

THE MAN WHO BROUGHT LIONISM TO SINGAPORE ~ PAST INTERNATIONAL DIRECTOR NOSHIR PUNDOLE

Noshir Pundole was born on March 1920 in India. He was a charter member of Lions Club of Bombay (now Mumbai Host).

Noshir's Lionistic journey began when he was invited by a British army officer by the name of William (Noshir cannot remember his full name) to a Lions Club meeting sometime in 1951. He was so impressed with Lions Club's way of serving the community that after returning to Bombay, Noshir started looking into chartering the first Lions club in Bombay. It took him several years to charter the Lions Club of Bombay, now Lions Club of Mumbai Host, but he finally managed to do so in 1956. Lion Noshir Pundole then became India's first District Governor in 1957 and again in 1958 and then International Director in 1964-1966.

PID Noshir's passion for Lionism did not stop at Bombay. He took Lionism with him to wherever he went on his business trips. He was in the travel agency business then and travelled to Singapore often where the manager of Air India was his good friend. His contacts for Lionism in Singapore were developed through this friend.

In 1957, PID Noshir had the opportunity to meet up with Behram R. Vakil, Prem P. Ohri and Naresh Rastogi. Needless to say, PID Noshir inspired them with Lionism. As a result, the four of them chartered

the Lions Club of Singapore (now known as Lions Club of Singapore Host) on 5 November 1958. Three months later, Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur (now known as Lions Club of Kuala Lumpur Host) was chartered on 18 February 1959.

PID Noshir later sold his business in India and moved to Johor Bahru, Malaysia. He started the first palm oil mill in Johor Bahru with himself as its Managing Director. The oil mill business was doing very well but when the local participation rules or Bumiputra policy was introduced, he and his partner decided to sell off the palm oil mill.

PID Noshir then thought of leaving Malaysia but the former Deputy Prime Minister of Malaysia, Tun Sri Musa Hitam, who was then Minister for Primary Industries, managed to persuade him to stay.

He then started an investment company. With his good leadership skills, the investment company prospered. He went on to partner the late Lim Foo Yong, a big-time property developer at that time in Malaysia, to develop several projects including his present apartment in Jalan P. Ramlee within the Golden Triangle of Kuala Lumpur.

Since moving to Malaysia, PID Noshir had been too busy with his business to find time to join any Lions clubs in Malaysia. However, a plaque from Lions



Club of Mumbai Host honouring him for its 50th Anniversary hung proudly in the hall of his home.

PID Noshir is now 89 years. Though no longer a Lion, he still displays his undying love for Lionism. PID Noshir, indeed, has the Lions spirit in him!

Every Lion knows who Melvin Jones is. But, how many of us, Lions, in MD308 know who PID Noshir Pundole is? How many of us know who introduced Lionism to us 50 years ago?

Yes, this man is none other than PID Noshir Pundole!