



Professor Surendra Nath Chaturvedi--An endangered human species

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Professor Surendra Nath Chaturvedi a well known botanist of the country was born at Mathura on 22nd April, 1926. He was brought up under the strict discipline of his father Late Sri Bisheshshwar Dayal Chaturvedi, Dy. Commissioner, Custom & Excise, Erstwhile Gwalior state and his elder brother Late Sri Baikund Nath Chaturvedi, Additional Director, Education, Delhi. Prof. Chaturvedi had his earlier education starting from 7th class to M.Sc. at Agra. He passed M.Sc. in botany from Agra College, Agra in 1950 under the world famous mycologist Dr. K.C. Mehta. Soon after passing M.Sc. he was appointed Assistant Professor in Botany at B.R. College (Now R. B. S. College), Agra and retired from the post of Head of the Department in 1986. He taught mycology, bryology, ecology and plant physiology to degree and post-graduate students. Prof. Chaturvedi was an excellent teacher as he always came prepared in the class and provided latest references on the subject. Besides teaching he was involved in research and in 1970 he obtained his Ph. D. degree on "Floral anatomy in some members of the family Rosaceae" under the guidance of another well know botanist of the country Dr. Bahdur Singh. Professor Chaturvedi published more than 100 research papers in national and international journals. Twenty six of his students obtained their Ph.D. degree under his supervision and some of them became Vice-chancellors, Professors in universities and senior scientists in National Research Institutes.

Professor Chaturvedi has always been attending national and international conferences and was on the editorial boards of several journals and was member of executive council of various botanical societies. He is fellow of Indian Botanical Society, Indian Phytopathological society, Medelian Academy of

Science, Society of Bioscience, Society of Plant Reproductive Biologists. He was elected as the President of Indian Botanical Society in 1992 and presently he is the President of The Society of Plant Reproductive Biologists. These societies have honoured him with the Life time achievement awards. He is honorary fellow of Indian botanical society. He was elected as a member of the executive council of Agra University for three years.

Apart from teaching and research, Prof. Chaturvedi shouldered the responsibilities of In-charge Games and Sports and N.C.C. officer. He was one of the best dressed teacher and was well known for his strict discipline.

Prof. Chaturvedi is blessed by both the Goddess-Saraswati and Laxmi. His success is largely due to his noble wife Smt. Devki Chaturvedi, daughter of great literary personality of the country Padambhushan Late Sri Banarsi Das Chaturvedi, former member of Rajya Sabha. The hospitality of 4, Lajpat Kunj, Civil Lines, Agra, the residence of Chaturvedi's is famous all over the country and this is largely due to Smt. Chaturvedi. The noble son Dr. Nikhil Chaturvedi, a well known Paediatric doctor is carbon copy of Prof. Chaturvedi ji. Both the daughters, Smt. Manisha with Mr. Dileep; Smt. Manju with Mr. Manoj have well established families. Daughter-in law Smt. Ruby Chaturvedi is a cultured lady of artistic taste.

Professor Chaturvedi has attained the age of 90 years and he is fully mentally and physically alert. He is a noble person with all the qualities of a perfect human being and it is difficult to find his replacement - an endangered human species.

We all wish our beloved Guru ji many more happy and healthy years, so that he keeps on showering his blessings and affection on all his disciples.