

Balkrishna Sharma "Navin" Pandit Balkrishna Sharma was born to Pandit Jamanadas Sharma and Radhabai, on 8th December, 1897, in Bhyana village of Shajapur district in Madhya Pradesh. Balkrishna was a versatile genius right from childhood, but could not start schooling till the age of 11, because of poverty. His mother brought him to Shajapur from where he passed the middle school examination. He did his matriculation in 1917 from Ujjai. During this period he came in contact with Makhanlal Chaturvedi and proceeded to Pandit Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi in Kanpur. Kanpur, thus, became his field of action. While still a student of final year B.A. in Christ Church College, Kanpur, Navin started his political career. On Mahatma Gandhi's call, he participated in the non-cooperation movement. On a resolution of the Congress, he left college alongwith his comrades in 1921 for active participation in the Freedom Movement. From 1921 to 1944 he was imprisoned six times, and was among those declared as the most dangerous prisoners. After Indipendence, Navin made both political as well as literary contributions. He was nominated as a member of the Constituent Assembly, and got elected to the Lok Sabha from Kanpur Constituency in the first General Elections. From 1957, he continued to be a member of the Rajya Sabha throughout his life. His vigorous oratory earned him the title 'Lion of Kanpur'. He was also a member of the Official Language Commission and of the Cultural delegation representing India in many European countries including England. After the demise of Pandit Ganesh Shankar Vidyarthi, Navin undertook the editorship of 'Pratap' and discharged it very efficiently. Besides being a patriot Balkrishna Navin was also devoted to poetry. His esteemed works comprise 'kumkum', 'Rashmirekha', 'Apalak', 'Kwasi', 'Vinoba Stavan', 'Urmila', etc. His 'Hum Vishpae Janam Ke' is a posthumous compliation published by 'Gyanpeeth'. He was honoured with a Padma Bhushan award in recognition of his literary services. Pandit Balkrishna Sharma 'Navin' passed away on 29th April, 1960. Text: Courtesy Navin Sanskrit Evam Shodh Sansthan Shajapur, M.P.