

People of Indian Origin & Oman

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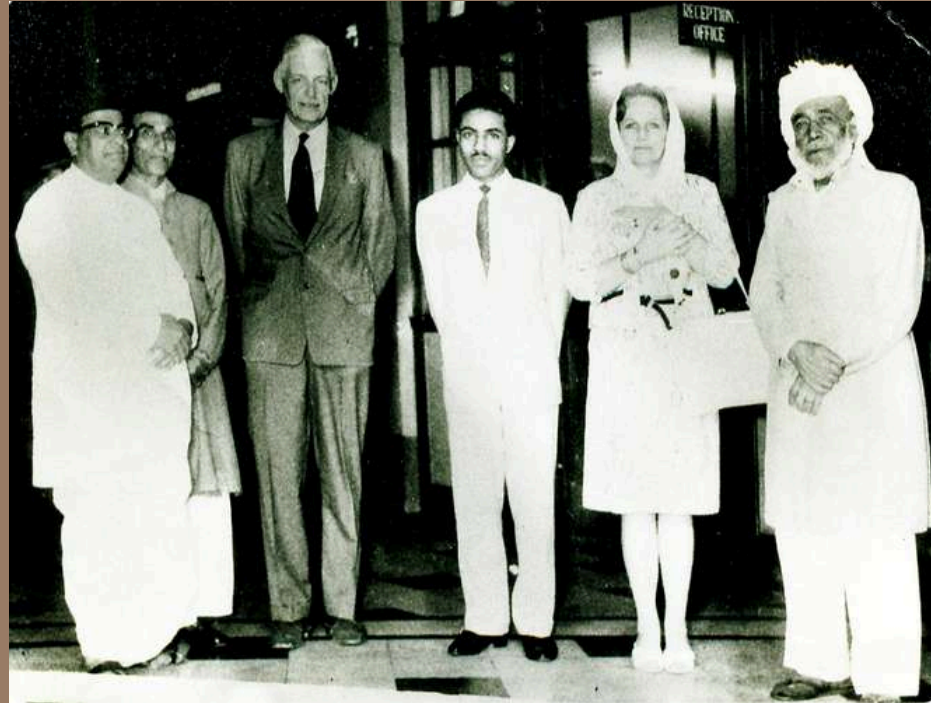


Photo of Sultan Taimoor bin Fizal, Sultan Qaboos, Major Chancy, British Ambassador in Oman, Ms Chancy, and Ratansi Khimji in Bombay in 1964



A wedding photo of Shri Ajit Khimji and Smt. Asha Khimji with Sultan Taimoor, 7th March 1961

Khimji Ramdas (KR) is one of the most prominent Indian-origin business groups in Oman. A historic voyage in 1870 from the deserts of Kutch, India to the Port of Sur in Oman built a 150-year-old legacy that is now being carried forward into its sixth generation by the sons and daughters of Khimji Ramdas. From a small trading house, the Khimji Ramdas (KR) Group has become one of the most pioneering and respected business conglomerates in the region. Today, it is one of Oman's largest in terms of scale and scope. The KR Group employs more than 5000 personnel across Oman, Saudi Arabia, UAE, and India.



Presentation of the Medal Flag Officer Commanding, Western Fleet to Shri Kanaksi G. Khimji, Sheikh of the Indian Community in Oman by Rear Admiral Shri Yashwant Prasad

A photograph of Shri Kanaksi G. Khimji receiving the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman Award from then-Indian Prime Minister Shri Atal Bihari Vajpayee in the year 2003.



Not only is Kanaksi Gokaldas Khimji a citizen of Oman; in recognition of his welfare activities for Indian expatriates, he was the first to be bestowed the honorary title of 'Sheikh of the Hindu Community' by His Majesty Sultan Qaboos Bin Said. Kanakbhai is chairman, Khimji Ramdas group of companies, which encompasses brands ranging from Rolex, Nikon and Chanel to Pizza Hut. The Khimji family originally hail from Kutch, and are descendants of Thackersey and Ramdas, who traded between Oman and Kutch in the 17th century.

In business, it has been my with my family, in working with our employees to build the Khimji Ramdas group as a diversified conglomerate which has participated in the development of Oman and established itself as a preferred business partner of a number of the world's leading companies and brands.

Kutchi origin, pukka Omani

Kanaksi Gokaldas Khimji, or Kanakbhai as he is fondly called, is perhaps the most prominent Omani citizen of Indian origin, and was given the Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award by the Indian government. He speaks to Sanjiv Valsan



the Indian government for his contribution to the Indian diaspora.

Does the 'Sheikh' title carry an enormous burden of responsibility? I see this responsibility not as a burden, but an opportunity provided by His Majesty, The Sultan, and by the Indian community in Oman to be of service to them in whatever way possible.

How do you strike a balance between your fondness of your Indian origin with your Omani citizenship? Oman and India are close geographically and culturally. The culture, traditions and values have several similarities. Living as Omani citizens in every sense, my family and I maintain close relations with India through our many friends and the charitable trusts that we participate in. I have never felt that my fondness of my Indian origin has ever stood in the way of my duties as a citizen of Oman.

What do you feel have been your greatest achievements so far? Playing an active role in the Indian Community in Oman, particularly in the

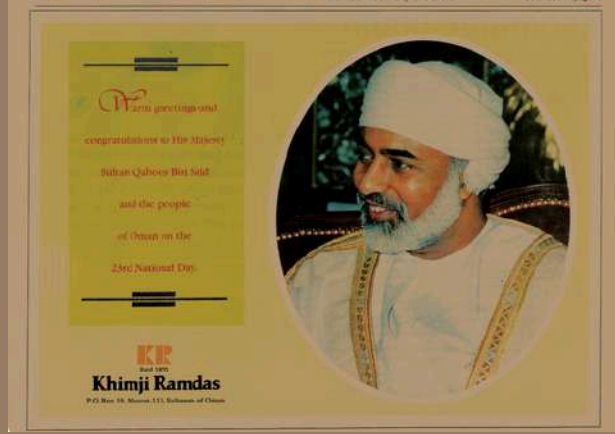
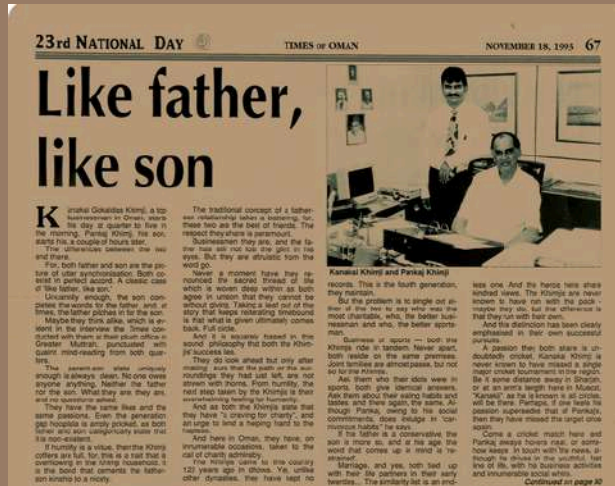
the family members sharing responsibilities at the board-level. The business organisation is professionally structured and managed with qualified personnel, all of whom are regarded as part of our larger family. Just as a family is built on nurturing relationships, the relationships with and between our personnel have been vital to our success. Managing them as a family has probably been easier, as being a family-owned business with shared responsibilities, we can perhaps appreciate better their needs and aspirations. We combine a structured system of controls and reporting, with a large degree of entrepreneurial freedom and incentives for all our 30 odd profit centres. Once the core values have been established and are continually reinforced, the rest follows, be it our in family or our business.

How is Oman different from the other GCC countries? Oman is rightly regarded as the jewel of Arabia. It has a rich heritage, and very hospitable people. It is also the most beautiful, picturesque country with a large coastline, a well-developed infrastructure and a lot of potential, par-

News article titled *Kutchi Origin, Pukka Omani* on Shri Kanaksi Gokaldas Khimiji (Pravasi Bharatiya Samman award by the Indian Government)



Presentation of Vyapar-Ratna Award to Shri Kanabhai G. Khimji, Muscat on the Eve of Kutchi New Year Day, 1991

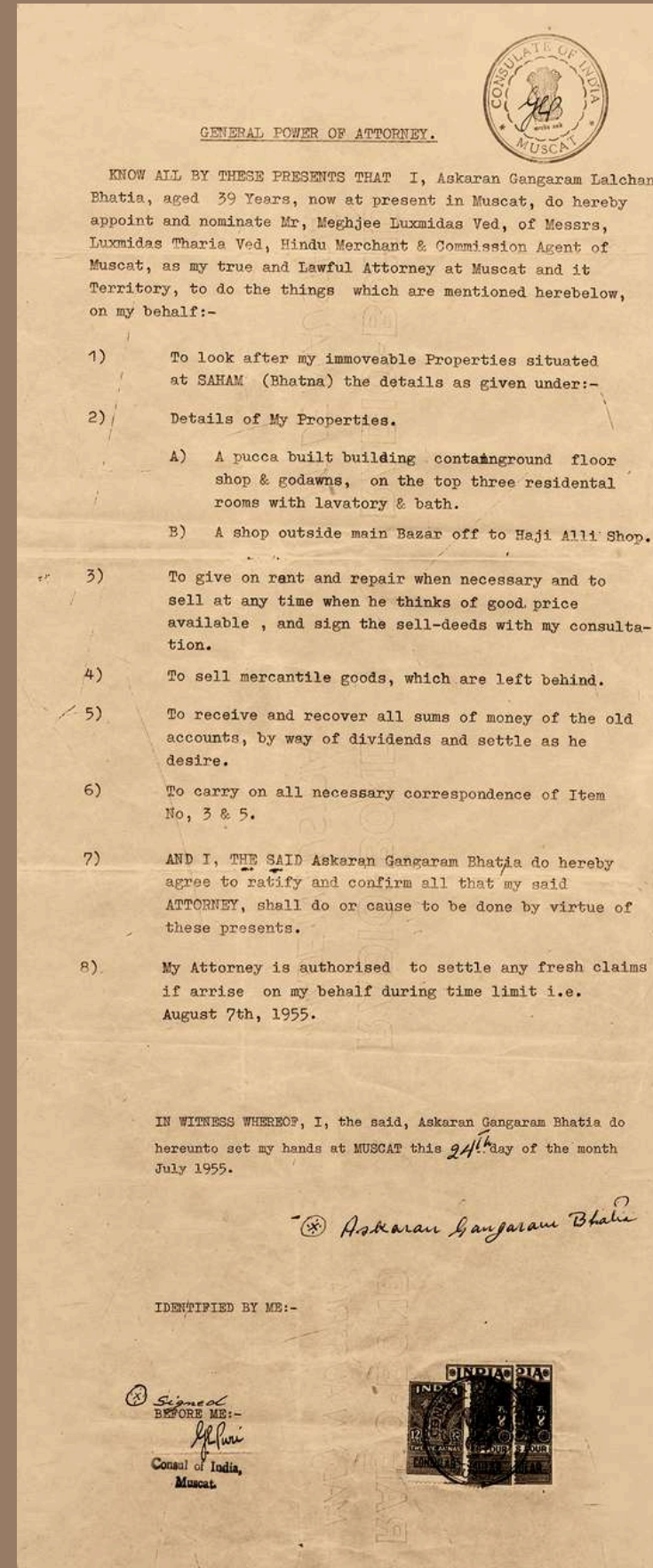


A story published in the Times of Oman on the Khimji Family, on 18th November 1993, titled ' Like father, like Son related to the Khimji family

Shri Lakshmidas Tharia Ved came to Muscat around 1800 and started the business in 1904 in Muttrah, Muscat by opening a small grocery shop. Lakhoo's family is at present in Money Exchange, textiles & ready-made businesses. They have vast business in the Middle East and India in the name of L.M. Exchange and Apparel Group. The digitization of their archival documents started on 26th May 2024 under the supervision of Shri Rajendra Meghji Ved @ Raju Bhai (the fourth generation of Lakhoo's family) at the Embassy of India in Muscat with the help of the National Archives of India.



Certification of Contract in Arabic dated/registered on 8th May 1923



A photograph of Shri Laxmidas Tharia Ved (Lakhoo).

General Authorization/Power of Attorney for the Year 1963 in which a person residing in Muscat, Shri Askaran Gangaram Lalchand, is appointing and nominating Shri Meghjee Luxmidas Ved, of Messrs. Shri Luxmidas Tharia Ved, Hindu Merchant and Commission Agent of Muscat, as his Attorney at Muscat