

Sage of Panch Shila: The Incredible Mahindar Singh

At 91 yrs he remains a robust humanist

[an interview with Pami Singh, Swati Trivedi & Vinod Agarwal]

Born on 4th June, 1916 in Gilgit, Kashmir, Sardar Mahindar Singh came to Delhi in 1920 when New Delhi not even built. His father, who was working in a Government job, used to spend six months in Delhi and six in Shimla.

Mahindar Singh went to the Muncipal Board High School (now known as Kendriya Vidyalaya) and completed his Matric with first Division. He then proudly declares that he is a Stephanian and graduated in arts in 1937 when Stephens was still at Kashmiri gate. Recalling those days he said, "Khushwant Singh's wife was my classmate, but girls and boys used to sit separately, such was the conservative attitude then, today it is a different story altogheter", he explains with a punch of amusement in his gesture.

He initially joined the Punjab Civil Secretariat and later went to the Ministry of External Affairs. For over 28 years, he served the Indian missions all over the world especially in New York and China.

Mahindar Singh married Dalip Kaur in 1944. They have one son, Parmindar Singh Vinaik, who is a senior professor of Political Science in Delhi University.

"My brother, Sr. Ishar Singh served as Under Secretary during 1960s who passed all the house plans of Panch Shila Park. I bought a plot here in 1967 but shifted to my house after my retirement in 1974". Recalling that time he said that the busy Ring Road that you see today was just a small lane and it was scary to go out there during the night.

After retirement he started working for the old people. Even at the age of 91 years he is working for them as the Vice President of Age Care India. He has published books on problems of old age and gives talks on the social problems relating to old age.

Sardar Mahindar Singh is a profound scholar and author. To know more about him and his vast experience, as a resident of Panch Shila Park, you may call him at 26012133. We are sure you will be welcomed with warmth and gratitude.

[Courtesy: 'Panch Shil Samvad']

