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PHOTOGRAPHY/ HISTORY  
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# CALCUTTA

OF THE

## 1940–1970

In the photographs of  
Jayant Patel

Compiled by Lila Patel

TEXT BY Soumitra Das

FOREWORD BY Gopalkrishna Gandhi



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**C**alcutta of the 1940–70: In the photographs of Jayant Patel is an exquisite collection of black-and-white pictures from the prominent areas of central Calcutta, the buffed and manicured white enclave— Dalhousie Square, Clive Street, today's Netaji Subhas Road, and Chowringhee— to Kalighat in the south; the famous Parshwanath Jain temple in Badridas Temple Street, and the crowded wholesale market, Burrabazar. Several of these photographs are from the much sought-after collection, which were archived and introduced by Jayant Patel as postcards at his famous Bombay Photo Stores of Park Street, in its heydays. Having been the official photographer of Government House (Raj Bhavan), Jayant also had access to luminaries of a significant period, affording us a glimpses of the political life before and after the Partition. Together they make a fascinating collection of a by-gone era of Calcutta in all its resplendence.

**This is an exquisite collection of black-and-white pictures of Calcutta from 1940–1970. Several of these photographs are from the much sought-after collection, which were archived and introduced by Jayant Patel as postcards at his famous Bombay Photo Stores of Park Street, in its heydays.**



**Lila Patel**, born in Gujarat, grew up in Colombo, Sri Lanka and then in Delhi where she graduated from St. Thomas Girls High School and Lady Irwin College. Lila

was a competitive golfer and an entrepreneur. She founded the Flora International, later Flora Enterprise, which supplied live plants and flower arrangements to the corporate world in Calcutta till about 2007.



**Soumitra Das** is a journalist born and raised in Calcutta. He is deeply involved with the visual arts and heritage issues and writes regularly on these topics. He has collaborated

with English photographer Christopher Taylor on a book on Dalhousie Square entitled *White & Black: Journey to the Centre of Imperial Calcutta*. This was followed by *Jadughar: 200 Years of the Indian Museum, 1814–2014*. He had earlier published a book on the streets of Calcutta titled *A Jaywalker's Guide to Calcutta*, which became a bestseller. He is working on its second edition.

