London Olympics. He converted **five of the six penalty corners into goals including a hat-trick**, thus slammed five of the eight goals to take his tally to 16 goals in the tournament. He was declared “Man of the Match” and “Top Scorer of the Tournament”. It is said that Sandeep Singh rises **like a phoenix to grab honours**. He proved “SINGH IS KING”.

Winner of First Asians Champions Trophy



Rajpal Singh was the Captain of the Indian hockey team which won the First Asians Champions Trophy beating Pakistan 4-2 in penalty shootout, in inaugural Asian Champions Trophy hockey tournament held in China in Sept 2011. It was a very romantic competition as alongwith winning the 1st Asian Trophy, Indian hockey team also beat its traditional hockey competitor Pakistan.

Earlier under the captaincy of Rajpal Singh Indian hockey team won **BRONZE** in men's hockey competitions in Nov. 2010 in Guang. Rajpal Singh was awarded **Arjuna Award by President Pratibha Singh Patil** in Aug. 2011 in a ceremony held in Rashtrapati Bhavan. He tied nuptial knot with Olympian shooter Avneet Kaur Sidhu in Nov. 2011.

India's Premier Double Trap Shooter

ACE Double Trap Shooter Ronjan Singh Sodhi pipped China's Hu Binyuan in a tie-breaker and successfully defended his World Cup final title in Oct 2011 to clinch the gold medal at world cup finals



in UAE, a competition reserved for the **world's top 10 shooters**. Thus he made the history and became the **FIRST EVER INDIAN shooter** to win a **GOLD** for the second consecutive term in such a prestigious event.

Asian Games gold medallist Mr. Sodhi, in Aug. 2011, grabbed the top spot in world rankings by earning 1600 points in Double Trap shooting leaving England's William Victor at the 2nd place in World competition held at Slovonia. In the words of Ronjan, **"It is a great feeling to be ranked No.1. It was one of my dreams to be at the top of the ISSF ranking."** Earlier at Double Trap competition in world cup shooting held in Lonato (Italy) **Mr. Sodhi made India proud by winning gold** and in 2008 at Billgrade he had also won **GOLD** by scoring 194 pts. Now he is looking forward to win **GOLD** in London Olympics. He had won two silver medals at the 2010 Common Wealth Games and a gold medal at the 2010 Asian Games. **He was given Arjuna Award in 2009 and CNN-IBN Indian of the year. In Aug. 2013 he was conferred prestigious Rajiv Gandhi Khel Rattan award by President Pranab Mukherjee.**

His some earlier and other achievements are Silver in 2006 Doha Asian Games; Bronze in 2007 World Cup, Santo Domingo; Silver in 2009 World Cup, Minsk; Gold in 2010 World Cup, London; Gold in 2010 World Cup Finals, Turkey.



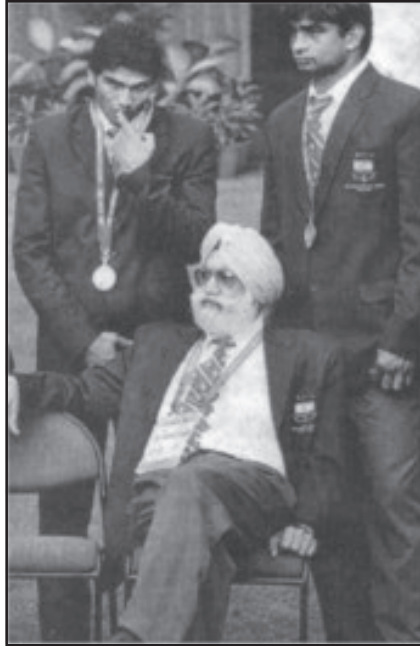
The only International Umpire S. Gursharan Singh

S. Gursharan Singh, Senior badminton coach, was the only Indian Umpire nominated by the Asian Badminton Confederation for supervising prestigious event of badminton matches of the Asian Games held at Busan from September 29 to October 14, 2002. Again he was the only umpire from India who was nominated by the International Badminton Federation to umpire matches in the Olympic Games at Athens in August 2004. Earlier he was also nominated for a RARE Honour by Mr. Tostern Berg, Chairman, Court Officials Committee of the International Badminton Federation to umpire World Badminton Championship held at Seville (Spain) from May 28 to June 10, 2010. On August 15, 2005 he became the only Indian who umpired in Four World championships, when he umpired the World Badminton Championship, Anaheim, California.

S. Gursharan Singh has the rare distinction of the country as international umpire/referee/official in all the big international badminton competitions including Thomas Grand Prix Finals & Olympics.

S. Gursharan Singh, a District Sports Officer, Sangrur has been given charge as Assistant Director, Sports, Punjab Chandigarh in January 2005. He joined the Sports Department in 1977 as Sports Officer (Badminton).

India's Chief Boxing Coach



Whatever notable achievements Indian Boxing got at international level for the last many years, it is all due to its national coach **S. Gurbax Singh Sandhu**. In this period Mr. Sandhu's expertise caught the eye of everyone. **In July 2011, he was invited, by the leading countries in boxing like** Cuba and South Korea, Bhutan and Afghanistan to train their coaches in Boxing. In Oct 2011, he got invitation from International Olympic Committee to train the Boxing Coaches of Combodia.

India's Chief Boxing coach Mr. Sandhu was honoured with **Dronacharya award**. He was also chosen as a member of the International Boxing Association's Coaches. **Mr. Sandhu is a 3 star coach.**

The First Asian to get Life Membership of ISCA

Coach T.S. Dhillon, the guiding spirit and chief motivator of the Indian marksmen, **is the FIRST ASIAN** to be honoured with life membership of the International Shooting Coaches Association. India had previously won just two Asian Games shooting golds medals. Randhir Singh in Bangkok in 1978 and Jaspal Rana in Hiroshima in 1994. **In Doha Asian Games India bagged 14 medals including 3 gold medals. This was all due to Mr. Dhillon** who has played a leading role in taking Indian shooting to its zenith.



Mr. Dhillon has been associated with the game for the past 30 years, first as a player and then as an official. Mr. Dhillon represented the country in the 9th Asian Games and captained the Indian team at the 1st World Police Games. He joined as D.S.P. of Police in Dec. 1971.

Mr. Tarsem Singh, a talented forward, was a member of 1966 Bangkok Asian Games gold medallist Indian hockey team and of 1967 Madrid Pre-Olympic games gold medallist Indian team and also of 1968 Mexico Olympic games bronze medallist Indian Hockey team. In 1969 under his captaincy, Punjab Hockey team won the cup in the National Hockey Championship for the Rangaswamy Cup at Cochin.



India's First Blade Runner



Major D.P Singh is the First 'Blade Runner' of India. He was injured and lost his one leg during 1999 Kargil War. He took 10 years to recover and then took part in Airtel Delhi Half Marathon in 2009. In 2011 he made a club of handicaps the membership of which now goes to about 800. He always infused enthusiasm into the persons who became handicapped for one or the other reason and many have learned to live a zestful life from him. His name has been entered in **Limca Book of Records** as **'FIRST amputee more than runner of India'**. His inspiring story is news of day.

The Strongman of India–Rajinder Singh Rahelu



A five-time national gold medallist in general category and 6-time national gold medallist in disabled category and 7 time strongman of India Rajinder Singh Rahelu alias Sodhi has done the nation proud by winning many golds in international competitions in powerlifting. He clinched Gold Medal in Asian Bench Press Championship at New Delhi in 2002, then Bronze in the Paralympics Games at Athens in 2004, again Bronze in the 9th Fespic Games at Kuala Lumpur in 2006, a Silver Medal in the Bench Press event in World Wheel Chair and Amputer Games at Taiwan in 2007. And again a gold in IPC Powerlifting Asian Championship held at Malaysia in 2009. For his Bronze at Athens in 2004, **he was awarded Arjuna Award by President APJ Abdul Kalam.** Rahelu suffered from Polio at birth. In August 2014 he won silver medal in the men's para powerlifting heavy weight even to at the CWG in Glasgow. For him physical impairment was no challenge and he lived upto the Sikh tradition of high spirit and determination.

The First Indian Woman to Get Medal in 20-km Walk



Khushbir Kaur, a 20-km racewalker, won silver medal in the 20-km walk at the 2014 Asian Games at Incheon in South Korea. Thus she earned the honour of being the first Indian woman to do so. Prior to this feat she won a silver medal at the Asian Junior Championships in 2010 followed by a bronze at the Junior Asian Games in Sri Lanka in 2012. She says that she will give her 100% to do India proud at the 2016 Olympics.

Her father expired at her early age and they are five brother-sisters. Her goal is to win a medal in the 2016 Olympics and to be in the list of top five in the world. She was born on July 9, 1993. She gives all credit for her achievements to her mother. Her elder sister Harjit Kaur is also an athlete.

Olympian and Arjuna Awardee Shooter Star



Shooter Star Avneet Kaur Sidhu played more than twelve world cup and clinched more than 7 gold medals of national and international level. The memorable moment came in her life when he defeated her model-role Anjali Bhagwat in Dec. 2005 during the selection camp of Commonwealth Games in Hyderabad. She made India proud by winning gold and silver medal in 2006 Melbourne Commonwealth games and again in 2006 a bronze in Doha Asian games. She won another shooting championship in Kuwait and participated in Beijing Olympic games in 2008. In this year she was honoured with Arjuna Award by President Pratibha Patil. In 2010 she won gold and silver medals in Holland Inter shoot competition. In the same year she qualified for Olympics by gaining sixth position in Croatia World Championship. In March 2013 she married hockey skipper Rajpal Singh.

It is to be noted that top shooters of the country Abhinav Bindra, Manavjit Singh Sandhu, Heena Sidhu, Avneet Kaur and Ronjon Singh Sodhi **all are Sikhs**.

Some other Sports Glimpses



Centre-forward Balbir Singh (Sr.) scores one of India's five goals against an all-European side in 1952 after India retained the Olympic title in Helsinki



Tokyo Asian Games 1958. India's Balkar Singh throws the discus to an Asian record distance of 156 ft 4½ in (47.66 meters) to claim the gold.



Tokyo 1958. The camera captures evocatively Mohinder Singh's hop, step and jump to fame in the 1958 Tokyo Games in which he cleared 15.62 metre to win gold for India.



"Prince of Wales" Milkha Singh : historic victory at Cardiff, Wales in 1958 in Commonwealth Games.



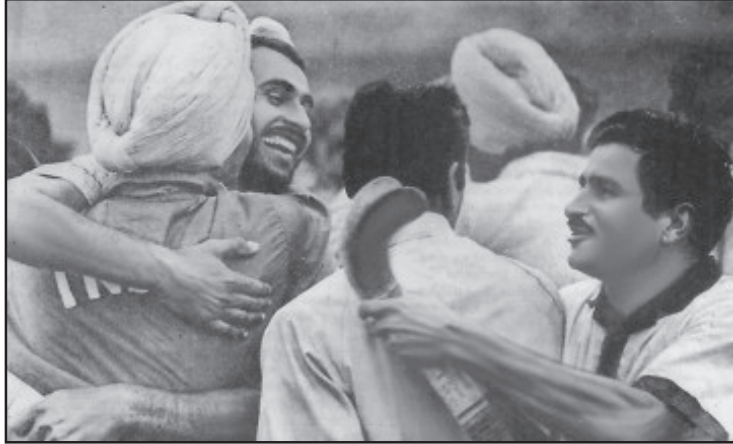
In the 5000 metres at the 1962 Jakarta Asian Games, India's Tarlok Singh may be ahead here but he was finally overtaken by Pakistan's gold medallist, Mubarak Shah (right) with Japan's Saburo Yokomizo (centre) retaining his 2nd position to claim the silver. Tarlok Singh won only the bronze here in the 5,000 metre but went on to claim the gold in the 10,000 metre.



Jakarta Asian Games 1962, India's Gurbachan Singh Randhawa doing the high-jump during the decathlon competitions. Gurbachan bagged the decathlon gold with a tally of 6,739 points.



Jakarta Asian Games 1962, Japan's Teruo Funai was just not able to catch with India's Tarlok Singh, who went on to win this 10,000 metres race and gain India a gold. Tarlok covered the 10,000 metre's distance in 30 min 21.4 Sec. Teruo Funai was 2nd in 30 min 21.6 sec.



The picture is one of the India's gold-medal win over Pakistan in the 1964 Tokyo Olympics. At right is Mohinder Lal. The Sikhs' favourite game is Hockey. **After the gradual disappearance of the Anglo-Indians and the falling-off of the Goans from our hockey scene it is Sikhs** who have made single largest contribution to India's advance in the game.



Ajmer Singh being congratulated by Y. Sakai (199) and M. Yoshida, of Japan, on winning the gold medal in the 400 M Final during Bangkok Asian Games 1966



Skipper Ajitpal Singh (left) holding the World Cup after India's 2-1 victory over Pakistan in the final at Kuala Lumpur in 1975



Capt. Ajitpal Singh holding the World Cup after India's 2-1 historic victory over Pakistan at Kuala Lumpur on March 15, 1975.



Punjab Chief Minister Giani Zail Singh welcoming Indian Hockey Team Captain Ajitpal Singh and Manager Balbir Singh Senior after they returned with the maden World Cup in New Delhi in March 1975



S. Randhir Singh won gold in Shooting (with 188 pts) in the 1978 Asian Games.

Some other Sports Glimpses



S. Gursewak Singh, an international Judo Player who won Bronze in 1998 - Muktsar International Judo competition, a Gold in 2002 International Games, a Gold in 2002 - Kathmandu International Judo competition, again a Gold in 2005 **Kathmandu International** Judo games, and in Dec. 2005 took part in South Asian Games and won as many as **16 gold medals in all in various national and International Judo competitions.**

But as usually happens in India, he also became victim of government's apathetic attitude and was compelled by our system to sell his prestigious medals in the market for his livelihood. A shame for the nation.



Kenya had a very high place in International Hockey arena due to its Sikh players. Its Sikh players led Kenya hockey team to some selected hockey tournaments of the world. Here is long back photograph in which Pakistan hockey players and Muslim audience are seen creating nuisance and manhandling, in frustration, during the 3rd match in a series of matches between Kenya and Pakistan. A Kenyan Sikh player Jagjit Singh is injured by Pakistani players and Muslim audience.

PAKISTAN GALLERY

From 2003 to 2007 whenever confidence building measures took place between India - Pakistan and the Indian counterparts of Pakistan happened to be Sikhs in joint meetings.



Mr. A.J.S. Sahni, Mg. Director D.T.C. shakes hand with his Pakistani counterpart Mr A. Shafkat in D.T.C. headquarter in New Delhi on June 19, 2003 for resuming road links by starting India-Pak Bus.



Mr. Satyandra Singh, Director Gen. of India's Civil Aviation shakes hand with his Pakistani counterpart Maj Gen (Retd.) M.A. Choudhary in Rawalpindi for resuming air links on 26.08.2003.



S. Darbara Singh (right), Addl. DIG of BSF, and Sher Zaman, Wing Commander of Pakistani Rangers, at Wagah Joint checkpoint on Dec. 19, 2003 after a meeting on joint patrolling.



Custom Commissioner M.S. Bedi (16.1.2004) receiving a bouquet at Attari Railway Station sent by Pakistan through Samjhauta Express from Guard Mohd. Hameed Rana



I.G. Punjab Frontiers G.S. Gill with his Pakistani Counterpart of Pak Rangers at Wagah Border on March 28, 2004 for discussing the solution of early release of Indian & Pakistan citizens who cross the border by mistake.



Again after a meeting on 25-4-2005 on the issue of Indian and Pakistani citizens crossing borders by mistake, Pakistani Rangers saying good bye to Mr. G.S. Gill, I.G. Punjab Frontiers



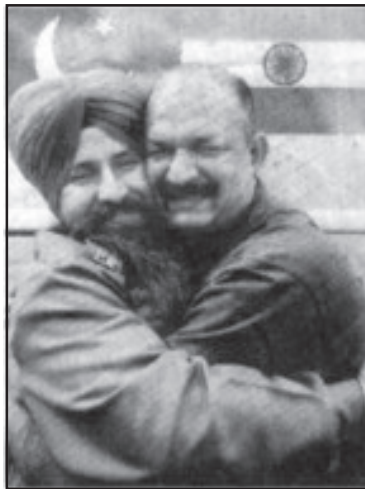
BSF IG G.S. Gill takes salute from Pakistan Rangers on 22.4.2005. Gill is leading a 17 member BSF delegation which crossed over to Pakistan to attend a bi-annual meeting to be held in Karachi. The meeting is aimed at discussing and resolving border-related issues.



FICCI President Onkar S. Kanwar and his Pakistani counterpart, Chaudhary Muhammad Saeed, at a conference on Indo-Pakistan economic relations in Karachi on 24-5-2005 as Pakistan Minister of State for Commerce Hamid Yar Hiraj (center) looks on.



BSF special D G (West) N.P.S. Aulakh welcomes Pakistani Rangers (Sindh) D.G Javedzia in Jalandhar



Bus service (Punj Aab) between India & Pakistan started in the 2nd week of September 2005. On Indo-Pak border the driver of Indian bus S. Amrik Singh and his Pakistani counterpart driver Abdul Majid Khan hug each other. Both were the drivers of Lahore-Amritsar trial bus service.



BSF special DG (West) N.P.S. Aulakh with his Pakistani counterpart in a meeting in Punjab Bhavan, Chandigarh on Nov.17, 2005. The key issues were prisoners of war, inadvertent border crossing, smuggling of narcotics etc.



After meeting in Chandigarh BSF special DG. NPS Aulakh with his Pakistani counterpart, issuing joint statement.



BSF DIG Mr. G.S. Sandhu with his counterpart of Pakistani Rangers, after a meeting held in Pakistan on March 14, 2006



BSF's Addl. Director General NPS Aulakh exchanging documents on an agreement with Pakistani Rangers Director Gen. Major Gen. Hussain Mehandi in Lahore on April 16, 2006.

India's Additional Secretary of External Affairs Ministry Mr. K.C. Singh along with his Pakistani counterpart Mr. Tariq Usman Haider during a joint news conference in Islamabad on April 25, 2006



Mr. G.S. Virk, BSF DIG, receives Pak Rangers Deputy Director General Mohammad Qasir Khan Taureen at Wagah joint checkpoint at its monthly meeting, on Nov. 22, 2006.

BSF Spl. DG N.P.S. Aulakh with Pakistani Rangers D.G. Javed Jia in a Bi-annual meeting in Jalandhar on Feb. 14, 2007





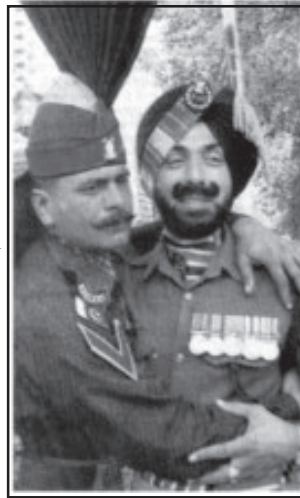
India's Additional Secretary of External Affairs Ministry Mr. K.C. Singh shakes hand with Pakistan's Addl. Foreign Secretary Usman Haider during a meeting on Joint Mechanism on terrorism in Islamabad on March 6, 2007.



India's Additional Secretary of External Affairs Ministry Mr. K.C. Singh shakes hand with Pakistan's Addl. Foreign Secretary Khalid Aziz after a meeting on Joint Mechanism on terrorism in New Delhi on Oct. 22, 2007.



BSF DIG G.S.Virk shaking hands with Pakistan Rangers' Brig M. Qaiser Khan at Attari border on Dec.11, 2007. Both arrived here for a meeting.



A Pakistani Ranger greets a BSF Jawan on Id-ul-zuha at Attari border in Amritsar on Dec.21, 2007.



Indian and Pakistani Army Officer at the Brigade Commander-level flag meting at Chakan da Bagh in Poonch.
(Brig. H.S. Sareen & Brig. Usman 21-9-2015)

SAARC Car Rally - 2007



On March 31, 2007 participants of the SAARC Car Rally wave Indian and Pakistani flags as they cross the Wagah border to enter India. The rally had entered Pakistan on March 28 and returned to India amid massive fanfare.

The rally was the brain-child of Dr. Manmohan Singh to foster brotherhood, peace and overall economic & human development in the SAARC countries. Team leader of the Indian side was Lt. Col. K.S. Chauhan and that of Pakistan Ehteshan Abbas. They later paid obeisance at Harmandir Sahib and visited Jallianwala Bagh.

CHINA GALLERY

From 2006 to late 2015 whenever confidence building measures took place between India- China, or joint exercises between two armies the Indian counterparts of China happened to be Sikhs.

Sikh soldiers have old relation with China. During British empire times nearly 2,800 Indians, mostly Sikhs were recruited into Shanghai municipal police. In Dec. 1941, Chinese and Sikh troops fought together for the British against Japanese during battle of Hong-Kong, as revealed in a study conducted by The Indian Embassy in Beizing in 2011.



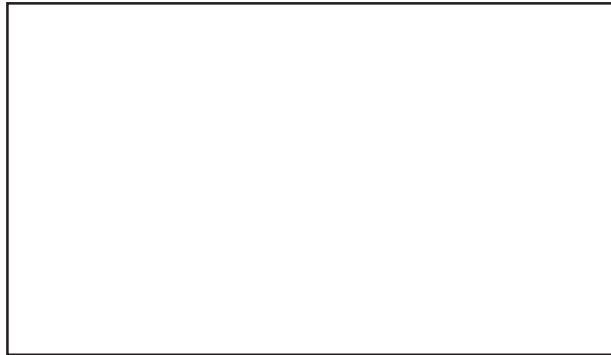
C.I.I. Dy. Director General S. Gurpal Singh exchanging documents with his Chinese counterpart after signing a trade agreement, in New Delhi on March 17, 2006.



Sino-Indian joint military exercise "Hand in Hand - 2007" at Kunming Military Academy, China.



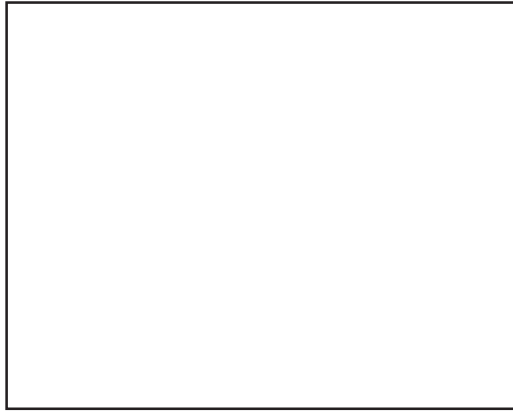
An Indian Army Officer tries his hands at a weapon used by Chinese army during the Sino-Indian joint military exercise "Hand in Hand - 2007" at Kunming Military Academy.



Sikh soldiers have an old link with China. (24-10-2013)
Sikh, Chinese troops to 'fight' together after 72 years



Personnel of the Indian army's 16 Sikh light Infantry perform gatka, a Punjabi martial art, during an Indo-China joint training exercises in Chengdu, China. Ending a five-year hiatus, the two countries began the anti-terrorism military exercise, less than a fortnight after they inked a comprehensive pact to avert recurring border stand-offs. (Nov. 5, 2013)



A file photo of Indian and Chinese troops during their joint military exercise in China's Sichuanan province. (May 1, 2014).



The Indian Army and Chinese People's Liberation Army at a ceremonial personnel meeting in the Chushul sector of the Ladakh region. (Jan 1, 2015)



Brigadier JKS Virk with China's Senior Colonel Fanjun during the Border Personnel Meeting in Chushul sector of eastern Ladakh.
(Jan 26, 2015)



Wax sculpture of an Indian policeman in Shanghai Municipal History Museum. (May. 5, 2015) Modi's Shanghai Visit Recalls Sikhs of old China



Indian and Chinese troops meet at Daulat Beg Oldie.
(Aug. 1, 2015)



Indian Army and China People's Liberation Army staff during a border meeting at Daulat Beg Oldie - held here for the first time - in Ladakh. (Aug. 1, 2015)



Brigadier JKS Virk and Senior Colonel Chen Zheng Shan of People Liberation Army at the Ceremonial Border Personnel Meeting at Daulat Beg Oldie in Ladakh. (1.8.2015).



Indian and Chinese armed forces during 'Hand-in-Hand 2015' in Yunnan province of China. (Oct. 12, 2015)

GUARD OF HONOURS

Whenever a foreign dignitary visited India or our Prime Ministers, or our army chiefs while joining as chief or retiring from the post, it was preferred to be honoured by Sikh contingent of Indian security forces.



Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru, the 1st Prime Minister of India,
inspecting Guard of Honour on 15th Aug. 1947 on historic Red
Fort.



Lt. Gen. K.P. Candeth G.E.O.C. Western Command taking
salute at Jalandhar on the eve of his retirement.



On Sept. 12, 2000 Gen. V.P. Malik, Chief of Indian Army, inspecting Guard of Honour at Chandigarh airport.



Union Minister of State for Defence M.M. Pallam Raju inspects Guard of Honour during a visit to the NCC Republic Day camp in New Delhi



President of South Korea Roh Moo Heun inspecting the Guard of Honour at Rashtrapati Bhawan on Oct. 6, 2004 during a ceremonial reception, on his 2-day visit to India.



British Chief of General Staff Lt. Gen. Sir Mike Jackson inspecting Guard of Honour in New Delhi on Oct 18, 2004 on his visit to India.



US Secretary of Defence Donald Rumsfeld inspects the Guard of Honour in New Delhi on Dec. 9, 2004 on his visit to India.



Prime Minister of China Wen Jiabao inspecting a Guard of Honour in New Delhi on April 11, 2005 during a ceremonial reception, on his visit to India.



Chief of Sri Lankan Navy Admiral Daya Sandagiri inspecting Guard of Honour in New Delhi on June 5, 2005 on his visit to India



Prime Minister Manmohan Singh inspecting Guard of Honour
prior to his speech from the historical Red Fort on
August 15, 2005.



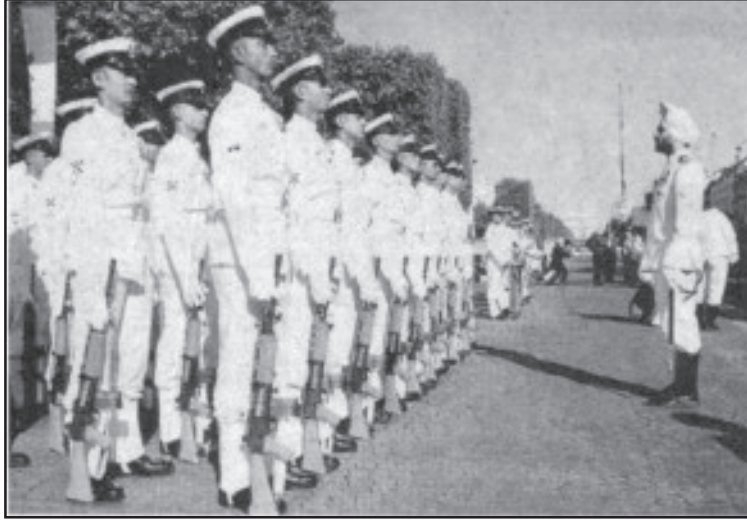
Prime Minister Dr. Manmohan Singh inspecting Guard of Honour
prior to his speech from the historic Red Fort on August 15, 2008.



Newly appointed Deputy Chief of Indian Army
Lt. Gen. S. Pattabhirman on Oct.3, 2005 in New Delhi.



President of France Jacques Chirac inspecting a Guard of
Honour in New Delhi on Feb.21, 2006 during a ceremonial
reception, on his visit to India.



On the eve of National Day of France an Indian Navy contingent led by Sikh Commander took part in the celebration on July 14, 2009. It is to be noted that turban in France is a disputed issue.



Argentina President Cristina Fernandez de Kirchner inspecting a Guard of Honour during a ceremonial reception at Rashtrapati Bhawan in New Delhi on Oct 18, 2009.