

BIO-DATA

RATILAL PREMCHAND CHANDARIA

Born at Nairobi on 24th October 1922.

Took Primary and secondary education at Nairobi and Mombasa. An active scout, associated with youth activities, sports & yoga and a member of Jain Youth League, Nairobi in its early days.

At the beginning of Second World War, migrated to India along with his parents. Instead of continuing his education he joined the family business and set up of an export & import business and continued active participation in the family business industries, sea and land transportation, and furthered newer interests in India.

Married in 1943 at Jamnagar to Vijayalaxmi, daughter of Fulchand K. Shah, also born in Nairobi. Family consists of one daughter, three sons and eight grandchildren.

Returned to Nairobi in 1946 to join family trading activities and traveled extensively in East and Central Africa. During the early fifties the family diversified their interest from trading to industry in Kenya. From that single base in Kenya they expanded their industrial interests in other African countries. He moved to Dar es Salaam in 1960.

To further family's industrial expansion in Europe, he moved to London in 1965. From London he explored business possibilities in Americas where the family has now substantial established interest. He moved for a short period to Geneva but in 1975 moved to Singapore to explore industrial possibilities in South East Asia. In all these spheres of expansion and moves he remained as an active entrepreneur and his family's industrial investments now encompass some 62 countries.

Became a member of the Employment Working Party of the Co-ordinating Committee for the welfare of Evacuees from Uganda in 1972, etc. etc. and was the founder Chairman of Association of Asians in UK,

Was elected as the President of Oshwal Association of the United Kingdom in 1973 and later nominated as the first trustee of the Oshwal Association and twice elected as Chairman of the Board of Trustees Oshwal Association. Held its Chairmanship of the Constitution Committee in December 1978 and Chairmanship of the Fund Raising Committee until he dissolved the Committee in July 1980.

Became a member of the Executive Committee of the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in 1972, its General Secretary for a short period, Chairman of Bhavan's Fund Raising Committee and as Vice-Chairman of Bhavan since then until retirement.

Trustee of Indian Gymkhana in 1982 and was its Chairman from 1995 until recently.

Past Trustee of SANGAM, an Association of Asian Women, since 1980.

Past Trustee of the Festival of India Trust and a member of the Festival Committee in December 1991.

Established 'International Forum of Overseas Indians'

Founder Trustee of 'Indian Sports & Physical Foundation'

Founder & Chairman 'Institute of Jainology, London & Ahmedabad'

Trustee of 'International Sacred Literature Trust' London

Trustee 'Oshwal Yatrik Gruha, Palitana

Trustee 'Halari Visha Oshwal Derasar Trust' Jamnagar

Apart from his business and industrial activities he has been associated with social activities since the last 65 years in various countries, in Africa, Asia, Far East, UK, Canada such as Mahatma Gandhi Awards, Indian Gymkhana, Jain Center, Jain Fellowship Center

Hobbies: photography, cine-photography, sports, music, dance, drama, architecture, arts.

Extensively travel throughout the world at regular intervals.

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