



**Prof. Rai Anand Krishna**  
(12.11.1925 – 13.12.2014)

Prof. Rai Anand Krishna was born on November 12, 1925 in Varanasi into a family that traced its lineage to Patani Mall whose forebears served as *Diwans* to Mughal courts and British East India Company. He was the illustrious son of Padmavibhushan Rai Krishnadas, one of the greatest connoisseurs of Indian art. He did his M.A. in Ancient Indian History, Culture and Archaeology from Banaras Hindu University. His Ph.D. on '*A Survey of Rajasthani Painting*' (1962) under the supervision of renowned Indologist Prof. V.S. Agrawal is a highly acclaimed piece of research. Prof. Krishna started his teaching career in 1957 as Lecturer in the Department of History of Art (then Art & Architecture), Banaras Hindu University. Later on he was elevated to Readership and Professorship and also served as Head of the Department. He was also Dean, Faculty of Arts, Banaras Hindu University, and Deputy Director/Honorary Joint- Director of Bharat Kala Bhawan besides being Visiting Lecturer at University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, Michigan, U.S.A. in 1958. He got prestigious Jawaharlal Nehru Fellowship (1970-72) and was also U.G.C. National Professor. He visited USSR under the Cultural Exchange Programme. He was member of many important committees of Museum and Art History and graced the post of Chairman of U.P. State Lalit Kala Akademi.

Prof. Krishna had grown up with artists, musicians and scholars of Persian, Sanskrit and Hindi. He was given a highly disciplined upbringing in spite of so many luxurious facilities. He lived a simple life and during his student days also devoted his time to the nationalist movement of Gandhiji. As one of the pioneers art and a museum specialist in India, Prof. Anand Krishna is known internationally for his work on *Malwa Painting* (1962) which was followed by *Banaras Brocade* (1966), *Akbar* (1972), and *Early Mughal Painting* (1981). His two edited books- *Chhavi I (the Golden Jubilee volume of Bharat Kala Bhavan in 1971)* and *Chhavi II (felicitation volume in honour of Rai Krishna Das in 1981)* - are widely known for their rich collection on Indian art by the best scholars all over the world.

Prof. Anand Krishna left a lasting imprint on the Indian Art History studies from the impetus he received from his father the late Rai Krishnadas, Prof. V.S. Agrawal, Moti Chandra, W.G. Archer, Grace Morley, Karl J. Khandalavala, C. Sivaramamurti etc. In his personal life and tastes he combined the best of indigenous tradition – spoke and wrote fluently in beautifully modulated Hindi and had command over the rich cultural traditions and history of Varanasi.