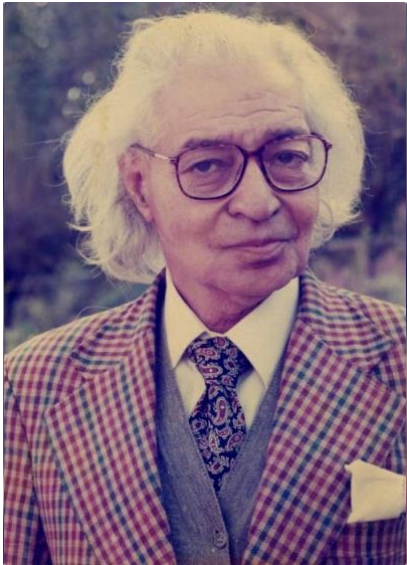


## Eminent historian Professor **V N Datta** *passed away* 2020



### **Professor Vishwa Nath Datta**

Department of History Kirori Mal College

Former General President Indian History Congress

Resident Fellow Fitzwilliam College Cambridge UK

*Passed away* 30.11.2020

Eminent Historian and one – time Professor of History at Kirori Mal College Dr Vishwa Nath Datta passed away at the ripe old age of 94 .

He had an illustrious career as an outstanding academician and public intellectual, and belonged to independent India's *first generation of historians* who brought a liberal and pluralistic outlook to the writing of Modern Indian history.

While historian ( Stephanian ) **Dr Ramachandra Guha** described V N's work on Bhagat Singh, Maulana Azad and the Jallianwala Bagh as "*landmarks of historical scholarship*", acclaimed critic Ashok Vajpayee said he was a scholar and teacher "*with unusual academic rigour and a deep-rooted vision*".

"He was also a wonderfully generous human being. His work and example live on," Ramachandra tweeted on Wednesday 02.12.2020 .

A wreath was also placed on behalf of 2 - term Prime Minister ( and former **D School Professor** ) **Dr Manmohan Singh**, informed Nonica Datta, daughter of the late historian .

He started his career as Editor *Indian Gazetteer*, but left a successful career in Government to pursue his academic dreams, and joined Kirori Mal College.

He eventually went on to take up multiple academic roles in Moscow, Leningrad and Berlin.

"He (Datta) had intellectually and emotionally evolved and nourished his egalitarian and liberal vision, with a view of India, its history and traditions, which was holistic, humane and humanising. For him India was a civilisational enterprise and modern India had to discover and affirm it anew. He would be dearly missed," Vajpayee said.

"Generations will remember his research based masterpiece on the massacre of Jallianwala Bagh where he came out with new evidence based on Hunter Committee Reports. He always tried to be an objective analyst of historic events. He always believed in plural society," he said.

Some of Dr V N Datta's well-known works include "*Jallianwala Bagh*", "*Maulana Abul Kalam Azad and Sarmad*"; "*Gandhi and Bhagat Singh*"; "*Amritsar: Past and Present*" and "*Sati: A Historical, Social, and Philosophical Enquiry Into the Hindu Rite of Widow-Burning*".

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