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Major Shivnandan Lal Dar was connected with various social, educational, cultural and religious organisations of Varanasi either as their President or as their Secretary like Kashi Raj Nyas, Nagri Pracharni Sabha, Theosophical Society, Ma Anandmaye Sewa Sansthan, Kashi Anathalaya, Vradha Ashram, Shri Bharat Dharm Mahamandal, Krishnamurti Foundation, Basant Kanya Mahavidyalaya, Arya Mahila Mahavidyalaya, Bipin Behari Mahavidyalaya, Varanasi Kashmiri Samaj and SOS Bal Gram Sansthan.

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Major Shivnandan Lal Dar married twice. His first wife Kishan was the daughter of Dewan Maharaj Krishna Tikku of Jammu. He also had a daughter from his first wife, but both of them died quite young. He then married Subhadra the daughter of Dewan

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He was a person with multidimensional qualities and a great visionary. He always cherished high ideals in his life and did every thing with a clear conscience. Such noble souls have now become rare in our contemporary society. The noted Hindi poet Mohan Vyas expressed the present scenario very beautifully in the following words.

"Ab na gazlon ka swar gamakta hai.

Ab na matla na koi makta hai

Jism mein sas abhi baki hai

Nabz chalti hai dil dharakta hai."



A saintly person with noble deeds Pandit Mohan Lal Nehru

There is no denying the fact that Hindu epic *Bhagvad Gita* lays utmost emphasis on the good of the whole world which we call as *Lokasamgraha*. Therefore the work done with this aim in mind not only prevents destruction of the world, but is also contributes to a great extent towards social efficiency.

A person who performs selfless work directed towards the well being of all the humanity naturally develops an aura around his personality and commands both respect and admiration of the society. Therefore according to this philosophy of life the basic difference between the ignorant and wise is that while the ignorant man works in his own interest, the enlightened man performs unattached work for the general good of others. Because selfless work without any motive is the work for the God.

For an average person working for his own good remains his top priority but the urge to do something for the good of whole mankind makes a man great and superior to others. There are very few who make this as the main motto of their life. Such people actually live for others and Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru was one such noble soul who dedicated his entire life for certain social commitments which were very dear to him. The saga of his sacrifice and selfless work will always be written in the letters of gold.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru's ancestor Pt. Raj Kaul was originally a resident of Habba Kadal mohalla in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley, who came to Delhi in 1716 on the invitation of the



Mughal emperor Farrukhsiyar (1713-1719) and became a tutor of the royal family members. He then started living on the bank of a canal (*nehar*) in a *haveli* which was originally built by Nawab Saadat Khan a *naib wazir* in the Mughal court. As Pt. Raj Kaul used to live on the bank of a canal called as *nehar* in the Persian language so a suffix Nehru was added after his surname for identification, which with the passage of time became the surname of this family. But there are some other Kashmiri Pandit families in Kashmir who also write Nehru as their surname although their theory about the origin of this Nehru surname is quite different.

Pt. Raj Kaul had a son Pt. Vishwa Nath Kaul who in turn had three sons Sahib Ram, Mansa Ram and Tika Ram. Due to uncertain political conditions at Delhi and regular attacks of foreign invaders from Persia and Kabul from Nadir Shah to Ahmad Shah Abdali Pt. Sahib Ram Nehru migrated with his family from Delhi to Ambala and started living there.

Pt. Mansa Ram Nehru's son Pt. Laxmi Narain Nehru after completing his traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in a *Maktab* became a *Vakil* of the East India Company. He had a son Pt. Ganga Dhar Nehru, who was born in 1827 in his ancestral *haveli* in Daryaganj near Chandni Chowk, Delhi. He had his education in Urdu and Persian language in Delhi College near Ajmeri Gate which was originally established in 1779 as the Persian College. Pt. Ganga Dhar Nehru after completing his education became the *kotwal* of Delhi during the rule of the Mughal emperor Bahadar Shah Zafar (1837-1858). He was married with Indrani who was the daughter of Pt. Shanker Nath Zutshi of Bazaar Sita Ram, Delhi a famous calligrapher of the Mughal court.

Pt. Ganga Dhar Nehru had three sons Bansi Dhar, Nand Lal and Moti Lal besides two daughters Patrani who was married with Pt. Dwarika Nath Takru of Naryal Wali Gali, Aminabad, Lucknow and Maharani who was married with Pt. Ganga Prasad Zutshi (Lalji Prasad) of Lahore.

After the Mutiny of 1857 this Nehru family migrated from Delhi to Agra where Pt. Ganga Dhar Nehru died in 1861 at the age

of hardly 34 years. His eldest son Pt. Bansi Dhar Nehru became a *Munif* and also left Agra.

Pt. Ganga Dhar Nehru's second son Pt. Nand Lal Nehru was born in 1845 in his ancestral *Neiharwali haveli* in Daryaganj, Delhi. He had his early traditional education in Urdu and Persian language in Delhi College which was near to his residence and then he had some education of the English language in Hindu College, Delhi. After the migration of this Nehru family from Delhi to Agra in the Mutiny of 1857. Pt. Nand Lal Nehru did his F.A. from the Agra College, Agra and started his legal practice in the *Sadre Dewani Adalat* there.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru then around 1859 to earn more money went to Rajputana and became the *dewan* of *Khettri* a small principality of the Jaipur state. Because of his good work and unflinching integrity Pt. Nand Lal Nehru soon developed a very cordial relations with the ruler of that principality and became his right hand man. After the death of that ruler around 1866 Pt. Nand Lal Nehru became instrumental in making the person of deceased ruler's choice as the next ruler of the *Khettri* state which was not to the liking of the British Resident, who was planning to install some other person on the throne. Due to this difference of opinion about the choice of the new ruler as to who should ascend the throne between. Pt. Nand Lal Nehru and the British Resident the latter dismissed the former from service for putting up hurdles in his game plans. Consequently Pt. Nand Lal Nehru again came back to Agra around 1867 and started his legal practice once again.

The British in the meantime through a Charter signed by Queen Victoria on 11th June 1866 converted the *Sadre Dewani Adalat* at Agra into a full fledged High Court. Pt. Nand Lal Nehru then started his legal practice in this newly constituted High Court along with Pt. Ayodhya Nath Kunzru and very soon became one of the prominent lawyers of the Agra city with very good legal practice.

The British then in 1868 shifted the seat of High Court from Agra to Allahabad, which prompted Pt. Nand Lal Nehru to migrate from Agra to Allahabad around 1870 to continue his legal practice

in this High Court. He then started living in a rented house in Meeraganj locality of Allahabad with his family members.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru due to his hard work, sharp memory and good knowledge of law established himself as one of the prominent lawyers of the Allahabad High Court with a very good legal practice. The people had very high expectations from him, but his untimely death in 1885 at the age of about 40 years abruptly cut short his promising legal career. His sudden death stunned every body especially the community members as he was the only breadwinner of this joint Nehru family at that time. His wife Mrs. Nand Rani Nehru became speechless due to shock and a constant vigil was kept over her so that she may not commit suicide under acute mental depression according to Pt. Ram Nath Dar who was the brother of her daughter in law Mrs. Mohan Rani Nehru (Chinarika-2001).

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru was married around 1856 with Nand Rani (b-1851), who was the daughter of Pt. Inder Narain Taimni of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had five sons Behari Lal, Mohan Lal, Shyam Lal, Brij Lal and Kishan Lal besides a daughter Brij Mohan Rani who was married with Pt. Janki Nath Sharga the son of Pt. Bhairon Nath Sharga of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's eldest son Pt. Behari Lal Nehru was married with Kishan Rani the daughter of Pt. Maharaj Narain Tankha of Hardoi. He had a son Pt. Manohar Lal Nehru besides three daughters Leelawati married to Pt. Raj Nath Gurtu, Kalawati married to Pt. Triloki Nath Madan and Susheela.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's third son Pt. Shyam Lal Nehru was married with Uma the daughter of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Sapru of Faizabad. He had a son Pt. Anand Kumar Nehru and a daughter Shyam Kumari who married Jameel Khan. Pt. Anand Kumar Nehru was married with Suraj the daughter of Pt. Pushkar Nath Tankha of Mussorie. He had a son Arun Nehru and a daughter Meera who is married with Lt. Col. K.K. Hazari. Pt. Arun Kumar Nehru was the minister for internal security in the Indira Gandhi government. He is married with Subhadra the daughter of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Kaul of Lucknow.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's fourth son Pt. Brij Lal Nehru was born in 1884. He was finance minister of Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh (1885-1925) of Jammu and Kashmir Riyasat. He was married with Rameshwari the daughter of Raja Narendra Nath Raina Chhajballi of Lahore. He had two sons Brij Kumar Nehru I.C.S. and Balwant Kumar Nehru an engineer.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's fifth and the last son was Dr. Kishan Lal Nehru. He was married with Sheorajwati the daughter of Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla of Lucknow. He worked as medical superintendent of the King George's Medical College, Lucknow for sometime. He had two daughters Vidyawati married to Vishnu Dutt Kaushal and Padmawati married to Raja Bimleshwar Dayal Seth of Barabanki.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's second son Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru was born in 1876 in Meeraganj locality of Allahabad. When he was hardly 3 or 4 years old his father used to send him with a servant to the house of a famous courtesan of Allahabad to learn manners and etiquettes from her which was a very common practice with the elite of the society then.

His father then engaged a *Maulvi* Sahab to teach him Urdu and Persian language at home. As he was a very naughty boy in his childhood days so he used to derive a great pleasure in teasing his *Maulvi* Sahab by indulging in some pranks which used to annoy his *Maulvi* Sahab who in turn used to beat him and box his ears to teach him a lesson. One day his mother Mrs. Nand Rani Nehru saw this scene and the *Maulvi* Sahab was dismissed from the service for his unwarranted conduct of scolding young Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru who was a most favourite child of his mother.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru then around 1882 was admitted in Shiv Rattan Pathashala, which was established in 1869 in the Civil Lines area of Allahabad and later on became famous as City Anglo Vernacular Intermediate College. He passed his matriculation examination in 1890. He then joined the Muir Central College and did his F.A. in 1892 and then B.A. in 1894 from the University of Allahabad. He then joined the Law College and did LL.B. in 1896.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru was then married in 1896 with Kamla Dar (b.-1880) the daughter of Rai Bahadur Pt. Har Prasad Dar of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. After his marriage he went to Kanpur with his wife to start his legal practice as a junior of Pt. Prithvi Nath Chak who was the undisputed leader of the Kanpur Bar then, as Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru wanted to stand on his own legs independently and was not in favour of taking any help from his uncle Pt. Moti Lal Nehru. He got himself enrolled as a pleader in 1897 with the Kanpur Bar Association.

He did his legal practice in Kanpur for about three years and earned some money but he soon realised that it was not his cup of tea as it was beyond his mental make up to make black look like white and vice-versa to defend his client. He then left his legal practice in 1900 and from Kanpur went straight to his home town Allahabad to try some other avenue for his living.

Incidentally the post of an assistant professor was vacant in the Law College at Allahabad at that time. Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru took up this teaching job at the Law College and proved himself to be an excellent teacher. He was a very strict teacher and never encouraged his students to bunk his classes. The students used to listen his lectures in pindrop silence loaded with interesting anecdotes. He had developed his own style of explaining the finer points of legal jurisprudence and the procedure of criminal justice to his students. He did this teaching job for about three years upto 1903.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru then decided to start a printing press at Allahabad perhaps on the suggestion of his father in law Pt. Har Prasad Dar who had a printing press in *Agha Mir-ki Deohri* at Lucknow, which he later on sold out to Munshi Newal Kishore. Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru along with his six other very close lawyer friends then pooled 100 rupees each and with an initial capital of only 700 rupees Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru started Allahabad Law Journal Press in 1904 near Dwarka Nath School on Prayag Street in Allahabad. Though Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru was one of the directors of this printing press, but he used to do all the jobs of this press himself from composing the matter to its printing and finally distributing the

printed material to the concerned parties. He also started publishing Allahabad Law Journal carrying the reports of important court cases and a women's magazine *Stree Darpan*, besides publishing *Independent* a newspaper started by his uncle Pt. Moti Lal Nehru. He also worked in *Leader* an English newspaper of Allahabad funded by his uncle Pt. Moti Lal Nehru for sometime.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru due to his hard work, farsightedness and a little personal touch with his subordinate staff soon made his printing press as one of the best in the Allahabad city well equipped with the latest machines for colour printing. He raised the working capital of the press from a few thousand rupees to a few lac rupees. When he became fully convinced that the press was on sound financial health he without any hitch handed over this press in 1942 to one of his acquaintance for its management.

In 1905 Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru joined the Swadeshi movement. He started wearing hand woven *Khadi* clothes and became a very strong nationalist. He launched a drive to educate the people to use country made goods and to boycott the use of imported articles from the European countries. He himself started spinning *Khadi* thread by a *Charkha*. Though by that time he was not actively involved with the freedom movement of the country as such but the premises of his press was a meeting place for the Congress workers and the people connected with the freedom movement. All the programmes were usually chalked out at his press and the relevant material and literature of the Congress Party was also printed at his press, which was therefore always under surveillance of the British administration for keeping a close watch on such activities. The British sent him to jail many times for indulging in such activities.

His wife Mrs. Mohan Rani Nehru became the first lady to contest the elections of the Allahabad Municipal Board in 1912. His uncle Pt. Moti Lal Nehru although was quite modern and liberal in his views but even then he did not approve the idea of contesting the election by a lady of his family in the highly traditional society of that period.

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The British then in 1868 shifted the seat of High Court from Agra to Allahabad, which prompted Pt. Nand Lal Nehru to migrate from Agra to Allahabad around 1870 to continue his legal practice

in this High Court. He then started living in a rented house in Meerganj locality of Allahabad with his family members.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru due to his hard work, sharp memory and good knowledge of law established himself as one of the prominent lawyers of the Allahabad High Court with a very good legal practice. The people had very high expectations from him, but his untimely death in 1885 at the age of about 40 years abruptly cut short his promising legal career. His sudden death stunned every body especially the community members as he was the only breadwinner of this joint Nehru family at that time. His wife Mrs. Nand Rani Nehru became speechless due to shock and a constant vigil was kept over her so that she may not commit suicide under acute mental depression according to Pt. Ram Nath Dar who was the brother of her daughter in law Mrs. Mohan Rani Nehru (Chinarika-2001).

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru was married around 1856 with Nand Rani (b-1851), who was the daughter of Pt. Inder Narain Taimni of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow. He had five sons Behari Lal, Mohan Lal, Shyam Lal, Brij Lal and Kishan Lal besides a daughter Brij Mohan Rani who was married with Pt. Janki Nath Sharga the son of Pt. Bhairon Nath Sharga of Kashmiri Mohalla, Lucknow.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's eldest son Pt. Behari Lal Nehru was married with Kishan Rani the daughter of Pt. Maharaj Narain Tankha of Hardoi. He had a son Pt. Manohar Lal Nehru besides three daughters Leelawati married to Pt. Raj Nath Gurtu, Kalawati married to Pt. Triloki Nath Madan and Susheela.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's third son Pt. Shyam Lal Nehru was married with Uma the daughter of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Sapru of Faizabad. He had a son Pt. Anand Kumar Nehru and a daughter Shyam Kumari who married Jameel Khan. Pt. Anand Kumar Nehru was married with Suraj the daughter of Pt. Pushkar Nath Tankha of Mussorie. He had a son Arun Nehru and a daughter Meera who is married with Lt. Col. K.K. Hazari. Pt. Arun Kumar Nehru was the minister for internal security in the Indira Gandhi government. He is married with Subhadra the daughter of Pt. Parmeshwar Nath Kaul of Lucknow.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's fourth son Pt. Brij Lal Nehru was born in 1884. He was finance minister of Maharaja Sir Pratap Singh (1885-1925) of Jammu and Kashmir Riyasat. He was married with Rameshwari the daughter of Raja Narendra Nath Raina Chhajballi of Lahore. He had two sons Brij Kumar Nehru I.C.S. and Balwant Kumar Nehru an engineer.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's fifth and the last son was Dr. Kishan Lal Nehru. He was married with Sheerajwati the daughter of Pt. Jagat Narain Mulla of Lucknow. He worked as medical superintendent of the King George's Medical College, Lucknow for sometime. He had two daughters Vidyawati married to Vishnu Dutt Kaushal and Padmawati married to Raja Bimleshwar Dayal Seth of Barabanki.

Pt. Nand Lal Nehru's second son Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru was born in 1876 in Meerganj locality of Allahabad. When he was hardly 3 or 4 years old his father used to send him with a servant to the house of a famous courtesan of Allahabad to learn manners and etiquettes from her which was a very common practice with the elite of the society then.

His father then engaged a *Maulvi* Sahab to teach him Urdu and Persian language at home. As he was a very naughty boy in his childhood days so he used to derive a great pleasure in teasing his *Maulvi* Sahab by indulging in some pranks which used to annoy his *Maulvi* Sahab who in turn used to beat him and box his ears to teach him a lesson. One day his mother Mrs. Nand Rani Nehru saw this scene and the *Maulvi* Sahab was dismissed from the service for his unwarranted conduct of scolding young Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru who was a most favourite child of his mother.

Pt. Mohan Lal Nehru then around 1882 was admitted in Shiv Rattan Pathashala, which was established in 1869 in the Civil Lines area of Allahabad and later on became famous as City Anglo Vernacular Intermediate College. He passed his matriculation examination in 1890. He then joined the Muir Central College and did his F.A. in 1892 and then B.A. in 1894 from the University of Allahabad. He then joined the Law College and did LL.B. in 1896.

The community members then selected him to lead their delegation to meet Indian leaders like Dr. Sir Tej Bahadur Sapru, Pt. Madan Mohan Malviya, Raja Narendra Nath Raina and Dr. Monje etc. to put up their view point before them during the freedom struggle of the country. He very successfully led this delegation which made his entry into the political arena of the state.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar then fought the Municipal elections in 1933 and became a member of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation which provided him an opportunity to do social work with more vigour and enthusiasm. This made him quite popular among the masses. He did a lot of work to improve the basic civic infrastructure in the Srinagar city. His main focus was on health and sanitation and to provide basic education to all irrespective of their caste or creed and blood or breed.

Due to his dynamism and popularity Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was elected as the President of the Santan Dharam Yuvak Sabha in 1935 when Kashyap Bandhu parted away which is now known as All State Kashmiri Pandits' Conference after the mass migration of K.Ps. from the valley in 1990.

A very unusual event took place in the long history of the British monarchy on 11th December 1936 when King Edward VIII abdicated the throne of England to marry a commoner Miss. Wallis Warfield Simpson of America a divorcee much against the established royal traditions saying that "I have found it impossible to carry the heavy burden of responsibility and to discharge my duties as a king as I wish to do without the help and support of the woman I love". He thus became the only British Sovereign ever to voluntarily resign the throne.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was again elected to the Srinagar Municipal Corporation in 1937 and became a Municipal Councillor. He then became first a senior Vice Chairman and finally the Chairman of the Srinagar Municipal Corporation on which post he functioned upto 1955.

Prior to this Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was elected to the Praja Sabha in 1934 during the rule of Maharaja Hari Singh which is now

called as the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. He remained continuously its member for 14 years. The Praja Sabha was constituted by Maharaja Hari Singh to give a chance to the people of the Riyasat to participate in its administration just to suppress their anger and agitation against his autocratic and despotic rule. Because Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah had raised a banner of revolt against him in 1931, which led to a large scale communal riots in the valley. The main demand was freedom from the Dogra rule. This agitation was named as *Quit Kashmir Movement*.

Then between 1947 and 1949 the Kashmir Valley witnessed very fast political developments. On 3rd June, 1947 the last Viceroy of the British India Lord Mountbatten finalised the plan to divide the country into two independent dominions and gave an option to the princely states of British India either to remain an independent entity or to merge with either of them. The country was then partitioned on 15th August 1947 purely on communal lines leading to a large scale killings of both Hindus and Muslims in this process. Then tribal attack on the Kashmir Valley took place on 22nd October 1947. Maharaja Hari Singh then signed the Instrument of accession with India on 26th October, 1947 and took refuge in Jammu after handing over the power to Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah, who became the Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir. Riyasat with certain special privileges like its separate Constitution and flag not enjoyed by the other states.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar then after weighing all the pros and cons joined the National Conference party of Sheikh Mohammad Abdullah and became a member of its governing council in 1952. In the meanwhile the Constituent Assembly of the Jammu & Kashmir state nominated him as the member of Parliament to represent the interests of the Riyasat at Delhi. Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru who was the Prime Minister of the country then saw a spark in this young man to become a great leader in future and so duly encouraged him. Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar took a keen interest in the Parliamentary debates and exhibited his potential and skills as an orator and his command over the language be it English or Urdu. His presentation

of events always used to be in chaste language punctuated with interesting anecdotes which used to have all the ingredients of a superb mind as he had a razor sharp memory.

While staying at Delhi Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar developed a very good rapport with the national level leaders of all shades of political opinion like Dr. Kailas Nath Katju, Pt. Govind Ballabh Pant, Dr. B.R. Ambedkar, Morarji Desai, Lal Bahadur Shastri, Gulzari Lal Nanda, Madhu Limay, Prakash Veer Shastri, Dr. Ram Manohar Lohia, Jaya Prakash Narayan, Mrs. Vijaylaxshmi Pandit, Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru, Maulana Abul Kalam Azad, Sardar Baldev Singh, etc.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar served on many Parliamentary Committees. He was a member of the Central Advisory Committee of National Cadet Corps, which was constituted in 1948 under the Chairmanship of Dr. Hriday Nath Kunzru to suggest ways and means for reorganising the infrastructure of N.C.C. in the country to prepare the youth for the defence of the country. Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was also a member of another important committee for defence which was constituted under the Chairmanship of the then defence minister Sardar Baldev Singh for reorganising the whole defence system of the country as per needs of a newly born independent nation. He was also a member of the committee on foreign affairs which was formed to chalk out the foreign policy of the new country under the guidance of the then Prime Minister Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru who was also holding the portfolio of the foreign affairs at that time.

In 1954 Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was invited as the chief guest in the annual function of the Amar Singh Degree College, Srinagar. While presiding over the function the then principal of the college Prof. Mahmood in his customary thanks giving address recalled the qualities of Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar's head and heart. Prof. Mahmood while eulogising Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar said *The students of history used to listen the lectures delivered by Fotedar Sahib in chaste English dotted with chronological calendar of events clothed over with inimitable style of presentation with rapt attention. Even the students of science used to swarm his class to listen to this fiery giant of English language and its diction.*

Prof. Mahmood actually was a student of Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar during a brief tenure of the latter as a faculty member in the Prince of Wales College, Jammu.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was selected in 1954 as a member of the Parliamentary delegation to Turkey and to some other middle east countries. His main job was to establish friendly relations with all these countries and to propagate the India's policy of non alignment. He was then in 1955 elected as the President of the All India Union of Post and Telegraph Employees. He was also elected as the President of the Contonement Workers' Federation in 1956.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar then in 1957 after the expiry of his term in Parliament went back to Srinagar from Delhi. There he was elected as the member of the Jammu & Kashmir Legislative Council. He was then unanimously made its Chariman during the tenure of Bakshi Ghulam Mohammad as the Chief Minister of the state.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar had the honour to again become the Chairman of the Legislative Council of Jammu & Kashmir in 1959 as a nominee of the National Conference. He discharged his duties with great poise and dignity by strictly maintaining the decorum of the House and encouraging healthy and constructive debates inside the House on crucial matters involving the welfare of the common man.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar then became a nominated member of the Jammu and Kashmir Legislative Assembly. He was a member of the Budget Planning Committee, Board of Industries, Board of Food Control and Public Health, Education and Finance Standing Committees.

He also functioned as the Vice-Chairman of the Post War Reconstruction Committee with the then Prime Minister of Jammu and Kashmir state B.N. Rao as its chairman.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was the founder President of the Kashmir Educational Society. He was founder of the Social Reforms Organisation. He was founder President of the Gandhi Memorial College Trust and under its banner he established seven high schools and middle schools in different parts of the valley to spread the message of light and learning among the masses.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar also had the flair for journalism. He was the editor-in-chief of *Martand* a reputed English daily of Srinagar. He was the President of the Hazara Relief and Rehabilitation Committee which was formed to look after the relief work properly.

He was the Senator of the Kashmir University for a number of years and played an effective role in tonning up the academic atmosphere in the university. He used to command a great respect from both its staff as well as its students for his humanitarian approach towards their genuine problems. He always tried his best to improve the academic standards of the university to make it one of the best in the country.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar throughout his life maintained the great traditions of his kinsmen Pt. Hargopal Kaul *Khasta* and Pt. Salig Ram Kaul Salig the two legendary brothers of Kashmir, who were the first to raise a banner of revolt against the despotic rule of Maharaja Ranbir Singh (1857-1885) after coming to Srinagar from Lahore and were sent to jail for sedition. Pt. Hargopal Kaul *Khasta* the great revolutionary became subsequently popular among the community members as *Sher-e-Kashmir*.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar was a person with no inhibitions and ego. He used to meet every body in the society whether high or low with the same ease and warm affection. He used to be always ready to be a part of any call given by the community members. He used to take part in all the religious functions with out any complex or reservation. He always used to lead the *Janma Asthami* procession of Pandits in Srinagar without any fail.

He was himself quite hospitable to any invited or uninvited guest to his residence. He used to relish delicious food and occasionally it is alleged he used to take a few pegs of wine as well to maintain a good health on medical advice.

In his youth and even in his adulthood he was always known as a well dressed person with a sence of elegance and perfection. He was endowed with a charming personality with an infectious smile. He was very fond of wearing a turban with multi coloured stripes. In the later years of his life he started wearing a typical cap

type head gear. He was deeply imbibed with a sacrificing spirit. When Pt. Jawahar Lal Nehru died on 27th May, 1964 a funeral procession was taken out by the Pandits at Habba Kadal in Srinagar. Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar paid his homage by saying that the *great men never die* in a condolence meeting held after that.

He lived for upholding certain values which were very dear to him. He never nursed any ill will against any body in life. He was a man with a noble mission and a tireless crusader.

In 1967 Parmeshwari Handoo the daughter of a widow who was working as a sales girl in a departmental store in Srinagar was abducted allegedly by her colleague Ghulam Rasool Khan with the connivance of the General Manager Mir Qasba and then forcibly converted. The Kashmiri Pandits then led by one Pt. K.L. Moza went to the office of the Sanatan Dharam Yuvak Sabha at Sheetal Nath and a movement was launched on 25th August 1967 for the restoration of the Kashmiri Pandit girl to her mother and awarding a severe punishment to the culprits.

Pt. Maharaj Kishan Razdan died in the police lathi charge on the peaceful demonstrators. Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar extended his full support to this agitation. But unfortunately this movement later on petered out due to the dissensions and differences in the rank and file of the Pandits themselves which left them high and dry without achieving anything worth while to their credit, although in the initial phase of this agitation they exhibited a unique solidarity over this crucial issue. This agitation actually flopped due to the subversive role being played by a Pandit minister in the state government for his own selfish ends.

Pt. Shiv Narain Fotedar in the fag end of his life became critically ill. He was then shifted to Jammu for treatment where this great son of motherland passed away on 6th December, 1976 at the age of about 72 years. The rich legacy of his leadership qualities will always act as a beaconlight for the future generations. Thomas Edison was very correct when he said *Many of life failures are people who did not realise how close they were to success when they gave up.*

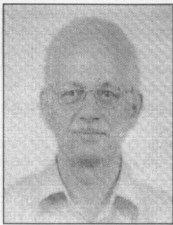
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A noted Kashmiri art-historian
Prof. Ratan Parimoo

To paint different moods and expressions on the canvas using different mediums or to capture scenic beauty with all its exhilarating effect on a piece of paper creating life in it for a viewer naturally requires a great skill and deep understanding of the subject to project that inherent feeling which actually reflects the insight of the painter who creates such images in different forms and shapes.

To create such lovely manifestations through paint and brush not only require a complete devotion and dedication towards this medium of expression but also certain period of time to get matured to that level of understanding just to give the required effect to his creations. One such extraordinary Kashmiri painter and art historian is Prof. Ratan Parimoo who was carved out his own distinct place among the reputed painters of the country through his paintings and other related art works in different mediums.

Prof. Ratan Kumar Parimoo was born on 16th June, 1936 in a middle class Kashmiri Pandit family of Purushyar mohalla near Habba Kadal in the Srinagar district of the Kashmir Valley. His father Dr. Amar Nath Parimoo was a popular medical practitioner and an anaesthetic of the locality. His grandfather Pt. Shivram Parimoo was in charge of government Dak Bunglows in Jammu and Kashmir state during the rule of Maharaja Pratap Singh (1885-1925). Prof. Ratan Parimoo's mother Soomavati was the daughter of Pandit Haldar Joo Ghariyali a resident of Habba Kadal mohalla.



Prof. Ratan Parimoo had his early schooling in Srinagar from where he did his higher secondary course. Though he was a good student of science and mathematics, but he had a great passion for drawing and collecting photographs since his childhood days. It was because of this great urge in him towards the art of painting that his father allowed him to go to Baroda at a tender age of 15 years in 1951 to pursue the degree course in Painting there, when actually his father wanted Ratan to become a medical doctor like him among his three sons.

Thus Prof. Ratan Parimoo came to Baroda (Vadodara) from his home town Srinagar in 1951 and joined the first batch to study Painting under the guidance of the renowned painter Prof. N.S. Bendre at the newly established Faculty of Fine Arts in the M.S. University Baroda along with Jyoti Bhatt and Shanti Dave. Prof. Ratan Parimoo did his B.A. (Fine Arts) in Painting in 1955 and M.A. (Fine Arts) in Creative Painting in 1957 respectively from the M.S. University Baroda. He did simultaneously a Post Graduate Diploma in Museology from the same university in the same year. He got the cultural scholarship of the central government for Painting to carry out his creative work without any hindrance.

In 1959 the young and talented artist Ratan Parimoo was appointed as a lecturer in art history in the Faculty of Fine Arts of the M.S. University Baroda. Soon there after he fell in love with a young and charming Gujarati girl Naina Dalal an equally talented painter and the daughter of Prof. Raman Lal Dalal who rose from a primary teacher to become the Professor in the Faculty of Education and Psychology of the same university.

Ratan Parimoo had a great influence of his grandmother on his personality and with her blessings he got married with Naina. Dalal on 28th April 1960 at Baroda breaking the caste barriers. Just after his marriage he got a Commonwealth Scholarship to study in London.

Both young Ratan Parimoo and his wife Naina Dalal then left for London on their honeymoon cum study tour. During their three year stay in London Ratan Parimoo took his Honours in Western