



Indian - Jewish Association UK

Uniting the Indian and Jewish
Communities in Britain

PRESS RELEASE

Reception to Honour Professor Nathu Puri LLD FRSA and Mr Mick Davis in Recognition of Their Dedication and Service to Their Communities

Education, Entrepreneurship and Empathy - The three E's that bond the Indian and Jewish communities of Britain, as told by Professor Nathu Puri and Mr. Mick Davis at a meeting held in their honour by the Indian Jewish Association on Thursday 25 October.

The event was hosted by law firm, Mishcon de Reya and was attended by Indian and Jewish professionals. All the guests were eager to hear from the two speakers who both came from impoverished backgrounds and who have gone on to create businesses that span the world.

Originally from the Punjab, Puri arrived in Britain with barely a penny to his name, yet he went on to build Purico, a network of companies in the automotive parts industry. The foundation he endowed to fund educational initiatives now donates over a million pounds a year.

Professor Puri was recently made a Freeman of the City of Nottingham in recognition of his efforts for the city, which is just the latest of numerous civil honours. However what really impresses his compatriots back in India is his membership of the Nottingham Cricket Club Board.

He spoke with warmth about his encounters with Jewish colleagues in Britain, having recently underwritten the costs of publishing a history of *The Jewish Heritage of Gujarat*. Launched at the Reception by Arjan Vekaria, IJA Council member and President of the Hindu Forum of Britain, the 44 page illustrated publication was written by Indian Jewish author, Esther David, and was published in remembrance of Mr Vekaria's Jewish endowed school in Gujarat.

Mick Davis, chairman of both UJIA and JLC, was born into humble circumstances in Port Elizabeth, South Africa. He recalled the underlying ethos of Xstrata, the mining company he has taken from several million to

many billion in turnover. Davis explained how ecological restoration after mining operations can often improve the environment, and put back into the community more than it extracts.

After noting that God endowed the poorest people on earth with some of the richest mineral deposits, he spoke of the centrality of charity, in its truest sense, to both his business and the Jewish approach to life, recalling how his family had very little, yet were always charitable.

Many Hindu guests were touched by Davis' precepts from the Jewish tradition, not least the Rabbi Hillel golden rule, and how closely it resembled their own moral fables.

The evening was capped with amiable networking over wine, kosher samosas and onion bhajis.

by: Lawrence Joffe
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Lord Janner of Braunstone QC; Professor Nathu Puri; Arjan Vekaria, Ramona Mehta; Mick Davis; John Levy



Lord Janner of Braunstone QC; Mike Whine



Mike Whine; John Levy; Prof Nathu Puri; Jayanti Patel; Ramona Mehta; CB Patel; Ramesh Desai; Ajay Aggarwal; Arjan Vekaria

