

Shri Kundan Lal
A Renaissance Man

I was just four when my Nanaji passed away. However, I do have vivid memories of sitting in the verandah in Ludhiana when he presented me with a stack of English books for pre-schoolers, which made me the first kid in my class to know the difference between a vowel and a consonant. He has been a towering presence in my life, growing up with stories from my parents and Premlata Masiji.

I have been prompted to compile this photo book by my son, Rahul, who continues to amaze me with his deep emotional attachment and interest in our family history. Once I successfully tracked down the Jewish families and learnt details of their incredible story, and my grandfather's role in saving them from the Holocaust, I was motivated to complete this book.

My cousin, Rajan, started the process of compiling photographs and the family history. Rajan's mother, my Premlata Masiji, is the source of most of the information. They have also provided many of the photos in this book.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Vinay Gupta', written in a cursive style.

2014

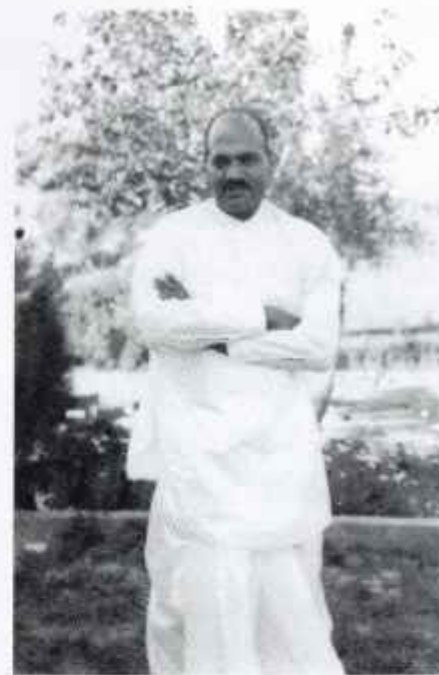
Kundan Lal Ji was a larger than life figure and exerted tremendous influence over everyone in the family. He died when I was only twelve years old. Nevertheless, his many successes, especially the KVM school, the large sprawling house, and his powerful personality have held me captive. In the summer of 1975, when the school was without a physics teacher, I was delighted to teach the senior classes for two months. I felt proud and close to him; his creation inspired me. I believe that through sharing my mother's collection of photos with his growing family, we can all appreciate our common heritage. I hope that by getting to "know" him we are inspired to attain the high standards he set.

Rajan Gupta

2014

KUNDAN LAL

June 18, 1893 - March 4, 1966



SON

My father Rai Bahadur Daulat Ram was born in 1867. His father L. Birbal Mall, who was a poor Patwari, died in 1872, leaving absolutely no property. My father remained a member of the joint family with his brothers and their families till 1905. In 1911 my father Rai Bahadur Daulat Ram purchased, the first property in his life, a house in Rupa Mistry street, Ludhiana for Rs. 11000/- (Rupees eleven thousand only). He purchased a kothi and a plot of land in the old Mission High School in about 1913 or 1914 and built a building on that plot. He further purchased about the year 1920, lands and gardens in the Civil Lines. He retired from service in about 1921 and before retirement on account of his honest and meritorious services, was rewarded the title of Rai Bahadur and was raised from the rank of Sub Engineer, to that of an honorary Assistant Engineer.

In 1921 on retirement from service my father purchased the Amrit Match Factory at Kota, in Bilaspur district in C.P. I joined my father in the management of the said match factory under his control and supervision.

On 23-12-31 as my father was seriously ill, he executed a will. My father died on 10.1.32.

Kundan Lal

Shri Kundan Lal was born in Ludhiana on June 18, 1893, the eldest son of Shri Daulat Ram and Perji Devi. He had three younger brothers - Champa Lal, Nand Lal, and Mukund Lal. Shri Kundan Lal matriculated from DAV High School in Lahore, and graduated 1st in his class from Government College, Lahore in 1915. He won numerous academic awards as a student, and at the same time started multiple successful businesses.



Standing Left - Right: Satyawati; Saraswati Devi; Shubhlata; Sheela

Sitting: Nand Lal (Chander Prakash); Kundan Lal (Kamlavati); Daulat Ram; Perji Devi; Champa Lal (Chanderkanta); Mukand Lal

Floor: Prem Narain; Devlata; Premlata; Amrit

BELOW:

Daulat Ram Ji was seriously ill and mostly bedridden starting in 1931. The man sitting on the bed next to him is most likely his munshi.



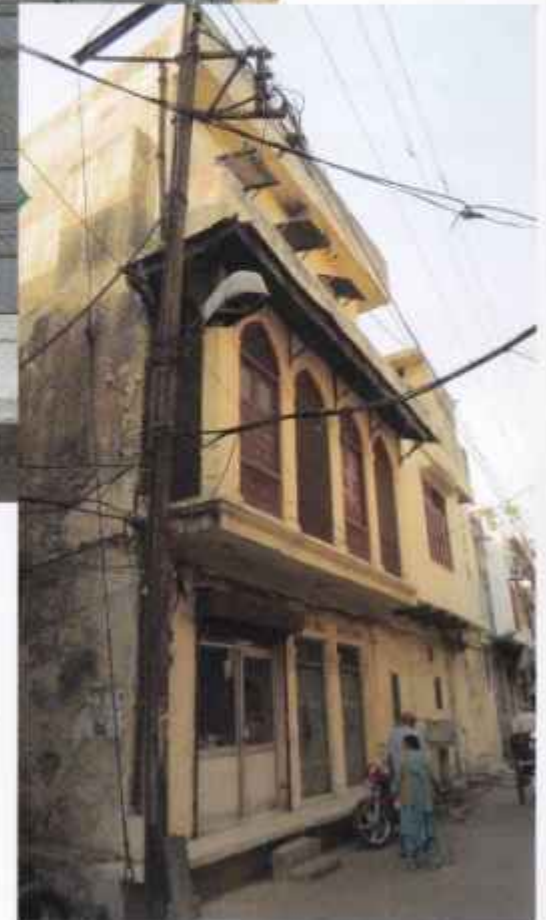
ABOVE:

This photograph was probably taken in 1929, on the same day as the photograph on the previous page.

Standing: Mukund Lal; Champa Lal; Daulat Ram; Kundan Lal; Nand Lal; Munshi Lal (cousin)

Sitting: Sheela; Shubhlata (Chanderkanta); Parji Devi; Saraswati Devi; Satyawati (Chanderlal); Munshi Lal's wife

Floor: Amrit; Premlata; Devlata; Kamla; Prem Narain



Photographs of the house on Rupa Mistry Street in Ludhiana taken in 2014. Daulat Ram Ji purchased this house in 1911 for Rs 11,000, and it was sold after his death to the grandfather of the current owners. The floor plan, walls, rooms and stairs remain unchanged after 100 years. Most of the doors and windows are still original.

HUSBAND

Shri Kundan Lal married Saraswati Devi around 1917 and they had 5 children. She was known as Amma to her children and grandchildren. Saraswati Devi's father was the Principal of the Teacher Training College in Lahore, and she grew up in Lahore. Her brother, Harishchandra, was a classmate of Kundan Lal Ji at Government College and introduced them. Kundan Lal Ji was adamant that he would only marry an educated lady. Since Saraswati Devi had completed her high school education, Kundan Lal Ji agreed to meet and marry her.

She suffered a nervous breakdown in 1929, while Kundan Lal Ji was in Europe. She subsequently travelled with him to Europe for treatment. However, starting in 1942 her mental condition became progressively worse and she withdrew from her family, but continued to live at home till her death in 1965.

I knew Amma only as a recluse who shied away from any contact with the family. On one trip to Ludhiana I asked Amma if she would cook me some Baingan (eggplant) Bharta. She said nothing and shied away. Next day she took me to her kitchen and showed me two eggplants, which she proceeded to roast over the charcoal fire in her "chullha". After the eggplants were charred, I took them to my mother who finished cooking the bharta. The result has been burned into my memory as the "perfect" bharta. Whenever I think of her, I see the loving yet enigmatic smile on her face glowing in the light of the chullha.

Narrated by Rajan Gupta



Saraswati Devi
Died of a fall from the roof of the house in 1965

ENTREPRENEUR

In 1911, while studying in college I started a wholesale flour and maida shop in Chaura Bazar, Ludhiana, in partnership with my maternal uncle Kanshi Ram under the name of Messrs Kundan Lal Kanshi Ram. In 1913 I started wholesale Khewra Salt business, in partnership with my other maternal uncle Narsi Ram. I used to get wagon loads of salt from Khewra and he used to make the sales. These businesses were carried on with capital which I borrowed or had taken on loan. These businesses continued until I was appointed in the Central Province Civil Service after graduating from the Punjab University in 1915.

During my college time I made some transactions in timber purchase and sale on Ravi Road, Lahore. During my vacations I used to go out and secure orders for my professor Rai Sahib Ruchi Ram, who had a workshop for the manufacture and sale of scientific instruments in Lahore. I used to get a commission on the total sales.

In 1917 I started buying and selling shares, of a speculative nature, through Messers Place Siddons & Gough, share brokers in Calcutta. I made very good profits. I used to pay only the margin money to the share brokers and they used to pay the rest of the capital. My father always encouraged me in these enterprises. On account of good profits I resigned from the civil service in 1921 to carry on my businesses.

Kundan Lal

Photo on the next page was taken outside the Kundan Wood Factory. This building is now part of the KVM school administrative office. Shri Kundan Lal and Saraswati Devi are sitting on either side of Governor Montmorrency. Premlata is sitting next to her grandmother Parji Devi. On the floor are Kamla, Devlata, Prem Narain, and Amrit.



On 11 Sept, 1931 the opening ceremony of the Kundan Wood Factory was performed by his Excellency Sir Montmorrency, Governur of Punjab. The ceremony was attended by the Inspector General of Police, and a very large number of officials. It as reported in the Tribune on 14 Sep, 1931, and the Civil & Military Gazette Lahore on 17 Sept. My mother joined, but my father was seriously ill.

Kundan

Shri Kundan Lal had remarkable business acumen, always thinking years ahead of his time. And, through hard work, made a success of multitude of business endeavors.

1. Started multiple small businesses as a student trading in commodities like salt, flour, and lumber
2. Stock Trading: At a young age he had mastered the high risk strategy of margin trading and made substantial profits which became the initial source of his wealth.
3. Turn-around Expert: Amrit Match Factory has the distinction of being the first factory in India to manufacture match-sticks. Started in 1894, it had run into trouble and shut down. In 1921, while working in the Provincial Civil Service in Kota, he came across the Amrit Match Factory. Showing foresight and decisiveness, he purchased the factory for Rs 20,000. Since he was still employed by the PCS, the purchase was made in the name of his father, Daulat Ram. Turning around the Amrit Match Factory was an extremely profitable venture and became a major source of wealth for his father and brothers.
4. Real Estate: Showing remarkable foresight Shri Kundan Lal bought huge tracts of land in, and around, Ludhiana. This land became the foundation of his charitable endeavors and provided a comfortable life for all his brothers.
5. Manufacturing: Shri Kundan Lal started many manufacturing businesses that would be considered path-breaking in utilizing mechanization to drive efficiencies. Among the many businesses he started were:
 - Kundan Bricks - used to build his own home and factories. The original chimney is still intact, bearing his name on each brick
 - Kundan Plywood - among the first in India to manufacture plywood, started with Alfred Schfrank
 - Kundan Machine Tools
 - Kundan Wood Factory
 - Kundan Cloth Mills
 - Kundan Comb and Button Factory
 - Kundan Electroplating Works

Precedent setting case is now enshrined in Indian Case Law

Kundan Cloth Mills was launched in 1933 as a Joint Stock Ownership Company. In other words, there were many investors in Kundan Cloth Mills. The launching of Kundan Cloth Mills is now part of Indian case law. This case sets the precedent for all future cases regarding the Repudiation of Undertaking to Purchase Shares.

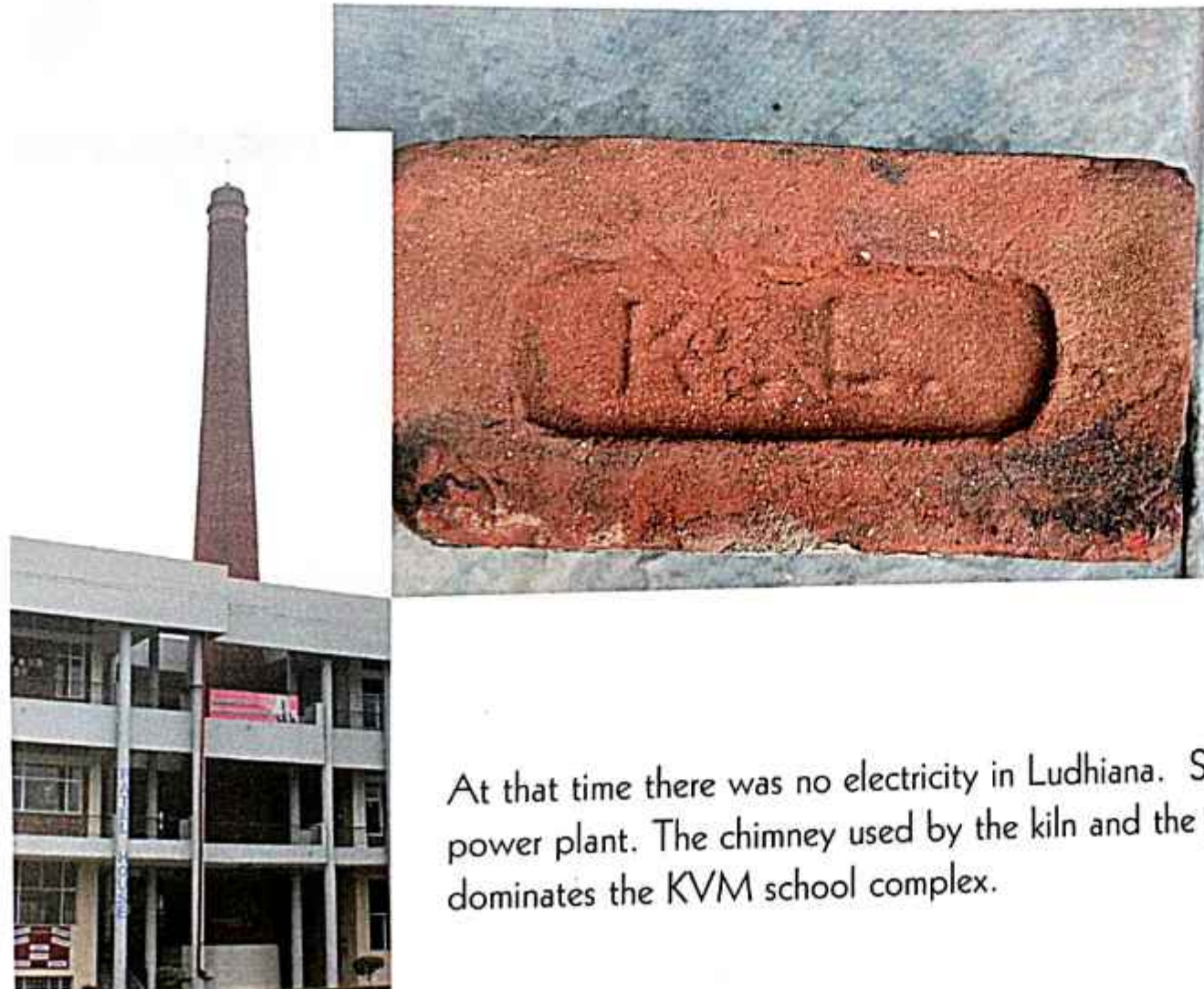
What does it mean?

Repudiation of Undertaking to take Shares: Where a person agreed with the promoter of a company to take certain number of shares and signed the memorandum in token of his consent, but before the company was registered, he wrote to the promoter revoking his undertaking to take shares, and the company was registered with his signature in the memorandum in disregard of his communication, it was held that he was still liable for the shares; *Banwari Lal vs Kundan Cloth Mills Co. Ltd.* (1937)

What happened?

"Kundan Cloth Mills was promoted by Mr. Kundan Lal of Ludhiana. The defendant, Mr. Banwari Lal of Delhi signed the Memorandum of association and wrote in his own hand that he would take 50 shares. According to Mr. Kundan Lal, he did so on the 18th of January 1933. The same day Mr. Kundan Lal brought the Memorandum and Articles of Association to Lahore in order to have the Company registered. He took the papers for registration himself to the office of the Registrar of Joint Stock Companies on the 19th of January 1933. The registrar was not there; Mr. Kundan Lal returned to Ludhiana on the 20th or 21st where he got a telegram dispatched on the 19th and a registered letter from Mr. Banwari Lal asking that his shares should be cancelled. He returned to the Registrar's office on the 22nd of January 1933 and the Company was registered on the 23rd. Mr. Banwari Lal says that he signed the memorandum a day or two earlier than the 18th but the point is of no importance. Mr. Sethi (Banwari Lal's attorney) urges that Mr. Banwari Lal signed on the representation that if after consulting his sons he wished to withdraw from the Company (continued on next page)

might do so. He quoted *Peara Singh v. Peshawar Bank Ltd.*, and other rulings in support of this contention. The Lower Appellate Court found that there was no misrepresentation. It was admitted by Mr. Kundan Lal that he had told Mr. Banwari Lal that if he did not wish to keep his shares he would transfer them to someone else or take them himself. The shares, however, cannot be transferred until the original call money is paid. Mr. D.N. Aggarwal (Kundan Lal's attorney), who argued the case very well, cited an English case *Lord Lurgan's Case*. The Lahore High Court affirmed a decision that Banwari Lal was liable for call money for shares which he had agreed to take in Kundan Cloth Mills at the time of its formation."



Shri Kundan Lal had exacting standards for everything. Around 1930, when he could not find bricks that met his standards, he set up a brick kiln and made his own bricks. Each brick bears his initials "KL". The entire residence and the factory complex is built with bricks from his own kiln.

At that time there was no electricity in Ludhiana. So, he built his own power plant. The chimney used by the kiln and the power plant still dominates the KVM school complex.

RIGHT:

Sir Geoffrey Montmorency, Governor of Punjab, at the opening ceremony of the Kundan Wood Factory in September 1931

BELOW:

Sir John Young, Chief Justice of Punjab, visiting the plywood factory in 1939



INTREPID TRAVELLER

On September 26, 1928 I sailed from Bombay for Europe by S. S. Genova, a Lloyd Triestino Steamer and returned in March 1929. In June 1929 I again sailed for Europe and there purchased the complete plants and machinery for the following industries: Woodworking Factory, Comb Factory, Button Factory, Soap Factory, Electroplating Plant, Battery Charging Set, Other Miscellaneous Machinery. In October, 1929, after purchasing all these plants and machines I returned to Ludhiana.

Kundan Lal



S.S. "AQUILEJA", "GENOVA"

Shri Kundan Lal made three trips to Europe.

The first trip, in 1928, was primarily driven by a desire to acquire technology and equipment for various businesses. This trip had to be cut short when he received word that his wife had suffered a nervous breakdown.

On his second trip, in 1929, he was accompanied by his wife. He sought medical treatment for his wife, while continuing to look for new technology and equipment.

His third trip, in 1938, was made on his own to get operated for Hemorrhoids, with complications from Diabetes. He spent time in a hospital in Vienna, Austria, where he met the three Jewish families. The photo on the next page is from his third trip.



At the Berlin Zoo

HUMANITARIAN

In 1938 Shri Kundan Lal had gone to Vienna, Austria, for medical treatment. In those days, going to Europe was a long and arduous trip. So, he hoped to use his time to look for business opportunities as well.

Austria was going through a particularly difficult stage in its history. Adolf Hitler was plotting to annex Austria - "the German Anschluss". Anti-Jewish sentiment was running high. It was in this environment that Kundan Lal ji reached Vienna and checked himself into a local hospital. There he met Alfred Schafranek and Alfred Wachslar. Alfred Schafranek owned a successful Saw Mill in Krems-Land, where he lived with his wife Margaretha, and teenage children Bruno and Lizzie. In 1938 the Nazis showed up to forcibly impound all their property - the so called "Aryanization of Jewish property". The Nazis even put Alfred and his son Bruno in prison for a few weeks. Alfred Wachslar owned a successful furniture store in Gratz, Austria, and lived with his wife and infant son Alex. The Wachslars had been residents of Gratz for many generations. Alfred's uncles had fought and died for Austria in World War 1. That did not stop the Nazis from impounding their business.

It was in this difficult and uncertain situation that the two Alfreds met Kundan Lal Ji. Thinking quickly and decisively, my grandfather offered them both jobs, and helped procure Indian visas for the family. Alfred Schafranek had a brother, Siegfried, working as an engineer in Vienna. Alfred asked Kundan Lal Ji to help facilitate a visa for Siegfried, which my grandfather was happy to oblige. These Indian visas enabled them all to escape Austria. Without my grandfather's help it is quite likely that they and their families would all have ended up in a concentration camp and painful death.

By the time they reached Ludhiana, my grandfather had built 2 houses for them to live right next to his own house. Alfred Schafranek assisted Kundan Lal Ji to setup one of the first plywood manufacturing factories in Punjab. Alfred Wachslar made beautiful furniture, which was sold under the name Kundan Woodworks.



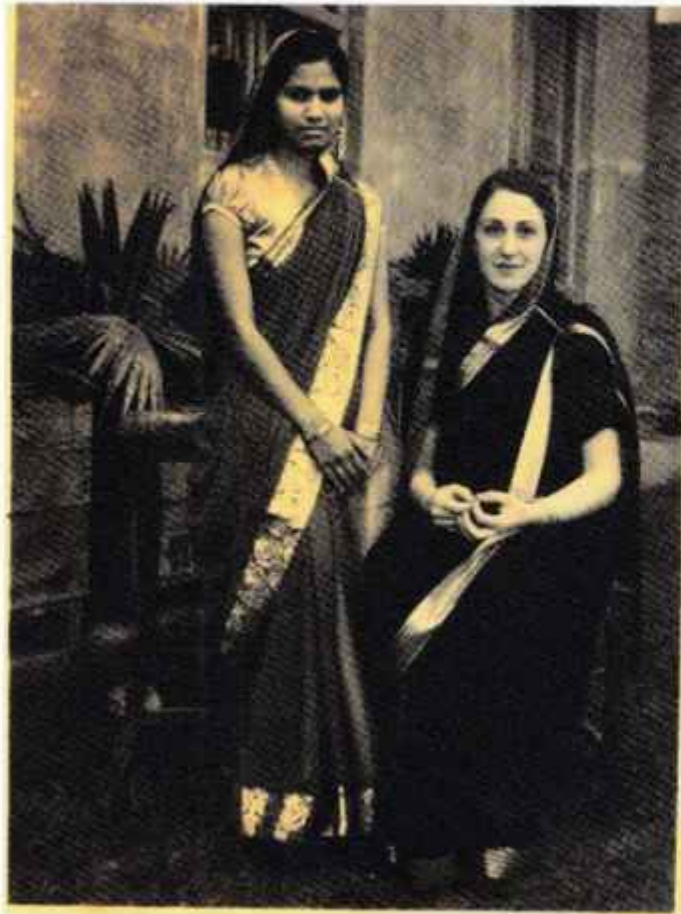
Standing L-R: Bruno Schafranek, Kundan Lal,
Alfred Schafranek, Mrs. Wachsler, Margaretha
Schafranek, Premlata, Siegfried Schafranek,
Lizzy Schafranek, Prem Narain
Sitting L-R: Kamla, Alex Wachsler, Vijya,
Devlata



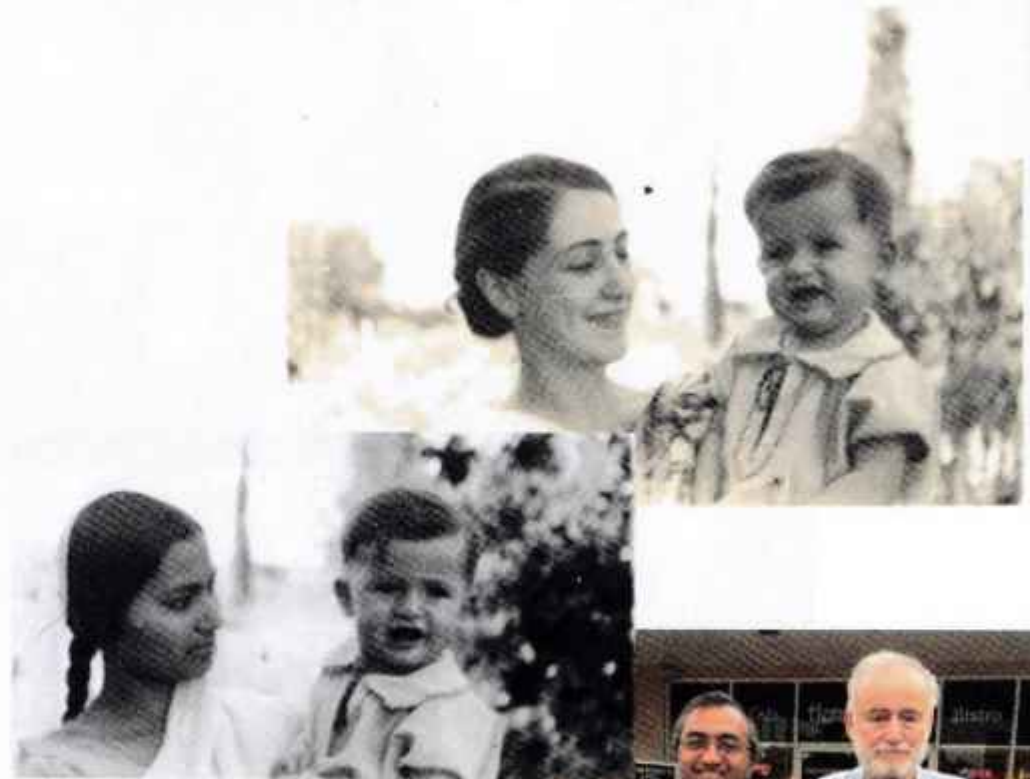
L-R: Kamla, Devlata, Lizzy
Schfranek, Mrs. Wachsler and
Alex Wachsler, Premlata and
Vijya

How wonderful that what you learned was so meritorious. I am not surprised that you found the Jewish community around the world so helpful. After all, your grandfather was what we would call "a righteous Gentile." Who would not want to show appreciation for that?

Sallyann Sack - American genealogist and psychologist,
and editor of Avotaynu Magazine



Premlata with Mrs. Wachsler. They became good friends.



Alex Wachsler in
1939 (in Ludhiana),
and today (in USA)





Standing: Alfred Wachslar; Bruno Schafranek; Siegfried Schafranek; Alfred Schafranek; Prem Narain
Sitting: Kundan Lal; unknown; Sir John Young (Chief Justice of Punjab), unknown; unknown

This picture was taken, in 1939, outside the Plywood factory, considered by many to be amongst the first in Punjab.



These two houses were built specifically to house the Jewish families when they reached Ludhiana. The houses as they looked in 1939 and in 2014.





Top: Alfred Schafraneck, Bruno Schafraneck, Siegfried Schafraneck
Middle: Premlata, Margaretha Schafraneck, Kamla
Bottom: Mrs. Wachslers; Lizzy Schafraneck; Vijya; Devlata

The Schafraneck & Wachslers families lived in India till 1947. The Schafraneck family moved to Bangalore. The Wachslers moved to Karachi. Alex Wachslers even attended Vincent Hill School in Mussoorie. At the time of India's independence the Schafraneck family moved to Australia and the Wachslers family moved to America.

Today, Lizzy Schafraneck lives in Perth, Australia. Alex Wachslers lives in Florida, USA.

FREEDOM FIGHTER

In 1926 I entered the political field and began to take an active interest in Congress activities. This naturally irritated the British Government which became harmful to my business interests.

Kundan Lal

Shri Kundan Lal was a leader of the freedom movement in Punjab. One of his biggest contributions to the formation of modern India was to host the All India States' People's Conference (AISPC) at his estate in February 1939. Many national leaders like Jawaharlal Nehru, P. Sitayaramayya, Jai Narain Vyas and Agatha Harrison attended the week-long conference and stayed at his house. Sheikh Abdullah, of Kashmir, was supposed to attend but was not released from prison in time to participate. One of the important resolutions adopted related to the Treaty Rights between the British and the over 400 Princely States. The Conference declared that the treaties between the British and the Princely States had been used by the "Rulers" to perpetrate oppression over the citizens. The AISPC pointed out that the treaties were made over a century ago, were completely out of date and inapplicable to the current conditions.

The AISPC would play an important role during the political integration of India, helping Indian leaders Vallabhbhai Patel and Jawaharlal Nehru negotiate with hundreds of princes over the formation of a united, independent India after 1947.

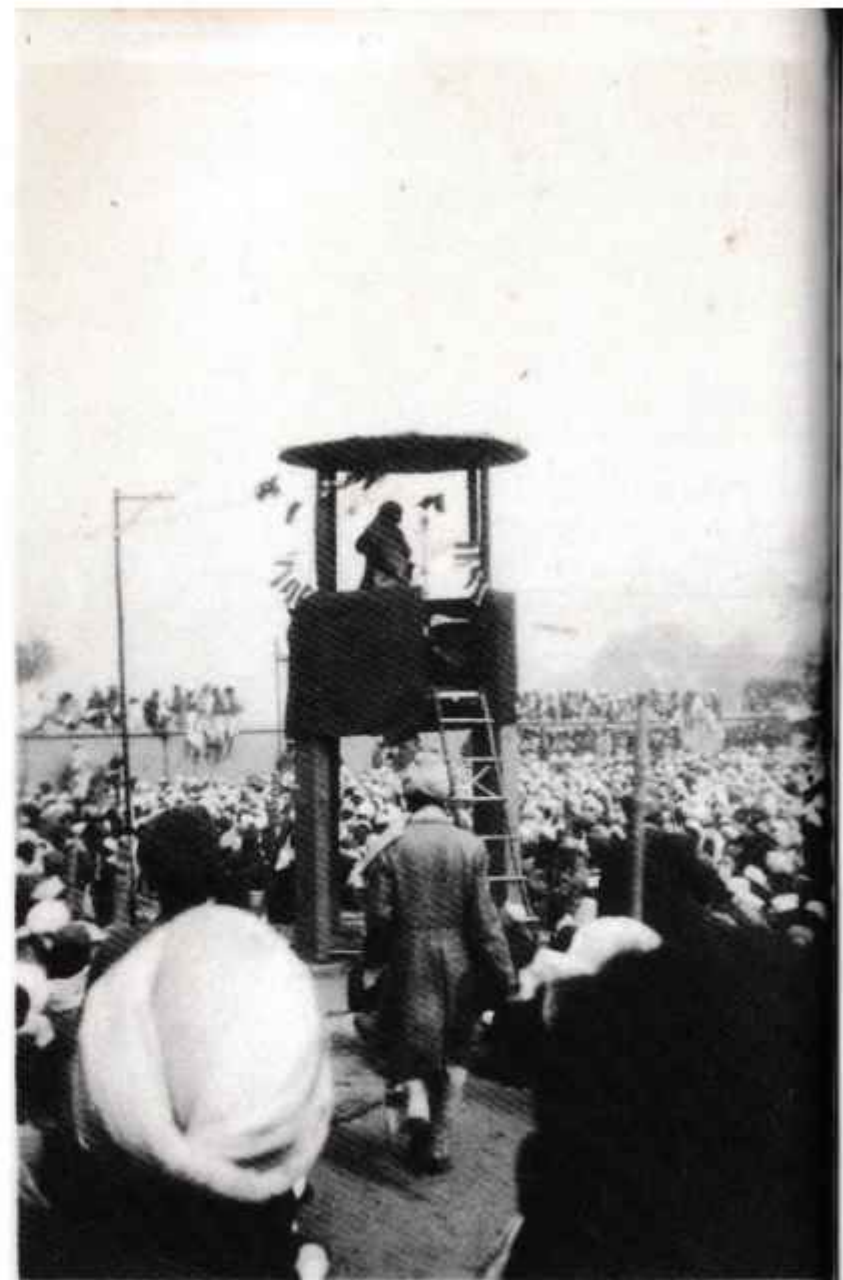
RIGHT: Jawaharlal Nehru arriving at the house in Civil Lines, Ludhiana to address the AISPC. Shri Kundan Lal, wearing a shawl, is to the right of Pundit Nehru.



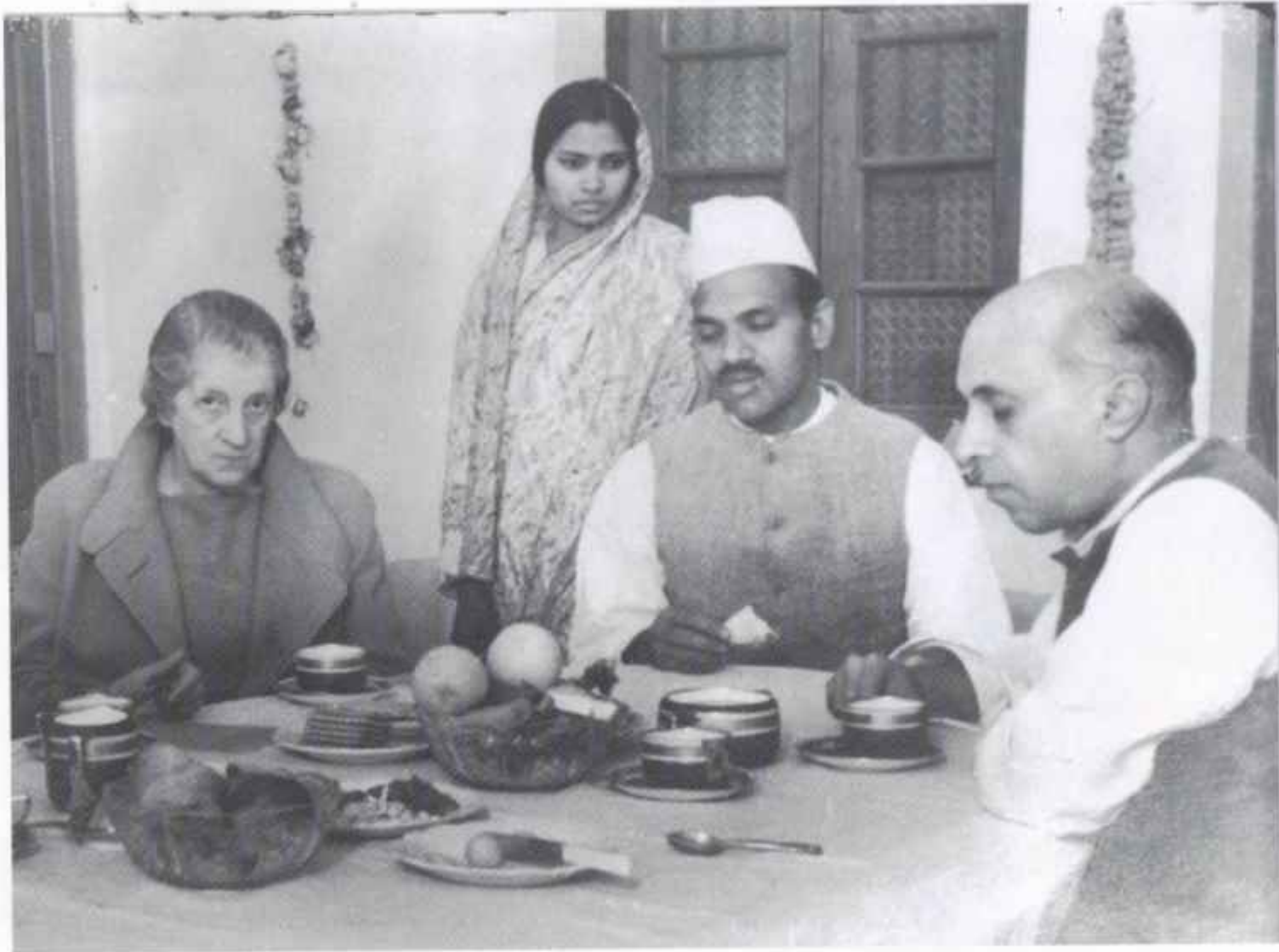
LEFT: Baba Karam Singh Dhoot, Chairman of the Reception Committee, welcoming Pattabhi Sitaramayya to Ludhiana. Baba Karam Singh, who had just been released from jail, was a senior leader of the Punjab Ryasti Praja Mandal. Jawaharlal Nehru is standing to the left. Shri Kundan Lal, wearing a white cap is standing on the right.

Pandit Jawaharlal Nehru's remarks on treaty rights of Princes in his Presidential Address at Ludhiana Session in 1939:

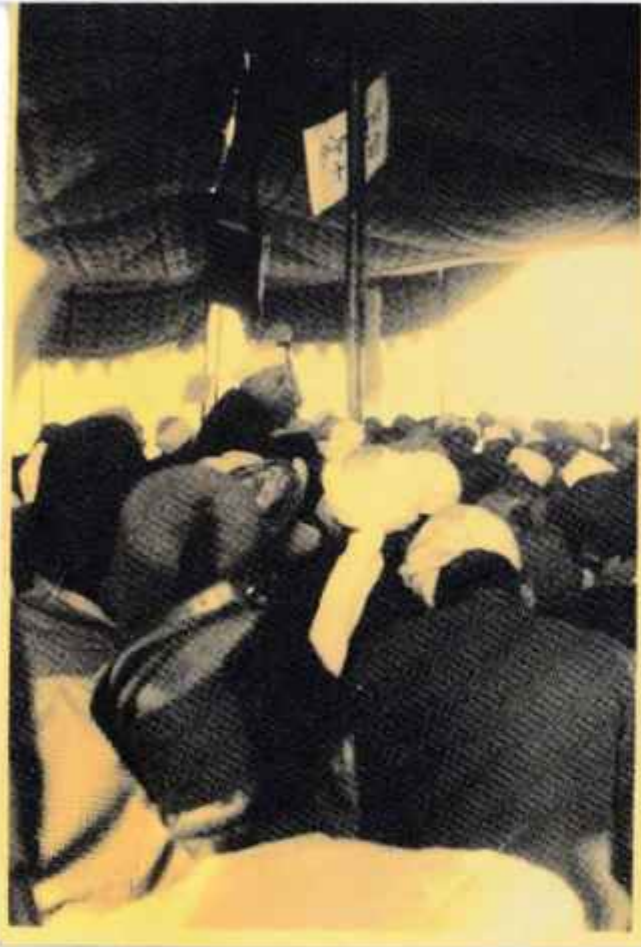
"We are told now of the so called independence of the States and of their treaties with the Paramount Power which are sacrosanct and inviolable and apparently must go on for ever and ever. We have recently seen what happens to international treaties and the most sacred of covenants when they do not suit the purpose of Imperialism. We have seen these treaties torn up, friends and allies basely deserted and betrayed and the pledged word broken by England and France. Democracy and freedom were the sufferers and so it did not matter. But when reaction and autocracy and imperialism stand to lose, it does matter and treaties, however moth-eaten and harmful to the people they might be, have to be preserved. It is a monstrous imposition to be asked to put up with these treaties of a century and a quarter ago, in the making of which the people had no voice or say. It is fantastic to expect the people keep on their chains of slavery, imposed upon them by force and fraud, and to submit to a system which crushes the life-blood out of them. We recognize no such treaties and we shall in no event accept them. The only final authority and paramount power that we recognize is the will of the people, and the only thing that counts ultimately is the good of the people."



Jawaharlal Nehru addressing people from a temporary platform constructed behind the house. Thousands of people thronged to see and hear Pandit Nehru during the week long meeting.



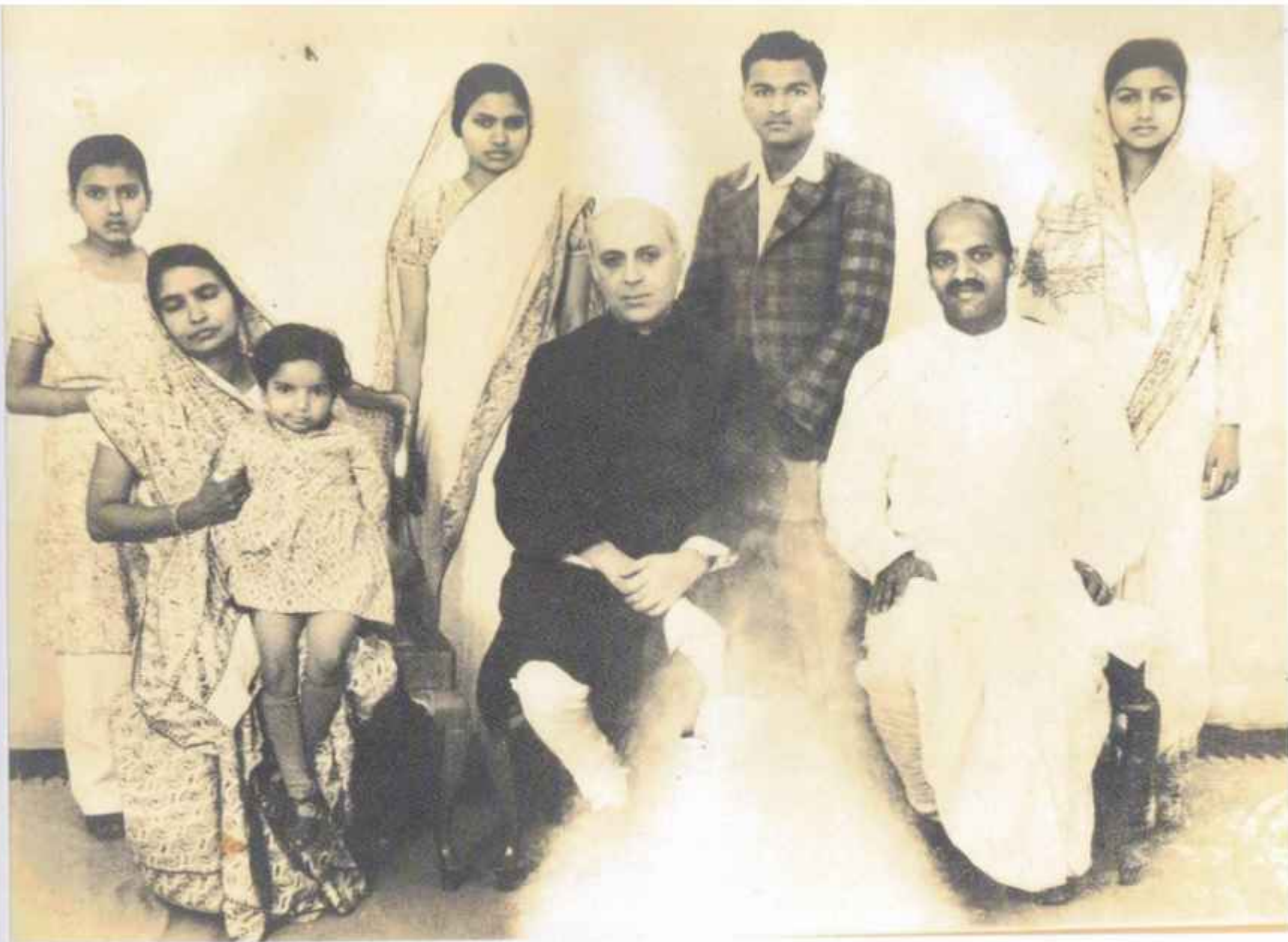
Shri Kundan Lal with Jawarhalal Nehru and Agatha Harrison at his house in 1939, during the AISP conference. Premlata is standing in the back. Agatha Harrison, a British national, was a close confidant of Mahatma Gandhi and active in the Indian freedom struggle.



Nehru speaking with delegates to the conference



Shri Kundan Lal with delegates to the Conference. The photograph above was taken in one of the downstairs rooms in his house. This room is now part of the administrative office of KVM school. Looking right at the camera is Dr. Pattabhi Sitaramayya. Dr. Sitaramayya was the out-going president of the All India States' Peoples Conference. Jawaharlal Nehru was the in-coming president. Arrested by the British in 1942, Dr. Sitaramayya spent 3 years in prison. Dr. Sitaramayya became the president of the All India Congress Party in 1948. He was the governor of Madhya Pradesh from 1952 - 1957. He also founded the Andhra Bank, which even today is one of the major commercial banks in India.



Family portrait with Jawaharlal Nehru taken in Ludhiana in 1939

Standing: Kamla; Premlata; Prem Narain; Devlata

Sitting: Saraswati Devi holding Vijya; Jawaharlal Nehru; Kundan Lal

PATRIOT

Shri Kundan Lal cared deeply about India and its people. He read extensively about herbal and Ayurvedic medicines, made a number of them at home, and distributed them free to the people.

For him, playing a prominent role in evicting the British from India was not enough. To instill a sense of confidence in Hindus he joined the Rashtriya Swayamsevak Sangh (RSS) in early 1940s. For many years Kundan Lal Ji served as the Sanghchalak (head) of the RSS in Ludhiana. He had a close friendship with M. S. Golwalker, the national head of the RSS. In 1948, subsequent to the assassination of Mahatma Gandhi, many RSS leaders were imprisoned on suspicion that the RSS had played a role in his assassination. Kundan Lal ji too spent time in jail. He was released from jail on the personal intervention of his friend Gopi Chand Bhargava, at that time the Chief Minister of Punjab, because of bad health.

Still not content, Shri Kundan Lal joined the Arya Samaj to push for social reforms of the Hindu religion. As the head of the Arya Samaj in Ludhiana he founded the Arya College. Built on land procured from his brother, Nand Lal, Arya College was started in 1946. Arya College has a long list of prominent alumni including Sat Paul Mittal and his son Sunil Mittal.





Shri Syama Prasad Mookerjee with family. This picture was taken in 1953 on the upstairs balcony of the house. Mr. Mookerjee was going to Kashmir and decided to stop on his way in Ludhiana to spend a few days with his friend Kundan Lal Ji.



Touring the factory with S.P. Mookerjee

Mr. Mookerjee was appointed the Minister of Industry & Supply by Prime Minister Nehru in 1947. In October 1951 he founded the Bhartiya Jana Sangh, which is now known as the BJP. He was arrested in Kashmir and died in detention in June 1953.

K. M. Munshi with Shri Kundan Lal and his five children (Back: Dev Lata, Premlata, Kamla. Front: Kundan Lal Ji, Vijya, Shri Munshi, Prem Narain)

Mr. Munshi was a leader of India's freedom movement and a prolific writer. He published many books in English, Hindi, and Gujarati. He served on the committee that selected the Flag of India in 1947, and on the committee that drafted India's Constitution. He also served as the Governor of Uttar Pradesh from 1952 - 1957.



Visiting with Prime Minister Nehru in 1962 at his office in Delhi. From Left: Asha, Rajan, Premlata, Harbans Lal, Jawaharlal Nehru, Kundan Lal Ji, Digvijay.

I remember my grandfather visited our house in Delhi in the summer of 1962. I did not know he was coming and was surprised to see him talking to my mother on returning home from school. On seeing me he grabbed my school bag, flipped through each book and asked how the lesson was being taught and what homework was being assigned. He kept questioning me and we stopped talking only when my mother realized that we had been at it for over an hour and we were getting late for an important appointment.

Kundan Lal Ji had come to visit his friend Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru.

Narrated by Rajan Gupta

visit by Ajit Prasad Jain, Minister
of Agriculture in the first Cabinet
of Independent India

Top right: Along with Shri Kundan Lal
Digvijay. Kamla is on the right.

Bottom left: Touring the factories with
Shri Kundan Lal and Digvijay



FATHER

Kundan Lal Ji and Saraswati Devi had five children.

PREMLATA, the oldest, was born in 1920. Saraswati Devi withdrew from the family in 1942 and was unable to take care of herself so Premlata effectively became the matriarch of the family.

PREM NARAIN, the only son, was born in 1922. After college he worked with his father. Kundan Lal ji would say "Prem is a genius in business, there is magic in his hands". In 1949 he started his own business that became very successful in just a few years. Unfortunately, Prem Narain died at the young age of 39.

DEVLATA was born in 1924. In 1941, she was one of the first batch of students when Kundan Vidya Mandir was started and later taught there prior to her marriage.

KAMLA was born in 1927. After her Masters in English, she became the Principal of the City School in 1951. In 1953 she went to London, England for further training. On her return she took over as the Principal of the Civil Lines school.

VIJYA, the youngest, was born in 1934. She also studied in and then taught at Kundan Vidya Mandir.

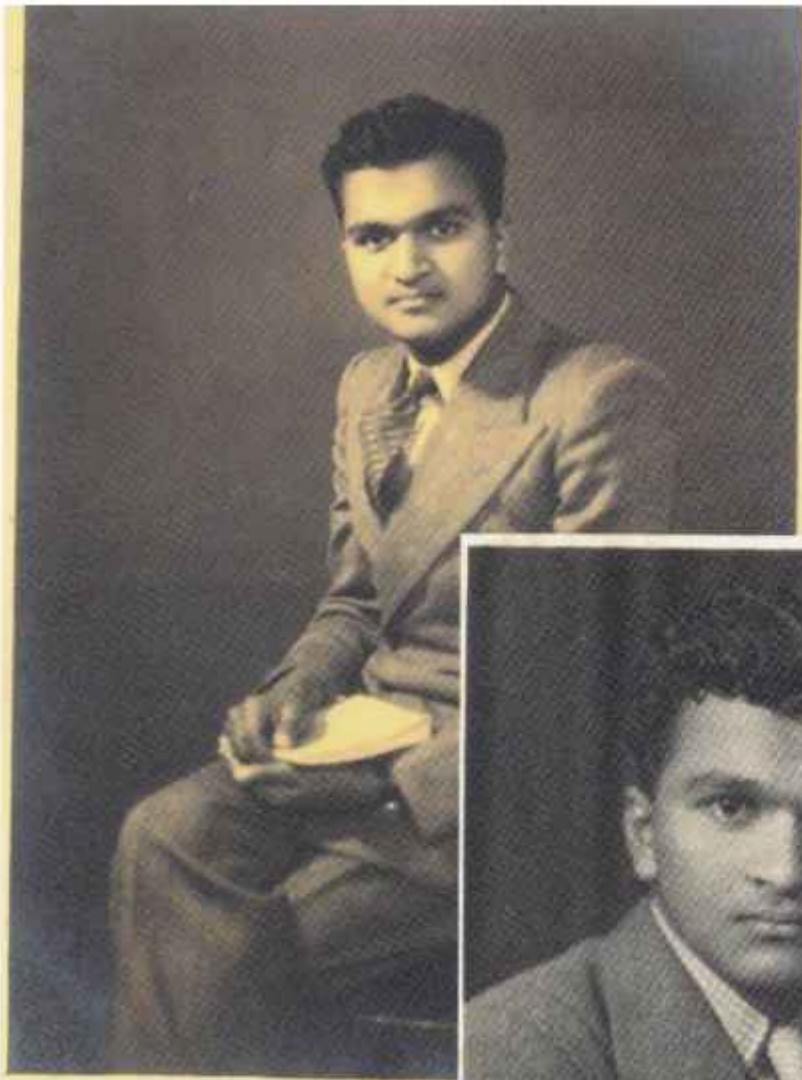


Premlata with Lizzy
Schafranek (Top) and in
2014 at the age of 94
(Left)

Prem Narain

The photo on left was taken in February 1941

The photo on bottom is with his wife Krishna, and sister Vijya, at Vijya's wedding in 1958





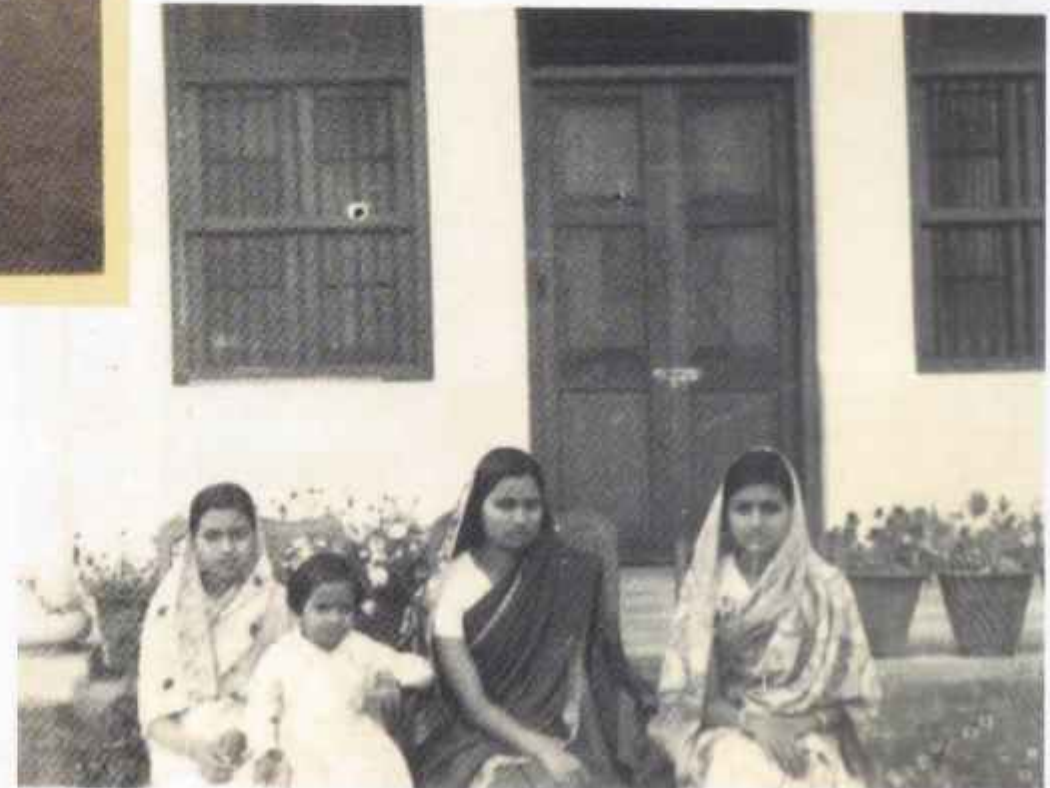
Four Sisters: Both photos were taken in 1939

Left: Kamla, Devlata, Vijya, Premlata

Bottom: Kamla, Vijya, Premlata, Devlata



Devlata and
Premlata

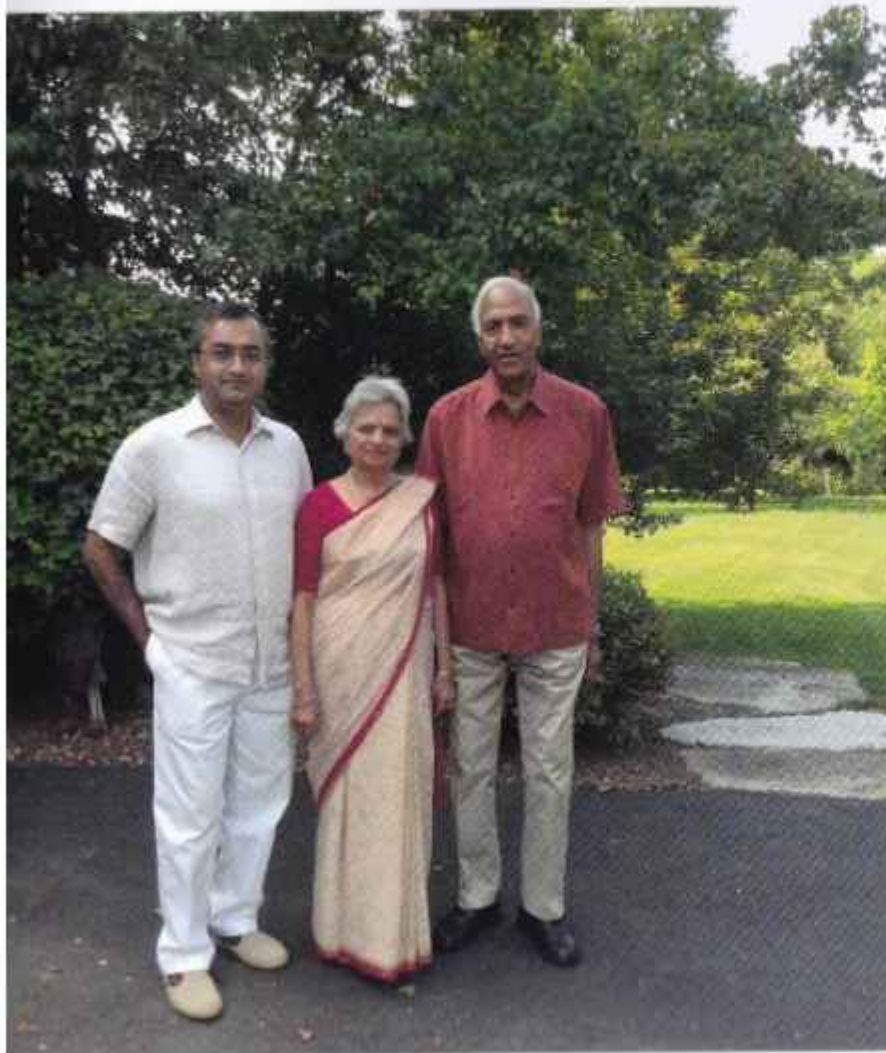




1928

Kundan Lal Ji and Saraswati Devi
with Devlata (standing) and Kamla

Vijya Gupta in 1941, 1939, and 2014
(clockwise from top right)



1958

At Vijya and Mohindra Prakash wedding.

STANDING at the back: Premlata, Harbanslal, Krishna, Sunder Lal. Prem Narain is sitting wearing a cap

SITTING are Devlata, Vijya, Mohindra, Kamla
On the FLOOR are many of the grandchildren, including Mukta, Meera, Bharti, Arun, and Asha



1948

Prem Narian and Krishna's wedding.
Vijya is behind-right of Krishna.

NG: Mohinder
 Unknown, Harbans
 Deep Jain, Sunder
 Mohan (Son-in-law of
 Lal), Vijay (Son of
 Lal)
 : Vijya, Unknown,
 Prem Lata, Kamla,
 Sneha (Champa
 daughter), Kaushalya
 (wife)



1958

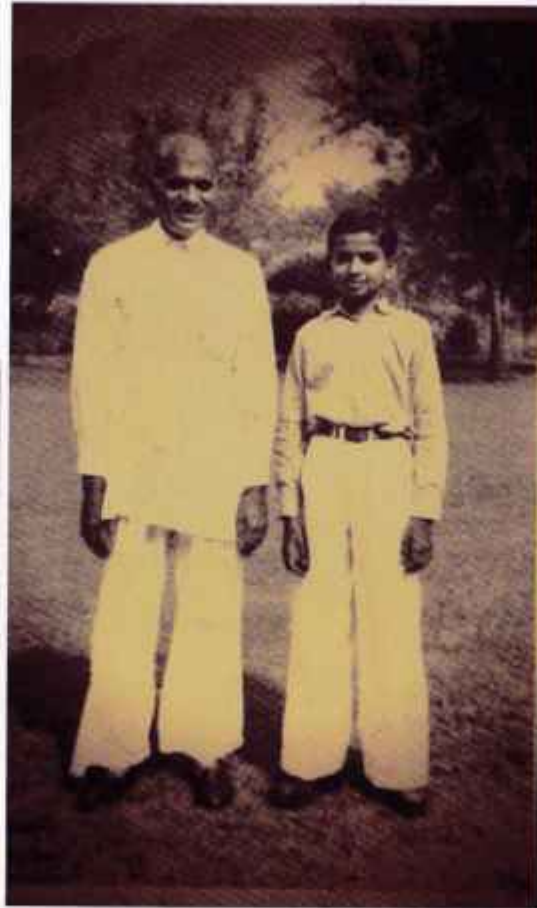
STANDING: Harbans Lal, Premlata, Digvijay,
 Kundan Lal, Vijya, Mohindra Prakash, Kamla,
 Sunder Lal, Prem Narain, Devlata

KNEELING: Bharti, Arun, Mukta, unknown,
 Asha, Meera

SITTING: Rajan, Rajen, Savita

GRANDFATHER

With Abha in 1961



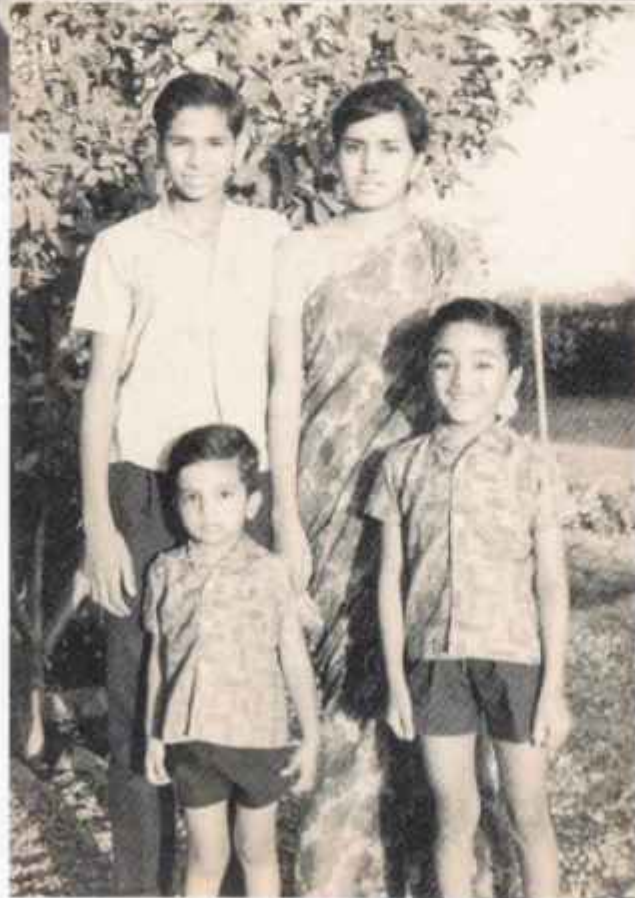
Digvijay, the eldest grandchild. He moved to Ludhiana and lived with Kundan Lal Ji from the age of 5. He slept in the same room till Kundan Lal Ji's death in 1966.

Premlata with Asha





Kundan Lal Ji with Vinay in
Ludhiana, 1962



Clockwise from Top-Left: Rajan, Asha,
Vinay, Shalendra. Talwara, Punjab, in
1969.

HOLIDAYS IN KASHMIR & SHIMLA

Often, during the 1940s and the '50s, the family would travel to Shimla or Kashmir to escape the summer heat. The entire family would pile into one of his 3 cars to drive up. Kundan Lal Ji would rent comfortable accommodations, usually a large house, and the family would spend their time going on long walks, shopping, or other day trips. These vacations lasted 2 months or more. Kundan Lal Ji even explored the possibility of buying a house in either Kashmir or Shimla, but eventually gave up on that idea.

Shimla was the more popular destination, partly because it was much closer to Ludhiana. But also because one of his best friends, Chandu Lal Ji, lived in Shimla. Most evenings, Kundan Lal Ji would end up at Chandu Lal Ji's home to chat. Chandu Lal was an attorney and drafted the documents that constitute the Shri Kundan Lal Trust.



With his good friends in Shimla. Chandu Lal is sitting on the left and Chanan Shah is on the right.



With Digvijay on Boulevard Road,
Srinagar, Kashmir in 1955. That year,
Kundan Lal Ji had rented the Annex to
the White House for the summer.

With Vijya and Digvijay in Nishat Bagh, Kashmir in 1953



With Krishna (feeding Mukta) in Kashmir in 1955

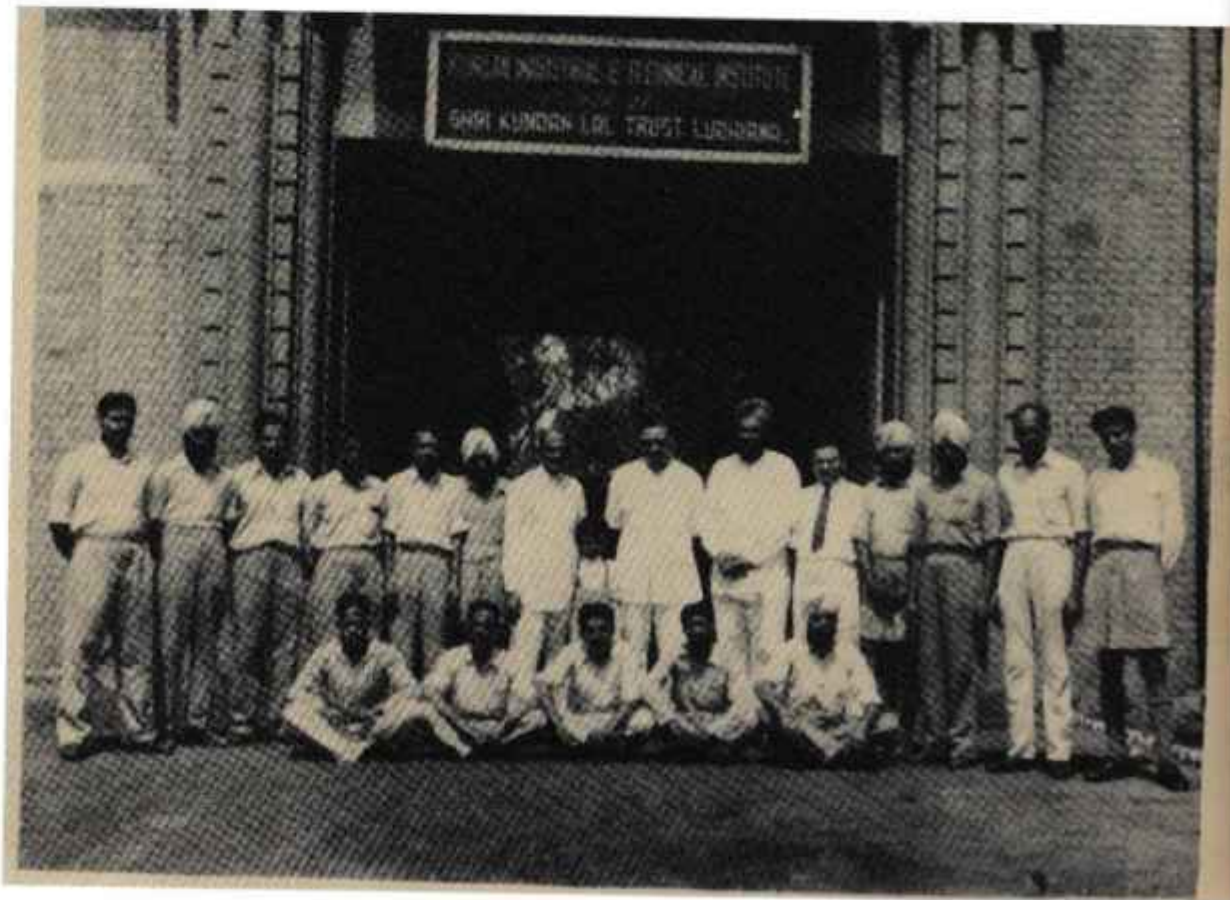


PHILANTHROPIST

The purpose of the creation of the Shri Kundan Lal Trust is to impart such education to the masses of India as will raise their economic condition, increase their capacity to work, make them efficient skilled workers, lead to industrial production in the country, reduce unemployment and raise the general standard of wages. The school known as Kundan Vidya Mandir, together with its branches, shall continue to be used for the purpose of imparting education on most modern lines, to benefit the citizens of a great nation.

Kundan Lal

Shri Kundan Lal made an active effort to promote human welfare and make life better for people, both with his time and his wealth. He noticed that even though unemployment was high, there was a shortage of trained labor to work in factories. In response, typical of his proactive nature, he started the Kundan Industrial & Technical Training Institute. Workers were trained to become carpenters, electricians, and metal stampers.





Visiting Jawaharlal Nehru with students at Teenmurti Bhavan in 1955. Pandit Nehru was the Prime Minister of India at that time and Teenmurti was his official residence.

ABOVE: Vijya is standing on the extreme right. Digvijya is kneeling in front of Pandit Nehru. Kamla is to JL Nehru's right



RIGHT: Kamla giving a present to Pundit Nehru on behalf of the students of KVM. Shri Kundan Lal, Devlata (with Savita) are standing to the right.

KUNDAN VIDYA MANDIR

Shri Kundan Lal lived an outsized life with tremendous success in many diverse areas. Besides his family, his one enduring legacy is Kundan Vidya Mandir (KVM) that continues to grow and flourish 50 years after his passing.

Motivated by the need to provide education to his two teenage daughters (Devlata and Kamla), he started KVM in April 1941 in two rooms of his house - today these are the Principal's office and the adjoining conference room. Initially the school was restricted to girls and three of his daughters are alumni. In fact, he started admitting boys to KVM in the late 1940s to provide education to his eldest grandson - Digvijay. Many of his grandchildren and great-grandchildren attended KVM.

From 16 girls in 1941, the school had grown to a co-educational institution with over 1,500 students at the time of his death in 1966. In 2015, there are over 5,000 students in Ludhiana, with another 400 students in a new branch in Chandigarh. In October 2015, KVM will kick-off celebrations to mark the 75th year of its many successes.

To ensure the future success and stability of KVM, Shri Kundan Lal established the Kundan Lal Charitable Trust in 1950 and donated a large part of his Civil Lines property to it.



The KVM school auditorium (Right) was built in 1998



The beautifully manicured gardens of KVM with the chimney from 1931 in the background.



Kundan International School - Chandigarh

Kundan International School was started in 2006 on a 5.5 acre campus in Chandigarh. There are over 400 students enrolled, ranging from Kindergarden to 10th grade. Eventually, this school will grow to about 1,500 students.



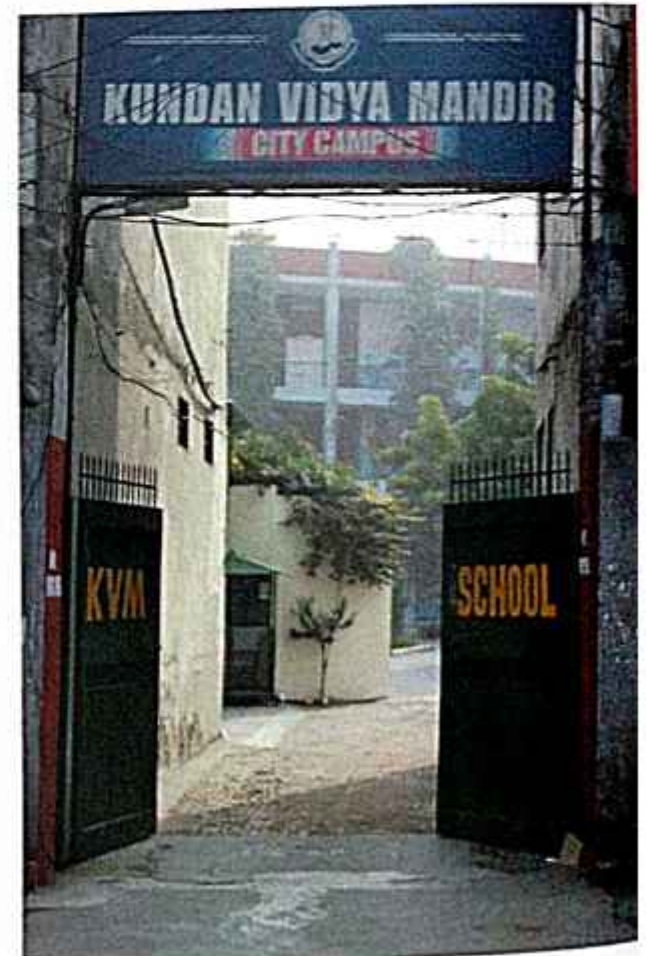


Pratap Singh Khairon, Chief Minister of Punjab, visiting Kundan Vidya Mandi in 1956. He inaugurated the Crafts section of the school. With Kundan Lal Ji are Harbans Lal (Top) and Digvijay (Left).

Kundan Vidya Mandir - City Campus in 2014



In 2014, the City School had 1,000 students attending classes from Kindergarden to Grade 8. After graduating from the City School, the students transfer to the Civil Lines campus to continue their education.



Front Entrance

The City School was moved to its present location in 1944. Prior to 1944 the school was housed in rented facilities in Sukhram Nagar, and Maliganj.



Kundan Vidya Mandir - The City School.
At that time it was still a "girls only" school.

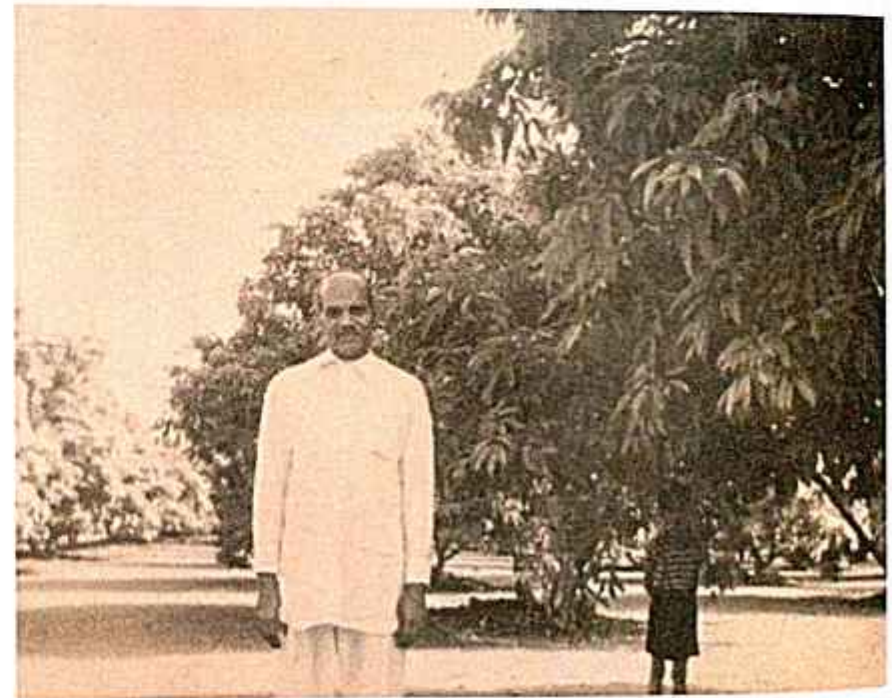
RESIDENCE

The central structure for the last 30+ years of Kundan Lal's life was the residence in Civil Lines, Ludhiana. From the design, to the making of each individual brick, every small detail was overseen by him. Once completed in 1936, he presided over many of his significant accomplishments from this magnificent home. All the children, and some of his grandchildren grew up here.

Kundan Lal Ji was fond of growing the highest quality fruits and flowers and developed extensive fruit orchards and flower gardens around the compound. Mangoes were his favorite fruit, and roses his favorite flower. He constantly looked for new and better varieties, experimented with pruning and grafting, and personally supervised their care.



View of the back of the residence



Standing among his fruit trees



The front of the residence, which he donated to the KVM school. This building now forms part of the school administrative offices.

Kundan Lal Ji passed away on the night of March 4th, 1966 after suffering a massive heart attack. He was cremated just steps from the home he built, among the mango trees that he so loved. The photo on the right shows the samadhi that marks the spot where he was cremated. One of his favorite mango tree is on the right. In the back is the school auditorium. The auditorium is built on the spot where Saraswati Devi was cremated in 1965.



GRANDFATHER: Birbal Mall. Died in 1872

FATHER: Daulat Ram 1867 - 1932

MOTHER: Parji Devi

WIFE: Saraswati Devi. Died in 1965

CHILDREN:

Premlata: Born 1920

Prem Narain: 1922 - 1962

Devlata: Born 1924

Kamla: Born 1927

Vijya: Born 1934

GRANDCHILDREN

Digvijay: 1942 - 2010

Asha: Born 1947

Bharti: Born 1948

Meera: Born 1949

Arun: Born 1950

Mukta: Born 1952

Savita: Born 1953

Rajan: Born 1953

Rajen: 1954 - 2016

Suniti: Born 1959

Abha: Born 1960

Vinay: Born 1961

Sandeep: Born 1963

Shalendra: Born 1964