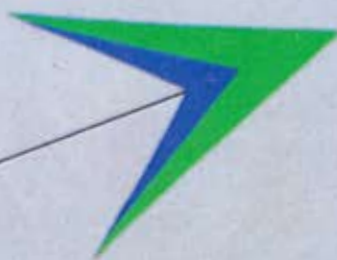


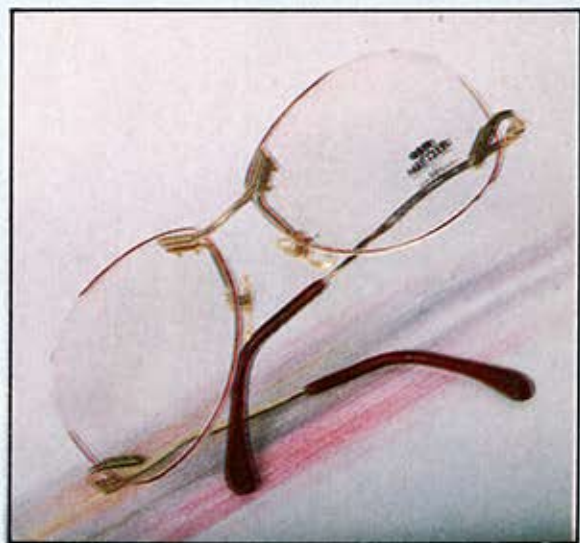
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# Parsiana

October 1987  
Volume 10 Number 4

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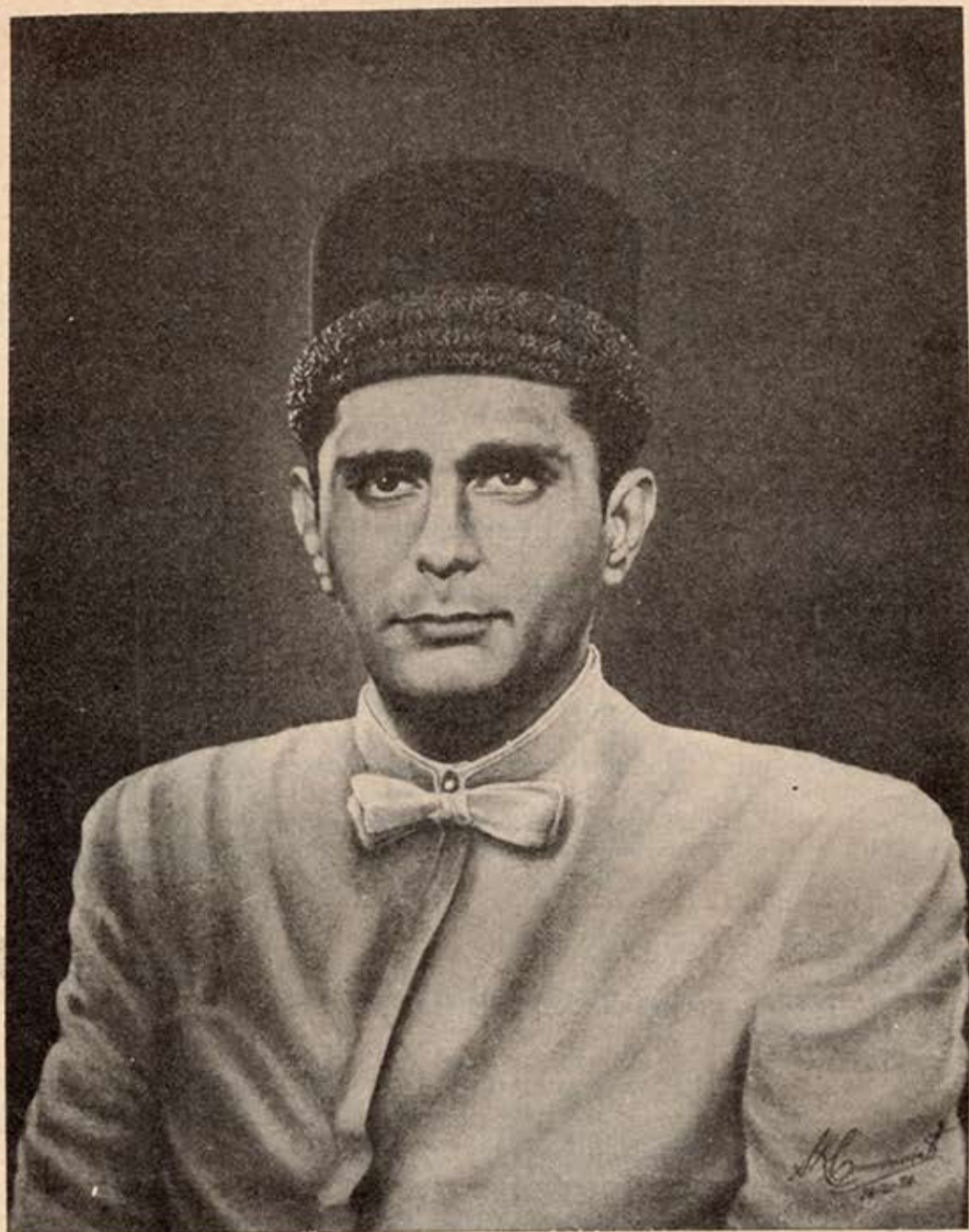
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**Mr Fali Meherji Variava**

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Readers' views are welcome on any subject of interest to the community and should be sent to the Editor, Readers' Forum, Parsiana, G.P.O.Box 892, Bombay 400 001. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity.

### "Alternatives to ..."

In your issue of June 1987, you have printed a letter by Phiroz Dotiwala, lamenting the condition of Parsis in Pakistan. What I cannot understand is why *Parsiana* should publish statements without verifying the facts.

In the last three years only nine Parsi girls have married out of the faith against 76 who have married Parsi boys. Compare these figures with those of Delhi, Toronto, Los Angeles, or even Bombay and you will see the difference. The average income of a Parsi family is Pak Rs 5,000 per month, perhaps one of the highest in the subcontinent. A full-time mobed earns Pak Rs 3,000 per month; even a khandhia earns Pak Rs 2,000 per month plus benefits of subsidized housing, medical and educational re-

lief. Nearly 100 percent of the younger generation are matriculates, nearly 70 percent graduates, and Karachi Parsis spend nearly two and a half million rupees on the post graduate education of their youngsters in foreign universities.

D.B. GHADIALY  
Karachi

### "Tithal Sanatorium ..."

You suggest a well-worked out plan, or a scheme, or recommend a blueprint for religious or social betterment and nine times out of 10 you will become the target of unwarranted criticism of a handful of people. They are the ones craving publicity and they seem to think that even adverse publicity is better than no publicity.

A century old infirmary is running at a loss, but if you talk about selling it, you become a revisionist. Talk about implementing a meticulously worked out scheme for improving the lot of our mobed sahebs, and you shall be vilified. Start a project to give free food to the poor and deserving, and you are bound to be sued in a court of law. Try to make a film depicting our prophet, some aspects of Iranian history, our rites and rituals, and the moment you make your ideas public, some people will proclaim from the rooftops that our religion and community are in danger.

In one of the Parsi colonies in central Bombay, the trustees had got a scheme prepared by their engineers with a view to raise one floor on all the colony buildings, and thus accommodate about 60 more families. However, since there was no balance FSI (floor space index), the trustees were willing to hand over a part of their private road to the municipality in order to obtain the required additional FSI and get the plans approved. But, in stepped half a dozen faultfinders and, on some flimsy grounds, they succeeded in obtaining a stay from the concerned authority!

Again, half a dozen agiaries may be clustered together in an area where our population is decreasing by leaps and bounds. But, if you plan to shift one of the padshahs to a suburb to cater to the religious needs of a sizeable Parsi population there, the possibility

is that you will be dubbed a heretic!

Under the prevailing conditions, we need not be surprised to read about the tribulations which the past/present trustees of the Tithal Sanatorium had/have to undergo ("A new scheme for the Tithal Sanatorium property," *Parsiana*, July 1987). This is the conclusion I could arrive at after going through Arnavaz Mama's interesting report on the Tithal tussle which may go on and on, for how many years and at what cost it is difficult to say.

DARYUS PAVRI

### "Keepers of the dead"

I was shocked to read the report on the nassessalars and their pathetic living conditions in "Keepers of the dead" (*Parsiana*, June 1987). It is a disgrace for an advanced community like ours to shun an oppressed segment of our own people; keep away from their so-called "unclean" presence and bar them from entering places of worship. The community should remove all ideas of segregation.

The official number of deaths as recorded by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) during the first quarter of 1987 totalled 214; and the number of pallbearers in service, only 14. This means that such a small group disposes of almost 2.4 dead bodies per day. To overcome this problem of shortage of pallbearers, the BPP should introduce social reforms to ameliorate this band of pallbearers.

The BPP should revise their monthly salaries and give them provident fund facilities, offer them comfortable housing, free education for their children, free medical help and leave privileges. Such schemes will not only improve their economic conditions but will make them more conscious, sincere and responsible to their assignments. This may also induce some needy members to join the band of pallbearers either on a permanent or part-time basis.

The other alternative is to abolish completely the system of pallbearers and introduce a system of 'self-service' as followed elsewhere in the country where there are no khandhias or nassessalars. One should not feel ashamed to do this job. It has been

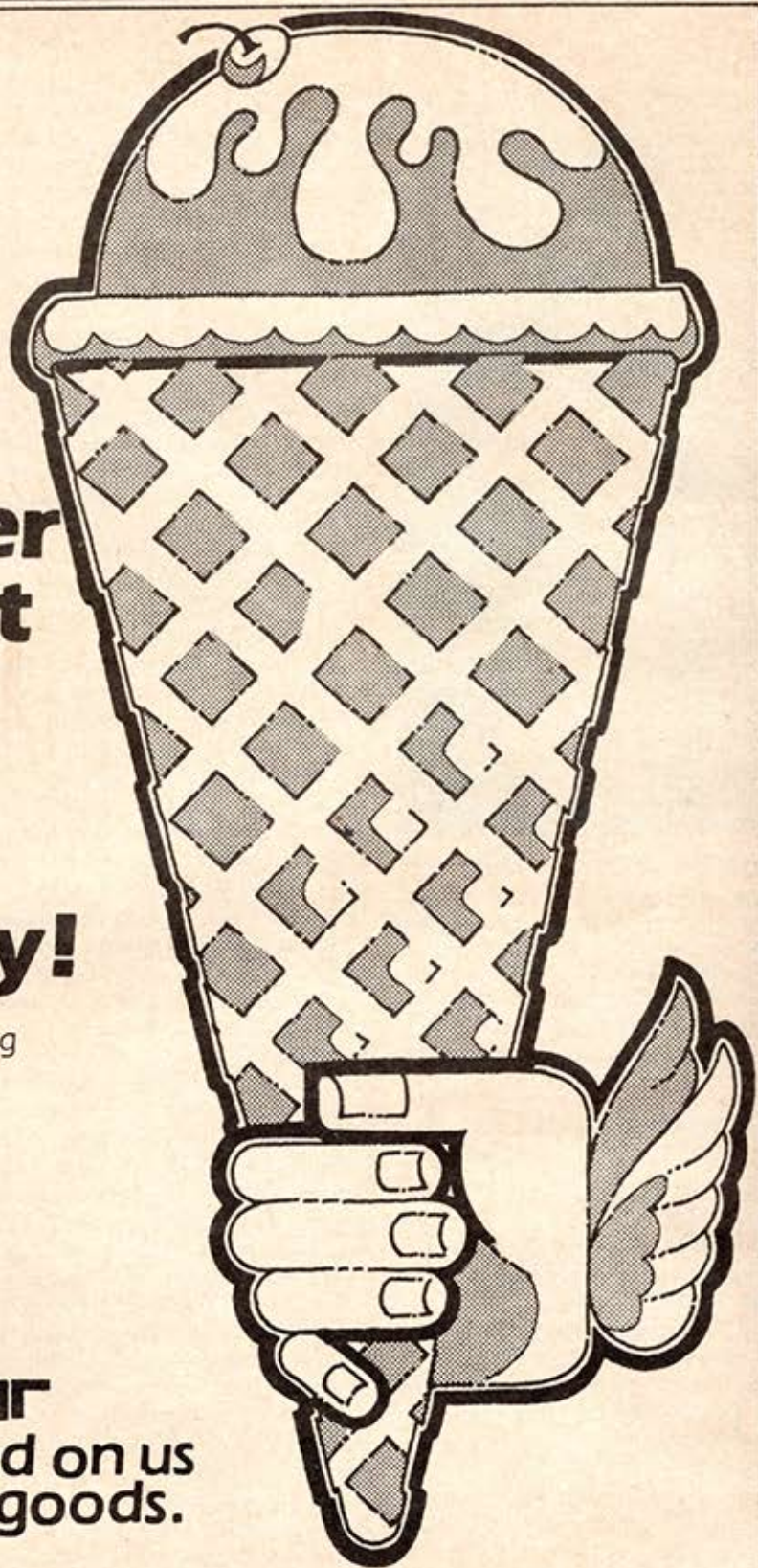
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observed that due to non-availability of community members in remote places, sometimes the help of non-Parsis is taken to carry Parsi bodies.

The latter suggestion would be more ideal and economical to the community in general. Looking to the present crisis, the rates fixed for the services rendered at the Doongerwadi are very reasonable, but one feels that the poor Parsis, whose family income is below Rs 800 per month or so, should either be exempted or given necessary concessions by the authorities.

RATAN H. SAGAR  
Allahabad

### "The 11 days' controversy"

I have read Mr Darius Sethna's letter "The 11 days' controversy" in the July 1987 issue of *Parsiana*. He has not contradicted any of my statements printed in *Parsiana* (January 1987) with the exception of one, namely that "a similar resolution was proposed by me (Sethna) in 1977." I stated then, and I reiterate emphatically that Mr D.N. Sethna never proposed any resolution prior to September 1985 and that this can be verified from the minutes of the committee of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE). Mr D. N. Sethna himself does not state the date of the meeting in which he proposed the resolution in 1977.

Both the brothers, Darius and Zal Sethna, on the grounds of protecting "time honored customs, traditions..." (*Parsiana*, July 1987) are now refusing to take a referendum of the Zoroastrians of UK and Europe on this point. The only way to unite the community is to hold a referendum and publish the findings. Zoroastrians of UK and Europe, being fair-minded, will accept the decision of the community as a whole. I challenge the Sethna brothers and Mr Bailey Irani, president of the ZTFE to take the bold step for a referendum.

SHAHPUR F. CAPTAIN  
Herts, UK

### Visit Lucknow

The Lucknow Parsi Anjuman invites Parsi and Irani Zoroastrians to avail of its Dharamshala at Parakh Bagh, 6, Rustomji F. Bahadurjee Marg, Lucknow.

The Dharamshala consists of four independent rooms with attached bath-cum-toilet facilities. The lodging charge of Rs 10 per person per day includes electricity and 24 hours run-

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ning water. Ceiling fans, a new steel almirah and other essential furniture, fittings and fixtures are provided in all the rooms.

Our mobed saheb, Ervad Darayus G. Bhadhe, besides his other duties, works as the manager of the Dharamshala. He also supplies meals to the passengers. The per head boarding charges, consisting of morning and afternoon tea, breakfast, lunch and dinner will work out to approximately Rs 40 per day. For children below the age of 12, the boarding charges shall be at half the regular rate.

Lucknow has a salubrious climate from October 15 to March 15. Winter is at its peak from December 15 to January 15. The Festival of Lucknow, organized by the Tourism Department of the State Government, takes place in the month of February each year. Lucknow has a number of gardens and historical places of archaeological importance. The city is entirely free from industrial pollution. The Dharamshala and the Anjuman's residential property are centrally located. B.J. KHODAJI

President, Lucknow Parsi Anjuman

## Need of the hour

Parsi bhai-o  
Anay behn-o,  
To you folks I cry:  
"See the rabbit,  
Get the habit,  
Go and multiply!"

HOMI A. KHARAS

## Appeal for Kathi funds

Our Palantin Darehmeher situated at Ahmednagar was established in 1847. We have a full-time mobed employed here. Parsis from India and the world over have been impressed with our well-maintained Darehmeher.

However, our Anjuman funds being limited, we have recently opened a Kathi Fund. We appeal to you to donate towards the Kathi Fund which will help us in further maintaining the holy fire burning in our Darehmeher. Donations in cheque may please be drawn in favor of the "Ahmednagar Parsi Anjuman Kathi Fund" and forwarded to the Honorary Secretary, Ahmednagar Parsi Anjuman, Parsi Agiary, Daware Lane, Ahmednagar 414001, Maharashtra.

ERACH K. GAI

Honorary Secretary, Ahmednagar Parsi Anjuman

Edited by Niloofar J. Madon

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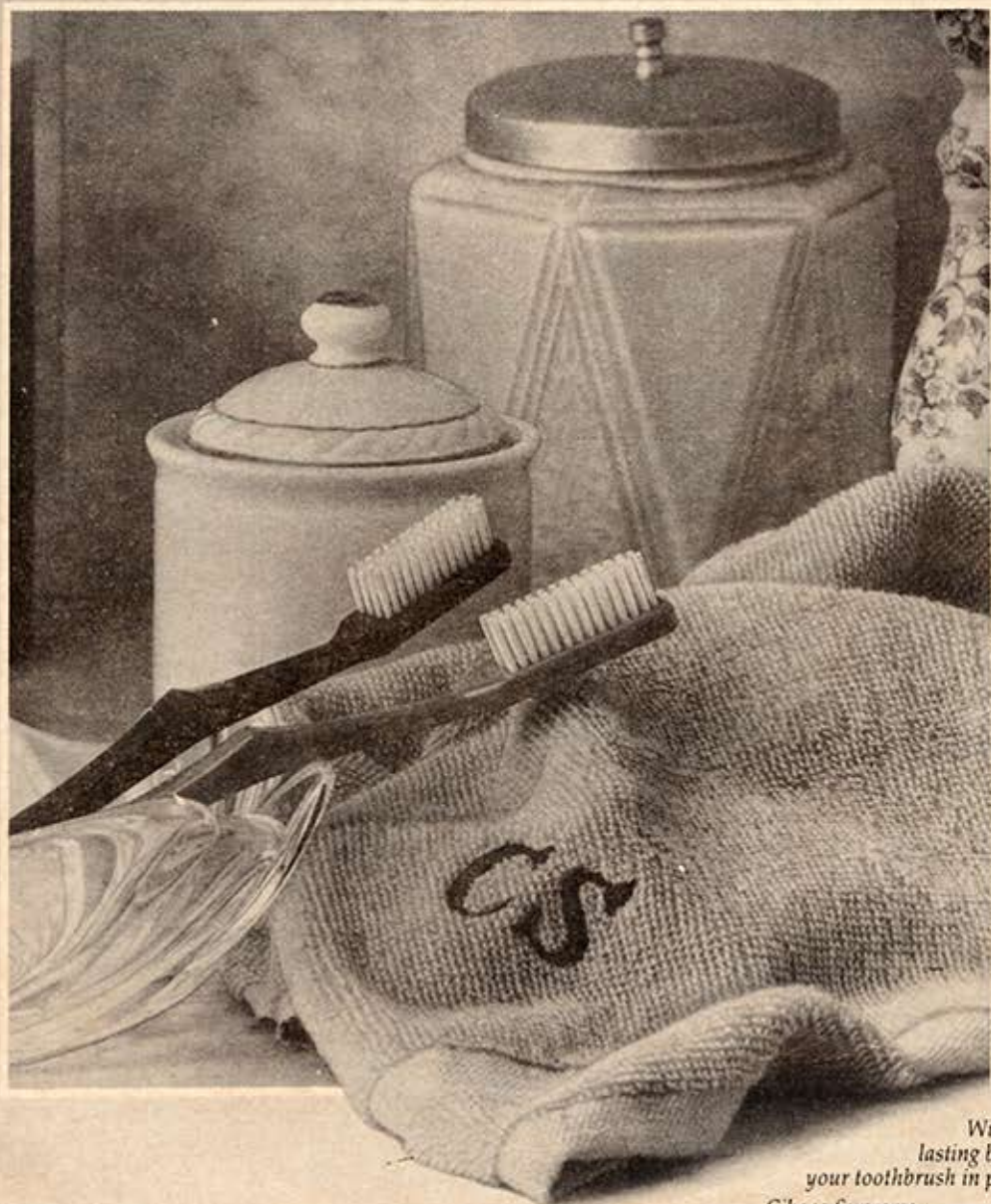
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# Events and Personalities

## Anjuman elections due

After the November 30, 1987 deadline, newcomers will not be given a chance to enroll themselves on the General Register or the Donor Register of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) for the next seven years. At the Anjuman Committee elections scheduled for March 1988, members of each of these registers will elect representatives from among themselves. The General Register members will elect 100 representatives who will constitute the Register of Elected Members. Donor Register members (those who had contributed Rs 5,000 to the BPP before February 6, 1987 and new donors who are now required to make a donation of Rs 7,500) will elect less than 100 members, because those who donate Rs 50,000 and above are automatically included on the Donor Register's 100.

As per the new election scheme of the BPP as suggested by Justice H. Suresh of the Bombay High Court, it is the 200 representatives (100 each from the General and Donor Registers) who will henceforth vote at the trusteeship elections during the next seven years or until the next Anjuman Committee elections are held.

Some agitated members of the F Register of the earlier scheme (those who had donated Rs 5,000 and above) have challenged the new scheme in the Bombay High Court on the ground that their previously enjoyed right to vote directly for trustees has now been converted into an indirect right. Nevertheless, the BPP is proceeding with the preparations for the ensuing elections.

A notice in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of October 4, 1987, signed by the joint secretary of the BPP, Ms Gool Tata, specifies that any "adult Parsi of the age of 21 years or upwards, who wishes to enroll himself on the Gener-

al Register, may do so by applying in the prescribed form and paying a fee of five rupees. Similarly, admission on the Donor Register requires fulfillment of all the above prerequisites plus a donation of Rs 7,500 before November 30.

Those who had registered under the old scheme, which was in force till February 6, 1987, will automatically be enrolled on the new General Register which replaces the A Register (of those who had donated between Rs 500 to 4,999), C Register (of graduates) and D Register (of those who had paid Rs 5), it was announced. However, they will only be permitted to vote at the March 1988 Anjuman Committee elections on presentation of the new certificate which they have to collect from the office of the Punchayet at 209, D. Naoroji Road after signing it in the presence of a duly authorized BPP officer. New certificates may be collected after October 15 but 15 days prior to the Anjuman Committee elections, said Tata.

## WZO youth conference

The World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) - Youth Wing, Bombay, is organizing a youth conference on December 6, 1987 at the Modi Hall, K.R. Cama Oriental Institute, notes Dr Burzin Khan, president of the Youth Wing, in a press release.

Starting at 9.30 am, the two major topics slated for discussion are: The need for religion; and Matrimony and family welfare. Each topic will have three speakers and will be followed by a brief question-answer session and a workshop.

Evening entertainment will include a dinner and dance. Delegate fees are Rs 50 per head for the entire day or Rs 25 for those wishing to attend only the conference. Registration forms may be collected from Dr Burzin Khan at R- 16, Cusrow Baug, S.B. Road,

Bombay 400039. Telephone: 240610

## Pottery by Pudumjee

Glossy chocolate browns, gleaming silver greys, deep rich blues, and swirls of beige and gold were some of the eye-catching glazes that decorated the large ceramic planters and other earthenware items that were designed by puppeteer Dadi Pudumjee and exhibited in Bombay from September 29 to October 3 by Kalakar.

Set up about a year ago by Ravi Raj Gupta whose interest in the arts led him into the field of pottery, Kalakar is involved in the production and sale of unusually glazed pottery.

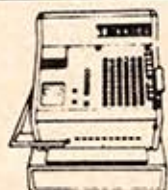
Pudumjee, one of Kalakar's four partners, provides the majority of the shapes and patterns for their pottery, while a few pieces are copies of antique Chinese pottery. Ceramic designing had always been an interest, says Pudumjee who has studied at the National Institute of Design. Another influencing factor may have been his background, he admits. "Parsis grow up with a lot of this blue-and-white stuff around...sometimes you get fed up, but I suppose some day it comes back to you."

Pudumjee's designs and specifications are passed on to various small potters in Delhi who manufacture the pieces for Kalakar. It is the partners, however, who apply the ceramic glazes before the pottery is fired.

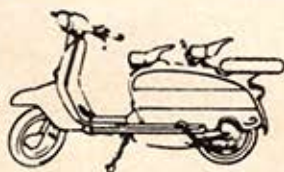
A unique feature of Kalakar's large ceramic planters is the very fact that they are glazed, said Gupta - most big planters manufactured by others are unglazed.

Ranging in price from Rs 20 for an ashtray to Rs 950 for a huge pitcher-shaped planter, the collection included ceramic-handled salad spoons, platters, bowls, dishes and lampstands. Since the size of the piece purchased is determined by the amount of space available, most of the larger pieces are

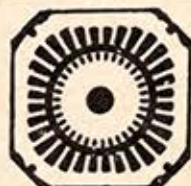
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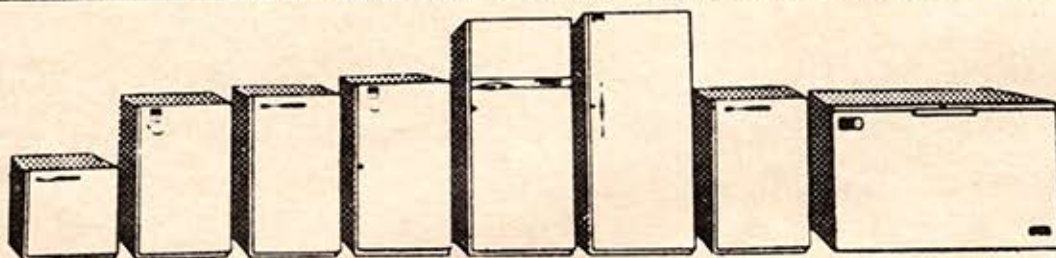
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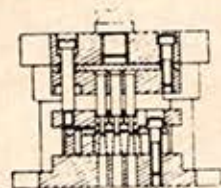
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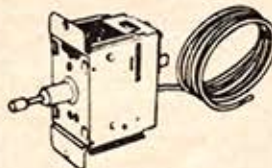
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bought by hotels and interior decorators, explained Pudumjee. In fact, during the Bombay exhibition at Shilpi Kendra on September 30, one buyer had taken six planters, and was returning to collect six more, said Gupta.

Though based in Delhi, Kalakar is considering displaying their pottery in some shops in Bombay, said Pudumjee. Future plans include a possible "branching out into other crafts - textiles, glass, we're not sure." They may design products round a particular concept, "perhaps crockery and linen for tableware..." But two things that are definitely going to be kept in mind whatever Kalakar does in the future, says Pudumjee, are concentration on "things one doesn't find in shops, (and) keeping things simple."

In spite of his straying into the field of pottery, Pudumjee's main work continues to be puppetry. The first Indian to win a Union International de la Marionette II scholarship to Stockholm, Pudumjee was also awarded the Sanskriti Award of 1983 by the Sanskriti Pratishthan for his work with the Sutradhar Puppet Repertory since 1980. At present, Pudumjee does freelance puppetwork for UNICEF, the Festivals of India, and for the Newspaper in Education (NIE) Times Research Foundation. For the NIE, he explained, he holds puppet workshops which try to "develop creative drama, awareness and expression in the children."

Joy Fernandes

## Taraporewala's tenor

Seventeen-year-old Dennis Ruston Taraporewala received the United World Scholarship for 1986-88 to study astrophysics and computer science at the United World College of South East Asia at Singapore, notes a press release issued by the family.

The United World Colleges, whose president is Prince Charles of UK, is "a movement aimed at making education an active force in uniting nations," notes the *Gloucestershire Echo* of July 3, 1987.

Dennis "came to us highly recommended and with an extensive record of achievements, scholastically and in the extra-curricular activities field," wrote Gavin Waddell, director of admissions and residence, and liaison officer for United World Colleges. Popular among his co-students, Taraporewala was elected chairperson of



Alongside  
(from left)  
Taraporewala  
and Ayrton  
Photo:  
Homyar Mistry

Below (from  
left): Kalakar  
partners, Niru  
Gupta,  
Pudumjee and  
Ravi Raj  
Gupta.

the Students Community Council for the year '87-'88.

In September 1986, Dennis bagged the lead role of Tevye in a college production of the play *Fiddler on the roof* and that of Ohtonosama, an old ruler in *Issboni*, a Japanese dance-drama which toured UK to celebrate the silver jubilee of the Colleges.

During his school days at Campion, Dennis won the Parent-Teacher Association's silver medal for the 'Best All Round Boy' of the class for seven consecutive years from 1978 to 1984. A member of the Maharashtra National Cadet Corps, Air Wing, Taraporewala was declared All India Fourth Best Cadet at the Prime Minister's rally on the Indian Republic Day in January 1984.

In the sports field too, Dennis has a vast number of awards to his credit. Particularly good at swimming, he has represented his school at state and district levels aquatic meets winning the individual championship four times. Representing Bombay, at the Maharashtra State Cycling Meet held in December 1982, Dennis secured a third place.

Dennis also loves singing and was adjudged 'best pop vocalist' (1978 and 1980) by the Konkani Cultural Association. He was also awarded the second prize in the pop vocal category at the inter-collegiate *Malhar* festival organized by St Xavier's College in September '86. Taraporewala, who composes his own songs, had in 1985 participated in the International Song Festival held in Chile, South America.

Taraporewala's other interests include elocution and reading. He has been an active participant in youth leadership camps and in social service activities.

## Limca sponsors Ayrton

Under a new policy of "catching them



(athletes) young at the grass roots level," schoolgirl sprinter Zenia Ayrton has been, "in a way, adopted by Parle Soft Drinks, manufacturers of Limca, for being the most talented junior athlete in the country," reported the *Indian Express* of September 14, 1987. For the duration of the three-year contract, Ayrton will receive Rs 750 per month towards her dietary and competition expenses, and will also be given running gear of her choice, states the write-up. In return, said Ayrton, she will wear the Limca logo when she runs. Fifteen-year-old Ayrton, who is now being coached by 11-time national sprint champion Adile Sumariwalla, was reportedly nominated for the scheme by Parle Soft Drinks' managing director Ramesh Chauhan.

Four days after the announcement of the contract, Ayrton ran her fastest ever at India's first International Invitation Permit Meet organized by the Amateur Athletics Federation of India, which included athletes, some of



*Above : cured leprosy women at the engineering unit and their benefactor, Dr Jal Mehta (left)*

work alongside the orthopedically handicapped and the able-bodied socio-economically disadvantaged persons in an integrated manner to break down the magnitude of the leprosy stigma. In this way "the CVTPH demonstrates the practicability of a comprehensive program of rehabilitation of different groups (together) as against a segregated and exclusive approach," notes the project brochure. Efforts are thus made "to convert unskilled handicapped people into 'handicapables.'"

The three-year on-the-job training course imparts skills required for engineering jobs like those of a fitter, driller, welder, grinder and press-operator. Training is also given in ammonia-printing, poultry-keeping and power-loom operating. Two such training units are situated at Kondhawa Budruk and the third is at Bhosari in Pune.

"The trainees learn to cope with the stress of meeting the norms of accuracy and specified standards so that they are better equipped to handle stress in the outside world," notes the brochure.

The CVTPH provides medical, surgical and residential facilities free of cost to the trainees and also assures resettlement aid to deserving handicapped persons on completion of training.

Subsequently, the trainees at the light engineering unit have formed a

co-operative society and have named it Dr Minoo Mehta Apangodhar Sahakari Udyogic Utpadak Sanstha. Maryadit (Dr Minoo Mehta Industrial Production Co-operative Society for the Welfare of the Handicapped, Ltd) after Mehta's late son.

With the help of industrialists and business houses, it is expected that the project will become fully viable and self-supporting and in due course absorb more handicapped persons and expand its different units. For the future, the project hopes to become a government recognized and approved industrial training unit.

"Now that this human experiment has proved successful, it could be emulated in other regions and serve as a model on a national level," concludes the brochure.

Any donations towards this project may be sent to the honorary president, Poona District Leprosy Committee, Manisha, 2nd Floor, Flat No 35, 2-A Moledina Road, Poona 411014.

## Pateti in style

"Usher in the New Year with a little koti-kissi (hug and kiss) and a lot of revelry in true Parsi style," invited a press release issued by Hotel Oberoi Towers. Not only Parsis, many non-Zoroastrians too, congregated at the Hotel's Supper Club on August 24, 1987 to enjoy the gaiety and feasting which usually mark Pateti, the New Year's eve.

Traditionally, Pateti was set aside for repentance and resolution to return to the right path, but over the years it has become just one more occasion for celebration. The select gathering of around 150 at the Supper Club had come with a similar merry intention, paying Rs 200 per head to revel in the enchantment of candle-light, sentimental music by George and the Soft Rock Revolution, and a choice of delectable Parsi and French cuisine.

While the practice of organizing the New Year's eve dinner and the New Year lunch has been observed at the Oberoi for over a couple of years, they "try to make it different and a little special each year by changing the menu, the entertainment, and yet retaining the Parsi atmosphere [the ses (ceremonial silver ware used on auspicious occasions) and the torans (garlands) stood in mute testimony]," ex-

them world class, from 14 nations, noted *The Indian Post* of September 18.

Running in the 100 meters sprint on September 15 in Delhi, Ayrtion clocked 12.22 seconds to stand third behind Ashwini Nachappa of India and Nancy Vallecia of Ecuador.

Ayrtion informed that she would be running in the 100 meters and the 4 x 100 meters women's relay at the South Asian Federation Games in Calcutta slated for November 20.

## Operation 'handicapables'

To impart vocational training to leprosy patients and to help them secure employment after training, Padma Bhushan Dr Jal Mehta has introduced the idea of the Common Vocational Training Project for the Handicapped (CVTPH). This concept was implemented by the Poona District Leprosy Committee, of which Mehta is the honorary president, notes a press release.

In this project, ex-leprosy patients

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plained Niloufer Bilimoria, the Hotel's public relations manager.

While this year the five course table d'hôte Parsi cuisine for New Year's eve included *lagan-nu achar*, *roilis*, *prawn patio*, *kaju murghi*, *pulav-dal*, *chakki-ni kulf* or *lagan-nu* custard, the New Year's lunch at The Outrigger offered *patra-ni machhi*, *kid gosht* and *jerdaloo-ma chicken farcha*, in addition to a spread of Continental, Polynesian and Indian specialities. During the festive season, the all-time Parsi favorites, chocolate fish and *mava* cakes, specially featured at the Hotel's Pastry Shop. Parinaz Toddywalla

## The select players

At the State Selection Badminton Tournament, Hufrish Nariman emerged as the winner of the women's singles finals at Bombay's P.J. Hindu Gymkhana on August 20, 1987, noted the *Indian Express*, the next day.

Hufrish beat Deepti Thanekar, 12-11, 1-11, 11-4. "Trailing 1-4 in the decider, Hufrish brought into play her vast experience and intelligent placements laced with controlled wrist-work to notch a commendable win," notes the report.

In the women's doubles, Hufrish Nariman and Shirin Garda beat Deepti Thanekar and Niharika Taskar, 15-5, 15-12.

At the same meet, the sub-junior girls' singles title was won by Feroza Batliwalla of Pune, when she beat Preeti Nerlekar. Batliwalla subsequently won the junior girls' singles event at the Maharashtra State Badminton Second Selection Championship at Latur, notes *The Indian Post* of August 27, 1987.

## SPOTLIGHT

Air-India's deputy director (air safety) Captain Zal Khurshed Lalkaka, has been appointed a member of the international advisory committee of the Flight Safety Foundation, USA, notes a report in *The Economic Times* of August 8, 1987.

Noted orthodontist Dr Keki M. Mistry has been awarded the honorary degree of Doctor of Medicine by the board of directors of Medicina Alternativa, notes the *Mid-Day* of August 12, 1987. The degree will be conferred at a special ceremony to be held in Copenhagen, Denmark, in conjunc-

tion with the Sixth European Symposium of Complementary Medicine, adds the report.

Consumer activist and social worker Naval B. Vakeel has been co-opted as a member to the executive committee, Indian Section of Amnesty International. He is the first Parsi to be so honored, notes a press release.

Soli Doctor, director of MARC (Marketing, Advertising and Research Consultancy) Services, was presented the Century Rayon Award by the Bombay Management Association for the "most significant contribution to the professional management movement in the Bombay area and for individual professional excellence and reputation" on May 4, 1987, notes the June issue of *Ambit*, the publication of the Association.

Hoshang S. Billimoria has been appointed president of the Institute of Internal Auditors, Bombay Chapter, notes *The Economic Times* of September 12, 1987.

Shereyar D. Vakil has taken over as vice-president (medical systems), of IGE (India) Ltd (earlier known as International General Electric), notes the *Business World* of July 20-August 2, 1987.

Compiled by Roxana H. Kaka

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## Purchasing burial lots

"For the scattering of ashes and the burial of bodies of all Zoroastrians, their spouses (including non-Zoroastrian spouses), their children and their parents," the executive committee of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO), has been empowered to purchase a plot of land approximately 50 feet by 100 feet at the Glen Oaks Memorial. The decision was taken at ZSO's annual general meeting (AGM) held on June 21, 1987, notes a summary of the minutes of the AGM in the September issue of the ZSO newsletter.

The committee has also been "empowered to pay a deposit of \$ 2,000 for reserving such a plot of land and to make suitable arrangements for collecting money from those members of the community wishing to buy a burial plot at \$ 550 per unit and, from others wishing scattering ground privileges, a donation of \$ 100 or more per family." ZSO is merely to act as the co-ordinating agency and will adopt the "user-pay-principle," adds the report.

Nevertheless, a 400 square foot piece of land will be purchased by the executive committee for approximately \$ 10,000 to scatter the ashes after cremation, notes the write-up.

The \$ 56,500 budget for the North American Zoroastrian Congress, to be held in Toronto next year, was also discussed at the AGM. The executive committee has been empowered to spend up to \$ 10,000 towards the cost of hosting this Congress. "Every effort (will) be made to recover this amount from delegate fees, grants from government sources and private funding," notes the write-up.

## UK seminar

"Its great advantage lay in the blossoming of warm friendships, in increasing the participants' awareness of their religious responsibilities and in strengthening our desire to work for the community." Reporting on the 10-day seminar on Zoroastrianism in the June issue of *The Topical*, joint-editor Jimmy Vapiwala summarized the deliberations and the feedback received

from the 18 participants who met from April 17 to 26 at the Zoroastrian House, London. Conducted by Khojeste Mistree, founder of Zoroastrian Studies, the seminar discussed subjects like the role of religion, the concept of prophet, Zoroastrian history, doctrine and rituals.

Notes the write-up, "We did not necessarily agree with everything Khojeste said, but we listened, we learnt, and we were all the richer for the experience."

Thirteen-year-old Xerxes Aspi Mistry of UK was selected to play in the British Chess Championships slated for August this year, notes the June issue of *The Topical*.

Playing now for Surrey County team, Mistry had won the under-11 and under-12 Surrey Championships of 1984/85. In 1986, he won the St James' Cup and became the Whitgift Junior School chess champion and team captain.

Mistry, who also plays cricket, badminton and table tennis, has acquired a green belt in judo, adds the write-up.

## The Aussie annual

The Australian Zoroastrian Association (AZA) of New South Wales has not been able to arrive at a consensus as yet on its membership issue. The bone of contention is the ambiguous wording of the "ancestry" clause defining the criteria on which admission to the Association would be granted. On the grounds of "confusion" and need for "further discussion" the issue, which was scheduled on the agenda of AZA's annual general meeting on August 16, was again deferred to September 13. Members are expected "to express their views and recommendations in writing to the committee (before the new deadline). At the end of the period, a position paper would be prepared summarizing all the viewpoints and hopefully one consensus view would emerge," notes president Purviz Kolsawalla in the September issue of the Association's newsletter, *Manashni*.

Currently, admission to the AZA is governed by the "ancestry" clause according to which "Any Zoroastrian

or any person married to a Zoroastrian or any child where both parents are Zoroastrians or any individual with Zoroastrian ancestry is eligible to be a member of the Company subject to such regulations as may be determined by the committee from time to time."

But "individuals with Zoroastrian ancestry" could also include present day Muslims, Christians, Bahais, Iranians and Armenians. To overcome that hurdle, one alternative recommendation states that that particular phrase be replaced by "any child whose one grandparent is a Zoroastrian." This would solve the problem of Zoroastrian membership for the next generation; but what after that?

Another point of view suggests deleting the "ancestry" clause altogether. "This is the path of least resistance (and) by our apathy, our future existence in Australia would be jeopardized. Zoroastrianism in a few generations would not exist as a separate identity," Kolsawalla had noted in an earlier discussion on the membership issue in the January *Manashni*.

The proposed benefits of having a small place of worship on the AZA property, its costs, etc., are being worked out. "Please note that the place of worship is not an agiary (fire-temple) as we have no means of creating or maintaining a consecrated fire. It would be like a household fire which is lit at the time of worship," says Kolsawalla, noting that donations from AZA members as well as from well-wishers abroad are most welcome. Those who wish to donate may send their contributions to Purviz Kolsawalla, AZA House, 196 Annangrove Road, Annangrove, NSW 2154, Australia.

To add "an Aussie flavor" to the Young Zoroastrians' activities, a woolshed bush dance has been organized by the AZA on December 5, 1987 complete with an Australian bush band and a caller (one who explains the steps of each dance), notes the September issue of *Manashni*. "An exciting evening of Australian folkore awaits you. The evening starts with an Aussie dinner. Then from 8 p.m. till midnight you have the opportunity to

have a gung ho, hot dog, moonshinin', shin wag of a time," promises Homaxi Irani in the write-up.

According to *Manashni*, a recent issue of *Reader's Digest*, in its column "What's behind the name?" explains the origin of the name of the Japanese car, Mazda: "Although Mazda is pronounced exactly the same as the family name of the company founder, it was chosen because it is the name of the God of light in the ancient Persian religion of Zoroastrianism, Ahura Mazda, and the positive associations of this auspicious name reflects the company's ambition to make its products a bright light of the automobile industry."

### Hospital fund raising

"With the purpose of collecting funds for disbursement of medicine to the poor and needy Zoroastrians" at the B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital (PGH), Bombay, a fervor of fund raising activity, undertaken by the Zoroastrians of North America has "spread across this land of opportunity," notes Jehan Bagli, Editor of *Gavashni*, the newsletter of the

Zoroastrian Association of Quebec.

Last year, following a PGH appeal, a luncheon meet organized by Dr Yasmin and Jamshed Ghadiali of Baldwin, New York, was held to collect funds. This meeting and other donations in the year yielded \$ 6,839, \$ 2,000 of which was collected by Ms Hutoxi Contractor, on behalf of the Pittsburgh Zoroastrians, adds the report.

Planning to make this fund raising luncheon an annual event, the Ghadialis held another get-together on April 19 this year, when a sum of \$ 4,000 was collected in New York to which the Pittsburgh Zoroastrians contributed \$ 1,000.

North American Zoroastrians wishing to contribute to the cause should contact Dr (Ms) Yasmin Ghadiali, 2686, Belcher Street, Baldwin, New York 11510.

To enable "the working mother or busy housewife to cook a gourmet meal in the shortest possible time," Nergish Karanjia and Nergis Unwalla of New Jersey have compiled a cookbook called *An Adventure in Parsi/Indian Cooking*. Priced at US \$ 9.95

plus postage, the book, which includes a foreword written by maestro Zubin Mehta, gives recipes which use "pre-packaged and readily available ingredients," along with menu selections, description of spices and other related information. Moreover, one dollar from every sale made goes to the local Zoroastrian association.

The books may be ordered from Nergis Unwalla, 45 Carlton Avenue, Marlton, N.J. 08053, USA.

### Gymnastics champ

Seventh standard student Ty Tikari emerged the all round Northern California champion in Class III gymnastics, notes the September issue of *Yatha*, the newsletter of the Zarthoshti Anjuman of Northern California.

Tikari, who practises 12 to 15 hours each week, stood first in the parallel bars and the pommel horse, and second in the floor events, and has been subsequently promoted to Class II. Tikari has also received two school awards, the Presidential Academic Fitness Award and the Principal's Award for the outstanding student.

Compiled by Niloofer J. Madon.

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**I**t needed a lot of coaxing but finally a small group of boys and girls came forward to regale their audience with an enthusiastic, if a little off-key rendition of *My bonnie lies over the ocean*. Members of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's (BPP) Youth Club had just begun their monthly meeting on the evening of Thursday, September 17.

Earlier, one harassed-looking, but always courteous boy, had gone around patiently asking everyone their names, attendance register in hand, while another had been busy distributing the newly printed identity cards. All this activity was accomplished under the watchful eye of Dr (Ms) Ketayun R.A.J. Madon, coordinator of the first ever BPP Programme for Youth, the five-week summer vacation scheme, held at the Sir Mancherji Khareghat Hall at Bombay's Khareghat Colony, for students who had just completed their tenth standard of school. The Youth Club is, in fact, the outcome of this Programme, as only the participants of the vacation scheme can be members of the Club; 58 of the 126 youths are members.

The evening continued with a question and answer session on the various books read by the participants and with individual extempore speeches on various topics chosen by Madon. By the time all 58 members put forth their views, it was 8.30 p.m. and time to disperse.

The Club meets once a month at the Khareghat Colony hall where plans for action are outlined. After careful evaluation of the BPP Holiday Programme three activities were chosen to be implemented - hospital aides, study groups and the entertainment group - participants being allowed to choose their own field of interest. The hospital aides have been to the B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and, under the guidance of the matron, they are learning to roll bandages and helping to cheer patients.

The study group is encouraged to help younger students in their residential areas with academic work - a sort of coaching.

The entertainment group sings to the patients at the Parsee General Hospital and also organizes entertainment programs for the Club itself. The

**Fifty-eight participants  
of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's  
Holiday Programme for Youth  
have grouped together  
to involve themselves in community activities**

Niloofer J. Madon



## BPP Youth Club

monthly Club meeting helps to coordinate all these activities and to see that sufficient progress has been made in the chosen fields.

"A group of lively tenth standard children turned out to be an enthusiastic but a more mature lot - they made the necessary transition we were hoping they would," says Ketayun Madon of the outcome of the Holiday Programme. "In the beginning they were doing whatever they wanted to do. They were not quite serious and did not know what was involved. Then, as we started the Programme, they realized very slowly the enormity of the whole thing and then they really put their heart and soul into the whole matter."

The brainchild of BPP trustee Dr

(Ms) Mehroo Bengalee, the Holiday Programme was conducted from April 6 to May 9, 1987. An initial letter of invitation to the Programme listed its aims: to provide interaction among Parsi youth of various interests and abilities, to identify leaders amongst the teenagers of the community, kindle interest and enthusiasm about the culture, customs and religious tenets of the community and to impart vocational choices open to various levels of aptitude and different interests.

Participants were guided through activities which included "everything you could think of," says Madon. From a series of 10 talks on the Zoroastrian religion by Dastur (Dr) Navrooz D. Minochehr-Homji to psychological testing by Ms Perin

Adarianwala, the sessions also included leadership training, awareness of drug abuse, career guidance in computers, catering and hotel management, defence services, and mass communications followed by mock interviews, and success stories narrated by the BPP trustees themselves. Visits to the National Defence Academy, the Pharmacy College at Worli, the Bombay University's Kalina campus and the Godrej factory at Vikhroli were also undertaken.

A three-day trip to Sanjan, Bordi,



Members of the Youth Club (facing page) enjoying the singing session (above) at a monthly meeting (Alongside) Madon: involving youth in community activity

Golvad, Udvarda, Navsari and Surat was organized but had to be cut short because one of the participants fell seriously ill on the way.

The last day of the Programme started off with a *maachi* at the Vatcha Gandhi Agiary followed by an entertainment program, the prize distribution and a contributory dinner.

All this activity took one month of intense planning to accomplish, notes Madon, and acknowledges that without the help of her two assistants, the

BPP's student counsellors Diana Marfatia and Kamal Shroff, the cooperation of the trustees, the guidance of the BPP chief executive Rustom Anklesaria and the help of the entire staff of the BPP, she would never have been able to manage.

Principals of various schools, especially the Parsi managed ones, were contacted, so as to enable them to introduce the scheme to their students. The participants themselves came to know about the Programme because the BPP employed volunteers to go from door to door to register students in the various colonies (one registration form was given to each flat at each baug) and from the extensive publicity given to the Programme in the Parsi Press.

As a result there were 126 partici-



pants, seven of whom were from out of station (five from the Golvad Homes run by the BPP and one each from Mhow and Navsari). Moreover, there were two observers each from Bombay and Karachi. There was no form of elimination, explained Madon, whoever registered was included in the Programme on a first come first served basis. "We had to refuse a lot of people, which was rather unfortunate. There was no way we could have coped with all," she adds.

"The parents were happy that there was something worthwhile their children could do - get a chance to learn something" instead of whiling away their holidays. However, Madon was emphatic that "the Programme was not something where we wanted to take care of them (the participants) for a few weeks during the holidays, and leave them. We wanted to encourage students to really grow and to involve themselves in community activity." Yet, Madon wished that there was greater involvement by the parents, especially since there were programs specially planned for them, which included family life education, parental guidance and one lecture on "Parents are people too."

Though most of the participants seemed to have been "pushed" into

"The parents were happy that there was something worthwhile their children could do and learn," instead of whiling away their holidays

the Programme by their parents, aunts or uncles, almost all agreed that it had helped them in some way or another. One boy merely joined up because it was something to do during the long summer vacations, and though sometimes lectures tended to get boring (because different people have different interests), he enjoyed the Programme on the whole. A girl was grateful that the Programme enabled her to make more friends and overcome her shyness. This would also help her in adjusting better to college life, she said.

There were a few complaints too. One felt that the computer lessons were far too basic to be of any use while another moaned that he had no proper holiday as such because the Programme, being so varied, took up



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all his time! But if there was one thing almost all the participants enjoyed, it was the talks on religion given by Dastur Minochehr-Homji. They all agreed they learnt things they did not know about their faith.

In turn, Minochehr-Homji noted of the participants: "By and large, they were receptive; many were taking down notes. It was unusual to find almost 100 teenagers attending a course in religion...If every year there is a refresher course, it would not only be desirable but commendable, in view of the abysmal ignorance of the religion in our community...There were a score of questions from the floor which revealed their yearning for knowledge."

Happy with the way things turned out, Madon reminisces: "Towards the end, they did not want to leave. A majority wanted to meet once a month." And so the BPP Youth Club was born.

Flushed with the success of this initial Programme, the BPP wishes to make it an annual feature. Says Madon, "There were no problems,

only challenges. We are just going to do it better than before." Professor Noshir Kaikobad, convener of the BPP school and family counselling programs, agrees: "Every program has some sort of rawness, but you have to improve upon it all the time...as you go on working, unmet needs arise."

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"There were a score  
of questions from  
the floor which  
revealed their  
yearning for religious  
knowledge"

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"Mind you, this is not a youth program. Youth are 18 years and above. This one was primarily geared towards school students. I would suggest that such programs be held in different parts of the city" so as to influence a greater number of persons...The program can also take the shape of a sum-

mer camp. Parsis have a number of dharamshalas in different places which are disused. This will prove cheaper and the need of the city children to get out (of the congested city environment) will also be served."

However, it is Kaikobad's opinion that older, college going students should be given adequate training in group orientation and on how to run the Club and discover interests and channelize them through appropriate means. Kaikobad also suggested comprehensive programs to encourage entrepreneurship amongst the youth and family life education, wherein pre-marital and post-marital counselling is imparted.

"There is so much of talent that needs to be nurtured and helped," says Madon. "Children need guidance and the opportunity...We'd like more people in various fields to come forward and sponsor participants, not just financially but also by giving them vacation jobs and making them apprentices which will generate a sense of involvement of the established with the young."

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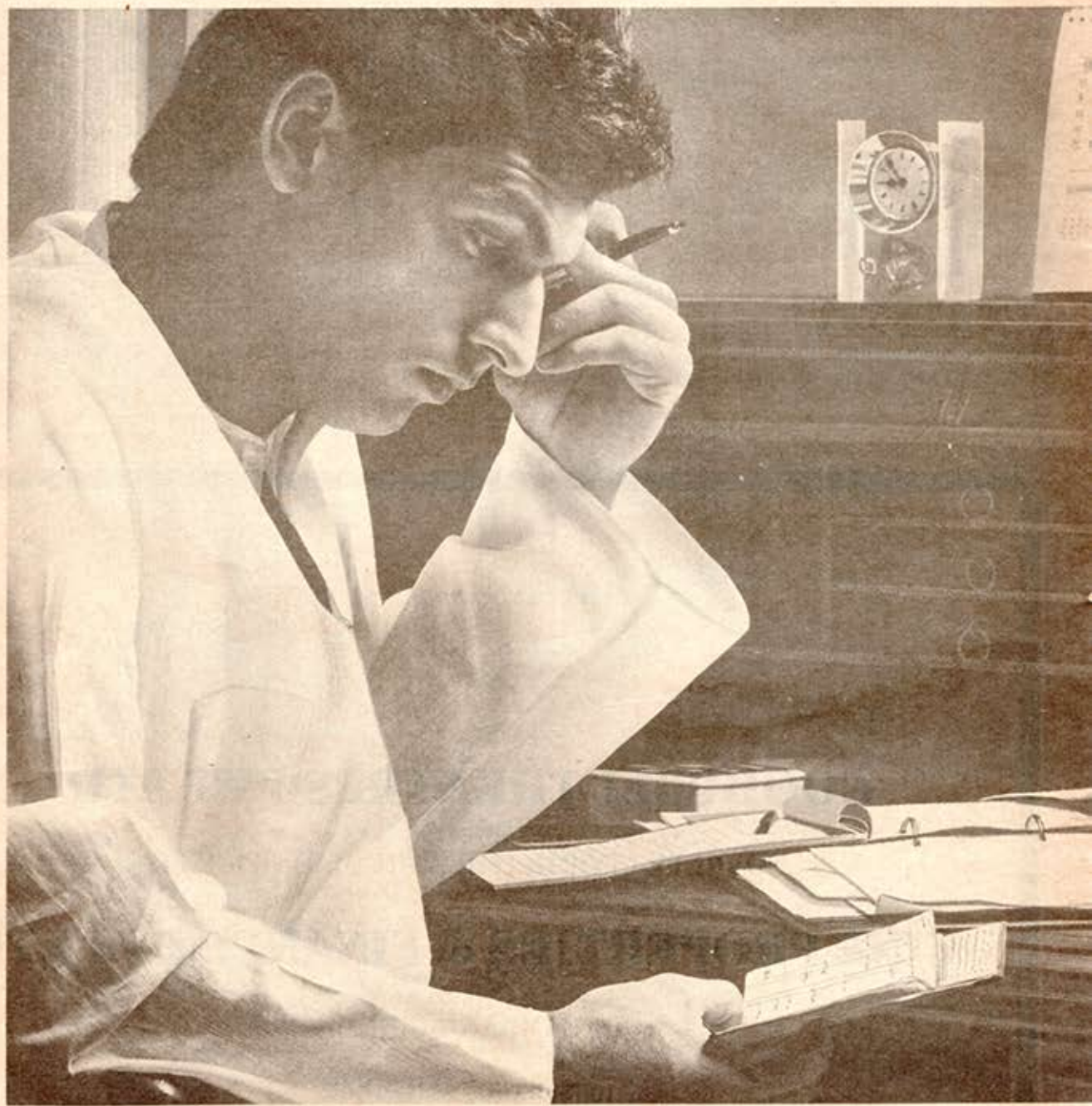
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*Fearing that the proposed thermal plant near Dahanu would contaminate the yield of their crops, the Irani settlers are opposing the project*



## Shield the field

Parinaz Toddywalla

The prospect of eating chikoos which are contaminated, drinking coconut water which is toxic or inhaling the perfume of spider lilies which have a residue of soot would be repulsive to any cultivator. The residents of Dahanu fear this fate may await their orchards if the 2,000 megawatt (MW) thermal power station, to be operated by the Bombay Suburban Electric Supply (BSES), is installed in the vicinity of Dahanu.

The new coal-operated plant is meant to help meet the increasing demand of Bombay's suburban population, but the Dahanu community is reluctant to sacrifice its ecology in the interest of Bombay's electricity. The threat of the proposed plant was sufficient motivation for the setting up of two organizations in Dahanu, both spearheaded by the enterprising Irani settlers there. The Vigilance Organisation of Women (VOW) and the Dahanu Taluka Environmental Protection Group (DTEPG) have both resolved to oppose the thermal power unit which will bring in its wake industrialization and concomitant pollution in a predominantly agricultural area.

"Dahanu is the only green belt between the Maharashtra Industrial Development Corporation at Tarapur and the Gujarat Industrial Development Corporation at Vapi," asserts Nergis Irani, chairperson of VOW and secretary of DTEPG who, after a 12-year stay in England, decided to settle down in Dahanu and guide the residents with her knowledge of law. "The

monsoons here are regular, the local adivasis well-employed, and the beach and greenery should induce the Government to develop it as a tourist resort" since it is at a distance of barely 120 kilometers from Bombay.

Though VOW and DTEPG claim to be political bodies, their views on this issue are supported by the other local groups of Dahanu. At a joint public meeting convened last month in Dahanu, the representatives of all these groups demanded a reason for the authorities selecting Dahanu which has an established infrastructure for the proposed thermal plant instead of going to the hinterland of Maharashtra like Mokhada and Javhar where the persistent droughts have ruled out all possibility of agriculture.

Tackling the problem with missionary zeal, the Iranis of Dahanu are trying to invoke the aid of the State Government. The general impression that the Iranis of this region are very well-off and can look after themselves is not disputed by them but they also recall that in times of financial constraints they have known periods of "constantly paying off debts, first to the local moneylenders and thereafter to the banks." As Ms Kety Rustom, a

teacher at the J.B. Petit School in Bombay, and secretary of VOW recalls, "Our youth was spent in *karja* (debt). We have had our share of difficulties in the past but so far we have never approached the government for any concessions."

The Irani citizens have contributed to Dahanu's progress in several ways: building a school, college, hospital, bridge, dam, power house; running bakeries, hotels like the Pearline and Royal (managed by a mother-in-law - daughter-in-law team); and also involving themselves in social work like running a lepers' colony, a school for the deaf and dumb, and working for the uplift of the blind. Realizing that agriculture is not giving them the expected yields, many of them have started branching into allied businesses like manufacturing food products, water pipes or drills, running garages, dealing in power tillers, and undertaking leasing activities. The members of VOW claim, "The Organisation is not fighting the battle for itself. We are educated and diversified; we can sell and move out at any time. This is a fight for the adivasis - *roti ki ladai* (a battle for sustenance) - and for the nation."

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Chairman of the local Mission Hospital, Soli Irani, who has been in Dahanu since 1947 when he was asked to help out with the maintenance of his wife's property, says, "Not all children in a family should be made to take up agriculture." Happy that such a small Irani community in Dahanu has fielded five doctors and six engineers, he opines that while some members of the family should stay behind in Dahanu, others should move out. If the thermal plant arrives, the appreciation in the land value "will give us a chance to be *crorepattis* (better than millionaires) but it would mean the ruin of gardens that we love."

Trying to cajole, convince and coerce the relevant authorities to withdraw their plans, the DTEPG submitted a memorandum to the Government. Based on the homework done by the Group, they have elaborated: "In a thermal power station of 2,000 MW capacity using 8 million tons of coal per year, about 2.4 million tons of ash is produced occupying an area of 0.5 square kilometer and a height of five meters... (It would also release into) the atmosphere about 100 tons of sulphur per day as oxides (and bring about) acid rain... dispersion in top soil" and destroy the fishing industry with the discharge of hot water and ash into the sea.

The Dahanu citizenry's struggle against this threat to environment involves money, and for the present, the Iranis are organizing fund raising dinners, get-togethers, sale of tickets, etc to show their united stand on this issue and to augment the collection through donations. As Mervan A. Irani puts it, "At first we have got to unitedly try



Fighting for their environment: Nergis Irani (far left) and Kety Rustom Adenwalla Sanatorium (below): in disrepair

The thermal plant "will give us a chance to be *crorepattis* but it would mean the ruin of gardens that we love"

and fight it out, but if (the plant materializes and cultivation then proves) unprofitable, we may have to move to industry." He is a very respected figure in Dahanu for his initiative in setting up a lepers' colony there and looking after their welfare. Mervan's grandfather had humble beginnings, running a victoria for the prestigious Cama family in Bombay, but he was enterprising enough to start afresh in Dahanu when informed of openings here.

The Rs 600-crore plant will use coal instead of oil or gas as the per unit expenditure would be the lowest with coal. According to a statement issued

by K.V. Chaubal, the managing director of BSES, as reported in the *Bombay* magazine (August 7-21, 1987), Dahanu was selected because they required "a site in western Maharashtra ...to feed the power into our own grid and not into the state grid." This site would also avoid transportation of coal on the suburban railway sector, he had said, and then attempted to convince the Dahanu residents, "We will enforce all anti-pollution measures and also take up a massive tree planting program."

India's noted environmentalist Dr Rashmi Mayur has reportedly stated, "I would certainly not recommend setting up a 2,000 MW plant in a predominantly agricultural area like Dahanu because no pollution control measures are foolproof, even if they are strictly implemented."

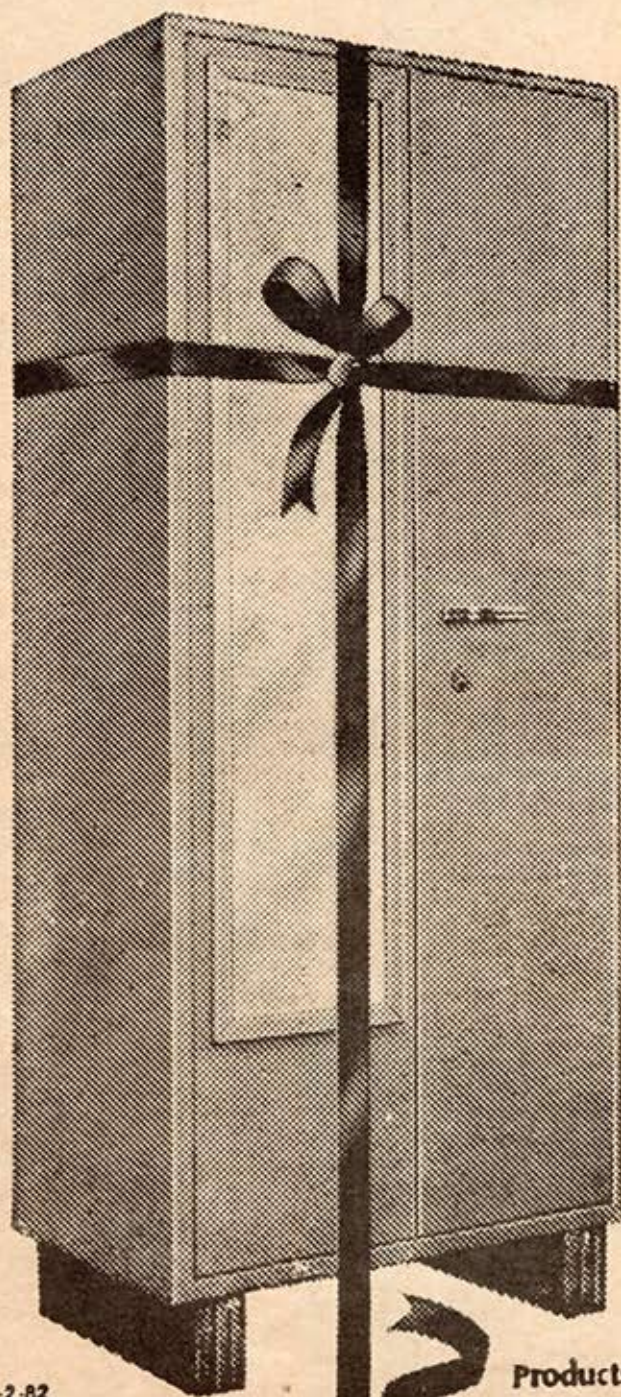
The Bombay Industries Association is backing the BSES project and as expressed by one of their spokesmen, "The need of the hour is to see that the BSES project gets off the ground. It is primarily due to an efficiently managed utility like the BSES that Greater Bombay is relatively free from uncertainty on the power front which dogs other large cities like Calcutta."

The Dahanu denizens keep repeating that the location of the plant is on 2,000 acres of marshy wasteland owned by the Central Government, earlier considered ideal for prawn culture by the fisheries department. In 1980, a portion of this land had been leased out to local parties for salt panning at an abysmal amount of Rs4.60 per acre per year for which the Government is now offering compensation at the rate of Rs 20,000 per acre, assert the Dahanu activists.

Another cause for agitation is the eighty-crore rupee Surya Canal Project awaiting completion, which was initial-



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ly meant to provide water for agricultural use to tribals. The possibility of the water being diverted for use at the thermal plant and its surrounding industries, will defeat the Government's purpose, points out a lady member of VOW.

The local industrialists are the only ones who have feigned indifference to the BSES project, notes the report in *Bombay*. Neither wishing to "oppose it nor support it," was the stand taken by the secretary of the Dahanu Industries Association.

Among the newest agriculturally inclined arrivals on the scene is Noshir Irani who, after graduating in agriculture, migrated from Delhi to Dahanu, via Bombay. Previously unhappy in the midst of Bombay's pollution, he said he would consider another move if the thermal plant materialized in Dahanu. Surveying his property from the rooftop, Noshir, a bachelor, seemed to enjoy basking in his well-maintained acres of fertile land.

Another youth with tenacious hold on his land is Marazban Hormuzji.

prising spirit and as employers. The original settlers at Dahanu were two Parsi families – the Vakils and the Patels – who were mainly into agriculture. Next came three or four Iranis who bought some parts of the Parsi-owned land and developed it. After the first handful of settlers came to Dahanu, they "then invited the *jamai* (son-in-law), the *salo* (brother-in-law)... and so it went on." As the families started inter-marrying the size of the community grew and today most Iranis seem to have common ancestors if you stay on the scene long enough to hear the *sagai* (relationship).

In the early part of the century, Dahanu was "very undeveloped," re-

The Iranis of this region are very well-off but they have also known periods of indebtedness



same adivasis who had to be taught how to plow the land, now refuse to work unless provided with automated equipment.

The families based in Dahanu look forward to company and visitors. Any new face constitutes a change from the rustic routine. Newcomers are always given a cheerful welcome by the loud and boisterous ethnic group which, with its characteristic humor, politely refers to itself as "wild" and bluntly as "jungle." The constant rubbing of shoulders with the same people does occasionally get exasperating, and as one Irani put it, "The closer the relative, the greater the likelihood of friction."

Yet, for any altruistic mission the Iranis adopt a united stand. They vie with each other to donate for a cause that affects the well-being of the community. In 1940 they gave their mite towards the construction of an agriary in Dahanu.

Since Dahanu does not have its own dokhma but utilizes the facilities of the one at Davier, recently the Dahanu residents contributed towards the building costs of a wall round the Davier dokhma, informed Zarhost Mubarak, president of the Dahanu Road Zoroastrian Agriary Trust Fund which has approximately 500 members on its rolls and an elected board of six trustees governing the affairs of the anjuman.

The anjuman also manages a chawl and from the rentals of the tenements the anjuman's current financial condition is secure, feels Mubarak, but the future, uncertain. Giving education grants to poor children is also among their regular activities. Their social functions like weddings and navjotes



Above (from left): Soli Irani, Mervan Irani and Rustom Rubhac

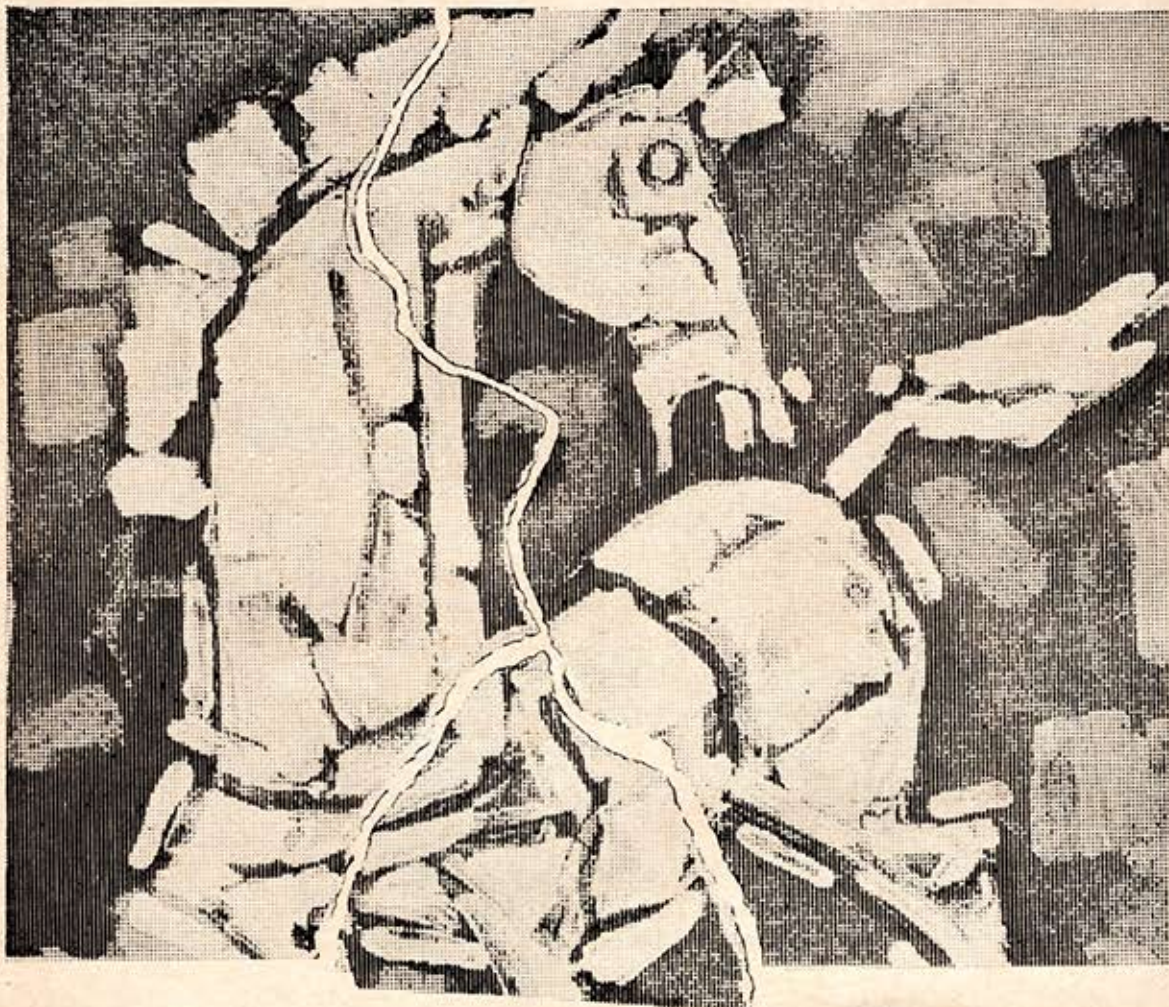
Top: Zarhost Mubarak

Complacent with his rows of chikoo trees, he sees no reason to diversify, believing that if one owns land, one must concentrate both energy and resources to get the maximum returns. Before zooming off on his motorbike he does however concede that chikoo trees require constant nurturing only in the early years. Once they are well-matured, the choice before a cultivator is either business, social work or premature retirement.

#### Roots in Dahanu

Numbering barely 1,000 among Dahanu municipality's count of 50,000, Iranis command respect for their enter-

members Boman Faroodi who came to Dahanu in 1928 after working as a waiter-cum-cook in one of the Irani restaurants in Bombay. (Though a very successful agriculturist in Dahanu today, memories of his persecution in Iran are too strong – as a young lad he fled Yazd as a stowaway and made his way from Karachi to Bombay as a stableboy – to permit him to revisit Iran, despite not having met his sisters again or ever seen their grandchildren.) It was only later, when Dahanu got its electric supply and had reached some stage of civilization, that Faroodi sent for his wife. Today, the fourth generation of his family is literally, enjoying the fruits of his labor. Despite his age, every afternoon sees him making his rounds of the *wadis* (orchards). Sometimes he is surprised that the



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are invariably held at the H.K. Hall at Dahanu, donated for community use. There is also an Adenwalla Sanatorium on the seaface which is in a state of disrepair, and disuse. The community activists are presently in the process of filing protests against the latrines which have been constructed on the beach, opposite the Sanatorium, for use by the hutment colony which has sprung up along the way.

The down-to-earth approach of the Irani women of Dahanu has taken even its menfolk by surprise. When the ration officers in Dahanu allegedly tried to swindle some locals, the women immediately reported them to the police. When the employer of a balloon factory refused to contribute towards an adivasi employee's medical bills, which were mounting every year because of the health hazards posed by the gases in the factory, the ladies made a representation to the factory owner with the intention of making him cough up the money.

Even their involvement with VOW, which is dismissed by some as just a "bow-wow," is taken seriously by most members who have weekly meet-

ings every Saturday to discuss issues of importance to the local community.

They like to view themselves as VOW with an exclamation mark. Offering hospitality comes naturally to them and the word "thank-you" is dis-

## The Dahanu community is reluctant to sacrifice its ecology in the interest of Bombay's electricity

missed as a formality or frivolity.

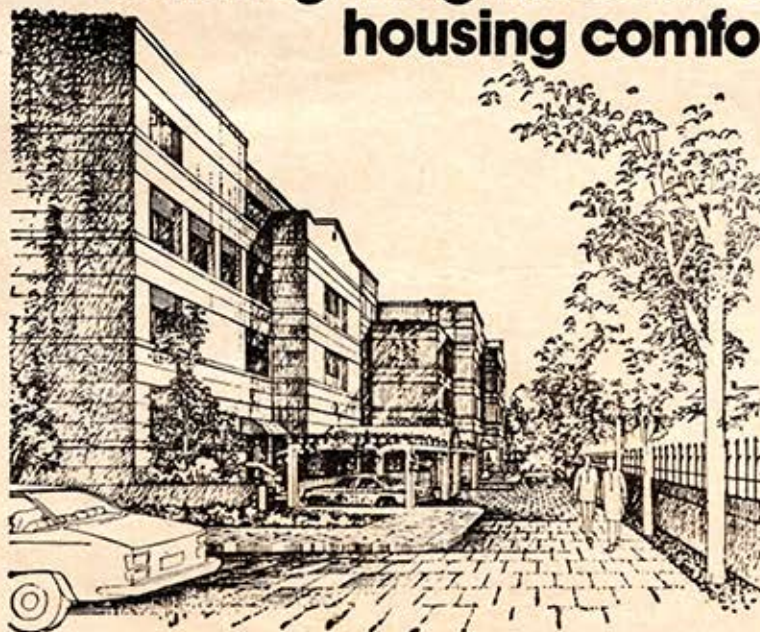
Most families are overtly concerned about giving the best education to their children. While there is an English medium convent school in Dahanu, there are some couples who would "rather sacrifice their family life in the interests of the child's education outside Dahanu." While one spouse supervises the *wadis* at Dahanu, the other spouse resides in the city/town

where the child is schooling, the family coming together only on weekends.

Since most families had contributed towards the costs of the agiary, they also have a special affinity to this institution. "The women more than the men," believes Soli Irani whose wife, presently in the States, sends him written instructions "*ke Behram roj-e ai karvanu, ne bija roj-e su* (stipulating rituals which need to be performed on certain fixed days)." There are two full-time priests tending the agiary in Dahanu and when work demands, priests from Udwa are summoned for additional help. "*Muktad time-e tau agiary ma chavani jaga nai hoi* (At muktad time, there is no room to walk in the agiary)," he reported.

Just as the Iranis have implicit faith in their agiary, they have faith in the nature of man (no locks are found on bungalows in Dahanu or Golvad), and in their own abilities which in the Persian words of Rustom Rubhac (who used to run a training center for the blind until he was incapacitated) reflects a typical agrarian philosophy: "*Koshte umidi, nakoshte, cha-umidi* (as you sow, so shall you reap)."

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# The courier concerns

The course of India's two top courier companies, DHL and Blue Dart, is respectively charted by Parsi helmsmen Cyrus Guzder and Khushroo Dubash

Parinaz Toddywalla

A patient at the Bombay Hospital's intensive care unit was prescribed a course of injections not available in India. Frantic calls were made to a friend in Singapore to urgently dispatch the injections using DHL Worldwide Express' courier network. Then started the persistent doubts in the minds of the family members: Had the medicine been labelled properly? Was it heading for the right destination? Would it reach the patient in time?

To allay their fears, DHL's Bombay office was contacted to ascertain the "status" (position in transit) of the parcel. With the help of the POD (proof of delivery) number, the injections were traced and tracked for the customer who left the Ballard Pier office, secure in the knowledge that the injections would soon be delivered at the Hospital. This story unfolded itself on September 16, when *Parsiana* was waiting to interview the managing director of DHL-India, Cyrus J. Guzder.

"There is no alternative to a courier sometimes," was Guzder's verdict before he proceeded to elaborate on this subject. "The courier industry is internationally used for moving technical drawings, samples, and documents which have to be received in the original format, be they bills of lading, invoices, bank checks or tenders. The export business cannot work without samples which have to precede major (shipment) orders." He then cited two illustrations of the townships of Moradabad (known for electroplated nickel silverware) and Bhadohi (for carpet weaving) which utilize the courier services when sending their samples

abroad for approval. Continued Guzder, "Once you generate business you realize the usefulness of couriers and soon both parties get used to a greater cycle of frequency."

"In the banking sphere, couriers have contributed to a small revolution in India," Guzder admits with a smile. "Checks reach their destinations so fast that they are bouncing." Cycles of three to six weeks have been reduced to three to six days causing some distress to the payer. But it is improving the financial liquidity of the banking system and "helping others to realize that 'all money has a cost.' If you encash faster, the gains are greater, setting off even the cost of the courier

**"The faster you can move information and material, the better your chance to be ahead of competition"**

service itself."

The courier industry in India is only around 10 years old, though DHL, as the pioneering courier company in the world, started its services in 1969 from Hong Kong. "It has more or less taken off in India," notes Khushroo Dubash, one of the founding partners of Blue Dart, "but it has a long way to go before maturity. The phenomenon is not new, but what is new is that people have woken to it now, thanks to the media build-up. It's only in the last

three years that more and more people have started using it."

DHL claims to have access to the world's largest network (750 offices in 162 countries manned by 15,000 professionals) "virtually guaranteeing door-to-door service in 48 hours, or 72 hours at the most if the destination is a city on the west coast of America." DHL-India is a division of Airfreight, a family concern which started out as a freight forwarding firm and subsequently diversified into travelling (Indtravels) and couriering. Today they relate with DHL-Worldwide not as a subsidiary, but on a principal-to-principal basis.

Almost all the courier companies in India are reluctant to divulge their success figures. It is roughly projected that 1987-88 will see them doing business to the tune of Rs 25 to 30 crores. Guzder is confident that 55 to 60 per cent of the India-originating international courier business will be assured for DHL.

Dubash, who rates Blue Dart as being the second largest courier company in India, was of the view, "Nobody knows who's number one (in couriers), who's where and what's the market share." While admitting that it would be very difficult to be precise, he expects the market share of his company to be "nothing less than 30 percent...In domestic (transactions), we're number one." Blue Dart is proud of its tie-up with the internationally renowned Federal Express courier service which, if judged by its turnover, would be rated as the largest in the world, feels Dubash.

The courier market in India for in-

ternational transactions is divided among seven to eight companies, and in the domestic field among 20 to 25 companies with more joining in, Dubash estimates.

"Judging by the number of new entrants, the courier industry seems to be thriving...The only thing they are doing is pushing down the prices which is very good for the consumer..." Guzder provided an insight before asserting, "We don't see our primary line as domestic courier service." Hence, the mushrooming of new courier firms in the domestic market has been unable to infringe on their position as market leaders in India.

Describing the competition among the courier companies as "fierce," Dubash sighs, "The only people who are losing out are the couriers themselves." Illustrating the heavy premium on speed and efficiency, Dubash said, "There was a time in domestic couriers when we would promise the client delivery 'tomorrow or day-after,' then it improved to 'tomorrow sometime,' then 'tomorrow 10.30,' and now even 'same day' service if it is between regular destinations like Bombay and Delhi."



"The faster you can move information and material, the better your chance to be ahead of competition. Throughout the world as trade and commerce develops, the pressures of competition impose a need to be more efficient in communication," notes Guzder. "Overall, the courier business is an extremely small fraction of the total communication set-up," the largest being posts and telephones, followed by telex and electronics. Both Guzder and Dubash are of a similar view when they say that they would rather charge a little extra for their services and ensure efficiency of communication. To them the price war is just an irritant.

Courier facilities are very expensive when compared to the Indian postal rates. On domestic routes, most courier companies charge a minimum Rs 50 for the first 500 grams (gms), and thereafter at the rate of Rs 20 for

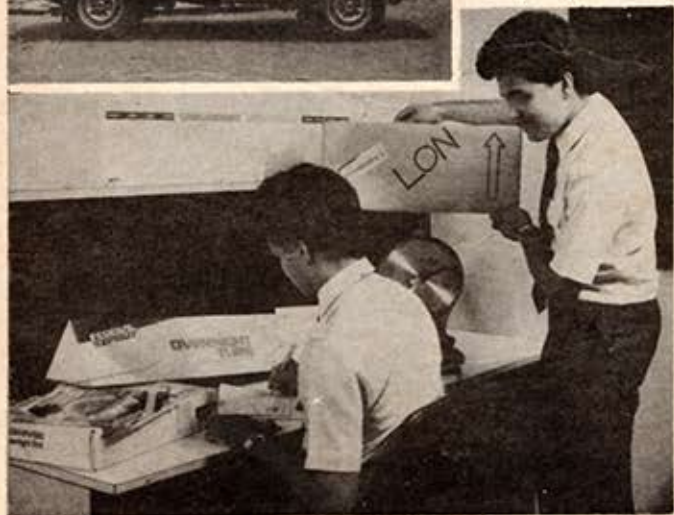
every additional 500 gms. To regular and volume shippers, discount rates are applicable. On international routes, the basic minimum is Rs 300 for the first 500 gms, and Rs 100 for every subsequent 500 gms. While carriage of personal mail, cash, antiques, contraband, hazardous chemicals, etc are prohibited to couriers, the revised Postal Act has permitted certain relaxation in the rules, announced Guzder, chairman of the Courier Council of India which operates within the framework of the Air Cargo Agents Association of India (ACAAI): "We played a vital part in getting the ministry of communications to specify that the revised Postal Act will recognize the rights of the courier companies, including permission to carry letters on international routes."

Operating a courier business is a very complicated process. "Its nitty-gritty involves a lot of hassles." There is the problem of combining routes, sorting the parcels (known as "manifesting and bagging" in courier jargon), reaching them to the transfer point and "hub" (central sorting and coordination office in each major city), customs documentation procedure and other formalities. To emphasize this point, Guzder compared the couriers to the *angadias* who have been operating between two given destinations in India "for donkey's years. But ask them to include some new routes and extend their grid and they will be at a loss." As Dubash sums up



Top: Guzder (left) and Dubash

Alongside and below: Courier operations call for speed and efficiency



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"The courier business calls for a lot of money and a lot of organizational ability."

When people have deadlines to meet, that is the time they summon the aid of a courier company. On receiving a call, the company makes it a point to collect the item in the next hour because further delay could mean the loss of a customer who is in a hurry. Next the contents of the parcel are checked; re-packed and re-labelled and then dispatched to the hub where it would be sorted along with the other consignments and, depending on its destination, kept in the correspondingly labelled master bag. The entire shipment may be heading for that particular destination, if it is a major city, or re-directed in lots to a neighboring township if the courier company has a branch there. After that it just means delivering it to the addressee. There are several checks and cross-checks along the way to ensure that all consignments are heading for the right destination. If there is any mix-up, it would involve re-routing the parcel.

All the major courier companies feel the need to better their services and keep abreast with the latest advancements in technology to ensure loyalty from their customers. DHL clients are assured of insurance facilities, for within India they are covered by the Airfreight insurance scheme, and outside India by the DHL banner. In Bombay, Blue Dart has introduced wireless vans which maintain contacts with the main office and the men on the street, thereby coordinating collection and delivery work at record speed. In the next six months, Blue Dart hopes to introduce Cosmos computers in India "which will revolutionize the courier services here." Once a courier takes custody of the parcel an entry would be made on the Cosmos computer which, with its international network, would then be able to answer any enquiries at any point of time, anywhere in the world, regarding the status of the parcel in transit. This convenience would be comparable to DHL's Tracking Information System which uses the laser-optics scanning technology. The telephone and telex services in India falling short of demand, Blue Dart even has plans for facsimile machines which could transmit entire documents and thus provide advance intimation to the receiving party. DHL already has access to the

Satellite Facsimile Service for its international operations. Both DHL and Blue Dart offer on-board courier (OBC) facilities which means that at the airports the parcel is checked in as the personal luggage of the courier who accompanies the baggage.

Relating the antecedents of the on board courier system, and the necessity for its introduction to India, Dubash gives a brief explanation, "After a bomb blast at the Madras Airport, the

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**"The courier  
phenomenon is  
not new... only  
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woken to it now"**

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authorities imposed the "cooling system rule" which meant that before permitting any parcel to be carried on an aircraft, it was obligatory to keep it in their warehouse for 24 hours." To circumvent this delay, and to provide a "decent service to their clients," they started the OBCs.

Guzder is disappointed that Indian Airlines is not gearing up its services to meet the needs of the couriers. He says, "International airlines are increasingly interested in looking for business from couriers, but the same cannot be said of Indian Airlines." Indian Airlines reportedly levy a security check charge on the OBCs and require them to check in four hours before departure. Querried Guzder, "Why can't there be a separate counter for the OBCs? Why can't there be separate conveyer belts for the couriers?" With respect to the customs officials, Guzder has a good word, "They are supportive, extremely accommodating and forward looking."

Though the "present government is supportive of courier business," Guzder feels that the postal department is unhappy at the growth rate. "The postal service should realize that we are no threat to their major business which is carriage of letters." All in all, Guzder perceives the industry as encountering "tremendous problems in the Indian environment principally related to the poor reach of the telephone and telex, the uneven services of the airlines, the refusal of the government to permit operation of private

aircrafts on regular routes, and the delay in granting of licences." That the government has framed a policy to liberalize the economy, Guzder does not dispute, but the criticism is that it "is not fast enough or far-reaching enough. The government's decision-making for the industrial sector is agonizingly slow."

"The courier field in India has witnessed a real growth in the domestic market but you don't hear of very many Parsis," Guzder shrugged his shoulders. According to Dubash, "It is an expanding industry and there should be a lot of opportunities as time moves on." But he also sounds a warning: "If I had to start today, I wouldn't. The kind of investments it would require today far exceeds what was required three years back."

In Guzder's opinion, "Upcoming Parsi entrepreneurs would stand a chance of creating new empires if they were willing to work with new technology in (unconventional) areas. My only regret is that we don't see enough Parsis coming into business at the entrepreneurial level... They are well-educated, adaptable, with exceptional talent and enjoy a good reputation in the world of finance, banking, industry and government... The era of the big Parsi empires has long since passed away."

Guzder himself opted for his family business, Airfreight, in 1968 after a stint at the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India. Cyrus took over as managing director of Airfreight from his father Jamshed Guzder who is also a trustee of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet. Forty-two-year-old Guzder has even served as chairman of the Travel Agents Association of India - Western Region Committee, as director of the Universal Federation of Travel Agents' Associations, and as president of the Air Cargo Agents Association of India. A faculty member of many institutes, Guzder lectures on subjects connected with travel and tourism management. Holding a master's degree in Oriental Studies from the Trinity College, Cambridge University, London, Guzder is also active on the Indian Heritage Society and the Bombay Natural History Society, and was recently appointed member of the National Commission on Urbanisation, constituted by the Prime Minister of India.

Dubash very magnanimously credits Guzder for "my being what I am today

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(at the age of 33)." After his graduation in physics and mathematics from St Xavier's College, Bombay, Dubash started his career as a salesman at Goodlass Nerolac. On hearing of a vacancy at Airfreight's courier division he joined there and contributed towards its progress from "a very new to a very big outfit. Then I felt my work was over." After retiring from DHL as station manager, six months later he started Blue Dart in collaboration with Clyde Cooper and Tushar Jani. They originally had a tie-up with Gelco Express, and when Gelco was bought over by Federal Express, Blue Dart with its staff of 850 automatically came under this mammoth organization coordinating the movements of its personnel in over 80 countries of the world.

Though Blue Dart is undecided whether it should diversify into the travel business at some future date, for the present it is only determined on "concentrating its total energies on couriers." Airfreight's immediate plans too seem to be revolving round "strengthening and expanding the courier business" by introducing new products to the air cargo business, concentrating on domestic courier expansion, and expanding the computer network within the country. Subsequently, they would like to open more offices abroad to promote tourism to India.

Just as DHL takes pride in announcing that they are appointed official air couriers for international meets like the Reliance Cup 1987 and Envirotech '88, Federal Express counters with the news that they have been appointed couriers for the Seoul Olympic Games in 1988. While both these organizations are in no hurry to hatch any other plans, they are more involved in the dispatch of their present commitments.

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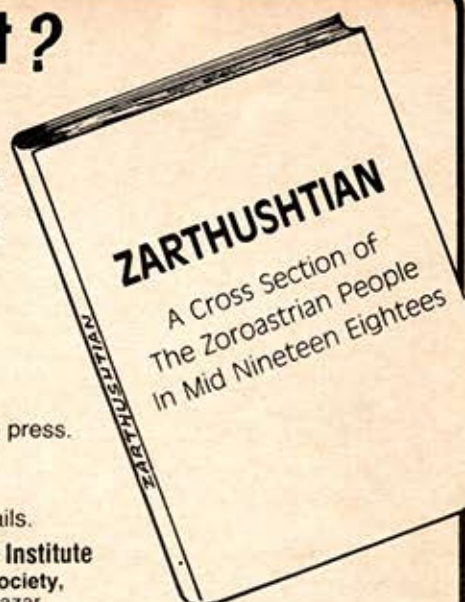
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# The delivering deity

Gynecologist Dr Mehroo Hansotia, who helped deliver India's second test-tube baby, talks of the options available to infertile couples

Jerroo Irani



Bringing hope and succor to infertile couples who for several years have gone from one obstetrician to another seeking a magical cure is Dr (Ms) Mehroo Hansotia, consultant obstetrician and gynecologist who specializes in the evaluation and treatment of infertility. Working quietly in her Fertility Clinic for the last 20 years, run jointly with Dr Sadhana Desai, Dr Hansotia shares her achievements with a research scholar, two technical assistants in the laboratory and the entire team in the operation theater. Nine people actively work in the clinic and there are several others who assist. As a result of the team effort one patient successfully delivered a test-tube baby in November 1986, two months after the birth of Harsha, India's first scientifically documented test-tube baby.

As we interview her in her clinic, brimming with pregnant mothers-to-be and anxious husbands, the obstetrician exudes an air of brisk efficiency and a warm bedside manner. Clad in an elegant blue sari, the carefully coiffed hair and tinted glasses give her the appearance of being a senior executive in a multinational rather than someone for whom the most amazing physical and emotional adventure of giving birth is routine.

Publicity shy and wary of journalists, she reluctantly proffers her lengthy and impressive bio data. Listing her degrees, her articles published in

medical journals and past appointments in the UK, the bio data states that Hansotia is a Fellow of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists and Fellow of the International College of Surgeons.

While one of the more certain ways of achieving parenthood is by adoption, "most couples prefer to have a child from their own genetic pool," states Hansotia who started work on infertile couples 20 years ago. However, she has been working on in vitro fertilization (IVF, the result being more generally known as "test-tube baby") for the last two years.

Hansotia describes the method with the help of a small model of a woman's reproductive organs. In this procedure, she explains, a mature egg is surgically retrieved from the wife and fertilized with her husband's sperm in a laboratory dish. After conception, the embryo is transferred to the wife's uterus where, with luck, it implants and develops normally.

Louise Brown, the first of these test-tube babies was born in England in 1978. Since then IVF has reportedly produced more than 3,000 babies world-wide. However, doctors generally advise a young couple who want a baby to try for at least a year before they turn to experts. Obviously, women over 30 have less time to lose. IVF is not advised after 40, states Hansotia.

"Even today, in vitro fertilization, which enjoys a 20 percent success rate," according to Hansotia, can be fraught with danger. "Things can go wrong at any stage. Treatment can be interrupted and the patient apprised of the fact that her progress is not satisfactory." Sometimes the egg is not fertilized or it does not grow. At other times, everything goes right and yet the whole procedure is haunted by the specter of sudden failure. Therefore, the patient who copes best is usually someone who is realistic, aware of the relatively low success rate yet wishes to leave no avenue unexplored in trying to resolve the problem of infertility. Though one of her IVF patients aborted, one prospective mother is looking forward to the birth of her test-tube baby.

Apart from disappointing success rates, the procedure is highly complicated and the patient runs the expected risks of anaesthesia and also overstimulation of the ovaries, reveals the obstetrician. IVF can end in miscarriage and costs, moreover, are high.

A variation of in vitro fertilization – appropriately called GIFT (Gamete Intra Fallopian Transfer) is a procedure in which the sperm, and surgically obtained eggs are deposited directly into the mother's fallopian tube. With luck, fertilization then takes place. At present, the Fertility Clinic has two

ongoing GIFT pregnancies while one patient aborted.

In addition to facilities for performing the IVF and GIFT procedures, the Fertility Clinic, reportedly comparable to similar clinics abroad, offers ultrasound examination, hormone tests and even has a sperm bank, says Hansotia. Bristling at the oft-levied charge of running counter to the Government's Family Planning Programme, Hansotia says, "The aim of the Family Planning Programme is to have a happy family with one or two children which is what we strive to do. We are not inducing women to have five children."

Questioned about the small families and low fertility in the Parsi community, Hansotia says she is not too sure that the condition is a typical characteristic of the community. The mental makeup of the Parsi couple is to have small families, she observes. "Whether the couple can afford to or not, they rarely want more than one or two children. Even if they are in a position to enjoy most material comforts, it is very difficult to convince a Parsi mother to have three pregnancies, though sometimes I have suc-

ceeded." Hansotia has also noticed a higher incidence of fibroids (benign tumors that occur in the uterine wall) and endometriosis (internal bleeding during menstruation) in the community. This may be due to late marriages and delayed pregnancies.

#### **Painless delivery**

Till about 50 years ago, childbirth was an event for women to be anxious about and often to fear. Today, for a variety of reasons, pregnancy and childbirth have become safer for the mother and child. "Of 100 women who deliver, 90 require little help. Ten have problems where the skill of an obstetrician is tested," states Hansotia. Women today are much more knowledgeable and aware of what can go wrong and what facilities are available to obliterate the pain. "This knowledge makes the woman of today softer, less tolerant of pain," explains Hansotia.

Because we are so accustomed to controlling what our bodies do - stifling yawns and coughs, smiling when we would rather scream - it can be a shock to the first-time mother to find herself lying in a labor room at the

mercy of a fiercely independent uterus. To help the woman to give birth in dignity and comfort, painless delivery is possible by means of the increasingly used epidural anaesthesia and other techniques. "However, painless delivery is not for everyone," states Hansotia. If the labor is long, difficult or if the mother cannot bear the pain, it should be offered, states the obstetrician. "Every individual case should be decided at the time of labor and the option should be given when necessary and without hesitation."

The obstetrician believes that for many women giving birth is the fulfillment of a strong driving force. In this she shares the woman's satisfaction and has never felt any regrets about her choice of profession. Starting her day at 7 am, Hansotia works "as long as required." She manages to juggle the demands of her job with those of her home and her husband Dara. She travels abroad for conferences and to address and present papers at international scientific meetings, but takes time off for a three-week holiday once in two years. "I have a demanding job but it gives me immense satisfaction to complete a family," she says.

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The data on births, marriages and deaths has been compiled from information provided by various anjumans in India and abroad, courts and hospitals.

With regard to the list of marriages, the Acting Chief Justice of the Bombay High Court has granted *Parsiana* the permission to publish the names of the marrying parties and of their parents, and the dates of the marriages, as stated in the Register of Parsi Marriages. We shall publish the data as soon as we get it in hand.

The information gathered is not always uniform. For example, the list of Bombay deaths pertains overwhelmingly to those who were consigned to the dokhmas and there too, though the addresses were known, the names of the family members were not. From other anjumans we have gathered names of family members but no addresses. The information largely pertains to the preceding month, yet in the case of outstation anjumans we have incorporated news of happenings which may be considered dated.

Marriages of inter-community couples as well as children born of such unions, are listed.

The data is being presented city-wise, the events being listed in the city where they

occurred, in chronological and alphabetical order.

Heart disease claimed 22 of the 85 Parsis who died in Bombay. The next most important killers were debility and old age (claiming 11), cardio respiratory arrest (nine), pneumonia (seven), cancer (five), hypertension (five) and blood diseases (five). Others succumbed to diabetes, Parkinson's disease, kidney failure and tuberculosis. Hepatic coma, gangrene, hernia etc claimed isolated victims. A 30-year-old man and a newborn were also lost to the community.

This breakdown of the causes of death is limited to Bombay as *Parsiana* has received no information on the subject from other anjumans.

In order to ensure the authenticity of the data, *Parsiana* only accepts information for publication if it is received from an anjuman, renowned Parsi institution, court or government authority.

When a deceased is cremated, *Parsiana* would appreciate if the family members could approach us directly with the information.

If readers have any information they would like published, some proof to ensure the veracity of the report would be required. We are sure our readers will appreciate this requirement and cooperate with us.

## BOMBAY Born

A girl to *Prochi* and *Minoo Bharucha* on September 1, 1987  
A girl to *Jasmine* and *Adi Dastur*; September 2  
A boy to *Dhun* and *Sarosh Contractor*; September 6  
A girl to *Ruby* and *Feroze Patch*; September 6  
A boy to *Farida* and *Sam Dastoor*; September 11  
A boy to *Vahabiz B. Pardiwala*; September 11

A girl to *Farida* and *Mehernosh Daruwala*; September 17  
A boy to *Kamal* and *Parviz Dotiwala*; September 17  
A boy to *Zarine* and *Mahiyar Sadri*; September 19  
A boy to *Tanaz* and *Phiroz Irani*; September 21  
A girl to *Jasmine* and *Filly Elavia*; September 22  
A girl to *Sadhna* and *Farhang Zandian*; September 22  
A girl to *Hira* and *Tehmetan*

*Anklesaria*; September 24  
A boy to *Molly* and *Mehernosh Gai*; September 25  
A boy to *Maharukh* and *Kaikobad Irani*; September 26  
A girl to *Binaifer* and *Yazad Karanjia*; September 26  
A boy to *Denaz* and *Zarir Siganporia*; September 27  
A boy to *Ruby* and *Kaikobad Bokdawalla*; September 28  
A girl to *Shernaz* and *Rohinton Sanjana*; September 28  
A girl to *Siloo* and *Minoo Taraporewalla*; September 28  
A boy to *Madhavi* and *Rumi Unwalla*; September 28  
A girl to *Armin* and *Hoshang Vatchha*; September 29

## Died

*Burjorji Sorabji Dalal* (80), residing at Firdaus, 185 Lamington Rd, 400007; August 31  
*Hormasji Merhwanji Solai* (80), K Villa, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 31  
*Rashid Behram Badshah* (60), Piroshaw Bldg, Gowalia Tank, 400036; September 1  
*Ardeshir Kekobad Katrak* (62), Bona Kasa Bldg, Sir P.M. Mehta Rd, 400001; September 1  
*Noshir Navroji Master* (72), Petit Block No 3, Balaram St, Grant Rd, 400007; September 1  
*Najamai Dhunjishah Mehta* (84), Yusuf Mans, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; September 1  
*Nadir Rustomji Patel* (74), 13/2 Godrej Staff Quarters, Hill Side, Vikhroli (W), 400079; September 1  
*Hormusji Fakirji Sagar* (79), Type II, 10-D Tata Hsg Colony, Mahul Rd, FCIP, 400074; September 1  
*Tehmina Jamshedji Dubash* (84), Alpawalla Bldg, Station Rd, Mahim, 400016; September 2  
*Rustomji Hormusji Master* (72), C/o Himalaya Drug Co, Worli, 400018 and Sethna Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; September 2  
*Meherbanoo Hormasji*

*Poonawalla* (78), 16-A Pedder Road, 400026; September 2  
*Daulatmai Dinshajee Seervai* (90), 204 Old Sitaram Bldg, Princess St, 400002; September 3  
*Khorshed Shahpurji Bhavnagri* (64), 22-B Cusrow Baug, Colaba, 400039; September 4  
*Ardeshir Dhanjibhai Gandhi* (80), Bhiwandiwalla Terrace, Dhobi Talao, 400002; September 4  
*Nergis Faramroze Kerawala* (80), 622 Palia Mans, Parsi Colony, Dadar, 400014; September 4  
*Najoo Minoo Khariwala* (64), Philomina, 640-A Khareghat Rd, Parsi Colony, Dadar, 400014; September 4  
*Minocher Cawasji Ranji* (80), F.S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34 Hughes Rd, 400007; September 4  
*Nariman Burjorji Chhapgar* (50), Dr Engineer Bldg, Kashinath St, Tardeo, 400034; September 5  
*Amy Jimmy Hakim* (78), C/o Mr D.D. Avasia, Wadia Hse, 22 N.S. Patkar Marg, 400007; September 5  
*Mehroo Jehangir Shroff* (70), Bombay Native Dispensary Bldg No 3, Chandanwadi, 400002; September 5  
*Tehmina Darabshah Siganporia* (72), 6 Malegamvala Bldg, Marzban Colony, Gilder Lane, Off Lamington Rd, 400038; September 5  
*Bomansha Hormusji Amrolia* (78), Talati Bldg, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; September 7  
*Hormaz Faramroze Godiwalla* (78), 13-B Sai Niketan, 345 Mount Rd, Mazagaon, 400010; September 7  
*Alamai Munchersha Kapadia* (86), Widows' Chawl, D Block, Room 16, Nowroze Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; September 7  
*Padam Noshir Kapadia* (63), Mon Repos, 637 M. Joshi Rd, Parsi Colony, Dadar, 400014; September 7  
*Dr Minocher Bomanji Mody* (87), Aryan Mahal, 43-C Rd,

Churchgate, 400020;  
September 7  
*Tehmina Sarosh Lala* (78),  
511-C Davar Bldg, Adenwalla  
Rd, Matunga, 400019;  
September 8  
*Hillabai Jahingir Asburner*  
(78), Dossibai Charity Home,  
Masina Hospital, Byculla,  
400027; September 9  
*Ruttonbai Nariman Bulsara*  
(82), M-45 Cusrow Baug,  
Colaba, 400039; September 9  
*Piroja Jalejar Chinoy* (92), 4-  
11 Rustom Baug, Byculla,  
400027; September 9  
*Bhikhamai Rustomji Mody*  
(84), C-18 Cusrow Baug,  
Colaba, 400039; September 10  
*Khorshedbanoo Dossabhai*  
*Bhagwagar* (90), 696-A Parsi  
Punchayet Block, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 11  
*Fali Sawakshaw Chothia* (69),  
18213 Queen Elizabeth Drive,  
Olney, Maryland, USA;  
interred September 11  
*Phiroze Sorab Kharas* (62),  
Pitru Chhaya, 4 Dr K.  
Nawangi Marg, New  
Gamdevi, 400007;  
September 11  
*Sorabji Kavasji Pithawala*  
(85), Abbas Bldg, Jalbhoy St,  
Grant Rd, 400004;  
September 11  
*Burjor Kaikhushroo Bharucha*  
(89), Ahura Bldg, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 12  
*Piroja Bomanji Contractor*  
(95), 10/2 Sunita Bldg, Cuffe  
Parade, 400005; September 13  
*Tehmina Edulji Mistry* (97), 20  
Mistry Bldg, Khareghat  
Colony, Hughes Rd, 400007;  
September 13  
*Dhanmai K. Pochkhanawala*  
(72), 79 Lucky Mans, Ghogha  
St, Fort, 400001;  
September 13  
*Manek Kavasji Saklatvala*  
(80), Ness Baug, C Block,  
Nana Chowk, 400007;  
September 13  
*Jamshed Nusserwanji*  
*Anklesaria* (57), Gowalia  
Tank Bldg, C Block, Gowalia  
Tank, 400036; September 14  
*Sorab Manekshaw Balsara*  
(65), Tapia Bldg, A Block,  
New Charni Rd Junction,  
400004; September 14  
*Piroja Boman Bam* (71),  
Kavarana Bldg, Dadar Cross  
Rd, Dadar, 400014;  
September 15

*Shirin Nassarwanji Kotwal*  
(84), F.S. Parukh  
Dharamshalla, 34 Hughes Rd,  
400007; September 15  
*Shirinbai Jehangir Unwala*  
(87), Harbour View, Mathar  
Pakhadi Rd, Mazagaon,  
400010; September 16  
*Soli Meherwanji Aria* (60),  
Khatri Estate, 163 Lamington  
Rd, 400007; September 17  
*Kekshru B. Dubhash* (82),  
Noor Mahal, Tardeo, 400034;  
September 17  
*Khorshed Jamshed Karva*  
(72), F-13 Cusrow Baug,  
Colaba, 400039; September 17  
*Goolcher Minocher Kooka*  
(78), Sagar Resham, Byramji  
Jeejibhoy Rd, Bandstand,  
Bandra, 400050; September 17  
*Gool Dara Mistry* (61), 610  
Daruwala Block, Dadar,  
400014; September 17  
*Dina Framroze Pastakia* (78),  
A-3 Gool Mahal, Sleater  
Rd, 400007; September 17  
*Shirin Edulji Bengali* (79), 14  
Contractor Bldg, Near  
Victoria Garden, Byculla,  
400027; September 18  
*Manijeh Burjorji Nariman*  
(77), 639 Rati Manzil, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 18  
*Shirin Rustomji Bhamgara*  
(78), Bldg 1, 8 Dhunbai Wadi,  
Vile Parle (W), 400056;  
September 19  
Male child (4 days) of *Dhun R.*  
*Kotwal*, Railway Quarters,  
Mazagaon, 400010;  
September 19  
*Putlamai Navroji Wadia* (84),  
Parukh Dharamshalla,  
Hughes Rd, 400007;  
September 19  
*Kersasp Shapurji Mehta* (77),  
629 A. Homavazir Rd, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 20  
*Shavak Hormusji Tata* (78),  
Jenkin Hse, Block 1, Henry  
Rd, 400039; September 20  
*Navazbai Dorabji Vesuwala*  
(82), Hirabai Petit Bldg,  
Room 71, Opp Grant Rd  
Station, 400007; September 20  
*Eruchshaw Ardeshtir Karkaria*  
(90), A-14 Shapur Baug, V.P.  
Rd, 400004; September 21  
*Buckhtyar Jamshedji*  
*Anklesaria* (76), Meher Mans,  
Forjett St, 400036;  
September 22  
*Sorabji Rustomji Mistry* (69),  
P-3 Nowroze Baug, Lalbaug,  
400012; September 22

*Goolbai Kaikhushroo Patel*  
(86), A-2 Khalakdina Terrace,  
August Kranti Marg, 400036;  
September 22  
*Keki Khurshedji Pavri* (62),  
Mani Bhavan, 273  
Thakurdwar Rd, 400002;  
September 23  
*Jalejar Darabshaw Ragina*  
(73), M-25 Nowroze Baug,  
Lalbaug, 400012;  
September 23  
*Homi Ardeshtir Bulsara* (65),  
Tejpal Bldg, A-8 Pan Lane,  
Off Hughes Rd, 400007;  
September 24  
*Piroja Hirjibhai Dalal* (83), 6  
Sunrise Bldg, 3rd Pasta Lane,  
Colaba, 400005; September 24  
*Cooverbai Pallonji Daruwala*  
(98), 7-A Hormusz Baug Bldg,  
Kashinath Rd, 400034;  
September 24  
*Naval Dorabji Oomrigar* (81),  
520 Sirvai Hse, J. Shankersett  
Rd, 400002; September 24  
*Nusserwanji P. Geewalla* (90),  
17-B Shapur Baug, V.P. Rd,  
400004; September 25  
*Perinbanoo Nariman Mehta*  
(84), Meherbai Wadia Bldg,  
275-K Zoroastrian Colony,  
400007; September 25  
*Rati Bahadur Mistry* (61), 189-  
A Khajina Mahal, 3rd Fl, S.V.  
Rd, Andheri, 400058;  
September 25  
*Jimmy Sorab Vania* (30), 786  
Readymoney Bldg, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 25  
*Nariman Burjorji Khambhatta*  
(58), Haradwalla Bldg, Room  
13, Opp Grant Rd Station,  
400007; September 26  
*Behramsha Nusserwanji*  
*Wadia* (85), 27 Contractor  
Chawl, Sussex Rd, Byculla,  
400027; September 26  
*Khusroo Cawasji Wadia* (86),  
2 Babulnath Rd, 400007;  
September 26  
*Manek Ratansha Daruwala*  
(73), Mistry Bldg, M.P.A  
Lane, Balaram St, Grant Rd,  
400007; September 27  
*Sheroo Jal Dalal* (64), Bacha  
Mans, Gilder Lane, Off  
Lamington Rd, 400008;  
September 28  
*Ratansha Shavaksha Kuka*  
(69), 683, Khareghat Rd, Parsi  
Colony, Dadar, 400014;  
September 28  
*Meherbanu Kaikhushroo*  
*Mistry* (92), Khalakdina  
Terrace, Gowalia Tank,  
400036; September 28

*Jehangir Ardeshtir Dadabhoy*  
(71), Shalimar Apts, Cumballa  
Hill, 400026; September 29  
*Banoobai Rustomji Kharas*  
(98), B-3 Ionic, Next to  
Telephone Bhavan, Colaba,  
400005; September 29  
*Dhun Jehangir Marshall* (61),  
Aquamarine, 15 N. Gamadia  
Rd, 400026; September 29  
*Eruch D. Tavadia* (74),  
Golwalla Bldg, Khetwadi 8th  
Lane, 400004; September 29  
*Peshotan Cawasji Modi* (79),  
Kaka Bldg, Parsi Colony,  
Dadar, 400014; September 30

## CALCUTTA

### Born

A boy to *Firoza* and *Burjor*  
*Mehta*, grandson to *Nergis*  
and *Jal Mehta* and *Aloo* and  
*Minoo Olpadwala*,  
September 30

### Died

*Soonamae Shavaksha*  
*Netarwalla* (96); September 16  
*Jehangir R. Mehta* (94), son of  
late R.D. Mehta and brother  
of *Naja Vakeel*; September 17  
*Sarosh Ardeshtir Lal* (62),  
daughter of late *Avabai* and  
*Ardeshtir Lal* and mother of  
*Shehnaz Firdausi Mazda*;  
September 18

## KARACHI

### Died

*Rustam Nadirshaw Patel* (76);  
August 3  
*Shirin Jivanji Udvadia* (93);  
August 3  
*Shirin Pestanji Daruwala* (67);  
August 15  
*Bachamai Dhunjisha*  
*Sachinwalla* (78); August 25  
*Sakarbai Dadabhoy*  
*Jangalwala* (71); September 7  
*Nariman Behramji Birdie* (73);  
September 13  
*Jalamai Navroze Haveliwala*  
(85); September 20  
*Motamai Gustadji Driver* (87);  
September 30

## SECUNDERABAD

### Died

*Jamshid Hormusji Chinoy*  
(72), husband of *Roshan*,  
father of *Hormusji* and  
*Soonita*, late *Bapooji*, brother  
of *Adi* and late *Rashid* and  
father-in-law of *Ketayun* and  
*Rustom*; September 12

Died: Dr Minocher Bomanji Mody, 87, India's leading general physician and cardiologist who was appointed medical consultant to two former Indian Presidents, Dr Sarvapalli Radhakrishnan and Dr Zakir Hussain, on September 7, 1987 in Bombay, following a pulmonary clot.

In appreciation of Mody's "outstanding service to the Parsi community and the country," the trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet passed a condolence resolution at their board meeting on September 8. Recalling his involvement with the B.D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and the Bahadurji Sanatorium at Deolali, the resolution noted, "He was a great humanitarian and many poor patients had taken advantage of his generosity."

Wrote Dr Sam Bhacca, president of the Surat Parsi Punchayet, of Mody, "He was equally well-known amongst the Parsis residing outside Bombay and when a physician of Bombay was to be consulted, they would at once remember the one and only good Dr Minocher Mody."

At a condolence meeting convened by the Parsee General Hospital, vice-president Homa Petit described Mody as a kind and considerate doctor who could win over any heart, according to a report in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of September 20. "Success did not change him," Petit put it in a nutshell. Mody helped popularize the Parsee General Hospital among the community members and during his 45 years of service there, he contributed to the institution's medical and administrative betterment, said Dr Homi Mehta, joint honorary secretary of the Hospital, who was a year junior to Mody when studying at the Grant Medical College.

Referring to his gentle temperament, eminent surgeon Dr Tehemton Udwadia was appreciative of Mody's help to upcoming medicos who studied under him, while reputed physician Dr Farokh Udwadia made mention of Mody's genuine interest in his patients. Said Farokh, "Dr Mody would make no discrimination between his



## The medical messiah

patients on the ground floor (from the lower income group) and the second floor (from the higher income group)." When he would go on his rounds at the Parsee General, he would always start with the free patients to ensure that they were not neglected in the last-minute rush.

If the patient's condition demanded a home visit by a doctor, Mody would invariably go out of his way, irrespective of the financial returns. And there are instances related, of Mody paying a home visit to a poor patient and instead of charging his fees would leave behind some money with which the patient could buy the medicine. Mody was also affiliated to the Bombay Hospital, the J.J. Hospital and the G.T. Hospital. "His punctuality in his (home) visits, (at the) consulting rooms and (at the) public hospitals was his other (great) asset," wrote an admirer in the *Jam-e-Jamshed*.

His untiring service for the Bahadurji Sanatorium at Deolali for the

tuberculosis patients and the Golvad Rural Boys' and Girls' Homes were also commended.

As outstanding medical man of the year, Mody was conferred the Dhanvantari Award in 1977. At the first international conference on surgery in the tropics, Mody was among the select few to be awarded a silver medallion in appreciation of his contribution. At the Lederle's Conference on Antibiotics in USA, convened in 1954, Mody was deputed as the only representative from India.

Navsari-born Mody had studied at Elphinstone School and Grant Medical College from where he graduated in medicine. Blessed with a prolific memory, Mody could memorize facts at just one reading. With the help of a generous loan from an uncle, Mody was able to graduate as a doctor and thus fulfil the wish of his father who though very interested in medicine, did not get a chance to be a qualified doctor due to adverse circumstances. Revealing this was his daughter Dr Katie Sethna, a psychiatrist who, like her eminent physician brother Keko-bad, acquired a keen interest in medicine from her parents. Mody's wife Piroja is also a medical practitioner and was, until a year ago, serving as a physician. Minocher and Piroja were co-students at the Grant Medical College, says Sethna.

Narrated Noshir Dadrawala in the *Jame* of September 19, "(In cricket) he was such a good wicket keeper that the Grant Medical College owed the inter-collegiate shield to his excellent wicket keeping. In 1927 he was selected wicket keeper for the Parsi quadrangular team," an offer he had to decline in favor of higher studies in England.

He subsequently qualified as a doctor from London University, and on his first attempt was admitted to the Royal College of Physicians and Surgeons.

Mody made it a point to keep up-to-date "with all recent medical literature and with the help of his wonderful memory, he was always counted upon to give definite references to his students and colleagues," it was re-

counted. His car is believed to have contained a small library of medical books and journals and till recently, when his eyes started failing, he was always found reading in the car for he never believed in wasting "a single minute."

His preoccupation with medicine to the exclusion of all other interests proved to be a stumbling block towards the end when, due to advancing

age, he was neither able to practise medicine nor enjoy a life of retirement, says his daughter. As Sethna remembers, in his younger days he used to profess atheism, though he always believed in morality; but as he grew older he talked about God and refused to admit that he had passed through an a-religious phase.

Summarizing Mody's personality, Dr Cavas Bilimoria, chief medical

officer at Bombay Dyeing, eulogized in a condolence message to the family: "Although his prowess as a physician was legendary, I will always remember him for his genuine compassion, integrity, and, above all, for his fantastic humility..."

Mody is survived by his wife Piroja, son Dr Kekobad, and daughters Vira Bhathena and Dr Katie Sethna.

Parinaz Toddywalla



## Shades of a 'Colour'ful man

Died: Adal Bomanji Parakh, 72, former managing director of Voltas Ltd and Colour-Chem, and founder-chairman of the Central Society for the Education of the Deaf, on August 25, 1987 in Bombay following cardiac arrest.

"A man recognized as a forward-looking leader, self-confident and practical... a seeker after perfection; a man whose honesty and integrity command instant respect... And yet, a man who can put you at ease by a single smile," was how Parakh's personality

was portrayed in *Rang Vishwa* (the house journal of Colour-Chem) of March-April 1980 at the time of his retirement. During his 12-year tenure as managing director of Colour-Chem, Parakh guided the establishment of a second factory at Roha, the setting up of a research and development center, and initiated international operations, notes a press release issued by the Company.

When he came on the Colour-Chem scene in 1968, the Company, a relatively small joint venture manufacturing pigments and binders, had seen three successive years of declining profits, but Parakh soon transformed it into a "healthy, professionally managed and dynamic" enterprise, notes the write-up. His planning and distant vision were due to his ability "to see further than the tip of his nose."

"He always had time for everyone, from a watchman's son to an office colleague's family," remembers his daughter Mary Behlihomji.

Parakh's camaraderie and sense of humor were evinced at a farewell function, hosted by the staff, on his retirement from Colour-Chem. Responding to the valedictory speeches, Parakh began in Marathi, "You may not follow my English and I cannot understand my own Marathi..." It took some time for the audience to resettle before he could continue his address in Hindi, noted a report in *Rang Vishwa*.

As founder-chairman of the Central Society for the Education of the Deaf which runs a school and a teachers' training institute at Agripada, Bombay, Parakh invested his savings to buy premises to house the deaf students who till today are charged not more than a nominal fee of Rs 10 per month.

Born in Manmad, in Maharashtra,

the youngest of seven children, Parakh's upbringing was influenced by his father who was in the police service. His early schooling was at St Joseph's at Dharwar and his secondary education at the Billimoria High School in Panchgani. He studied at the Karnatak College in Dharwar and later at the Wilson College in Bombay from where he graduated in economics and history. After graduating in economics from the University of London, Parakh returned to India and began his career with the Central Bank of India. He later joined the Tata Group which he served in different capacities before retiring as managing director of Voltas.

His interests included outdoor life, photography, western classical music, bridge, poetry and languages. Having studied Persian, he would avail of any opportune moment to recite Persian couplets, recalls his wife Rhoda. He was also fond of animals and, at one stage, the family looked after six dogs and six puppies.

Though Parakh had opted to be cremated, according to the family, he was "deeply religious and a staunch Zoroastrian in his own way." His death on New Year's day caused consternation to the family because not many priests were willing to perform the after-death ceremonies at his residence in lieu of the Doongerwadi. A follower of Satya Sai Baba since 1970, his spiritual-philosophical bent of mind led him to the guru, explains Mary who says, "When there is a teacher whose instructions you can follow, you learn more about your own religion."

He is survived by his wife Rhoda, and daughters Mary Behlihomji and Roshan Fanibunda.

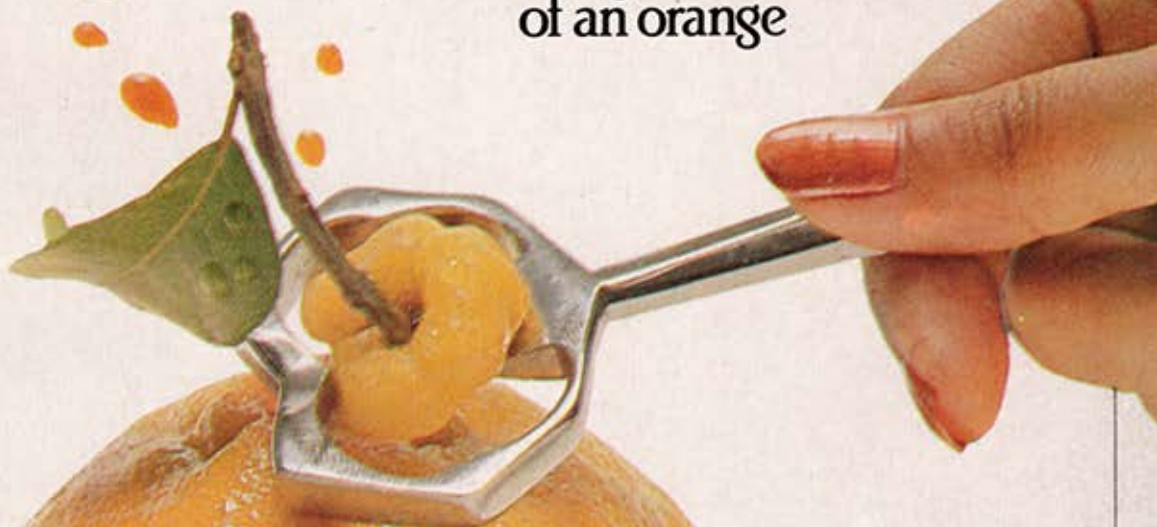
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