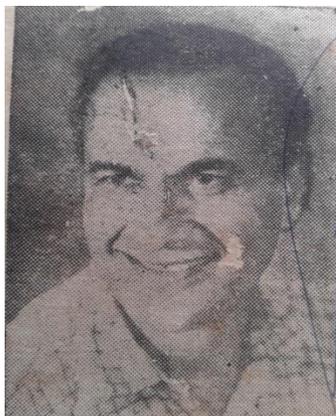


**Activities of Central Government Pensioners' Welfare Association,
J&K,**

Highlights of the Week Ending 28th March, 2016:

- **Weekly Talk:** Shri J.K.Vaid, GSI (Retd) delivered a talk on Dhanvantri- the Great Revolutionary and Freedom Fighter who made Jammu & Kashmir Proud.
- The pious land of Jammu nestling under the divine protection of Mata Vaishno Devi in holy Trikuta hills on the banks of *Surya Putri*- river Tawi is known for producing celebrated spartans, scholars, historians, singers and musicians. Among this galaxy of illustrious sons of the soil, is one of the greatest revolutionaries and freedom fighters - Dhanvantri.



Dhanvantri – The Great Revolutionary from Jammu & Kashmir.

- He was born on March 7, 1902 in the Military Hospital at Satwari, Jammu. His father, Col (Dr.) Durga Dutt Mahey was head of this hospital and had special position in the durbar of Maharaja Pratap Singh. Dhanvantri's eldest brother, Pt. Bhimsen Mahey had served as Wazir-e-Wazarat of Poonch, Jammu and Srinagar and had accompanied Maharaja Hari Singh when he was shifted to Malabar Hills at Bombay. He was so loyal to the Maharaja Hari Singh that Maharaja bequeathed that his last rites shall be performed by Pt Bhimsen Mahey. His second brother Pt Vidhyanand Mahey was a senior officer of Railways at Lahore. Pt Vishwamiter was his third brother who too was a prominent citizen having lot of influence. He lived at Shanti Bhawan, Kali Janni in old Jammu city, adjacent to Parade Ground.
- Such was the well known family of Dhanvantri and if he had so desired he could also have led a comfortable life in Jammu. But he was a revolutionary and had a different mission in life i.e. to liberate his motherland, Bharat Mata, from the yoke of British imperialism. He conscientiously jumped into the Indian freedom movement to achieve his dream. Brushing aside the comforts of a privileged Dogra family of Jammu, Dhanvantri chose the rough floor and hard

- chapattis of jails. He happily accepted the atrocities of the British Empire in jails where he spent seventeen long years of youthful part of his life, of which six years were in the most dreadful Cellular Jail of Andaman and Nicobar, notoriously known as Kaala Pani.
- In 1920, he went to his brother Pt. Vidhyanand at Lahore where he did his F. Sc. and then joined Sri Dayanand Ayurvedic College from where he completed Vaid Vachaspati degree.
 - At Lahore, Dhanvantri had the bitter taste of atrocities of the British Govt. He saw Indians reeling under humiliation and heard sobbing of motherland stiffen in the shackles of slavery. He took a pledge not to take rest till India is freed from the foreign rule. He took active part in the Mahatma Gandhi's *satyagrahs* and also civil disobedience movement but he was saddened when the Mahatma withdrew *satyagrah* due to Choki Chora incident. So was Chandershekher. Both these revolutionaries were on the same wavelength.
 - Study of Ayurveda was not his aim but he used it as means to achieve the goal of freedom. He set up his clinic in Sutra Mandi at Lahore. His clinic became the hub of guidance and motivation for revolutionary acts in furtherance to freedom of India. It was here that he came in touch with Shaheed Sukhdev and Shaheed Bhagat Singh.
 - Bhagat Singh who was five year younger to Dhanvantri, always respected him as his elder brother. After hurling bomb in Delhi Assembly Hall, Bhagat Singh surrendered himself. Dhanvantri made every effort including distribution of 70,000 copies of Bhagat Singh's photos all over India, to get him released. He along with Ehsan Ilahi even visited Burma to meet Mahatma Gandhi and sought his intervention to speak to the Viceroy for the release of Bhagat Singh. But Mahatma Gandhi declined by saying, "I believe in non-violence. I cannot support anyone who follows the path of violence."
 - In 1929, Dhanvantri was arrested for the first time but he was released after a few months. In 1930, he was again arrested at Chandni Chowk, Delhi and British Govt. prosecuted him for Delhi and Lahore Conspiracy cases. Noted lawyers including Asaf Ali, Dr. Saif-ud-din Kichloo and Nanak Chand took the brief of Dhanvantri.
 - In the jail, he was subjected to untold atrocities, mere thought of which would be the horror. His case was heard inside the jail. In the cases of rebellion, blowing of the train of the Viceroy, Gudaria Dacoity and Delhi Conspiracy filed by the British Govt., Dhanvantri was sentenced to death which was later on reduced to life imprisonment in Kaala Pani jail which was most horrible jail, considered as hell. Chained from head to toes, Dhanvantri and many others were brought to Calcutta port for their shifting to Andaman and Nicobar Islands jail. Boarded on Maharaja ship, the

- prisoners were taken to Port Blair and Dhanvantri was kept in solitary confinement in the Cellular Jail.
- After spending 17 long years of rigorous imprisonment full of tyranny in different jails, Dhanvantri returned to his homeland to a heroic welcome in 1946.
 - Almost all leaders including those holding high positions, used to visit his parental house at Kali Janni, Jammu to seek his views on various complex matters. The top political brass of that time including Sheikh Mohd. Abdullah, Mirza Mohd Afzal Beg, G L Dogra, Pt Prem Nath Dogra, Pt Trilochan Dutt, Mir Qasim; visited his Shanti Van residence for political interaction. Dhanvantri played an important part in framing of Naya Kashmir document. It is said that the revolutionary land reforms which Sheikh Abdullah brought in, were Dhanvantri's brainchild.
 - In the fast moving events of 1953, starting from *Praja Parishad* agitation in Jammu, arrest and subsequent death of Dr. Shyama Prasad Mukoorjee in jail and then growing enmity between two friends- Pt Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah, Dhanvantri went to Srinagar to bring about rapprochement between Pt. Nehru and Sheikh Abdullah; despite his failing health and against the advice of Doctors. He stayed at the residence of Pt Girdhari Lal Dogra there. But his health condition deteriorated at Srinagar and he was shifted to Jammu by air. But Doctors could not save him and he passed away on July 13, 1953 at the young age of 51.
 - **Preparations for 21st AGM:** Date and Venue for 21st Annual General Meeting of the Association was decided to be held on 23rd April, 2016 (Saturday) at Jammu Club Jammu, 11.00 hrs. Auditorium and Dining Hall of Jammu Club have been booked for 23rd April for the AGM event.
 - All members are welcome to the function. Only Special Invitees will be sent Invitation Cards. Members will be informed by SMS, as usual. Members viewing this page may please take cognizance and attend the AGM on 23rd April.
 - **Pensioners' Journal 2016:** Last stage finalization of the document is in progress by the Editorial Board and the job will be executed shortly. Similarly matter in respect of Members Directory has been finalized and given to the Printer.
 - **Weekly Meeting Attendance:** 34 members attended the weekly meeting today.

Sd/-28.03.2016
(J.K.Vaid, Rtd. Director GSI)
General Secretary, CGPWA Jammu, J&K.