

40 YEARS IN SERVICE OF MANKIND



WE SERVE

THE LIONS CLUB OF BOMBAY (HOST) 1956-1996



THE EARLY YEARS

Though Lionism in India arrived in February, 1956, long before that date, an American Army Officer by the name of Robert Williams, who was also a Lion and a Scout visited India and came in contact with the Scouts of Bombay, especially Scouter Noshir K.J.Khan, who was then the Deputy Chief Commissioner of the Scouts in India. Though Scouting and Camping was the main topic of their discussions, a close friendship developed between the three, which eventually led to the induction of Lionism in India.

In 1950, when Scouter Noshir N. Pundole led a group of eight senior scouts to an American Scout Jamboree, which was also attended by scouter Kaiki B. Godrej, the old friendship with Lion Robert Williams was revived, with the result that after the Jamboree was concluded, Lion Williams hosted the batch of Indian Scouts along with the members of his own Lions Club of Saxton, PA. Whilst thanking the host and presenting him with an Indian Scout turban that the prophetic words were uttered by Noshir Pundole : "It would be a great day for India when the Lions movement is ushered in our country."

Later, when Lions International was ready to initiate Lionism in India, Lion Shafeec A. Mansour, International Delegate Overseas, simultaneously contacted Noshir K.J.Khan, Kaiki B.Godrej and Noshir N. Pundole for the purpose which finally resulted in the visit of Lion Shafeec A. Mansour to

India and the formation of the first two Clubs, i.e. The Lions Club of Bombay and the Lions Club of Delhi, the former organised with the efforts of Norshir K. J. Khan and Noshir N. Pundole, while the latter through the efforts of Kaiki B. Godrej, who was then at Naval H. Q. Delhi. Here it must be recorded with gratitude that it was the far flung Lions Club of Saxton which sponsored both the premier Lions Clubs in India and present them the Lions Banner at the time of their Charter meetings.

In about a year's time, Lion Shafeec Mansour came back and organised further Lions Clubs with the help of the two premier Clubs, mainly in the West and the North. Lion Noshir Pundole was appointed the first District Governor of the combined District 304 in 1956 and continued in that office till 1959. He was followed by Lion Rohit C, Mehta who was District Governor for two years 1959-60 and 1960-61. Lion Noshir K. J. Khan was appointed the first District Cabinet Secretary, followed by Lion K. B. Godrej, who later became District Governor, District 304 W. During this entire period of the combined District, Lion J. D. Surti was the District Cabinet Treasurer.

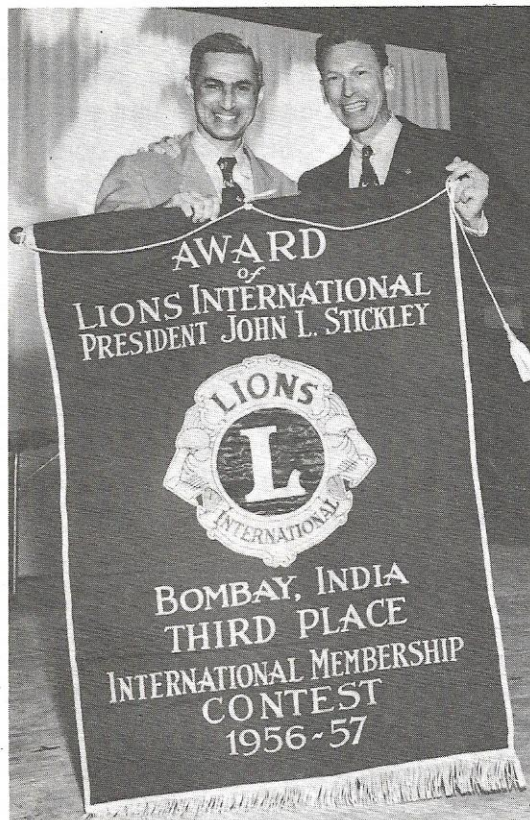
With the pioneering zeal and united efforts of the early Lion members, Lionism achieved phenomenal success, with the result that between 1956 and 1959, 45 Clubs with a total membership of over 2000 Lions were formed and soon became an active and strong force amongst social service organisations in the country, rendering

much needed humanitarian services to the weaker sections of society.

In 1961, the combined District 304 was divided into four sub-Districts - North, South, East and West, with four District Governors and their respective Cabinets. In 1963, a fifth District "Central" was added, which subsequently in 1966 was merged within the other four Districts.

Amongst, the early pioneers, Lion Noshir Pundole was not only the first District Governor but also the first Indian International Representative, South West Asian Secretary and International Director, followed later by Lion Rohit C. Mehta, as International Director who subsequently was elected as the President of Lions Clubs International for the year 1992-93, the first Indian Lion to be so honoured, a rare distinction of which the entire Lions fraternity of India is justly proud.

When Lionism started in India in 1956, it was the 68th country to embrace Lionism, whilst to-day it has spread to 180 countries and geographical areas, with India ranking the third largest country in the world of Lionism after U.S.A. and Japan. What commenced as two clubs with about 50 Lions, is to-day vibrating with 3574 Clubs, having a total membership of 1.36.349 Lions, spread over 42 sub-districts under four Multiple Districts.



Lions International President John L. Stickley presenting the Award to Charter President Lion Noshir N. Pundole.

LIONISM COMES TO INDIA

The day, 3rd February, 1956, is not only a red letter day for the Lions Club of Bombay (Host) but for the introduction of Lionism in India, as it was on this day that our Club, the first Lions Club in India, was organised.

Twenty-seven service minded men belonging to different callings, bonded themselves together and pledged to follow the Objects and the Code of Ethics of Lions International under the banner of the Lions Club of Bombay. International President Humberto Valenzuela (1955-56) presented the Charter on 15th February, 1956, at an impressive ceremony at the Orient Club, Bombay, to **Lion Noshir N. Pundole**, Charter President of the Club.

Over the last 40 eventful years, the Club has been instrumental in initiating, organising and implementing several activities, including landmark projects, in the fields of medicine, education and social welfare for the amelioration of the weaker sections of society. The outstanding feature of these activities is that the Club runs several activities under its own management and supervision with members active involvement, rather than merely donate.

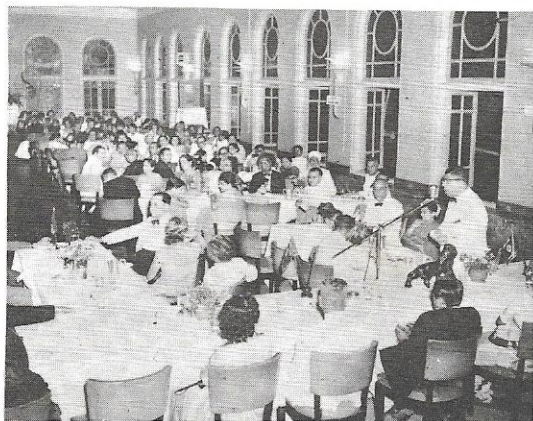
The next few pages are illustrative of the work done by our Club and its dedicated members who are devoted to the cause of Lionism.

May our work continue with greater zeal and vigour, so that the beneficial influence

of Lionism continue to penetrate and spread, bringing solace and happiness in the lives of the many **WE SERVE**.



The Charter Members of the Club at the first meeting organised on 3rd February, 1956, at the Orient Club, Chowpatty, Bombay.



A Banquet in progress after an Installation Meeting.