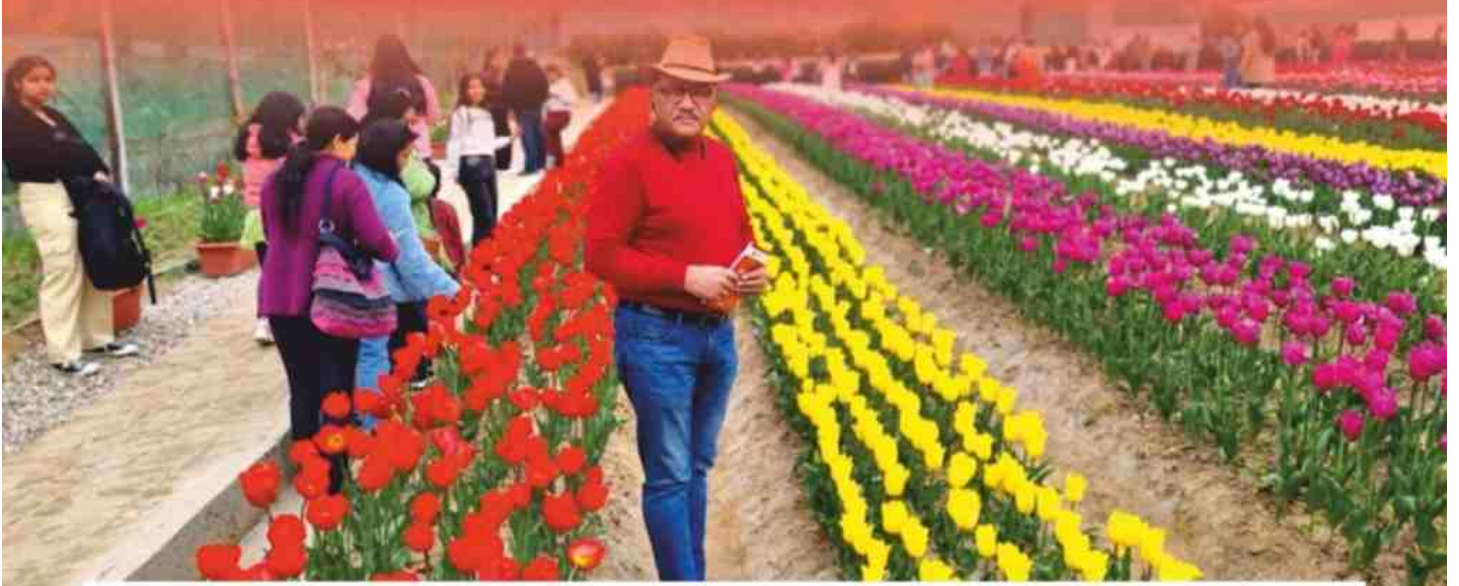


PROF (DR.) MANOJ NAZIR

THE ARCHITECT OF INDIAN FLORICULTURE



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Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Nazir

The Architect of Indian Floriculture

First Edition

Author

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Preface

In Reverence and Reflection

Amidst the serene splendor of Kashmir, where the Chinar whispers to the wind and daffodils dare to bloom before their season, destiny planted the seed of a legend. Born on a sunlit February morning in the idyllic village of Chandpura Harwan, Prof. (Dr.) Manoj Nazir emerged not merely as a child of nature, but as its most devoted disciple. *The Architect of Indian Floriculture* is a literary and scholarly tribute to a life lived in harmonious dialogue with the botanical world.

This volume aspires to chronicle not only the professional odyssey of a pioneering academic, but the inner world of a man who envisioned flowers as both science and philosophy. With his hands rooted in Kashmir's fertile soil and his intellect soaring across the scientific firmament, Prof. Nazir cultivated more than flora – he cultivated minds, movements, and meaning.

As a biographer, a researcher, and above all, a student inspired by his legacy, I found myself traversing a path rich with oral histories, archival glimpses, and heartfelt recollections – generously shared by the subject himself. This biography is not merely a linear retelling of chronology, but a confluence of memory, place, pedagogy, and purpose. It captures the spiritual geography of a man whose passion for floriculture was both innate and incandescent.

Photographs woven throughout this work illuminate his journey with authenticity and depth, offering rare glimpses into his academic endeavors, fieldwork, and moments of quiet

reflection. They serve as visual testaments to a life committed to the advancement of science and the beauty of nature.

This book is dedicated to the seekers – to the botanists, biotechnologists, students, and readers who believe that science is not only to be studied but to be lived. May these pages inspire the next generation to pursue knowledge with equal parts precision and poetry.

I remain indebted to Prof. Nazir for entrusting me with the stewardship of his narrative, and to the academic fraternity for continually drawing strength from his work. It is my hope that this biography will stand as both an intellectual document and a fragrant offering to the legacy of a man who taught the nation how to speak the language of flowers.

Ridhima Kaul
Center for Molecular Biology
Central University of Jammu.

Acknowledgement

"Friendship is the only cement that will ever hold the world together."

– Woodrow Wilson

Friendship—an invisible thread that binds souls, a silent pact that thrives beyond distance, time, or words. It is a divine gift that blossoms not in abundance but in authenticity. When true friendship graces one's journey, it becomes a source of light during darkness, a shelter in the storms of life, and a mirror reflecting one's highest potential.

History has been adorned with countless stories of such enduring bonds, but few remain as deeply touching as that of **Krishna** and **Sudama**. Sudama, a poor Brahmin, once visited his childhood friend Krishna, who by then was the king of Dwaraka. Despite the enormous gap in wealth and status, Krishna received Sudama with overwhelming love and humility. He washed his feet, embraced him with tears, and fulfilled his every unspoken need—without Sudama ever having to ask. Their story is not just about friendship; it's about grace, gratitude, and the divine presence that true companionship brings.

In the same spirit of such soulful companionship, this biography would be incomplete without acknowledging the invaluable presence of **Sheikh Abdul Majid**, a resident of Idgah, Srinagar, Kashmir. A man of humility, wisdom, and rare integrity, he has been more than a friend—he has been a

guiding light to **Prof. Manoj Nazir**. During the formative years of Prof. Nazir's academic journey, it was Sheikh Abdul Majid who stood beside him with unwavering support and selfless care. Not only did he offer encouragement, but he also opened doors that would change the course of Prof. Nazir's life by introducing him to a league of extraordinary mentors: **Prof. Nazeer Ahmed Lankar**, **Prof. Taj-ud-din**, the esteemed zoologist, and **Prof. Bashir Ahmed**—fondly remembered as Bashir Botany of S. P. College, Srinagar.

It was through these connections and the consistent presence of a true friend like Sheikh Abdul Majid that Prof. Manoj Nazir found not only guidance in academics but also in values and personal development. In shaping his educational path and moral compass, Majid Sahib has etched an indelible mark on this story—a mark that must be honoured with heartfelt gratitude.

To friends who become family and to bonds that sculpt destinies—this page stands as a tribute.

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ABOUT THE AUTHOR



Ridhima Kaul is a passionate biotechnologist and research scholar currently pursuing her M.Sc. in Biotechnology at the Central University of Jammu. With an unwavering dedication to scientific inquiry, she has established herself as an emerging figure in the field of life sciences, known for her innovative thinking and commitment to bridging the gap between science and society. Her academic journey is marked by a series of impactful research projects on topics such as mitochondrial dysfunction, nanocellulose, halophiles, and therapeutic and electromagnetic properties of Rudraksha. Ridhima has also conducted extensive botanical studies on Chrysanthemum, contributing to the understanding of its varieties, pathology, and economic value in India. Her contributions have been recognized on national and international platforms. She is the recipient of the Young Emerging Scientist Award – 2024 at the 7th International Conference organized by GABELS in Nepal, the Young Researcher Award – 2024 by the Institute of Scholars (InSc), and the Young Women Scientist Award – 2025 from the National Gladiolus Trust. In addition to her research work, Ridhima serves as an editorial board member of CORM: The Journal of Floriculture Research, a NAAS-rated publication, where she supports scholarly communication in the field of floriculture. Her published research includes studies on rooting in Chrysanthemum cultivars and the post-harvest quality of Gladiolus varieties under seasonal variation. A prolific science communicator and author, Ridhima has written and published several books, including Botany Behind Chrysanthemum, Rudraksha to Heal Wounds, The Rose, and The Impact of Climate Change on Flowering. Her writing reflects a deep commitment to environmental awareness, plant sciences, and the integration of traditional knowledge with modern research. As a lifetime member of both ATDS and InSc, Ridhima continues to expand her academic horizons while inspiring others through education, literature, and community engagement. She aspires to create lasting contributions in the fields of biotechnology, education, and sustainable development.



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