

Biographical Sketch of Past International Director Noshir N Pundole
(found in treasure box, no author name)

Our past International Director Noshir N Pundole is known to many of us as a very polite and refined gentleman, but few of us know that it is due to the sound foundation of a very long and celebrated career in the Scout Movement. Lion Pundole has been a good scout all his life. Ideal of service, and readiness for action thoroughly imbibed by the hard way in scouting has made him what he is today.

Polite but firm, shrewd but sincere, this sprightly young leader has been very successful in laying sound foundations of true Lionism in India. His slightly grey hair speaks for his ripe experience in public life. The glow on his face indicates his yet young spirit in the service of humanity. His sweet and unfolding oratory has convinced his audiences of the cause he has been working for. The ever-present smile of his face inspires hope and encouragement in his fellow workers.

Pundole joined the Scout Movement as a Cub in the 33rd Bombay, in the year 1926. By sheer dint of ability and perseverance he rose step by step in the pack and in the Troop respectively. He was appointed Assistant Cub Master in the 33rd Bombay in the year 1939. Scouter Pundole is a born leader and appears to have a special gift of collecting funds for a good cause by thousands and lakhs. The organization of a grand public show called "Its All Yours" in 1943 was his first endeavour in this direction. From this show he realized an attractive amount of money and launched a fund for the widows of Indian soldiers for which cause he collected over Rs 150,000.

In 1950 Scouter Pundole was appointed the Leader of the Indian Boy Scouts of America held in Pennsylvania. At the National Jamboree members who formed the Indian Delegation under Scouter N N Pundole's leadership gave an excellent account of this standard of efficiency in scouting. They visited most of the important parts of the States and also visited important European countries. During his stay in London, Pundole attended a wood badge course at Gilwell.

On his return from USA in October 1950 he played an important part in the amalgamation of the Boy Scouts, Hindustan Scouts and Girl Guides Associations respectively at a State level.

On 29th May 1955, Pundole was unanimously elected the State Chief Commissioner and now Bombay can claim to have the youngest of the State Chief Commissioners, who has climbed the highest rung of the Scout ladder having put his tender pad on its first in the year of 1936.

Few people are aware that the chance remark made by Lions Pundole at a meeting of the Lions Club of Saxton in Pennsylvania during his visit to the USA in 1950 is the forerunner of the introduction of Lionism in India. Whilst appreciating the work of the Lions Club of Saxton, Lion Pundole remarked that "it would be a great day for India when the Lions movement would be ushered in our country." This of course set the minds of the Lion leaders in Pennsylvania and eventually of Lions International to work culminated after a lot of correspondence, in the visit of International President Shafee Mansour to Bombay in January 1956

The 3rd February 1956 could be considered a red letter day in the history of Lions International for it was on that day that the first club in India viz the Lions Club of Bombay with Lion Pundole as its first Charter President came into being. Lion Pundole seems to have taken many firsts in his stride in the cause of Lionism. Being the first District Governor of the District 304 comprising India, Burma and Ceylon the first International Delegate for Area 15 and the first Asian Secretary of Lions International.

Lion Pundole is responsible for introducing Lionism in other countries of Asia, particularly Singapore, Thailand, Malaya and Indonesia and is responsible for its growth in Ceylon, Burma, Pakistan and Iran. Of course, his major contribution has been in India. He has received several awards from Lions International including two merit awards and 5 Extension Awards. He is a Master Key holder and has the unique distinction of being awarded the Supreme Extension Award by Lions International and is the recipient of the International Presidents Award for four consecutive years.

He and his wife Roshan have three children, two girls and a boy.