**Jagdish** **Bhagwati and Padma Desai: Family Members of Prominence**

**[There are many 2nd-generation family members with substantial professional achievement in law, architecture, medical practice, medical research, Sanskrit, finance, management and engineering, but only ones with unusual public recognition are listed below, with explanation]**

**I: Bhagwati Family : Prominent Members**

**Jagdish Bhagwati**

**University Professor (Economics, Law and International Affairs) at Columbia University; awarded numerous Prizes and Awards, and 17 Honorary Degrees; awarded Padma Vibhushan by India, etc. Full List of Honours and Awards is available on his website** [**www.columbia.edu/~jb38**](http://www.columbia.edu/~jb38)**.**

**He and eldest brother Prafull Bhagwati, who is an icon of the Human Rights Movement and was India’s Chief Justice, are both recipients of the Padma Vibhushan award; and Jagdish’s wife, Padma Desai who is a leading specialist on Russia at Columbia University, has been awarded Padma Bhushan. Three high honours in one family are unique.**

**Father of Jagdish Bhagwati: Justice Natwarlal Harilal Bhagwati**

**Judge in Supreme Court of India; Vice Chancellor of Bombay University and of Benares Hindu University, one of the Central Universities; he encouraged his sons to join the Independence movement and had his house open to Independence activists to stay and evade British searches; the eldest son Prafull Bhagwati, later to become Chief Justice of India, also went underground with a British warrant for his arrest. All such activities in support of the Independence Movement delayed his appointment as a Judge in the Bombay High Court. Again, as Vice Chancellor of Benares Hindu University, he patronized Classical music and awarded an Honorary degree to the great Indian musician, Pandit Omkarnath Thakur. He also had a great nose for promising scholars whom he picked out at the University to send abroad: e.g. Professor J.L. Mehta who did not know any German at the time but was chosen to go to Germany and became a major writer on Martin Heidegger and then Professor at the Harvard Divinity School; and Professor Narlikar, who turned into a major scientist, whom he sent to Cambridge. He also helped many unconnected, poor applicants, when they approached him as the Vice Chancellor, to get attention from Admission authorities. He was also generous with unrequited financial assistance to friends in need.**

**Uncle: Hiralal Bhagwati (Justice Bhagwati’s brother)**

**A leading figure in Ahmedabad mercantile institutions such as the Gujarat Chamber of Commerce, and also the leading figure in philanthropy including pioneering work on Disaster Relief during Famines, Floods etc His death was marked by a massive funeral procession in the city, attended by Chief Minister Narendra Modi who then became India’s Prime Minister. He was known for great wit, humour and support of the Arts.**

**Brother: Justice Prafull Bhagwati**

**A great Judge, who rose to be the Chief Justice of India; known for pioneering Public Interest Litigation and for his substantial support for Legal Aid. He is renowned for several important judgments delivered on liberating bonded labour, ensuring the right to travel abroad as a fundamental right, etc. Received several honors, including Honoray doctorates (including from Columbia University) and Awards worldwide. He has been recognized by the Indian Government with the prestigious Award of Padma Vibhushan.**

**Brother: Dr. Sanat Bhagwati**

**One of India’s top neurosurgeons, who returned home to serve India. He was known for serving the poor, operating on them for free while charging market rates to the better-off patients which included many members of India’s elite classes. He was elected President of the international Pediatric Neurological Society.**

**Brother: Dr. Pravin Bhagwati**

**A Ph.D. from Aachen Hochschule in Germany, he set up a leading Foundry in Ahmedabad. He was elected President of the International Foundry Association. He has also led an active philanthropic life, supporting educational institutions and Disaster Relief.**

**Brother: Navin Bhagwati**

**Graduate of University of Michigan at Ann Arbor; founded what turned into one of the leading engineering firms in India.**

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**Also, exceptional recognition secured by 5 in the next generation:**

1. **Anu Bhagwati; (only) daughter; educated at Yale and Harvard, she was a flutist in the Yale Symphony Orchestra; then she was a Captain in the Marine Corps. She has earned several awards and been featured in countless TV and print stories and interviews in leading newspapers (such as the New York Times and Washington Post) , magazines, TV shows worldwide, while also advancing legislation to assist women in the armed forces, Her cv is available on anubhagwati.com**
2. **Sandeep Bhagwati; nephew; and son of cousin Nandkishore Bhagwati; a renowned composer who has also composed and produced a full-length opera on the mathematician Ramanujam at the Munich Opera House; is settled in Germany and is Professor of Music at Karlsruhe there & active composer; he is also advancing Indo-German musical collaboration**
3. **Dr. Stephen Pereira; son-in-law of Navin and Nalini Bhagwati, Psycho-analyst in UK, has won several awards in England.**
4. **Dr. Janak Desai: Nephew of Padma Desai and married to Jagdish’s niece Dr. Shefali Bhagwati, daughter of Lalit & Malati Bhagwati. He is now a leading Indian neurologist and is internationally renowned because he has invented a new procedure for extracting kidney stones which has now been patented with a German firm and he travels worldwide giving demonstration of his invention to conferences and congresses.**
5. **Pallavi Shroff: Daughter of Chief Justice Bhagwati: Is Litigation Partner in India’s Leading Solicitor firm Amarcchand and Mangaldas; Is recognized as one of India’s leading lawyers, with many Awards nationally and internationally; also known for Philanthropy and for promoting women.**

**II. Padma Desai Family: Prominent Members**

**Padma Desai: Gladys and Roland Harriman Professor of Comparative Economic Systems emerita; the leading expert in the US on Soviet Union and Russia. Author of 12 books, including Two on Financial Crises and also her Memoirs (Breaking Away) and a volume edited by her of her father’s Letters from Cambridge almost a century ago. She has received an Honorary Degree from Middlebury College, the leading liberal arts college which is the outstanding home to Russian studies. She has also received the Padma Bhushan. For fuller details, see her website:** [**www.columbia.edu/~pd5**](http://www.columbia.edu/~pd5)

**Principal Kalidas Desai (Father): Was a leading educationist and social reformer in Gujarat State**

**Anu Bhagwati (Daughter): Referenced above.**

**Dr. Janak Desai (Nephew): Referenced above**

**Uday Kotak: married to Padma’s niece, Pallavi; India’s leading banker, with several international Awards such as Ernst & Young’s World Entrepreneur of the Year 2014 and Euromoney’s listing of him as one of financial leaders of the 21st Century; supports think tanks in India and abroad, and also has an important Kotak Education Foundation to assist poor students with educational access. Arguably the most important financial figure in India today**