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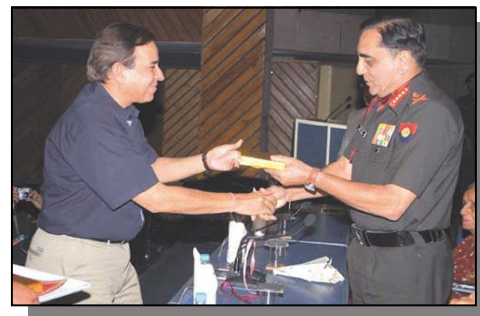
**"Inspiring account of the life of India's first Chief of the
Army Staff - a great soldier and a great patriot"
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At 5.30 p.m. on 28 April 2009, General Deepak Kapoor, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM, Chief of the Army Staff officially released the biography of General S. M. Shrinagesh, the very first COAS of the Indian Army. Speaking on the occasion, General Kapoor commended the book, as an "inspiring account of the life of a great soldier and a great patriot" and exhorted all military officers to read it and benefit from the exemplary life of General Shrinagesh.

"An extraordinary soldier this book is worth reading!"

The book, **General S. M. Shrinagesh: Soldier, Scholar, Statesman**, indeed chronicles an extraordinary life.

Satyavant Mallanah Shrinagesh rose to the very helm of the Indian Army at the astonishingly young age of 54. With the reputation of a "scholar soldier", he was subsequently hand-picked to establish India's pioneering institution for training professional administrators. The first-ever Indian military officer to be appointed governor of a state, his innings as governor of three different states, including the Naga-troubled Assam, was the capstone of a distinguished career service to the nation.



Kapil Malhotra, Publisher, Vision Books (Left) requesting COAS, General Deepak Kapoor, PVSM, AVSM, SM, VSM to officially release the book, *General S.M. Shrinagesh: Soldier, Scholar, Statesman*.

As overall commander of the Jammu & Kashmir operations in 1947-48, General Shrinagesh masterminded the audacious stratagem of overcoming well entrenched Pakistani defences at Zoji La by the use of tanks. Never before had anyone conceived that tanks could be used at snow-bound Himalayan heights. His military leadership was evident in the no less a critical campaign to link-up with Poonch. Later, as Chief of the Army Staff, General Shrinagesh had perhaps a harder battle on his hands, namely to convince the government a new independent India that the country needed strong armed forces for its security notwithstanding its espousal of a credo of peace and non-violence.

(Overleaf)

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Buttressed by the autobiographical notes that Satyavant Shrinagesh left behind, the book also presents his prescient views on many an important matter military and civil, which are of enduring value.

The book fills an important void in recounting the crucial role of Indian Army and the extraordinary life and historic times of Satyavant Mallanah Shrinagesh. Which is why General Ved Malik, former COAS, has hailed it as an "important military history contribution, this book is worth reading!"

"I commend this book", says former vcoas, Lt. Gen S.K. Sinha, PVSM.

The value of this book has also been aptly summed up in his Foreword to the book by former VCOAS, Lt. General S. K. Sinha, PVSM, who presided over the book's release function:

"Cariappa, Rajendrasinhji, Shrinagesh, Thimayya and Thorat comprised the trickle of the initial years when Indians were inducted as officers in the army. They were among those who proved themselves successful military leaders and guided the army's transformation from a colonial army to a national one, while preserving its old traditions of valour and loyalty. Despite their comparative lack of experience in high command, these officers met the challenge splendidly. The saga of their achievements needs to be made known to the present generation and the generations to come."

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The enclosed brochure provides you additional information about **General S. M. Shrinagesh: Soldier, Scholar, Statesman**. His life and career will serve as a beacon of inspiration for all those now serving in the Indian Army.

We look forward to receiving your orders.

Yours Sincerely



Kapil Malhotra
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