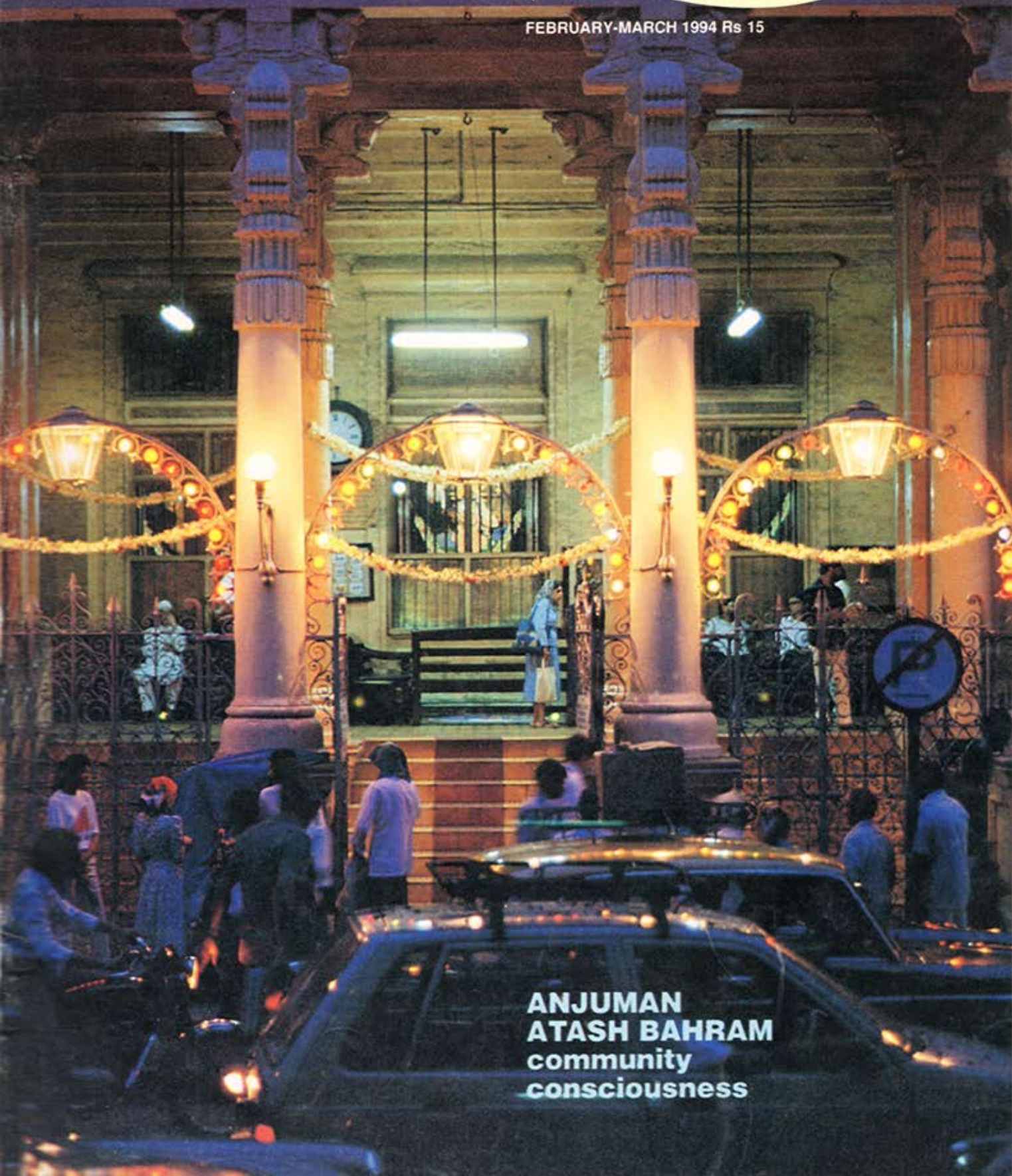


Parzianā

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1994 Rs 15



**ANJUMAN
ATASH BAHRAM**
community
consciousness



WOMEN DO THE SHOPPING, THE COOKING AND THE STORING.

IS THAT WHY INDIA'S LARGEST FRIDGE IS DESIGNED BY A WOMAN?

In addition to being keen builders of fridges, the engineers at Kelvinator are keen observers of life.

Which sometimes brings them to practical solutions to complex problems.

Like actually using a woman to help design a Kelvinator. We call this advanced process 'U-Tech'.

The result? An eminently sensible fridge—the 310 lt. Sterling, built in collaboration with Zanussi S.P.A. of Italy, which is a part of A.B. Electrolux of Sweden.

The first thing you'll notice in the 310 lt. Sterling is its exceedingly clever use of space;

A spacious 78 lt. freezer, 2 vegetable trays, and 4 generous shelves store everything from fruit and vegetables, to tons of ice cream and bottles.

And you'll find the 310 lt. Sterling simply brimming with helpful features like removable egg trays, adjustable bottle racks and SAN boxes.

But now, why don't you take a closer look at the 310 lt. Sterling at your nearest Kelvinator dealer?

We have ample reason to believe you'll like it.

Kelvinator®
REFRIGERATORS

Built by our engineers. But designed by a woman.

310 STERLING



A WORLD CLASS POWER SAVER
COMPRESSOR FREEZES
EVERYTHING FROM ICE CREAM
TO FISH RAPIDLY.



EXTERNAL AUTO DEFROST
AND TEMPERATURE CONTROLS
MEAN YOU NEEDN'T OPEN
THE DOOR UNNECESSARILY.
SO EVEN SENSITIVE FOODS
STAY FRESH



THE ENGINEERS AT
KELVINATOR BELIEVE A
WOMAN MAKES A VERY
SENSIBLE FRIDGE DESIGNER.
THE 310 STERLING IS PROOF
ENOUGH.

Parsiana

February-March 1994
Volume 16 Number 5

EDITOR Jehangir R. Patel
MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz S. Mama
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz M. Gandhi
SENIOR EDITOR Dina Mehta
ASSISTANT EDITOR Roxana A. Driver
CONTRIBUTING EDITOR Gustasp Irani
DESIGN Kranti M. Shilotri,
Varghese W. Fernandez
MARKETING DIRECTOR Veera Patel
ADVERTISING MANAGER Zarin Mistry
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
Niloufer Panthaky
FINANCE B. L. Arora
EDP Rohinton E. Daroga
DTP Bakhtavar R. Battliwalla, K. P. Ravi
SUBSCRIPTION/CIRCULATION
Khurshid Panthaki, Bindu Pillai
MANAGEMENT Jasmine Driver
OFFICE Nowzer Battliwalla
OFFICE ASSISTANTS Umesh Poojary,
Selvan Mark, Sunil Sakhare, Pramod Patil,
Govind Salgaonkar, Mahipat Jadhav

2 Readers' Forum

18 Events and Personalities

26 Zoroastrians Abroad

42 BPP: Widening horizons

50 Anjuman Atash Bahram: When heat turned to light by Gustasp Irani

54 PGH: A hospital in labor by Arnavaz Mama

57 Iranian pilgrimage...I by Ardeshir Damania

66 As you sow... by Rustom Daboo

70 Yet another landmark by Parinaz Gandhi

74 Billimoria's pres(s)tigious assignment by Homi Rogers

84 Poonawalas: Pioneer Processors

89 Dinshah Sanjana: All that jazz

93 Family adds flavor by Bhicoo Manekshaw

97 Books

114 Milestones

133 In Memoriam

Cover: Anjuman Atash Bahram's 96th salgreh Photo: Gustasp Irani

*Parsiana wishes all its
readers, advertisers and
well-wishers a very happy
Jamshedi Navroze and
thanks them for their
unstinting support
and trust over the years*

Parsiana is published by Jehangir R. Patel
for Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd at
C/o H.L. Rochat, Navsari Chambers, ground
floor, 39 A.K. Nayak Marg, Fort, Bombay
400001 and printed by him at Kaiser-E-Hind
Pvt Ltd, 300 Perin Nariman Street, Bombay
400001. Color processing, Comart Litho-
graphers; black and white processing, Samir
Scantech Pvt Ltd. All rights reserved. ISSN:
0971-3786 Phone: 2048730 Fax: 2042922
For editorial enquiries 2048183 Tlx: 11-85710
RABO IN. For subscription enquiries and
payments: C/o Kaiser-E-Hind Pvt Ltd, 300 Perin
Nariman St (Behind Reserve Bank of India)
Bombay 400001. Phone: 2658619, 2665661

Annual inland subscription Rs 125 for one
year (10 issues); Rs 225 for two years
(20 issues). Foreign subscription rates:
Sea mail Rs 350/US \$ 12/UK £ 7 for one year,
Rs 550/US \$ 20/UK £ 12 for two years
(please allow six months or more from the time
of publication); Air mail Rs 600/US
\$ 25/UK £ 15 (for Pakistan, Indian Rs 320) for
one year, Rs 1,100/US \$ 48/UK £ 28
(for Pakistan, Indian Rs 600) for two years.
For Indian upcountry cheques add Rs 5 for
bank charges; for US cheques add \$ 5; for UK
cheques add £ 3. Cheques and drafts are to
be drawn in favor of Parsiana and posted to
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001.



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 400001. Letters are subject to editing for reasons of space and clarity. Unsigned letters or those without an address will not be published.

JRD's uncommon touch

Mr J. R. D. Tata died as he had lived, quietly and without any fuss, like a private citizen. It was only when the telephones started ringing from all over the world that the hospital realized that they had an international celebrity living with them as a patient for nearly a month.

He straddled the world. He walked across our century in splendor. Such was his stature that wherever he went people looked up to him, and whatever he touched came to life and fruition. Our JRD is now a part of India's history.

DINSHAH MALEGAMVALA

"JRD: the last rites..."

Two days after JRD's death I was travelling from Bombay to Poona and I happened to look at *The Afternoon Despatch and Courier* in which there was front page news on the "Controversy Over

Last Rites: Orthodox Parsees Object to JRD's Uthamna." As a Parsi I felt very sad and ashamed that a controversy could come up over praying for a departed soul.

Is our religion so narrow that praying for the soul of a departed person is made an issue because the person's mother was a non-Parsi? One of our high priests is quoted as having said that according to our scriptures 'it is a sin to marry outside the community!' Even if our scriptures have said this, in tune with the new thinking do we have to hold on to archaic views? One of the beautiful qualities of our community is our ability to change and adapt. Can we all take a stand that 'first — I am a human being; and then I belong to a particular religion and country'?

JRD symbolized the best among human beings and we are fortunate that he belonged to our community. Instead of recognizing this and honoring this great man, we are making a controversy! The whole nation is saluting him; in Bombay there are posters saying "JRD — the Jewel of India," and in our community we are squabbling over whether we should pray for his departed soul!

Ms ANU AGA
Pune

The controversy over J. R. D. Tata's uthamna was very much called for. It is the Zoroastrian politics of religion, a positive sign and an eye opener to show that our young Zoroastrians are now becoming aware of the principles of our Zoroastrian religion, and wanting to practice it. It shows that even a towering figure like J. R. D. Tata cannot escape religious criticism for not following its principles. We ultra orthodox believe that what our priests Dr Peshotan Peer and Dr Firoze Kotwal have pronounced is right and it requires courage to speak out the right even if it attacks a national personality like J. R. D. Tata who has left behind him a legacy of managerial talent.

DORAB PHIROZSHAW PATEL

Our beloved J. R. D. Tata passed away at the end of November last. Since then we have received three copies of *Parsiana*. Many of us were looking forward to a full number of your magazine devoted totally to this great man, the hero of our community and the epitome of a true Zo-

roastrian who lived abidingly by our dictum of good thoughts, good words and good deeds. *Humata, hukhta and hvarshata* were incorporated into the emblem of the Tatas by J. N. Tata himself, and JRD was pledged to adhere to this principle.

This is the third month after his passing. Every day in the papers for a month or more mighty tributes were constantly being paid to this giant of a man, the embodiment of goodness and self-effacing modesty. For a whole month hoardings all over Bombay proclaimed his greatness. Said some of them:

"Words cannot describe the height of his greatness/Or the depth of our loss."

And yet *Parsiana* slumbered! I think *Parsiana* should bring out a big number totally dedicated to this man, one in centuries, and send this magazine out all over the world to libraries, to institutions, to colleges and schools, to government organizations and to municipalities that all humanity may wake up and know that here was a man who lived selflessly and nobly, and died leaving behind him the fragrance of the true Zoroastrian faith.

Ms JER JUSSAWALA

"Parsis at the heart of..."

This refers to remarks attributed to me in the article "Parsis at the heart of India, (*Parsiana*, August 1993)."

The Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, Mhow, has many funds earmarked for specific purposes. Due to changed circumstances, some of these funds are underutilized, while many are in deficit.

To remedy this, our Anjuman secured court permission to utilize the surplus income of some funds to meet the excess of expenditure over income in others, for the benefit of the community.

The court's permission was not sought to use our funds for other anjumans, which please note.

Dr B. M. MASANI
Secretary, Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, Mhow

"Medicare and more"

I refer to the comment on Mr Darius Forbes, "Looking back, however, he feels that the one area where the Parsis probably defaulted was in looking after their own priestly class ('Medicare and more,' *Parsiana*, August 1993)." This opinion is absolutely correct and shared by many but nothing has been done so far to correct this error.

With Best Compliments From

Eros Elevators

(Foremost in the Field of Vertical Transport)

Head Office

27, Mama Parmanand Marg
Opera House, Bombay 400004
Phone: 3640293, 3640132, 3640169
Cable: 'Eroviders'
Fax No: 11-91-22-3640169

Sales Representatives:

**Ahmedabad-Bangalore-Madras-Poona
Hyderabad-Kanpur-Mangalore**

Plant

Bharat Industrial Estate
T. Jivraj Road, Sewree
Bombay 400015

To briefly sum up the situation, the mobed and the panthaky is paid on a piece rate basis. This system can only work when the following three conditions are satisfied:

- An employment policy;
- Guarantee of workload;
- Adequate rate per unit which is mutually agreed upon.

Sadly, all the three conditions required for the smooth administration of wages, under the piece rate system of payments, remain unfulfilled when it comes to paying our hardworking and dedicated mobeds. The absence of such basics means abject poverty and downright misery for all our mobeds. The total remuneration package under this system is certainly not good enough to counterbalance inflation, much less for academic or spiritual growth. This fact is realized by the smart ones and they quickly opt for jobs in the secular world where various attractive remuneration packages are available. This self-elimination of higher caliber manpower from the profession is certainly not desirable, but will continue unless we narrow out and then finally remove the differences in wage structures.

We only want full-time mobeds, who are well versed in many subjects, in order to take the cultural battering to which we are all exposed by the mass exodus to the West. Such a priest class is also necessary to give a meaningful interpretation of our texts and to maintain the ceremonial structure which is our cultural and spiritual heritage. This last reason alone is good enough to justify the existence of educated full-time mobeds.

We have a trust in Pakistan titled The Mobed Welfare Trust which is doing well. Now we have a trust for the practising mobeds of Udvada called The Zoroastrian Religious Trust For Udvada Mobeds. It is through these trusts that we hope to narrow and then remove the wage differentials by providing monthly stipends, medical cover, retirement benefits and other infrastructural facilities.

Freed from economic uncertainties, the new generation of Udvada mobeds will be able to duly fulfill the trust reposed in them and provide solace and guidance which will eventually benefit the Parsi Zoroastrian community as a whole. Hope Mr Forbes agrees!

Donations to The Zoroastrian Religious Trust For Udvada Mobeds may kindly be sent to: Hoshang N. Wania, Coachman House, 12, Karelwadi, Thakurdwar, Bombay 400002 or the undersigned at P. O. Box 7677, Karachi 74400, Pakistan.

Mobed PAURUSASP D. MAGOL
Karachi

"WZO: adapting to change"

I have noted with some regret and alarm the lack of support and encouragement given to the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO). This body, among the many activities it undertakes, is doing sterling work in the upliftment of the poor Zarthushtis, specially in southern Gujarat. It had been supported in the past by leading Zarthushtis, vada dasturs and rank and file Zarthushtis throughout the world.

In the past few months quite a few noted Zarthushtis have resigned or withdrawn their support from the WZO ("WZO: adapting to change," *Parsiana*, June 1993). One of the reasons given was the change in its constitution permitting non-Zarthushti spouses to become members of the WZO. The argument put

Conference, Wedding or Party — Leave it in West End's experienced hands.

Your Favourite
"The Gourmet"
Restaurant
offers

Executive Buffet Lunch

- 16 delicious courses • From 12.30 p.m. to 3 p.m. every day. Including Sundays.
- Restaurant open from 8 a.m. to 11.30 p.m.

A LA CARTE
in the soothing comfort of
"The Gourmet"
or
TAKE AWAY

to the comforts of your home or office
Continental, Moghlai, Tandoori, Vegetarian

West End's Conference Plan

Inclusive of: Room Rent, Buffet Lunch, Morning and Evening Tea. Ask for special concession offer for larger conferences.



A NAVJOTE, A LAGAN, A SILVER OR GOLDEN ANNIVERSARY A FIRST BIRTHDAY PARTY — OR ANY SUCH HIGHLIGHTS OF YOUR LIFE.

Celebrate them at West End Hotel, in the beautiful setting of terrace Hall which is covered during monsoon.

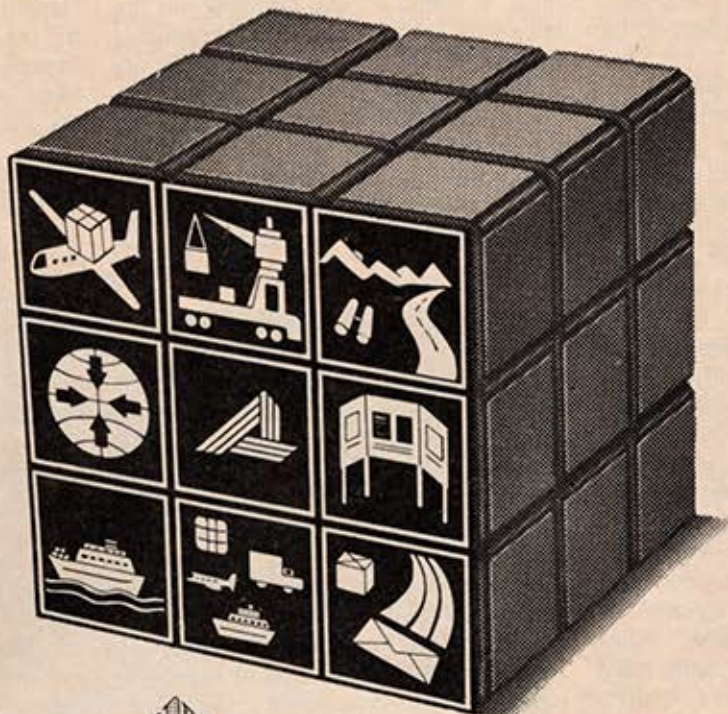
West End Hotel

45, New Marine Lines, Bombay-400 020
Tel. 299121. Telex: 011-2892 BEST IN
Gram: BESTHOTEL



**VEGETARIAN dishes prepared
in a separate vegetarian kitchen.**

We've got it all worked out for you



AIRFREIGHT LIMITED

— the single-source service advantage.

Airfreight Limited, an enterprise with over 80 offices in India, presents a complete package of services. All conveniently under one roof.

When you have to freight anything, anywhere in the world, by air or by sea, just leave it to us. We'll take care of all the details. Whenever you need to despatch any official or business-related documents or parcels, desk-to-desk, just call us.

DHL, our Courier Division delivers anywhere in India and abroad.

Planning a trip or a tour? INDTRAVELS, our Travel & Tours Division will organise one for you, anywhere on earth. We organise trade fairs, exhibitions and conferences as well, through our Trade Fairs, Exhibitions & Conferences Division.

We deliver the goods.

AIRFREIGHT

AIR CARGO &
IMPORT CONSOLIDATION

ACE

DOOR-TO-DOOR
CARGO

INDTRAVELS

(A Division of Airfreight Limited)
TRAVEL & TOURS

SEAFREIGHT

(A Division of Airfreight Limited)
SEA CARGO

DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS®
EXPRESS DIVISION OF
AIRFREIGHT LIMITED

Regd. Office: Neville House, Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400 038.

To contact us, please refer to your local Telephone/Yellow Pages Directory.

forward is that this could lead to office bearers and ultimately the president of the WZO being a non-Zarthusi. This comment is valid, but the problem is not unsurmountable. Quite a few Zarthusi associations in the West do have similar membership rules where non-Zarthusi spouses and their progeny belong to the association.

One simple way of avoiding the fear of a world body of Zarthusis being led by a non-Zarthusi could be amending the constitution of the WZO, where a clause could be inserted that the president or all office bearers must be Zarthusis. The legal brains of our community worldwide would find a solution to this problem.

One of the reasons I decided to join the management committee of the WZO was to assist needy and poor Zarthusis throughout the world, and specially in southern Gujarat. WZO and several other organizations are doing a fantastic job in trying to alleviate the hardship and poverty faced by them. For so many years, some of our brothers and sisters were forgotten and conveniently ignored. It took action on the part of the WZO and other organizations to do something positive by taking corrective action.

One needs to look at the last four videos produced by the WZO to see the great progress already made.

If the WZO is weakened due to lack of support, the first ones to suffer will be the weak and the poor who need the help most. It would be like throwing out the baby with the bath water! Future generations of Zarthusis will indeed judge us very badly. I appeal to our vada dasturs, community leaders and rank and file Zarthusis to put our past differences behind, resolve any shortcomings in a logical and sensible way and forge ahead to a bright future.

PURVIZ D. KOLSAWALLA
Sydney, Australia

"Doors closed to..."

Ms Homai Bode, in her letter on the above subject (*Parsiana*, April 1993), wrote that Parsis were called by that name only after they arrived in India in the 780s. Mr Roni Khan refutes this (*Parsiana*, August 1993) and says that we have been called Parsis since before 500 BC.

In support of his contention Mr Khan quotes the Naqsh-e-Rostam inscription of Darius and the Persepolis inscription of Xerxes. Mr Khan is misled by the word *paarsa* and its resemblance to Parsi.

The Iranian tribes first settled in the north of modern Iran, and were first mentioned in recorded history in 836 BC when the Assyrians mentioned in their annals that they received tribute from the "kings of Parsua" and reached the "land of the Mada" (the Medes). By 820 BC the tribes had moved south and were located in the land of Parsuash, after the name of their tribe. From Parsuash we get the modern name Pars (Fars) and Persia.

The cuneiform inscriptions were first deciphered by Rawlinson in the early part of the last century, and no translator of the inscriptions since then has translated *paarsa* as Parsi, although the name Parsi was well known by then. Thus, Sir Henry Rawlinson translates *paarsa* as Persian. It is also significant that the Parsi scholar K. D. Kiash (*Ancient Persian Sculptures*, 1889) has translated the Darius inscription into Gujarati as "*aik Irani anay aik Iranino chokro* (...an Iranian and son of an Iranian)." A. T. Olmstead has given the translation of the Xerxes inscription: "...I am...a Persian, son of a Persian..." Mr Khan will find the references to all the translations of this inscription in Olmstead's *History of the Persian Empire* (1970).

MATCH YOUR AMBITION TO A CAREER

To do so we offer you:

- ✧ Diploma Course in Business Management (Postal) (IMC)
- ✧ Executive Secretarial Course
- ✧ Private Secretarial Course
- ✧ Personal Assistant's Programme (Working Stenographers)
- ✧ Shorthand & Typewriting (English/Hindi/Marathi)
- ✧ Telephone Operating & Receptionist Techniques
- ✧ Electronic Telex Operating
- ✧ Electronic Typewriting & Word Processing
- ✧ English Conversation & Writing Skills

LATEST ADDITION: COMPUTERS

Enquire at:

Sir J. J. College of Commerce

14, Nanabhoy Lane, Hutatma Chowk
Bombay 400001 Tel: 244329

Come Home to K. Raheja

BOMBAY



Flats at **RAHEJA ESTATES**, Borivali (E)
 • 1/2 Bedroom flats • Spacious Residential Complex • A Breathtaking location
 • 1 km from Railway Station.

BOMBAY



Flats at **RAHEJA VIHAR**, Andheri (E).
 • 1/2/3 Bedroom flats • Self contained Residential complex • Easily Accessible to both Central & Western Railways

BOMBAY



Flats at **RAHEJA COMPLEX**, Kalyan
 • 1/2 Bedroom flats • Economical rates
 • Near Railway Station • Club house, gardens, Dish Antenna, within the complex

LONAVLA



Luxurious Bungalows at **RAHEJA HILL RESORT**
 • Superb location (Near Hotel Fariyas)
 • Breathtaking surroundings • Two sprawling gardens within the complex
 • Luxurious amenities.

PUNE



Flats at **RAHEJA GARDENS**, Wanawadi
 • A Superbly designed Residential Complex just 2 Kms from Turf Club • Swimming pool, Sports centre, Sprawling gardens and playgrounds, Common Hall for functions, Club house, Shopping & many other facilities.

BANGALORE



Flats at **RAHEJA PARK**, Magadi Road.
 • 1/2/3 Bedroom flats • Spacious Residential Complex at a calm, serene location
 • Near Rajajinagar

BANGALORE



Flats at **RAHEJA RESIDENCY**, Koramangala
 • Superbly planned Residential Complex
 • Posh location, surrounded with lots of greenery • Modern, luxurious amenities in every room • Modestly priced.

COIMBATORE



Flats at **RAHEJA ENCLAVE**
 • Superb location – Race Course Road
 • Fully equipped residential complex with Swimming pool, Club house, Jogging track, Gardens, etc. • 1 km from Railway Station.

DELHI



Flats at **SURYA VIHAR** Complex.
 • Mini Township at Palam Gurgaon Highway
 • Every possible facility within the complex



K. RAHEJA

BOMBAY: Construction House 'A', Behind Dena Bank, Off. Linking Rd., Khar, Bombay-400 052.
 Tel: 6405119/6405169/6402250/6401499
 Tlx: 011-78084 KRPL Fax: 91-22-6428164

PUNE: Raheja Chambers, 361/1 Bund Garden Rd., Next to J.N. Petit School, Pune 411 001
 Tel: 665401/662366. Fax: 664102.

BANGALORE: 13th Floor, Raheja Towers, 26/27, M.G. Road, Bangalore 560 001. Tel: 589940 (5 Lines). Fax: 0812-584071

COIMBATORE: 236, Race Course Road, Next to Cowcoody Chambers, Opp. Stanes, Coimbatore 641 018. Tel: 216673/211877/213011.
 Tlx: 0855-629 KRDC IN Fax: 0422-211198

DELHI: 35 A Regal Building, Parliament Street, New Delhi 110 001. Tel: 351637/353227.

**APPOINTED
VALUERS
OF JEWELLERY
TO THE
GOVERNMENT
OF INDIA**

**GAZDAR
Private Limited**

Taj Mahal Hotel
Bombay
Tel: 2023666, 2023366
Ext 3204
Telegrams: "MANUSCRIPT"

It is interesting to see when the name Parsi was applied to the Zoroastrian refugees who landed in India in the 780s. Many early European travellers in India met the Parsis and have left their impressions of them. The earliest account we have is by Jules Jordanus who met Parsis in Gujarat in 1322. He writes: "There be also other pagan-folk in this India who worship fire; they bury not their dead, neither do they burn them." At about the same time (in 1323) Friar Odoric met Parsis in Thana and wrote: "The people thereof are idolaters for they worship fire." Apparently in the 14th century the name 'Parsi' was not yet widely used, if at all, or Jordanus and Odoric would have used the name.

In 1534 Garcia da Orta visited Bassein and he wrote: "...there are also merchants called Coaris, and in the kingdom of Cambay they are known as Esparcis;...they are Gentiles who came from Persia." It seems that in the 16th century Parsi was beginning to be used in north Gujarat but not yet around Bombay. In fact, it would seem that Parsi was not much used even in south Gujarat, for Anthony Monserrate who visited Navsari in 1579 wrote that Navsari "is the chief seat of certain men who call themselves Persians or Jezni, from the city of Jeze (Yazd) in Persia."

There are some copper-plate grants of the Western Chalukya dynasty which are dated 700-6AD; in these grants occurs the word *parasika-dvipa*, which some early Parsi scholars took to refer to Parsis — "island of the Parsis." As I have shown in my *Kisseh-i Sanjan*, Parsis had not yet arrived in Sanjan so early in the eighth century, and in fact had not yet left Iran. The great Parsi scholar, M. P. Khareghat, has suggested that the word *parasika* means 'Persian.' The name *parasika* occurs in Indian literature as early as the 5th century AD, and probably refers to the Persian officials and settlers in Sind and West Punjab (now Pakistan) which then formed part of the Sasanian empire.

Ms Bode is therefore right, that the Parsis were so called only after they came to India; and from the evidence of the European travellers, that too fairly late. It would be interesting to have Indian evidence as to when the name Parsi was first used and when it became widespread.

H. E. EDULJEE

Ootacamund



*With best
compliments
from*

**NARIMAN
NALLASETH
Pvt Ltd**

**PLUMBING
ENGINEERS
&
CONSULTANTS**

27, Tamarind Lane
Rajabahadur Compound
Apollo Street
Bombay 400023
Phone Nos: 2650066 & 2652986



With best compliments of

ADI B. SAGAR & COMPANY

ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS
ENGINEERS
AND CONTRACTORS

BOMBAY

With
Best Compliments

M/s Framji Rustomji Choksey

ESTD 1850
JEWELLERY

Well-reputed
firm for buying
guaranteed gold
ornaments
& jewellery.

We pay
highest price
for old gold
& jewellery
ornaments.

(Approved
Valuers by Govt of
India for Jewellery)

253 Sheikh Memon Street
Bombay 400002
Tel 3425422/2063099
Resi 2051118

Dahm Yazad

It hurts to read Farrokh Vajifdar poking fun at Dahm Yazad ("The case for acceptance," Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, September-December 1993). Nowhere in *Parsiana* (March 1993) is Dahm Yazad promoted at the expense of Asha. It says that Dahm Yazad upholds righteousness, which is different.

For the information of the ignorant:

- Asha Vahishta (the arch angel Ardi-behesht, who signifies truth, order and righteousness) is helped by the Yazads Adar, Sarosh and Behram, and they work as a team. The contention that Asha could fail to fulfil the function of truth is the greatest insult one could hurl at the Holy Immortal.

- Dahm Yazad is the custodian of the souls of the pious and hence for the deceased an Afringan of Dahm is performed on the *chahrum* day in the Havan *gah*. Dahm Afringan should also be performed on the 10th day, the 30th day and every proper day of the month up to the end of the first year along with the Yasna ceremony.

- Dahm Afringan is to be recited along with the Afringan of Rapithwan at midday on the day Khordad in the month of Farvardin and again on the day Marespand in the month of Meher.

- When the Afringan ceremonies of gham-bars is performed, one Afringan of Dahm is recited.

- In the Zinde Ravan ceremonies, Afringans of Dahm are also recited.

- 'Dahman Afrin' literally means blessings for the pious.

- The Nirang of Dahm forms part of the Yasna prayers.

Why does Farrokh Vajifdar have to implicate with indignity Dahm Yazad and Asha Vahishta in his ignorant vituperative tirade against Ms Mistry? One's views on different religious issues may vary, but poking fun at the Amesha-spands and Yazads is sacrilege. It is a shame that such things are allowed to come out in print by *Parsiana*.

RUSTOM C. CHOTHIA

Liturgical worship

Faribourz Nariman's review of *A Persian Offering — The Yasna* ("Liturgical worship," Books, *Parsiana*, February 1993) refers to the voluble "progressives" and the "mindless iconoclasts," to whom "it may appear strange that an ancient liturgy like the Yasna should have as

Get
good value
for your money

Visit

RAILWAY HOTEL

Charni Road
Grant Road Junction
Bombay 400004

Telephone: 351028

Home comforts

Moderate rates

A/C • Non-A/C rooms

Deluxe A/C rooms

Beer parlour

Centrally situated



THE BEST WAY TO DO BUSINESS IN BOMBAY FROM THE QUEEN'S NECKLACE

SEA GREEN HOTEL offers you
great features:

- * A fabulous view of the Arabian Sea
- * A/c & Non A/c rooms with telephones and piped music, at affordable rates
- * FREE Continental Breakfast
- * Within walking distance of the commercial and entertainment centres of the Metropolis
- * Service with a smile



SG

SEA GREEN
HOTEL

145 A, Marine Drive,
Bombay 400 020 INDIA
Tel: 222294 (5 lines)
Grams: "Seahotel" Bombay

We are in the heart of it all!!



APM

HAPPY JAMSHEDI
NAVROZE
from

HOMI & Company

Opticians and Contact
Lense Clinic

Authorised dealers
of Bausch and Lomb
Raybans and soft contact
lenses and solutions
Varieties of frames
lenses — CR39 plastic
multifocals, photochromatics
tinted — high index and
UV for ultra violet
protection from computer
glare

For complete eye-care
A trusted name for
over 50 years

only at

Grant Rd ☉ 353980
Peddar Rd ☉ 3861073
Girgaum Rd ☉ 3879629

its main aim the purification of the corporeal world."

We are not against the corporeal world, but whereas the orthodox consider the purification of the material world to be the main aim of Zoroastrianism, the "progressives" believe that the spiritual — dealing with the moral, ethical, mental — purification should be the main aim, as the *Gathas* state very clearly. For there can be little progress in Ahura Mazda's physical creation without an understanding of the full significance of purity, of where this should begin, and how it may be achieved. It is this difference in our approach and understanding which is dividing the community.

It is beyond my comprehension as to why the orthodox are experiencing so much difficulty in realizing this fact about our aims. We are not mindless, nor are we iconoclasts. If anything, we wish to return to Asho Zarathushtra's sense of purity, which was made somewhat less pure once the holy Prophet died.

Common sense dictates that unless we are able to understand how Ahura Mazda's divine laws work, and get things right within ourselves, we cannot prevent the pollution, contamination and destruction of the world. The human race today is driven by avarice and greed, ethnic and religious hatred and prejudice, as well as by political ambition. These are all destructive forces.

Our Prophet transformed a religion of myths and superstitions, of senseless and crippling rituals into one of spiritual truths and enlightenment, of hope for everyone achieving wholeness and immortality. Would the orthodox say that Asho Zarathushtra was being a mindless iconoclast when he broke away from some old beliefs, customs and practices? Because the priests reintroduced these into the religion, does not mean that we, of today, must continue to follow them blindly. We are only endeavoring to return to His teachings, and to walk His path of righteousness.

Even the *Vendidad* tells us what is essential. In Fragarad XI, when Asho Zarathushtra asks Ahura Mazda how the corporeal world — the water, fire, sun and stars, trees, man and woman, etc — should be purified, Ahura Mazda answers, "Thou shall chant the cleansing words and the house (fire, water, earth, etc) shall be clean..."

True purification must come from within ourselves, with the help of the Good Spirit, the Good Mind, the

MATRIMONIAL

Europe-based
Parsi gentleman, late
40s, 5'10", self
employed professional,
seeks Parsi girl, 32-37
years. Interests include
travelling, theatre,
music, photography,
etc. Write with
photograph
(returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana

Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/5-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope
bears the reference number cited here.

MATRIMONIAL

Well-to-do parents of
beautiful, cultured,
domestically trained M.A.
(English literature, 1st class)
girl, (5'3" - 45 kgs) with
amiable nature and knowing
all the social graces desire
matrimonial correspondence
with young men having
similar background.
Advertisement for better
choice only. Apply with
details and photograph
(returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana

Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/6-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope
bears the reference number cited here.

PARSIANA AND ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH

We extend our best wishes for
your future and welfare

With compliments

Sikkim Aromatics

and

Sikkim Distilleries Limited

RANGPO, SIKKIM

**SIKKIM LIQUORS AND LIQUEURS
ARE NOW AVAILABLE IN BOMBAY — PUNE**

Fravashis who guard and guide us, and thus strengthen the establishment of Kshathra. Then the purification of the corporeal world will naturally follow, for our hearts and minds will be in accord with that of Ahura Mazda, and will direct our actions.

In conclusion I would like to say that I am glad that Dr Kotwal has collaborated with Prof J. W. Boyd in *A Persian Offering*; this collaboration is a comment in itself. But I shall not quibble about this. Maybe something good will come out of it after all — although I am still very sceptical of the spiritual value, or physical, of “the hair of the bull and hom, etc.” Nevertheless, I am looking forward to reading the book, hoping it will have much to teach me.

Ms PERIN DIVECHA
Kent, England

WZO Trust exempted

Donations to the World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust (WZOT), 8-121, Kutar Street, Tarota Bazar, Navsari 396445, India, were exempt under section 80G (5) of the Income Tax Act 1961 till March 31, 1993.

We are happy to inform you that the Income Tax department has renewed the exemption for a further period of three years from April 1, 1993 to March 31, 1996.

Your donation is therefore eligible for exemption under section 80G (5) of the Income Tax Act 1961 as per permission received by a letter dated July 29, 1993 from the office of the Commissioner of Income Tax, Surat.

DINSHAW K. TAMBOLY
Managing Trustee, WZO Trust

Daman Agiary appeal

The trustees of the Shree Daman Vapi Parsi Jarthosty Anjuman and the Zoroastrians of Vapi Daman have decided to construct a new building for our Daman Agiary in place of its old and dilapidated structure which was constructed 155 years ago by the benevolent Seth Meherwanji Navroji Manekji.

Since the Anjuman does not have sufficient funds we have to humbly request all benevolent individuals, trusts, funds, the Bombay and Surat Parsi Punchayets and other Zoroastrian organizations and associations to give us full support and cooperation and help us in this noble cause by giving/collecting contributions and donations and in return receive the blessings of this old and sacred fire.

The total estimated cost for reconstruction is likely to be Rs 10 to 12 lakhs.

Donors of Rs 5,000 or more will have their name engraved on the marble slabs as per their desire. Cheque, draft or cash favoring “Shree Daman Vapi Parsi Jarthosty Anjuman” may be addressed to Godrej M. Pundol, 22-D, Wadia Building, 2nd floor, Sir Sayed Brelvi Road, Near Bombay Samachar, Fort, Bombay 400001 or the undersigned at Duke Hotel, Devka, Daman 396210.

DOSABHAI N. OLIAJI
President, Shree Daman Vapi Parsi Jarthosty Anjuman

Appeal for donations

The Mancherji Joshi Memorial Education Fund was established in 1969 to perpetuate the memory of the great benefactor and father of the Dadar Parsi Colony, the late Seth Mancherji Edulji Joshi who firmly believed that by education alone will our youths be able to get better jobs and become better citizens.

As the cost of education is ever increasing, it becomes more and more difficult for most parents/guardians to bear the entire cost of educating their children, and therefore the demand for financial help from our education fund is constantly increasing.

Thanks to the benevolent institutions and generous persons, donations received by us have also increased gradually, enabling us to give financial help to an increasing number of students. However, our funds being limited, we are not able to help all needy and deserving applicants to their full requirements.

Last year, after carefully scrutinizing applications for educational aid, we had given financial help to 208 Parsi and Irani Zoroastrian students, totalling over Rs 1,46,500 and over 50 percent of these students were from poor farmer families of Gujarat and other places in India, or orphan students and students who had lost their fathers and whose mothers were supporting the families.

Our accounts are audited regularly and are available for inspection. We are utilizing more than 85 percent of our total income for educational aid, the amount spent for administrative purposes being minimal.

Account payee cheques/drafts drawn in favor of the “Mancherji Joshi Memorial Education Fund” may be sent to the undersigned at 614, Jame Jamshed Road, Mancherji Joshi Parsi Colony, Dadar, Bombay 400014. Our official receipt for the donations will be sent to you immediately.

JAL KHAN

Trustee and Hon Treasurer
Mancherji Joshi Memorial Education Fund

Survival strategy

The global Parsi Zoroastrian population is diminishing at approximately 20 percent (plus) every decade, so that past the middle of the next century, what is left of us will hardly qualify to be recognized as a community. The Iranian Zoroastrian community is said to have surged to 92,000 by its last census, even though its validity is still being investigated. Tajikistan and other southern Russian states may also add a great number, as and when they revert to their original Zoroastrian faith. But Parsis, because of our closed-door policy, are surely doomed unless drastic reforms are instituted in the socioreligious attitudes of the community, both internally as regards marriage and children of non-Zoroastrian spouses and externally, in assimilating ex-Zoroastrians from Iran and the southern Russian states or even accepting total non-pedigreed Zoroastrians who wish to convert.

Yet this perception of perdition and specter of doom has not sunk into the community conscience. Unless we are reconciled to a global historical disappearance altogether, we must shed our attitude of laissez faire; we must wake up and force the issue with our intelligentsia and our community leadership. Our traditional leadership is the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) and more recently, the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India. Overseas, we now have the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, the World Zoroastrian Organisation, the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, and smaller associations in UK, Hongkong, Australia, the Middle East, etc. But the one that seems capable of taking a lead, is the BPP, with the obvious ability to muster the support of Parsi Zoroastrian associations of the world and influencing individuals to follow suit. Currently efforts are being made to institute a global Zoroastrian Federation but it is still some distance away. Meanwhile the BPP must assume the mantle and if necessary, go it alone till others join in.

As such, the BPP trustees, with the Indian Federation, should now seriously consider expanding their horizons and their constitution, to meet this all-important problem, aware of the fact that if our demographic numbers are lost, then all else which they are currently engaged in doing will die a natural death. Initially, the manifesto of all incoming nominees for trusteeship and their bio datas should

Happy Jamshedi Navroze
to all our Parsi Patrons

With the Compliments of

SUN-N-SAND HOTEL

39 Juhu Beach, Bombay 400049
Tel: 620-1811/4821/4831

AND

JEWEL OF INDIA

AND

JADE GARDENS

Nehru Centre
Worli, Bombay 400018
Tel: 494-9204/9217/9586

be geared to this one obsession of salvaging the Parsi community worldwide. A Global Council for Zoroastrian Survival should be instituted, as an autonomous body, parallel to the BPP but incorporating representatives from the BPP, the Indian Federation and all the aforementioned overseas associations. Its terms of reference should be to find out ways and means of stopping this demographic drain in the community, looking carefully and equally at the two aspects of possible change within the community — in the societal structure as well as the ecclesiastical tradition, to the extent necessary to conform to the problems and needs of the 21st century, using the *Gathas* as their guide. Representatives of the high priests, social workers, the media, demographers, businessmen, industrialists, educationists and some scholars of repute and impartiality, with background in Zoroastrian history and tradition from all over the world could be coopted on the Council as non-voting members.

Neither blind orthodoxy nor rabid liberalism should be tolerated in discussions. These have been divisive, retarding factors leading to our present predicament; we don't need any more schisms. A very capable chairman should steer a middle-of-the-road course, since that alone will gain universal support and acceptance. No excessive weight need be given to change for the sake of change whether in ecclesiastical or social matters. Care should be taken not to throw out the baby with the bathwater and not to lose sight of the forest for the trees. Focus should be on the world in which we have to survive in the next century, taking into account the likely trends of population transfers and the need for relevant transfers of community resources for optimum utilization. Attention should also be given to working out a modus operandi for harmonizing these changes with the Zoroastrians and their associations in Iran and the southern Russian states, so that we may simultaneously muster a unified world Zoroastrian community.

The recommendations of this Council should then be referred back to all its component associations and units for sounding out the views of their membership, statistically by numbers, and then collating such views and statistics in the form of a revised manifesto to be widely distributed to all pockets of Zoroastrian population, globally, for their implemen-

tation. Any association/unit not accepting this manifesto should be free to determine its own future, the doors being open for them to join as and when so desired.

The BPP and the Indian Federation should initiate and gear themselves to this exercise, to this exercise at the earliest. Time is not in our favor. No time need be wasted in carrying out elaborate surveys, studies or research, as all that is already done. Contributory funds may be invited by the BPP from individuals and associations around the world. The trustees should appoint a very capable and salaried official with a small office staff and modern office equipment to maintain rapid communication globally. The electorate of Bombay (and India) should bear this objective in mind when electing their future trustees and representatives.

HOMI B. MINOCHER HOMJI

Toronto

The pallbearers

Four valiant soldiers in their uniform
of white

Carry the remains of one whose life
was wrong or right

They march in mute unison towards the
well of the dead

Grim, mask-like faces, inwardly smiling
perhaps

For the dead provide them their bread.

'Tis all over for the one who lies in
the cot

The power, the pomp, the glory, alas
came to naught.

The procession of mourners linked
together follows the four

Escorting the lifeless to the one way door
Once in, never to return again except
the brave four.

Unknown, unhonored, forever chained
to their plight

Poor wretched souls, entangled in
eternal night.

And so from generation to generation
They live amongst the dead

None do them reverence, none care
they be happy or sad.

But with each new day they rise for
the battle to fight

The four valiant soldiers in their
uniform of white.

NAVROZ N. PATEL

Towers of silence reform

A careful and thorough enquiry, in the

cold light of pure reason, into the best mode of disposing of the Parsi dead must be our duty to ourselves as well as our responsibility to other communities.

The towers of silence, built in sparsely populated times and places, continue to occupy much costly land close to where people of other communities live, and thus are seriously disadvantageous to all around them. Our own community too is harmed, because they create unnecessarily within the Parsis a degraded class, the nassessalars, who have to enter the dokhmas and move the decaying corpses, partly eaten by vultures, into the central pit. In their great personal grief, the users of the dokhmas cannot be expected to direct their thoughts to the details of the lives of these poor unfortunate nassessalars, but from men whom we put to such degrading work we cannot expect high principles and scruples.

Gradually, Parsis must cease using our dokhmas and build on them electric crematoria, the ashes from which could be disposed of in any way preferred by the mourners — and without nassessalars. Our dead will have had their destined life on earth. All that matters is what our immortal part, the soul, has experienced. The perishable instrument we can leave behind as of no further consequence to the soul. If it is allowed to disappear into ashes we will have done the only sensible thing suited to today's highly populated civilized world. After all, in places where there are no dokhmas, Parsis use public crematoria.

Let the dokhmas of the past be turned into gardens and lakes and nowhere obstruct the lives of the growing communities in the thoughtful new age which we are entering. Thus our last memories of our dear ones can gain pleasantness and dignity, without any loss to the religion to which they belong.

Dr KAEKHOSRU KABRAJI

Former Director of Meteorology, GOI
London

Priestly pronouncements

The hypocrisy of our orthodox high priests and other like-minded people amazes me.

Recently, we heard that a wedding took place according to Zoroastrian rites of the son of the present Sir Dinshaw Petit notwithstanding the fact that the groom is only partly Parsi (his one maternal grandparent being a non-Parsi and his paternal grandmother partly French).

continued on page 109



*With the Compliments
of*

BILMAT[®]
sanitary fittings

**BATHROOM FITTINGS & ACCESSORIES
AND DEALERS IN SANITARYWARE**

Office and Showroom:

73, Nagindas Master Road
Fort, Bombay 400 023

Phones: 265 3310 • 265 2091

THE BOMBAY BUILDING MATERIALS TRADING CO.

Events and Personalities

War crimes prosecutor

On the International War Crimes Tribunal instituted by the United Nations (UN) leading Indian advocate and former attorney general Soli Jehangir Sorabjee has been named prosecutor. This prestigious



Sorabjee: for a fair trial

appointment was made by the UN secretary-general Boutros Boutros Ghali, notes a report in *The Times of India* of October 3, 1993.

"Sifting through evidence of war crimes in former Yugoslavia — the extermination, deportation, murder, rape and pillage — will be enormous. It is going to be a harrowing experience for me personally. What will be challenging, however, is ensuring that the accused are given a fair trial," Sorabjee is quoted in *The Times* report.

Frank and forthright in his assessment of unfair practices and warped judgments Sorabjee has tried to uphold the law (see "At the law post," *Parsiana*,

April 1990). He was reportedly the first to challenge the orders of the chief censor when emergency was clamped in the country. He has earned a reputation for championing the cause of ordinary citizens particularly the rights of the down-trodden. Whether it is safeguarding the fundamental rights, the freedom of expression or personal liberties, Sorabjee has fought many legal battles. But his forte however has been administrative and constitutional law, the highlights of his career have been highlighted.

Besides his consuming interest in law Sorabjee also makes time for his books and jazz music.

Honored by the Governor

Joint secretary of the Madhya Pradesh Congress (I) Committee Ms Amavaz Fali Contractor was accorded a felicitation by the Governor of Madhya Pradesh Mehommmed Shafi Qureshi on September 26, 1993, notes a press release. The function in her honor was held at Bhopal's Gandhi Hall.

Whilst espousing different social causes Ratlam-based Contractor has been active with the Gramin Shiksha Samiti, the Bhartiya Vid-haya Prachar Samiti and the District Family Planning Committee where she worked as convener. In addition she has been member of organizations like the Employment Exchange, the Western Railway Mahila Advisory Committee and the Government's 20-point program, according to the write-up.

Amritsar-born Contractor completed her education at Mhow and took to public



Contractor: espousing the Bhartiya Vid-social causes

service. For five years she was councillor of her Nagar Palik Nigam, mentions the write-up.

Dastur...the right note

As a man he was simple; as a singer he was profound. The different facets of the man and the singer have been effectively conveyed by Homi Rogers in *Firoz Dastur: striking the right note*. The 24-page booklet was recently published by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet as part of its series of biographical profiles of eminent Parsis.

The 74-year-old maestro who started his music career as a teenaged cine actor starring in films made by J. B. H. Wadia, Eastern Arts and Sohrab Modi later opted to devote himself to Indian classical music. The ties with Wadia Movietone were the most enduring though. His first film *Lal-e-Yaman* where he sang six songs was also Wadia's first 'talking' film and it made box office history in those days by being the first Indian talkie to run to a full house for 14 consecutive weeks. In the next 17 years Dastur had acted in 15 films and enjoyed the distinction of grossing Rs 1,250 per month, "The highest paid to an artiste then."

Neither his entry into filmdom nor his departure therefrom was planned. With the advent of playback singing and romantic heroes, Dastur lost out. As he himself admits, "I was too lean and somewhat pigeon-chested to face the onslaught of the hefty Punjabi men." Without an element of remorse Dastur took this opportunity to apply himself to classical music, becoming one of the most respected exponents of the Kirana gharana, known for its serene, devotional renderings that suit his "soft melodious voice." Rogers has tried to explain the nuances of the gharana in detailed terms but the jargon used does

*With
Best Compliments
From*

*Croissants
etc.TM*

JUHU

Shop No. 4, "Fiona Apts"
176, Juhu Tara Road
Bombay - 400 049
Tel.: 6104252

BANDRA

No. 5, 6, Pluto
Perry Road, Bandra
Bombay - 400 050
Tel.: 6425702

LINKING ROAD

Mangal Bhavan Bldg
Behind Satgurus
14th Road, Khar
Bombay - 400 052
Tel.: 6431506

VASHI

Mahavir Centre Shop No. 22
Next to Golden Punjab
Behind Big Splash
Sector No. 17

7 BUNGLOWS

3, Seagreen Apts
Raheja Complex Seven Bungalows
Versova, Andheri (W)
Bombay - 400 061
Tel.: 6234218

WARDEN ROAD

Beach View Building
93, Warden Road
Bombay - 400 036
Tel.: 3628465

CHEMBUR

Suswagatam
Opp. Diamond Garden
Central Avenue Road
Bombay - 400 071
Tel.: 5556474

CUFFE PARADE

7/8 Maker Arcade
Bombay - 400 005
Tel.: 2186534

CHURCHGATE

At Karndars
Industrial Assurance Bldg
Churchgate, Bombay - 400 020
Tel.: 221066

ANDHERI

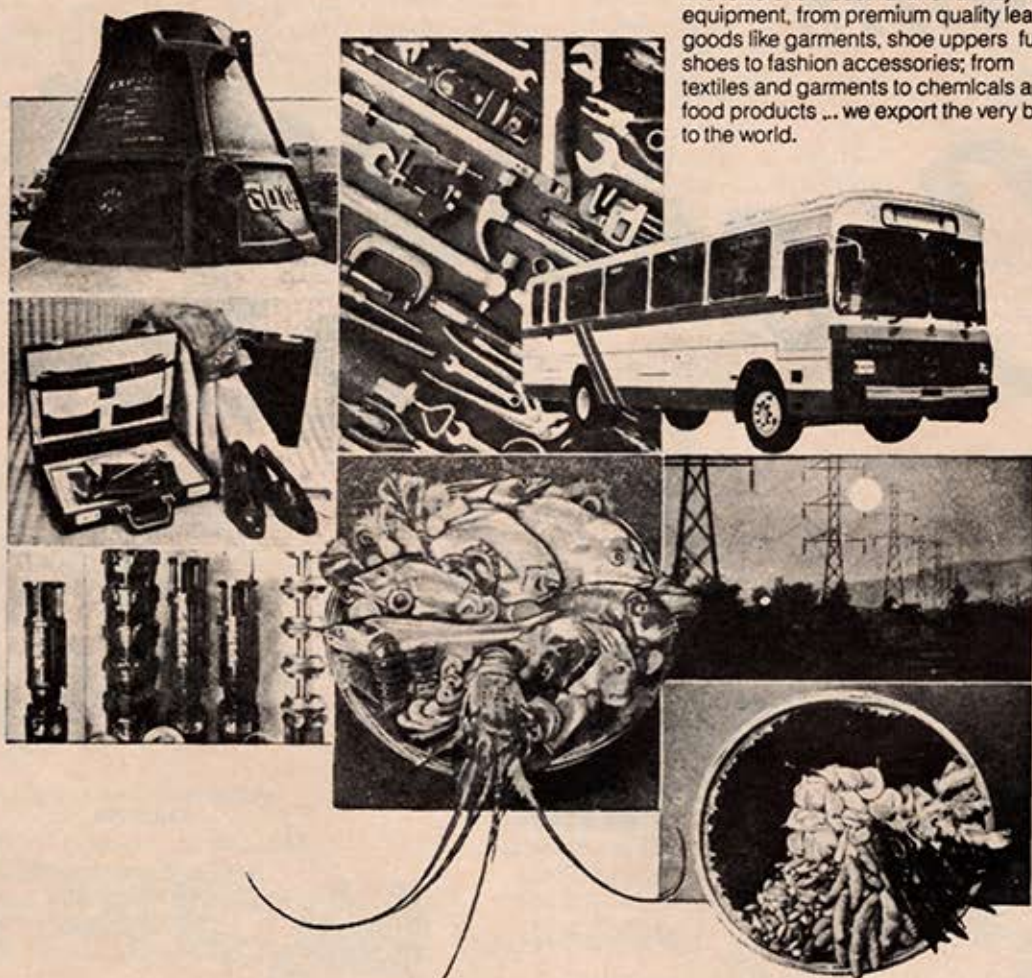
Manu Bharati Housing Society
Next to Shoppers Stop
Andheri (West)
Tel.: 6210231

A world of difference

Quality of product and service. That's the stamp we put on every product we export to all corners of the world.

Tata Exports. Part of the renowned Tata Group. With access to vast resources, varying skills. Backed by experience and knowhow. That's why when you deal with Tata Exports, you can be sure of 'export expertise' all the way.

From engineering products like commercial vehicles to agricultural and construction machinery; from projects, equipment, services and transmission line towers to industrial and railway equipment, from premium quality leather goods like garments, shoe uppers, full shoes to fashion accessories; from textiles and garments to chemicals and food products ... we export the very best to the world.

**TATA EXPORTS LIMITED**

Block A, Shivsagar Estates,
Dr Annie Besant Road,
Worli, Bombay 400 018, India.

Tel. Nos: 4920402/4920404
Telex: (11) 73858, 73691, 76211
Fax: (22) 4926379, 4926926, 4948574



Dastur: devotional renderings

not enable a reader to tune in to the explanation!

The intensive training that Dastur received at the hands of gurus like Sawai Gandharva and Balkrishna Buva Kapileshwari he later tried to share with his pupils. Some were privileged to receive private coaching from him but the rest came in contact with him when he was on the faculty of the Bombay University. "The university is like a *karkhana* (factory)," noted Dastur who can speak and write fluent Urdu. This want of total commitment to music among his students he attributes to a changing life-style characterized by "speed and hurry, stress and strain, suspense and tension. In such conditions, taking to music as a profession becomes an uncertain, even insecure, profession."

For posterity, Dastur only leaves behind three audio cassettes released under the Rhythm House Classic series. He is totally indifferent to fame or recognition, choosing instead to opt for a simple, vegetarian way of life and adopt J. Krishnamurti's philosophy, "Be in the world, but never of it." Even though he may smoke occasionally ("I had to pick up a few of the film world's vices," he confesses) his voice, despite his age, has been "hailed by his contemporaries and critics as the only one that maintains the purity of the Kirana gharana in an unrivalled manner," mentions the author.

Born Faredun to Goolbai and Bejonji, the name Firoz was conferred on him by J. B. H. Wadia who is believed to have given Dastur a new lease of life when he was young. Incidentally Firoz is just one

of the many words misspelt in the biography. A few of the typographical errors have been corrected in ink however. On Wadia Movietone's 60th anniversary is to be produced *Grant Road Raga* by Wadia's grandson Riyad, and Farukh Dhondy of BBC's Channel 4. The film will be a tribute to Dastur in celluloid just as *Striking the right note* celebrates his contribution in print. As notes Rogers in his foreword, "My pleasure in writing this short sketch would be doubled if it served to inspire even a fistful of readers in emulating this great simple man of our community."

Law for the layman

Lawyer and columnist Tehemton Dalal's second book in Gujarati *Kaida Ni Anti Guntio* (Intricacies of Law) is meant to apprise the general public of the different laws applicable in the country. It would be particularly useful to traders, industri-



Thanavala: total commitment. Vakil releasing book authored by Dalal (right).

alists and the common man, notes the editor of *The Bombay Samachar* Jehan Daruwala in his preface to the book.

When the book was released at the hands of the famous criminal lawyer Phiroze Vakil at a function in Bombay on September 16, 1993, it was acknowledged that without consulting a lawyer or paying high fees information would now be available on varying issues: whether the services rendered by doctors can be brought under the Consumer Protection Act; how to obtain free legal aid; why the Income Tax Department cannot take over properties which are above Rs 10 lakhs; rights and duties of the police; appeal and remand; effectiveness of Terrorist And Disruptive Activities (Prevention) Act, 1985 and its implications; salient points to be known before purchasing a flat; when can the landlord obtain possession of his flat, etc.

Published under the banner of N. M.

Thakkar and Company, the 56-page booklet covering 16 topics in all is priced at Rs 28 and is available at all leading bookstalls. Dalal's earlier book *Kaido ané Samaj* (Law and Society) is reportedly in its second edition.

A master of arts and law, Dalal is an advocate practising at the Bombay High Court. He is a regular columnist in *The Bombay Samachar* and writes articles of interest in several periodicals. He is also the joint honorary secretary of the World Zoroastrian Organisation and an active Freemason, further informs the release.

Second retirement

Despite an eye problem, Rustom Thanavala kept an eagle eye on the workings of all at Parsiana Publications. Despite a spinal problem Thanavala was the backbone of the organization. After serving as director and chief executive of Parsiana Publications for 15 years,

Thanavala finally decided that at 77 years of age he deserved to enjoy a life of retirement.

On December 31, 1993 he parted company with the office keys and papers entrusted to him. As chief executive, the administrative and managerial responsibilities of the company fell under his purview. His name would possibly be familiar to *Parsiana* and *Voyage* subscribers and advertisers because letters of complaints for delays and non-receipt of copies would invariably be acknowledged by him. Once a job was entrusted to him, no follow-up action was necessary. He did however expect the same level of efficiency from all the staff members too.

Neither Bombay bandhs nor riots gave him reason to stay away from office. He had the leave sanctioning authority but for himself he would only grant leave if necessitated by ill health or a death in the family.

His stern exterior and upright posture often caused people to confuse him with an ex-serviceman. His calling, before he joined *Parsiana*, was with the Life Insurance Corporation which he served for several decades until his retirement. His job postings in different regions of India had exposed him to different life-styles and attitudes; so tolerance and understanding were evident in his approach. A bachelor and yet a father-figure, many a tale of woe and lament would be carried to him which he would invariably give a patient hearing to and guard as though it were his burden. His own travails he bore cheerfully thereby teaching others to face life with the same composure.

While reluctantly accepting his retirement the directors of the company noted at their board meeting: "His dedication and loyalty were unstinting and on numerous occasions when the company faced a cash-flow problem he always volunteered and did help out without seeking any benefit. He was fair and impartial in his dealings with all employees and even assisted them monetarily." Thanavala was also a director of Kaiser-E-Hind, the 113-year-old printing press.

At *Parsiana*, age differences do not deter colleagues from addressing each other by first names. But Mr Thanavala was always Mr Thanavala. This formality however was not a mark of distance but of regard, with awe and respect, all of which he deserved.

Music honor

Nominated to represent India on the jury of the 16th Valentino Ducchi International Piano Competition scheduled in Rome from November 11-19, 1993 was Pune's Ms Roxana Anklesaria.



Anklesaria (left): music ambassador
Chinoy: losing weight, winning medals



The Italian ministries of tourism and entertainment, foreign affairs, cultural property and environment, and education, were to sponsor the competition which had for its theme: "Music and Nature for Childhood," notes a press release. Anklesaria was to speak on "Nature and the Arts on the threshold of the year 2000."

The organizers — Valentino Ducchi Musical Association and the Conservatorio di Musica Santa Cecilia — have attempted to foster cultural unity and integration through music, by drawing young pianists up to 13 years of age to exhibit their talent at performance and composition.

As honorary secretary of the Poona Music Society, Anklesaria has been instrumental in promoting the musical arts in the city. Besides performing she teaches piano, music theory and history.

Skating success

"I was a very lazy child. I was stout, so my dad registered my name on the waiting list of this class where they teach roller skating." Ten-year-old Mithrobeh Chinoy is still a child but the 15 months of practice he has put in on his roller skates has toned up his muscles and won him medals at the district and state championships.

In April last he won three gold medals in the Bombay District Roller Skating Championships. The following month he won one gold medal in the All Bombay Roller Skating Championship. Barely 20 days later he represented Bombay at the Maharashtra Roller Skating Meet held in Pune where he won one gold medal in the 2,000 m road race and one bronze medal in the 1,500 m road race, Chinoy shows certificates attesting his prowess in this sport.

In October 1993 he represented Maharashtra at the 31st National Championship held at Trivandrum where he stood fourth in the 2,000 m road race. Disappointed with the tactics adopted by some of the other competitors in his 8-10 age-group, Chinoy explains how some of the participants would try and intercept and trip the others to gain a lead. The fair-play approach that Chinoy likes to adopt is to allow another contestant to take the lead initially such that he does not have to tire himself cutting the air. He saves his energies for the last lap when he sprints.

Aspiring to be a national champion, Chinoy now gladly goes for practice: before competitions, he daily puts in at least one hour at Pradeep and Vishalya Zaveri's coaching class; during examination time, he skips his skating practice. A fifth standard student at St Mary's ICSE, Chinoy's favorite subjects are mathematics and social studies. Roller skating will remain his hobby, maintains Chinoy. He would like to be a mechanical engineer like his father when he grows up.

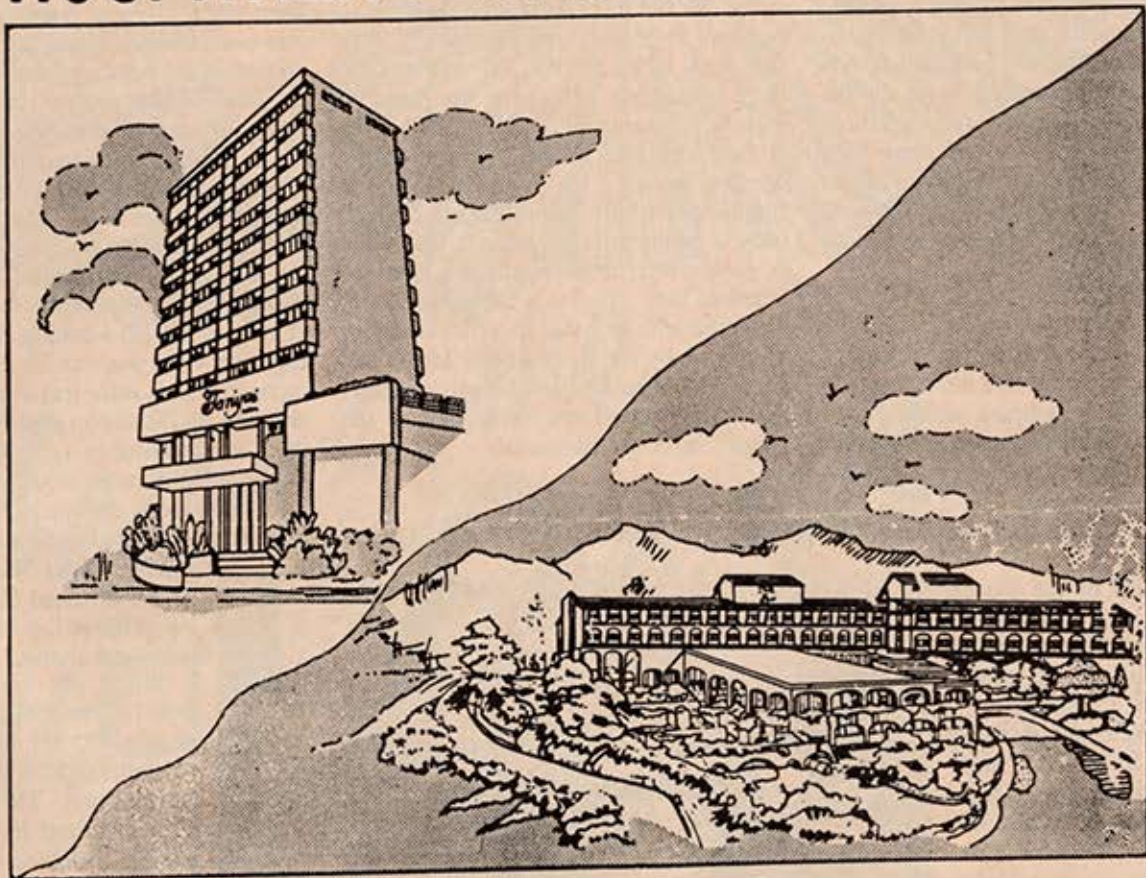
Notorious Parsis

Modus operandi one: poses as a rich Parsi inheritor or businessman about to get crores of rupees; intensely religious.



At the Martyr's (War) Memorial at Bombay's Khareghat Colony office bearers of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, Bombay Parsi Association, Youths Own Union, Athornan Mandal, Iran League plus retired and serving officers of the armed forces had assembled on September 10, 1993. Wreaths were offered and The Last Post was sounded as a mark of respect to the soldiers who had sacrificed their lives for the country.

HOSPITALITY HAS A NEW NAME



FARIYAS

At the Fariyas Hotel, Bombay, you experience it the moment you enter. Warmth and friendliness with a rare mix of impeccable service and professionalism. Whether it be the bar, the restaurant, the poolside or the excellently equipped Business Centre with all the infrastructural support.

And Fariyas Holiday Resort, just two hours from Bombay and nestling in the cool hills of Frichley, Lonavla, is a whole world of sheer luxury.

With a superior, flexible and extensive Business Complex with four modernized conference halls to accommodate 15 to 350 delegates.

Impeccable restaurants, including the 'Gajra' which lays out an authentic Gujarati vegetarian thali, prepared in a separate kitchen.

Spacious lawns, a swimming pool, a health club, video games, a movie theatre, CCTV, a children's park, golf and much more.

All designed to leave you with that unmistakable feeling that at Fariyas - You are the world.

Fariyas
HOTEL

BOMBAY:

Tel: 2042911, 2855430.
Fax: 2834992.

DELHI:

Tel: 6429572.
Fax: 6450651.



LONAVLA:

Tel: (Code) 021147
3852/53/54/55.
Fax: 2080.

PUNE:

Tel: 666431.
Fax: 667934.

Modus operandi two: poses as a poor employee of an anjuman with an ailing mother.

The ignominious and subtle ways in which fraudulent acts are being perpetrated, taking advantage of Zoroastrian largesse and benevolent institutions, came to light last year. In the case of the criminal behavior of the self-proclaimed rich Parsi inheritor, the police were on the lookout for a 37-year-old, fair, 5'6" tall, bespectacled Parsi male who has been named as Sohrab Framji Jussawalla in an advertisement issued under the "Wanted" head in *The Bombay Samachar* of October 23, 1993.

Also on the prowl in the guise of a rich devotee is a male who frequents agiaries, familiarizes himself with the workings there and at the opportune time steals silver *torans* and disappears, according to letters of complaint that have appeared in the Gujarati Press. The Boyce Agiary at Tardeo, the Poonjiaji Dar-e-Meher at Nargol and a fire-temple in Surat reported such thefts.

In the case of the Boyce Agiary the cheat won over the confidence of the priests and employees by giving generous tips. He referred to his scooter parked outside and then called for some change to ensure that his was the solitary presence in the room. His mission of theft accomplished, he subsequently walked off. In Surat too this ploy worked, reports Ervad Framroze M. Bhada. In Nargol, the cheat impressed the agiary workers with a bundle of notes from which he paid for the oil lamp and sandalwood and announced his intentions to invest in property in the vicinity. Their trust in him cost them a silver *toran*! Having learnt a lesson these institutions have cautioned other fire-temples. The Nargol agiary priest has volunteered to identify the culprit if he is booked.

The hoax appearing to be a destitute Parsi employee has not been as convincing and the suspicions that he roused could not win him any monetary returns. Learning of the death of one aged Parsi bachelor he offered his condolences to the deceased's spinster sister and further wrote: "Little over a year back with his kind help, I had gone for a job in our Hubli Agiary and towers of silence

where I am still working nicely. Early this month I came here on a short leave to meet my old mother who is in Surat's Nariman Home. She is ailing from throat cancer since last two years... I am very poor... I feel very bad to bother you at such time but have come to your door to beg you to please help me for my train fare back to Hubli (Rs 200) and get me back to my job." He gave his name as Rusi S. Mehta residing at Dhobitalao.

Believing that something was amiss, the lady brought the letter to *Parsiana*. Enquiries with the Hubli Parsee Zoroastrian Anjuman revealed that the Anjuman has never employed him nor heard of him. The Surat Parsi Panchayat wrote back to say that they have neither an inmate by the name of Ms Mehta nor a patient suffering from throat cancer at their Nariman Home. Thus ended the "poor" Parsi's fictitious tale.

An eye for a needle

Eighty-two-year-old Ms Soona Duma-

Dumasiya's work is the fusion of petals, birds and roses. Though her creations are rich in color — "I use more than a hundred reels for each outfit" — she manages the right balance to keep her outfits from appearing garish. Her ensembles have been taken to Paris, Switzerland, Bangalore and other cities although most of her clients are Bombay-based. Her work is chiefly appreciated by Parsis and Gujaratis, it is reported.

"In my 62 years on the job, only one Gujarati lady has ever given me a substantial baksheesh — Rs 1,001. Three others on separate occasions, have given me Rs 11 as baksheesh," she recalls. Forced to supplement the family income, Dumasiya started working on her sewing machine when she was 20. Her husband's income wasn't sufficient to raise their six children so Dumasiya undertook embroidery assignments in right earnest, often working for 18 hours a day while her husband took over the kitchen chores. She mastered her art under the guidance of her

younger sister Khorshad Khan who had honed her embroidering skills at the Sir Ratan Tata Industrial Home.

When 26, Soona was selected a national winner (from among 300 participants) at the All-India Machine Embroidery Competition. The competition was organized by the German sewing machine giant Pfaff, then known as Bell and Company in 1937. Her prize — a genuine burr wood Pfaff Sewing Machine — kept in her drawing room attests to her skill to date. In the prime of her creativity Dumasiya used to

charge her clients Rs 45 for embroidering a nine-yard sari border. That was a time when the reels cost Rs 16. Today the reels alone cost Rs 400. And so too has mounted the value of her work.

SPOTLIGHT

The Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, London, honored Dr Ruzva Keki Bhathena last year with membership on its faculty of family planning and reproductive health care. Bhathena's work on contraception makes him the first gynecologist practising in India to earn this distinction, notes a press release.

Compiled by Parinaz Gandhi



Dumasiya and the 'life-giving' machine

Photo: Vishwanath Sallian, *The Afternoon Despatch and Courier*

siya's life depends on a machine. But it is not a pacemaker she is attached to, but a sewing machine, spending eight hours daily embroidering sari borders, pillowcases and bedsheets. "I often feel my blood getting cold, like it'll all soon be over for me. But then I perch myself on my sewing machine, and feel rejuvenated all over again," Dumasiya is quoted in *The Afternoon Despatch and Courier* of September 2, 1993. Her eyes are still as sharp as ever, though she now needs glasses while threading a needle, she admits.

The dominant pattern running through

Travel has never been easier

TRAVELPACK, straight out of the West, with eight offices in the UK and thirty in Canada, is now all set to help you... go places!

Be it travel for Business or Leisure, within India or Overseas, armed with courteous and efficient service, and backed by its wide, state-of-the art network,

TRAVELPACK serves the needs of the highly demanding, sophisticated traveller.

Whether it's for individual travel, group charters, air ticketing, hotel reservations, family holidays, tour programmes, luxury cruising or conventions, explore the wonderful world of **TRAVELPACK** - the key to

non-stop service, and, what's more, all tailor-made to individual needs.

travel pack

BUSINESS AND LEISURE TRAVEL

Travelpack Marketing and Leisure Services India Limited

BOMBAY 2 Unity House, First Floor, M.P. Marg, (Opera House) Bombay 400 004, India
Tel: (91 22) 3642870/3643299.
Fax: (91-22) 3637775.

BARODA F 10-14, Siddharth Patel Square, Old Padra Rd., Baroda 390 015.
Tel: (0205) 325372 Fax: (0265) 330906

TRAVELPACK - Your master plan for travel !!!

Zarthusti presence pervasive

Zarathushtra's priorities reechoed at the Parliament of the World's Religions

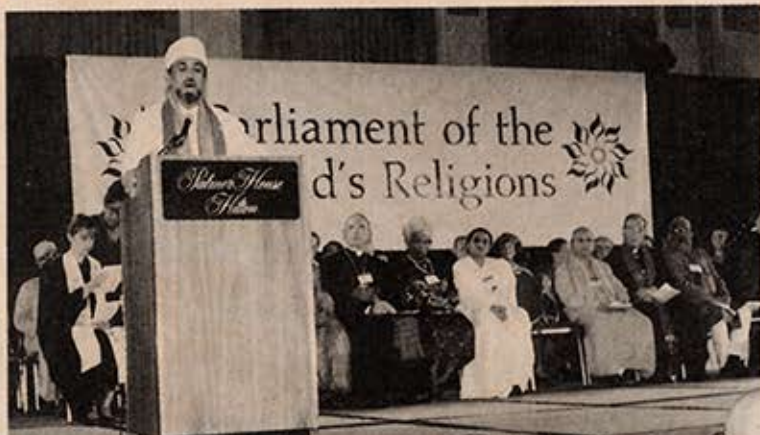
Arnavaz S. Mama

The signing of the 10-page document "Towards a Global Ethic" marked the culmination of the deliberations of the Assembly of Religious and Spiritual Leaders that met for several private sessions concurrently with the Parliament of the World's Religions that was held last August-September in Chicago, informs the *FEZANA Journal* (Winter, 1993). Among the 150 religious leaders who endorsed the policy paper were Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa, High Priest of the Anjuman Atash Bahram of Bombay. Ervad (Dr) Jehangir Oshidari vice president of the Mobeds' Council of Tehran Ervad (Dr) Kersey Antia, High Priest of Chicago, Ervad Kobad Zarolia, president of the North American Mobeds' Council, Ervad Mehraban Zartoshty, president of the Council of Iranian Mobeds of North America, Rohinton Rivetna, president of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), Homi Taleyarkhan, former member of the Minorities Commission of the Government of India and Dr Homi Dhallia of Bombay. The document is based on a book, *Global Responsibility: In Search of a New World Ethic* by Kans Kung. For a world sorely in need of ethical consensus, the document affirms the core values found in the religious teachings of the world. "It makes a universal appeal to commit to better mutual understanding and to socially beneficial, peace-fostering and earth-friendly ways of life," comments the *Journal*.

The "Zarthusti presence was pervasive" in the Parliament. About 20 speakers and panelists expounded "Zarthusti principles of living, loving and dying, explaining the spiritual message of Zarathushtra and asserting that ours is the oldest environmentally conscious religion," writes Dr Rustom Kevala, chair-

person of the FEZANA Journal Committee, in the issue.

Over 7,000 representatives of more than 150 faiths had gathered at the



Zarolia's invocation to Ahura Mazda was a part of the opening ceremony

Palmer House Hilton, venue of the Parliament, and at off-site events in Chicago's museums, churches and temples to renew ties of understanding that had been sown at the 1893 Parliament in Chicago, states the *Journal*. Thus, "in comparison to the size of the community world wide, the Zoroastrians had a more than adequate representation thanks to the efforts of Rivetna who is also a trustee of the Parliament," notes the October 1993 newsletter of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC). By early July Rivetna had announced to FEZANA that \$ 8,000 had been collected (inclusive of a donation of \$ 5,000 from Zartoshty) to promote the Zoroastrian presence at the Parliament.

The week-long celebrations were flagged off with a parade with mobeds Oshidari, Zal Sethna, Zartoshty and Dr Jehan Bagli in the van. They were closely followed by a group of ladies, colorfully dressed in Parsi style with *kornisaris* and lace *sudreh*s, two of them, Dolly Dastoor of Montreal and Dr Katie Irani of Houston carrying the traditional

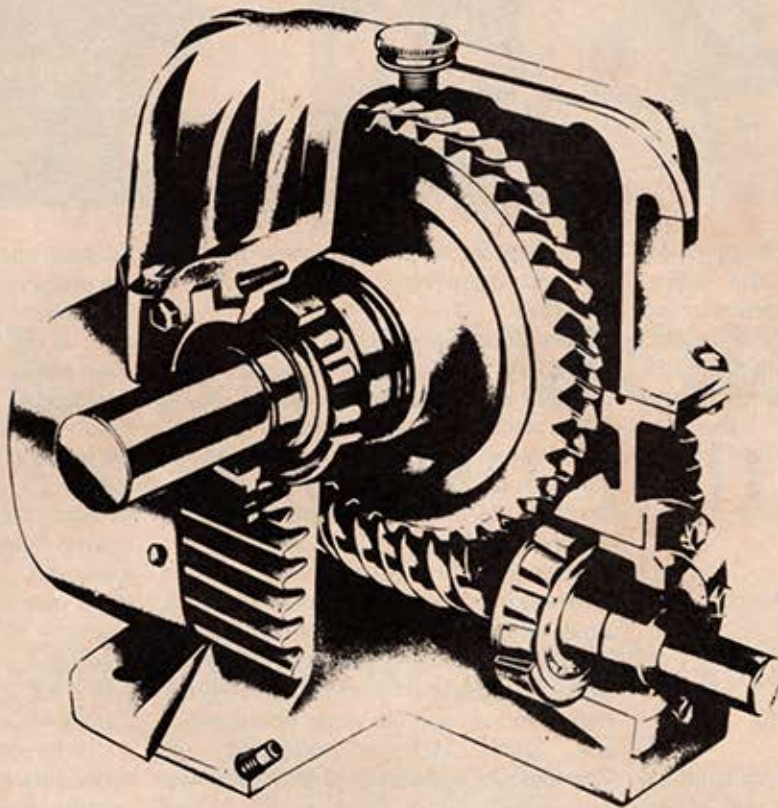
ses (silver tray). The unusual sight was picked up by the media with alacrity, note the *Journal* and ZAC newsletter.

"Jashans Around the World" had been planned to commemorate the event on August 29. Accordingly the Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr at Hinsdale was the venue of a jashan in which the local and visiting mobeds participated. Sounds of the jashan ceremony also "rang out in a chain of prayer encircling the globe starting with Australia, then India and Pakistan, UK and thence to USA and Canada, as Zarthustis gathered in their agiaries, halls and

darbe mehrs to commemorate the Parliament," informs the *Journal*. Among those reaffirming the commitment to unity and solidarity was Ms Shernaz Dastoor of Mapitoba, Canada who wrote: "We were truly honored to have this jashan in our humble home in the small town of Southport Manitoba. We are the only Zoroastrians here. By Ahura Mazda's grace Ervad Nauzer Kotwal happened to be in Winnipeg, 53 miles from here, on business and his wife Nergish had reminded him to bring his mobed's attire, so we felt truly blessed to be able to offer this jashan for world peace." Other venues were Sydney, Jamshedpur, Delhi, Bombay, Karachi, London, Montreal, Toronto, Houston, Philadelphia, Washington, San Jose and Los Angeles.

On September 3, the 10th anniversary of the Chicago Darbe Mehr, international delegates of different faiths were bused to the site for a jashan followed by lectures on the religion and dinner. "The interest in Zoroastrianism generated by the Parliament was so great that instead of the one bus we had reserved, we had to reserve a second bus," informs the ZAC newsletter.

*With Best Compliments
of*



CPEC LIMITED

1, Industrial Estate,
Lalbaug, Bombay - 400 012.
Tel. : 413 7353, 7431, 0349, 412 8387, 1591
Fax : 0091-22-4130937

Pioneer in the field of manufacture of Mechanical power transmission systems.

- * Helical and Bevel/Helical Gear Boxes * Worm Reduction Gears
- * Inline Helical Gears & Geared Motors
- * Automatic Control Variable Speed Pulleys & Drives
- * Non-Standard & Custom Built Gear Boxes * Flexible Couplings etc.



Dastur JamaspAsa had been appointed one of the 14 presidents of the Parliament. Invited to give an invocation at the closing ceremonies of the Parliament, Zoroastrian hearts swelled with pride and joy to hear him intone the beautiful and relevant *Yasna 60.5* to the thousands gathered in Grant Park on the Chicago lakefront:

In the name of God the Bountiful,
The Bestower, the Merciful.
May in this world
Obedience vanquish disobedience
Peace (triumph over) discord
Charity over stinginess
Devotion over contempt
Truthful speech over falsehood
And moral order over chaos.

Dr Gerald Barney of the Millennium Institute had crystallized the aim of the Parliament: "If present beliefs and practices continue, the world in the 21st century will be more crowded, more polluted, less stable economically and ecologically, and more vulnerable to violent disruption than our present world. Serious stresses involving inter-religious relations, the economy, population, resources, environment and security loom ahead. Life for billions of people will be more precarious in the 21st century than it is now. The Earth's people will be poorer in many ways than they are today... What shall we do?" The document on a global ethic that was signed at the end of the conference sought to address these concerns.

In between, Zoroastrian speakers spoke about the fundamental tenets of the faith, its relevance to modern man, its influence on the

world's major religions, its view on ecology and the reverence for nature that it enshrines.

Declaring Zarathushtra's vision of a perfecting world as "not just a new religion but a radically new notion of religiosity, rooted in wisdom and conscience, constituting a view of the world and a way of life," Prof Kaikhosrov Irani underlined the Prophet's injunction to his disciples to choose a life of intelligent reflection and active benevolence.

Speaking on religion and women's fundamental rights Ms Dolly Dastoor examined the question: How to change old sex role models in patriarchal religions that cling to extreme male dominance? Ms Dina McIntyre focussed on Zarathushtra's teaching that "when we bring God's divine values to life in our world, with each thought, with each word, with each action, we create something of heaven here on earth... In the *Gathas*, heaven is not a physical place to which we go after we die. It is a state of being that occurs when we have achieved completely God's divine values." According to Dr (Ms) Mehroo Patel the "Zarthushti devotee... is an active participant in (his) own health and well-being

Zoroastrian youth with their banner at the opening day parade of the World Parliament

*Left: At the World Parliament's Zoroastrian stall (L to R) Kaemarz Dotiwala, JamaspAsa, Rivetna and Ms P. Mobed
Below: Total attention (L to R): Taleyarkhan, Oshidari and Zartoshty*

by being responsible for learning and following habits and a lifestyle (conducive to) health... Asking, demanding or ordering a cure for one's ailments by passive chanting of mantras, performing rituals or offerings to deity is not the prescription for health and wellness in Zarathushtra's teachings."

"I fervently hope that the bell that tolled this morning in honor of this convention may be the death knell of all fanaticism, of all persecutions with the sword or with the pen, and of all uncharitable feelings between persons wending their way to the same goal." Rivetna quoted Swami Vivekananda's statement on the opening day of the Parliament in 1893 and continued, "At this Parliament we are hearing speakers echoing the same sentiments. Is it not time now to mobilize the religions of the world to come together in one forum along the lines of the United Nations?" Rivetna advocated a World Assembly of Religions with an executive council and a general council with a permanent secretariat and a permanent location.

Jim Engineer who voiced the youth perspective at the Parliament writes, "Forming a message and conveying that message to the world was the experience of a life-





Wishing our Zoroastrian patrons
a happy **Jamshedi Navroz**



The illustration depicts a festive scene with several cartoon characters. In the upper left, a chef with a tall hat holds a spoon aloft. Below him, a man holds a bottle, and a woman in a polka-dot dress holds a glass. In the center, a man has his mouth wide open in a shout. To the right, another man holds a glass. At the bottom left, a character has a speech bubble that says "I ♥ BOMBAY". The central figure's shirt says "SALAAM BOMBAY". At the bottom right, two bottles of "P.P." are visible. In the background, there is a building with arches and palm trees.

CAFE
MONDEGAR

For Early Risers and Light Eaters

NEAR REGAL CINEMA, COLABA CAUSEWAY PHONE: 2020591

GJA-2650

time. We were interviewed by the BBC, featured in a CBS news documentary and held our own press conference to convey our message."

The colorful Zoroastrian booth, manned round the clock by local ZAC volunteers, also attracted a lot of attention and interest from non-Zoroastrians due to the colorful posters, the banner painstakingly made by Ms Roshan Rivetna, the informative write-ups and exhibits loaned by the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute of Bombay, notes the ZAC newsletter. The publication further notes, "A lion's share for the success of the Parliament ... is attributable to the efforts of Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna." In appreciation of their tremendous efforts above and beyond the call of duty they were presented with a pair of lions modelled on the ones that grace the entrance to the Art Institute of Chicago, further attests the newsletter.

A world federal council?

Seizing the opportunity of world Zoroastrian convergence in Chicago for the Parliament of the World's Religions, Rohinton Rivetna, president of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA), took the initiative to convene an informal meeting at the Chicago Darbe Mehr on September 5 and 6, 1993 to discuss the formation of a World Council of Zoroastrian Federations (WCZF). The ad hoc group comprised delegates in their individual capacity without the authority of any association and included Shahpur Captain and Romy Sethna, president and committee member, respectively, of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO), informs Dr Purviz Kolsawalla, past president of the Sydney-based Australian Zoroastrian Association (AZA). Helping Rivetna to prepare a draft constitution for the council was Adi Davar, a former director of the World Bank. The names of the others who attended the meeting have not been cited in the information received by *Parsiana*.

"The draft would be considered by the Zoroastrian community worldwide through associations which had constituted federations (as in India and North America) or associations where no federations yet exist," note the draft minutes of the meeting, forwarded to *Parsiana* by Kolsawalla. Rivetna was at pains to dis-

pel any misconception that the meeting sought to explore the creation of a new world body to look after all Zoroastrian affairs. He repeatedly clarified that the WCZF would have the limited objective of coordinating those Zoroastrian issues which cut across national boundaries, inform the minutes.

"It was recognized at the outset that this proposed Council would in no way form a second or parallel body in compe-



International Zoroastrians in Chicago: debating the creation of a world body

tion with the WZO which is already in existence and is doing a thoroughly good job in the charitable, social and educational field," writes Kolsawalla, a member of the WZO managing committee. "From the outset, it appeared there (was) a group of people who were strongly anti-WZO for whatever reasons," as notes Kolsawalla. Hence the Organisation's perceived shortcomings were listed: restricted membership; equal voting rights to individuals and associations; personality problems between the managements of the WZO and the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe (ZTFE), also based in London; its current activities limited to the economic, charitable and educational fields with no coordinating work in the religious or social fields; the oppressed Zoroastrian minorities in certain countries not being protected; community representation with the UNO or UNESCO not pursued.

The search for pragmatic solutions led to the shortlisting of two alternatives: The creation of a free-standing WCZF, cooperating and coordinating its work with the WZO and having a separate administrative mechanism; or a WCZF as a bicameral organ under the WZO umbrella to complement the Organisation's charitable, socioeconomic and educational work. A third alternative, of a WCZF as a committee or subcommittee within the

WZO, was quickly discarded, inform the draft minutes.

The formation of a representative world body has been exercising Zoroastrians for a long time and has been the specific subject of discussion at the last three World Zoroastrian Congresses in Bombay. The WZO was established in 1980 to meet the critical situation of Iranian Zoroastrians adrift in the aftermath of the Islamic Revolution in Iran, as its office bearers have steadfastly maintained.

The peculiarity of the WZO constitution has prevented the Bombay Parsi Punchayet and the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India from joining it (though several individual office bearers of anjumans and anjumans themselves have become members); without these bodies, which represent the largest conglomeration of

Zoroastrians in the World, the WZO would not be viewed as a representative world body. Attempts to overcome the impasse in the form of a constitutional amendment of the WZO have been resisted by its office bearers over the past decade (see "The Federation: Tackling the Issues," *Parsiana*, March 1984; "The Federation asks for reservation," *Parsiana*, August 1985; "Which way to 2000 and beyond?" *Parsiana*, January 1990).

As a result of the Chicago meet, the feasibility of forming federations in areas where there is substantial Zoroastrian presence is being reviewed, writes Kolsawalla. A case in point is a federation in the Pacific region, as enunciated by Kolsawalla in a locally disseminated paper entitled, "The need for forming a Federation of Zoroastrians in Australasia and Oceania (FEZAO)." Kolsawalla estimates about 1,200 Zoroastrians in Australia. Apart from the Sydney-based AZA and the Zoroastrian Association of Victoria in Melbourne, there are a number of Zoroastrians in Perth, he writes. The community in Auckland, New Zealand, is in the process of forming an association, he adds.

The tasks for FEZAO, enumerated by Kolsawalla, include the collection and dissemination of information like religious instruction for navjotes, weddings, death ceremonies, etc; representation of the community at the national level on issues regarding immigration, refugee

To find out whether you're using
the best Powder Hair Dye,
place it next to ours.



Your
current
Brand

Now take this simple test.

- * Is it shampoo based?
- * Does it spread easily?
- * Is it convenient, non-messy, easy to use?
- * Are the shades natural?
(i.e. no one can make out you're using a hair dye)
- * Is it long lasting?
- * Is it safe?
- * Is it from a reputed company?
- * Finally, what is the price?

Godrej
Powder Hair Dye

☒

☒

☒

☒

☒

☒

☒

Rs. 29/-
for 10 gms.*

Any other

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

☐

Rs. _____
for 6 gms.



In 2 shades:
Permanent
Natural Black
& Brown Black



Godrej Powder Hair Dye. So much more for so much less.

*Max. retail price as on 1st Mar. 1993 (inclusive of all taxes)

Fully air conditioned hall
with 560 seats
for

Marriage Ceremonies,
Annual General Meetings,
Prayer Meetings,
Prize Distribution
Functions,
Lions Club's Meetings,
and Ground Floor
Exhibition Hall, etc.

Contact:

J. F. Shroff
Hon Managing Trustee
Framjee Cawasjee Institute
Anandilal Podar Marg
1st Marine Street
Opp Metro Cinema
Bombay 400002
Phone: 2013654

**B. Jamshedji
Jivanji**

**Goldsmiths &
Manufacturing
Jewellers**

Estd 1901

Opp Mumbadevi
Zaveri Bazar
Bombay 400002
Phone: 3427464

status, etc; compilation of a directory and demographic data; communication with other national and international community organizations; arrangement of periodic meetings for the youth and adults as is being done in North America. In fact, Kolsawalla suggests the use of the FEZANA constitution as a model and adds, "Ours is a rapidly shrinking world and most of the issues that face us are global, not parochial."

FEZANA's functioning

Minoo Treasurywala of the Zoroastrian Society of Ontario (ZSO) has replaced Farshid Salamati as vice president at the elections held during the sixth annual general meeting of the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) in Calgary, Alberta in July 1993. Ms Ketayun Kapadia of the Zoroastrian Association of Pennsylvania and New Jersey has replaced Ms Dolly Dastoor, the retiring secretary. Rohinton Rivetna continues as president, Framroze Patel as treasurer and Ms Maharukh Motafram as assistant secretary.

The Association has amended its constitution, restricting the holding of office to two terms, informs the *FEZANA Journal* (winter 1993), and most members also voted in favor of appointing an administrator, according to the secretary's report for 1992. The "mission statement" presented earlier by Rivetna was considered too long and Ms Bella Tata of Vancouver has been delegated the task of drafting a revised version based on input from member associations.

Although Jamshed Mistry, president of ZSO, was adjudged the "most responsive member" and awarded a certificate of recognition, as notes the *Journal*, he circulated a memorandum from the ZSO "elucidating concerns regarding the quality of the financial statements, lack of an audit, inadequacy of the budget compared to the ambitious agenda and the role of FEZANA," informs the *Journal*.

The ZSO has offered to hold books for FEZANA until a permanent location can be found for a library. A concern has been voiced regarding valuable literature that may be decaying in private libraries, schools and homes in India. Tahamtan Aresh, president of the Traditional Mazdayasni Zarthushti Anjuman offered help in bringing such books to North America and in restoring and

WANTED

Wanted an administrator of high calibre for a princely establishment in Saurashtra and its conversion to new wider utility. Pay prospects Rs 6,000 to Rs 10,000 with food, quarters and conveniences and renewable contract. Those WITHOUT: sharpest recollection of works in progress and timely accomplishment, excellent written English; good enough Gujarati; staunch loyalty, best of manners, and feel for ceremony; love of tradition and culture; enthusiasm for projects of reconstruction; and positive enjoyment in work (not idleness); and any who is bored by his own company MUST NOT APPLY. Employer an Oxford research scholar. Apply with recent photo and minimum expectation to:

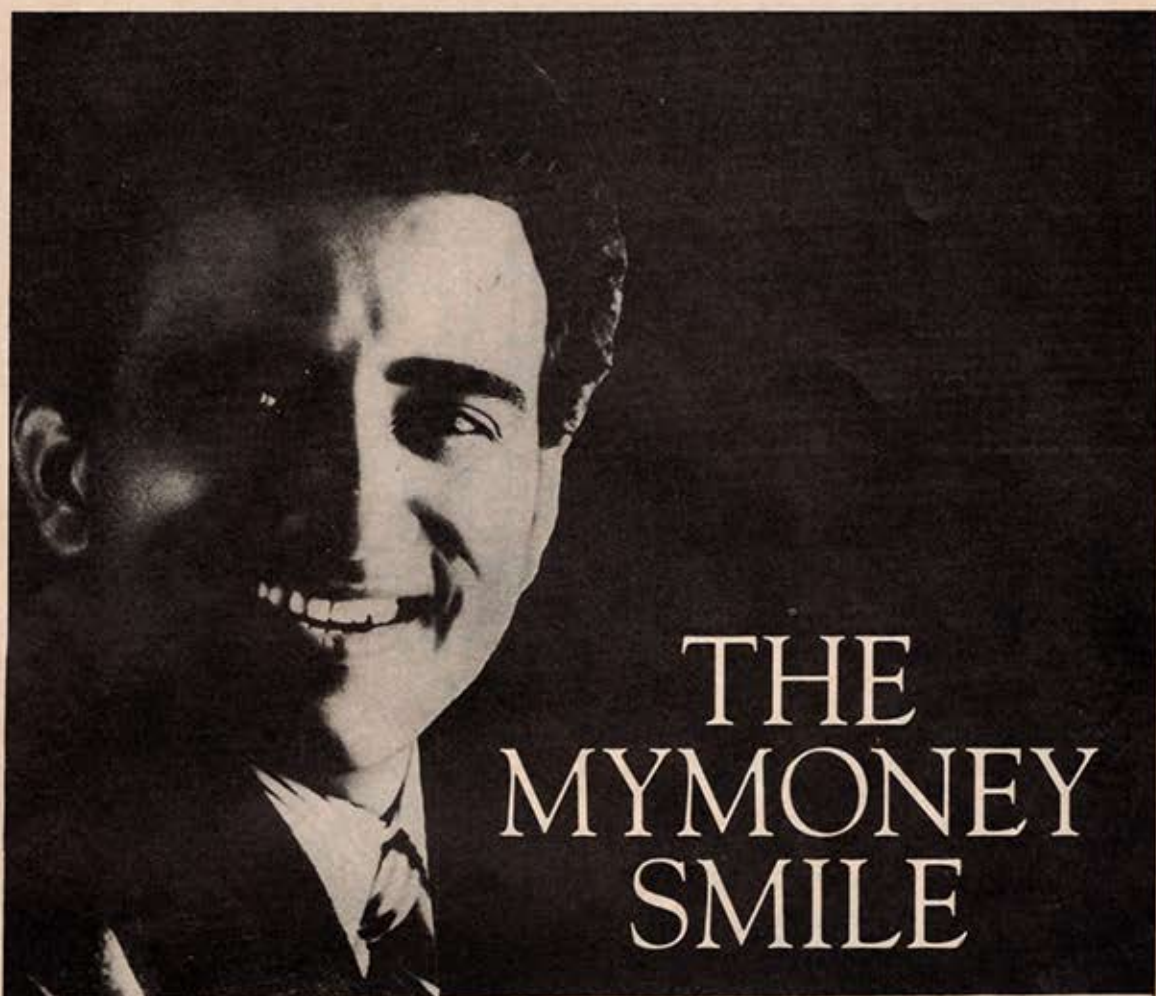
Ratanbai Framroz Cooper
Principal
Rajkumar College
Rajkot 360001 (Gujarat)

*Visit
Panchgani*

**JERROZ
HOTEL**

Pin 412805

Write: Dorrabji
STD 02168
Phone 40238

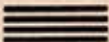


THE MYMONEY SMILE

Because he doesn't pay to use his own money.

With Mymoney, you get greater flexibility, increased independence, and more peace of mind. You need not worry about losing interest merely because you break your deposit and make withdrawals. The rest of your deposit continues to earn the same rate of interest.

Mymoney

ANZ Grindlays Bank 

• AMRITSAR • BANGALORE • BOMBAY • CALCUTTA • DARJEELING • DELHI • ERNAKULAM •
GUWAHATI • HYDERABAD • KANPUR • MADRAS • SHIMLA • SRINAGAR • TUTICORIN

FRESHNESS
THAT
GOES ON
AND ON...
...LONGER



Get fresh. Get excitingly, invitingly fresh for a longer time – with New Promise Toothpaste. It's got a unique, new clove oil formulation – that keeps your breath so fresh for so long.

BALSARA HYGIENE PRODUCTS LTD.



KEEP YOUR BREATH FRESH LONGER WITH CLOVE OIL

At last,
a connoisseur's eatery!



Vintage, Colaba,
where the accent is
naturally on food and service.

Specialties of the House:

Pathar Ka Gosht
Chicken Chatpatta
Mirch Ka Salan
Hyderabadi Biryani



Hyderabadi & Continental specialties.

4 Mandlik Road,
Behind Taj Mahal Hotel, Bombay 400 039
For table reservations phone 285 6316.

HOTEL SAI BABA

Deheri-Davier
Pin 396170

Near the Sea ● Airy Rooms

5 km from
Umbergam Station
By Road
Charoti-Dahanu
Gholvad-Bordi
Davier

Rs 200 per day per
head — with food
Veg — Non-Veg

Pasi Patel
STD 026354/2067

preserving them, notes the *Journal*.

The first publication of the FEZANA research and publications committee is *The Gathas of Asho Zarathushtra* by Dr Pallan R. Ichaporia, informs the ZAC newsletter (October 1993). A translation and transcription of the *Ahunavaiti* and *Vahistoisti Gathas* with a foreword by Prof Kaikhosrov Irani, the book is priced at \$ 10 plus two for shipping and handling and can be ordered by contacting Ichaporia at 253 South Fourth Street, Womelsdorf, PA 19567. Profits from the sale of the book are earmarked for FEZANA's Education Fund.

ISBN/ISSN numbers have been obtained with the Library of Congress which makes FEZANA a registered publisher in the academic field. In the meanwhile Farshid Salamati has produced the *Zoroastrian Professional Business Directory* at his own cost. This is the first step towards the formation of a Zoroastrian business and professional network. Funds collected from subscribers have been set aside for programs of mutual benefit for the community and the entrepreneurs, notes the *FEZANA Journal* (Fall 1993). Copies are available from Salamati at 675 Hegenberger Road, Suite 110, Oakland, CA 94621.

A center in the capital

The century old structure on the 6.7 acre Virginia site near Washington DC became the newest Zarthushti center in North America when it was dedicated with a jashan on August 29 by mobeds Adi Unwala and Noshir Karanjia to coincide with the Parliament of the World's Religions' "Jashans Around the World" program.

The land had been purchased by the Arbab Rustam Guiv Foundation in 1991 and leased to the Zoroastrian Center and Darbe Mehr of Washington DC, Inc (ZCDMW). The property was renovated at a cost of \$ 30,000 provided by the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington, Inc (ZAMWI).

The Center is administered by the Vandsar (Avestan for religious center) Committee headed by Gen Khodarahm Shahryari which includes representatives of ZCDMW, ZAMWI and the Guiv Foundation. They share a commitment to build a new center building to house a darbe mehr, meeting rooms, library and other facilities. As of now, the renovated building includes a meeting hall

E. A. Chindhy

INDUSTRIAL
&
DECORATIVE
PAINTERS

4, East Street, Camp
Pune 411001
Phone: 662974
Res: 666027

Be at home when you are out of home

- * With luxury and modern facilities
- * A/c and Non-A/c rooms
- * Wall to wall carpet
- * Attached balcony and bathrooms
- * TV in lounge

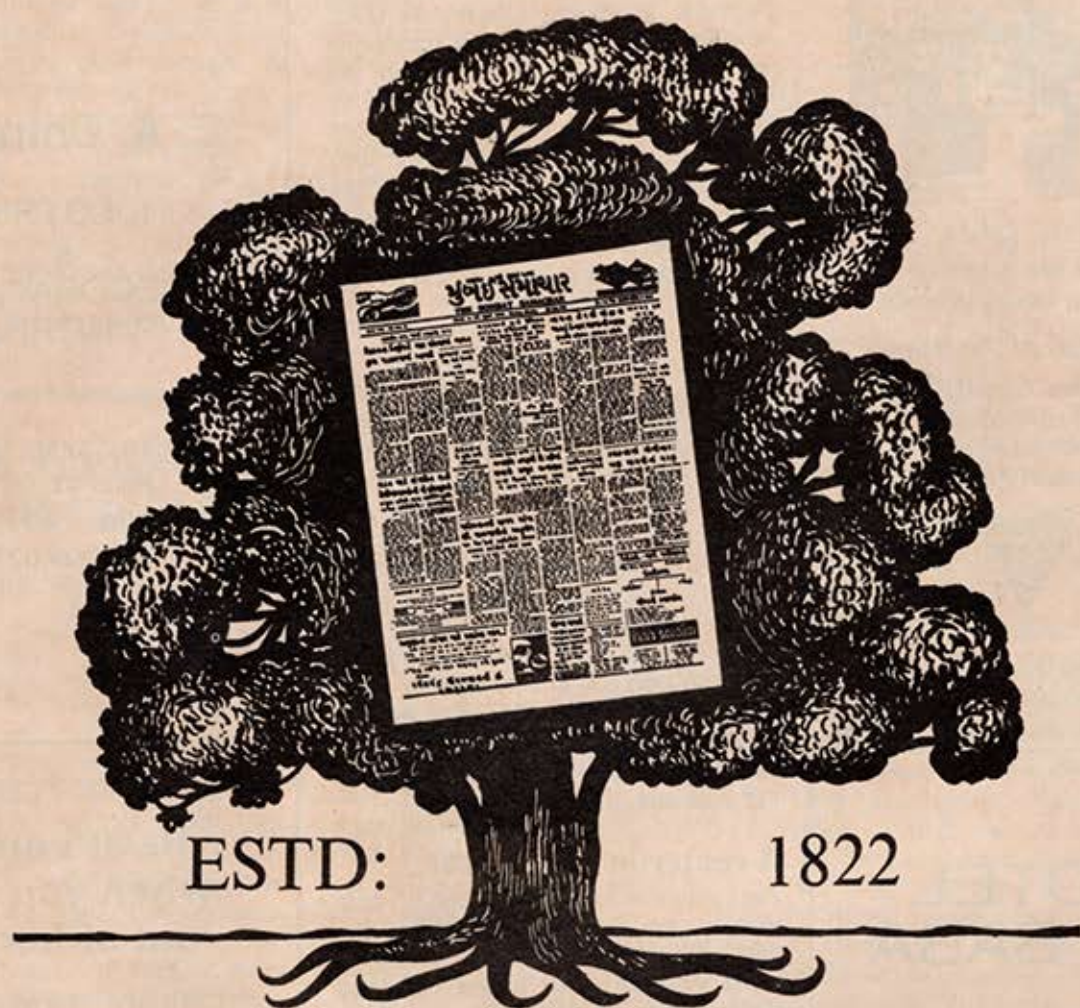
Serving: ABE-ROOZ
Restaurant
A la carte

HOTEL KELL'S

Near Left Bank Canal
Ukai-Dam 394680
Dist Surat, Gujarat

Code: 02624
Phone: 2055, 2115

*Your satisfaction
is our motto*



**If the roots are healthy
the tree must GROW...**

THE BOMBAY SAMACHAR
INDIA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

PIONEER ENGINEERING COMPANY

* Paint and Printing
Ink Machinery

* Chemical Process
Equipment

57 Bombay Samachar Marg
Fort
Bombay 400023
Telephone: 2663007, 2663390
Fax No: 91-22-2664047

For best
Dhanshak Kabab
in town
every Wednesday
and Friday
Many more Parsi
dishes
We also serve
Chinese

IDEAL CORNER

12/F/G, Hornby View
Gunbow Street
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2621930

for 100 persons, a kitchen and a mobed's residence. Plans are underway for a prayer room in the adjoining structure. A game room, volley-ball court and parking facilities are also on the agenda. ZAMWI has accepted the responsibility for the day-to day maintenance and up-keep of the site and buildings, notes the *Journal*. The Vandsar Committee is looking for a part-time mobed, offering a free, one-room residence in return for which he would be expected to serve the community's religious needs and look after the facility.

At the inaugural Shahryary recalled the involvement of the late Dr Rostam Sarfeh, past chairman of the Guiv Foundation (see "Sarfeh: devotion to a cause," *Parsiana*, September-December 1993) and thanked the trust's current chairman, Dr Daryoush Jahanian, as also its board of trustees while acknowledging the help received from ZAMWI and the world Zoroastrian community.

Ms Shehernaz Joshi Verahrami, president of ZAMWI, responded to Shahryary's speech, reiterating the Association's commitment to the Center.

Earlier in the year ZAMWI had participated in an ethnic festival at Maryland where the food was a sellout and hundreds of visitors viewed the posters and handouts on Zoroastrianism, photographs of weddings and navjotes. The event netted \$ 2,600 plus for the Association and the Fali Chothia Educational Trust, notes the *FEZANA Journal* quoting from *Zoroastrian News* (August-September 1993).

New centers

The fervor of community activity in North America has led to the extension of the Mehraban Guiv Darbe Mehr in Toronto. The new hall was dedicated by Keikhosrow Guiv to the memory of his late sister Parvin on the death anniversary of Mehraban.

The Zarthushti Group of Houston has officially donated a 4.3 acre tract of land, on the southeast corner of West Airport Boulevard and Riceville School Road, to the Zoroastrian Association of Houston. A building fund is underway. The May Ball generated \$9,233 earlier in the year and plans are afoot for a repeat performance this year.

The Persian Cultural Society of Europe has established an International House

Navroze Mubarak

TIME WATCH MAKERS

Empress Mahal
Khodadad Circle
Dadar TT
Bombay 400014

DORABJEE & SONS (Restaurant)

(Conducted by:
Mr Marazban Jal
Dorabjee)

845, Dastur Meher Road,
Poona 1

of Zartosht in Holland, informs the *FEZANA Journal*, sourcing the information from Tehran's *Fravahar* magazine.

Chicago vignettes

The five gatha days last year (August 18-22, 1993) witnessed the chanting of prayers each day at the Arbab Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr at Hinsdale, Chicago with the names of the departed (at the rate of \$ 25 per name). After the prayers the community got together for lunch/dinner at a nominal \$ 3 per head per day, thanks to the effort of several ladies, notes the newsletter of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago (ZAC). Thus the team spearheaded by Ms Dinaz Weber and Ms Hutoxi Minocherhomjee helped to obtain donations for the Association totalling \$ 1,051.

ZAC is on the lookout for a long marble table whose estimated cost is \$2,000. The existing marble tables in the prayer room are overflowing with muktad flower vases, informs the newsletter.

At the monthly meeting in July, Kekoo Irani had addressed the gathering on the gifting of life insurance as a way of ensuring the benevolence even after death. The suggestion was taken up by Bejan Irani of Peoria who opted for a life insurance policy with ZAC as the beneficiary, informs the September issue of the newsletter.

To further buttress the fund collection drive, Weber and her volunteer crew followed with an akoori, rava, rotli breakfast at \$ 3 per head before religious classes. Kids were lured with pancakes and sausages at \$2 per head.

Bemused patients and relatives struggling with medicare bills and other insurance forms in the West Suburban Hospital have a new source of aid in Jehangir and Olive Mobed. Every Wednesday Jehangir puts his accountancy and tax background to work for their benefit. Retired since 1989, Jehangir says "volunteering is now a valuable part of my life."

ZAC has been blessed with three new priests with the ordaining of Zarvan Karanjia, Hoshi and Neville Vazifdar as navars in Bombay. The January 1994 newsletter proudly and happily asserts that with this addition Chicago has five homegrown priests — all born and bred in the United States.

Ex-students of Yale

When Ms Prochie Akolawalla completed her masters from the Yale Law School in 1973, she could not have known how illustrious two of her costudents would become: For US President Bill Clinton was a batch-mate and his wife Hilary Rodham, a year junior, as informs a press release from Dinshah Malegamvala, director of the J. N. Tata Endowment. The camaraderie was evident at the 20th reunion of the class at Yale in October 1993.

This is not Akolawalla's only claim to fame. An outstanding student of Elphinstone College, she was one of the



School chums Akolawalla and Clinton

Dorab Tata Special Scholars chosen on the recommendation of 10 Bombay Colleges, informs the write-up. After graduating with political science and French, Akolawalla completed her LLB from Bombay University securing a first class first. Recognizing her potential the exclusive Yale Law School not only admitted her (the only Indian at the time) but conferred on her a full scholarship from the University, notes the press release. The J. N. Tata Endowment had contributed towards her airfare and incidentals with a free grant, adds Malegamvala.

The lady is married to noted lawyer Sanat Mukherji who specializes in Admiralty Law in the Bombay High Court. Currently general manager (personnel) at Eureka Forbes, a Tata Company, her earlier involvements include a stint with the ICICI and a 22-year career with Glaxo, the pharmaceutical giant.

Mindless aggression

Ms Faranak Dhalla of Lauderdale Lakes, Florida, sustained multiple bullet wounds in the head and abdomen when a big built, gun-toting villain entered her newly opened Hallmark Cards shop on July 19, 1993. A bullet lodged in the brain cannot be removed, leaving Dhalla with damaged cranial nerves, facial dysfunction, hearing and speech impairment and the loss of recognition. Though the police know who the alleged attacker is, they have not yet caught him and the family is understandably wary of returning to the shop, informs the *FEZANA Journal*.

While Dhalla's daughter Dimple has taken a year off from college to nurse her mother who faces much future surgery and long-term rehabilitation, rent, medical expenses, etc keep mounting. The family — Noshir, Faranak and Dimple — had come to the US in 1982 and ran a Dunkin' Doughnut shop for some time. Things were just beginning to look good when they were shattered by this mindless violence, notes the *Journal*. On their behalf FEZANA has appealed for donations. Cheques endorsed to FEZANA and marked "welfare," may be addressed to Dinshaw Joshi, 4515 Willard Avenue, 1609-S, Chevy Chase, MD 20815.

'Astonish'ment in Hongkong

"He's a lovely horse to ride and really answered up when I asked him. He gave me everything he had."

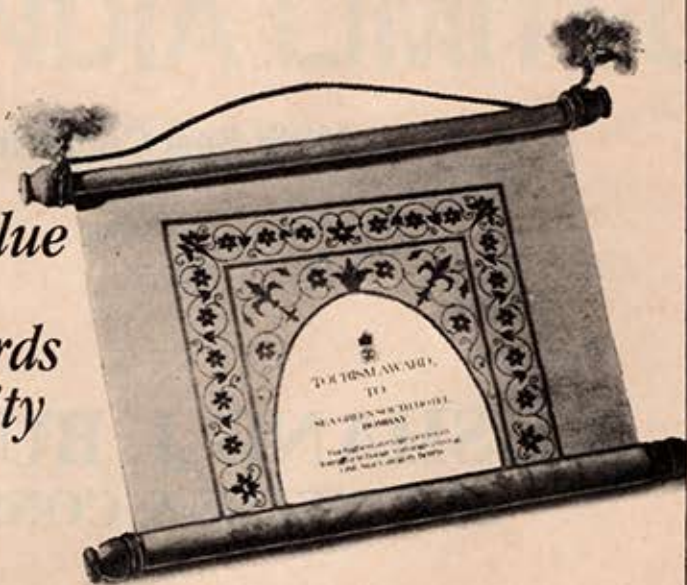
Winning jockey Alan Munro was referring to the horse who lived up to his name to "Astonish" the racing world of Hongkong. "The very first Indian horse, ever allowed for import into Hongkong, Astonish, bred by a Parsi, trained in Bombay by a Parsi, and owned and raced in Hongkong by Parsis, won his very first race in astonishingly good style!" writes Jimmy Master in a letter to *Parsiana*.

The six-year-old winner of the Indian Derby and St Leger made a "copybook ride" in the well-known orange and mauve quartered silks of Rusy and Purviz Shroff. The Shroffs had undergone considerable expense and risk to ship the winner to the US for six months to satisfy Hongkong quarantine restrictions, writes Lawrence Wadey in Hongkong's *Sunday Morning Post* of January 9, 1994.

The win was one of the shocks of the colony's racing season as Astonish, with



**We've
Earned it !!**
*By combining value
for money
with high standards
of service, hospitality
and care*



Contact:

APM 565-90-1

his wayward temperament, had taken plenty of time to settle in at the morning trackwork, according to Wadey.

Bred at the Poonawalla Stud Farm, he had been initially trained by the noted Bombay trainer Bezan Chenoy. Astonish's win in the 2,000 m event has given the quality of India's best performers an international benchmark which could pave the way for more imports, writes Wadey.

In Hongkong, Astonish was in the stables of the former Calcutta champion Lawrie Fownes. Sadly, his stable jockey Darren Gauci, who had done a marvelous job of getting the horse to settle down, missed the winning ride due to a three-day ban imposed against him for careless riding, informed Fownes.

Zavaray and Cyrus Poonawalla were able to monitor the race at their main office on the Stud Farm thanks to an impromptu telephone link, write Wadey and Robin Parke in a side piece. One of them, a good friend of Zavaray, dangled a telephone in front of his television set, turned up full volume, to convey Robert Geller's commentary in English to an ecstatic audience.

MATRIMONIAL

Upper-class parents invite alliance for their good-looking, home loving, daughter, aged 22, graduate with Diploma in Catering. Boy should be well-settled in career. Business preferred. Girl willing to settle anywhere in India or abroad. Apply with full details and photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/3-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here.

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited from slim Zoroastrian ladies between 30 to 40 years of age.

No objection to divorcees or widows, for Bombay-based, professionally qualified, well-settled and cultured Zoroastrian man, aged 45 years, with own accommodation. Please reply with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana
Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/4-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here.

With Best Compliments Of

HOSHANG J. BUCHIA & CO ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

4/24, Tata Mills Co-op Housing Society Ltd
Elphinstone Road, Bombay 400012
Tel: 4112539

R. K. NEWSPRINT CORPORATION

**NEWSPRINT
IMPORTERS/INDENTORS**

228, Perin Nariman Street
(Bazargate Street)
Fort, Bombay 400001

Phones: 2620157, 2620158 * Fax: 022-2622875
Telex: 011-76771 RKNC-IN * Cable: RAJPAPER

Widening horizons

The nourishment of children and expectant mothers and maintenance of the third child born to a couple are among the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's major priorities

Beginning March 1994 undernourished children as also pregnant women in the community can avail of a daily ration of milk, egg and butter, offered free of cost or at concessional rates by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) at The Lady H. C. Jehangir Health Unit at Gamadia Colony. Beginning April 1994 the Punchayet is expected to introduce its third child support scheme whereby couples who have conceived their third child after July 1993 will be assured that the maintenance, health and education costs of that child will be borne by the BPP. By May 1994 the Punchayet should have started preparatory work on its proposed day-care centers in colonies where working couples miss such a facility.

All the seven trustees of the Punchayet were in attendance at the press conference on February 5, 1994 (the second meet to be convened in four months) when the chairman, Jamshed Guzder, revealed that the interest from a sizable donation they have received will be used to supply ¼-½ litre of milk and an egg daily plus 100 gms of butter every fortnight to undernourished children. The child's progress would then be monitored monthly at the clinic. The scheme would also be extended to pregnant women who would be sanctioned ½ litre of milk plus an egg daily together with tonic, tablets and prescribed injections at a nominal cost. In case of a third child the mother would be supplied these requisites totally free. The milk coupons that will be distributed to the deserving will be made available at a discounted rate courtesy Parsi Dairy Farm. Poor and debilitated retired people who frequent the clinic as outdoor patients will also benefit from the provisions of the scheme.

Unlike the earlier press conference on

October 9, 1993 which dwelt mainly on the Punchayet building houses, the second press conference demonstrated that the Punchayet was taking an initiative in the field of social welfare. An Anjuman Committee meeting had also been convened on November 18, 1993 (see latter part of article).

While the mechanics of the Punchayet's third child support scheme have to be worked out, it is decided that as an added incentive couples with two children residing in a one-room kitchen flat will be granted a two-room kitchen flat when they procreate a third child. The shift would depend on the availability of a flat and the family's financial position.

The Punchayet is also willing to start a day-care center in every colony after determining the need for it. "It will be almost a nursery center where children from the age of six months to six years will be looked after," stated BPP trustee Dr (Ms) Mehroo Bengalee. Persons selected for the job will be trained for three months and then entrusted with the children's nutrition, medicare, recreation and rest. One or two flats in each colony will be reserved for this purpose.

Guzder was keen that the BPP take the initiative to set up a venture capital institution "to educate young people to become entrepreneurs." Its initial funding could be raised from a share issue. According to fellow trustee Homi Ranina, "The concept is very good but we must have the expertise to run it." He wondered whether it could be linked with the premises of the erstwhile Godrej Printing Press which the BPP was considering it could also exploit commercially. Give space at a subsidized rate to upcoming young businessmen who after a period of 10 years could be given the

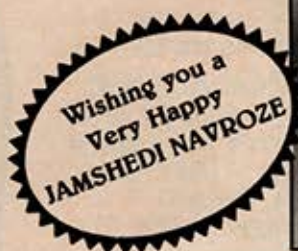
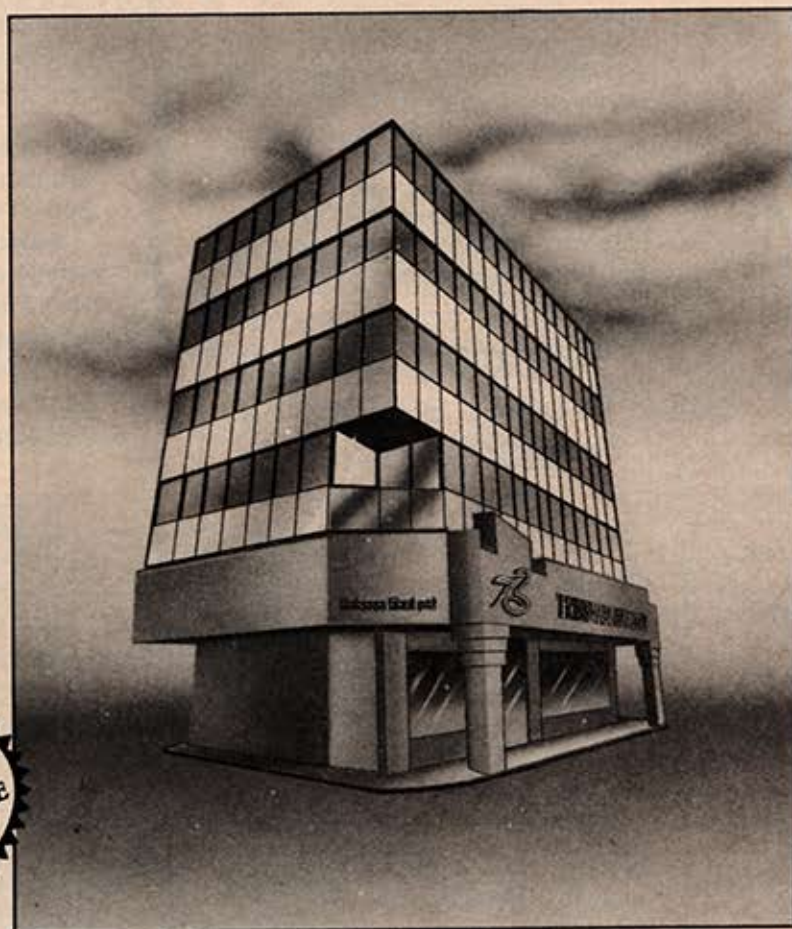
option to relocate or to stay on by paying at 125 times the original rent, suggested Fali Poncha representing the CER (Committee for Economic Revival) newsletter *The Zoroastrian* which, discontinued for several years, has reportedly applied for re-registration. (In fact the presence of *The Zoroastrian* representatives at the first press conference had made the *Jam-e-Jamshed* reporter sarcastically comment, "We hope that at the next press conference the trustees will also invite editors of the now defunct *Parsee Voice*, *Astavani*, *Gupsup* and *Rast Gofiar*.)

Further housing for the community, the Punchayet realized, would only be affordable in the suburbs. A questionnaire therefore was mailed to 2,246 applicants on the waiting list of the BPP enquiring whether accommodation in the suburbs would be acceptable to them and their choice of location. Of the 985 responses received by the Punchayet, 765 indicated that they were amenable to living in the suburbs. Encouraged by the response, the BPP is in the process of scouting for a plot of land in the suburbs which could be converted into a residential colony for the community. The survey work has been entrusted to BPP trustee Minoo Shroff and chief executive Rustom Anklesaria who feel that among the different sites visited by them one plot, equidistant from Ghatkopar and Kurla, two miles away from the railhead, could be developed if they can afford the price.

"The area you should be looking at is Panvel," advised Poncha. Supported BPP trustee Jamsheed Kanga, "Anything on the rail line is better than (a place) even a short distance from the station." According to Ranina "New Bombay is going to be a better city than old Bombay. In 1935 when the Cusrow Baug flats were built,

Jewellers' to the city of Bombay!

....Since 1864!



Three storeys of regal shopping splendour located in the heart of the jewellery market. Get floored by the radiance of gold, the exquisite sheen of pearls and the brilliance of diamonds. A tribute to the mastercraftsman and the most discerning buyer..... you!



Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri
(Bombay) Pvt. Ltd.

ZAVERI BAZAR

241-43, Zaveri Bazar, Bombay-400 002
Telephone: 342 5001 / 343 5001 Cable: 'BARGOLD' 343 5001
Telex: 011-73003 GOLD IN Fax: (022) 343 5656

Where Trust is a Tradition over 130 years.

TARACHAND & Company

Suppliers of the
meatiest of
Venky's/Mafco's
Al Kabeer's/Shalimar's
Non-Veg. delicacies
this side of town

K & D Distributors

Exclusive
suppliers of
Venky's
for South Bombay



80, Sleater Road
Grant Road (West)
Tel 3883691/3889531

some remained vacant. It shows the shortsightedness of the community." Noted Kanga, "Parsis shouldn't think they are a special species that can only survive in south Bombay." If community trusts with vacant lands could collaborate with the Punchayet, a solution may be in sight. For the mutual benefit of all the bodies, the BPP was planning to start a dialogue with other trusts by convening regular meetings.

Towards the middle of last year, the trustees were faced with a proposition put forth by businessman Cyrus Irani, Nirooman Bastani and some others who contended that Godrej Baug at Napean Sea Road, being prime property, flats

**"Nothing creates
greater animosity
than ignorance or
lack of facts"**

there should be made available to those who could promise five flats in the suburbs in return for one flat at Godrej Baug. They were convinced that such a scheme would enable the BPP to clear the backlog of applicants on their waiting list. Then ensued a prolonged debate in the Press. Finally the trustees ruled that they did not favor this scheme. The interested parties next brought a stay on allotments by appealing to the charity commissioner. When the BPP got that stay vacated, the issue was brought before the Bombay High Court where the matter is now pending. In the meanwhile the BPP has given an undertaking that they will temporarily suspend allotments. An exception will be made for the donors' nominees and the 29 allottees to whom a commitment has already been made.

Thirty-eight flats at Bharucha Baug have not been allotted for over a year, observed Poncha. He also sought to confirm the number of flats at Godrej Baug actually available for accommodation and lying idle because of pending litigation. It emerged that a no objection certificate had been obtained for 69 flats at Godrej Baug and another 140 flats were awaiting the certificate.

The Godrej Baug agiary is expected to be ready by the end of the year as the construction has already reached the dome level. The trustees were hopeful that they would win over some residents of Bharuch who were objecting to the

OUR WORLD OF VACATIONS-1994

Lala tours announce the opening of bookings for summer 1994 package tours.

- Shimla-Manali • Nainital-
Mussourie • Darjeeling-
Sikkim • Nepal • Bhutan
- Delhi-Agra-Jaipur
- Mysore-Bangalore-Ooty-
Kodaikanal • Trivandrum-
Kanyakumari • Bhubaneswar-
Konark-Puri • Wild Game
Sanctuaries • Andamans
- Lakshadweep • Goa

**Lala
tours**

Also tours to:

- U.S.A/Canada (9 itins.)
- U.K. — Europe (16 itins.)
- Australia • New Zealand
- Egypt — Nile Cruise
- Kenya —
Tanzania Safari
- Turkey • Israel
- Far East — Thailand,
Singapore, Hongkong, Japan,
Taiwan, China, Indonesia
- Mauritius • Sri Lanka

Cruises:

Alaska, Norway, Antarctica,
Mediterranean, Caribbean,
Bahamas, Hawaii etc.

Note: Subject to GOI/RBI
approval, FTS/NTS passengers only

For details contact us
or your Travel Agents.

H.K.LALA & CO.

Capitol Cinema Bldg.,
Murzban Road, Bombay 400 001
Tel: 2045094/5744/3006
Telex: 011-83680
LATO IN Fax: 022-204 6925

A HALLMARK OF INTERNATIONAL CLASS



CORPORATE OFFICE

Golden Enclave, Tower 'A', Airport Road, Bangalore-560 017 Tel: 5593551,
Tlx: 0845-8683 TITN IN, Fax: 080-5589923

Ogilvy & Mather 4156



Happy Jamshedi Navroze to all Parsis

If you want your
function to be the
very best,
then there is only

GODIWALLAS

All your problems
are solved!

Contact

M/s R. B. GODIWALLA
Sai Niketan, B-Wing
13/13, 345, Mount Road
Mazagaon
Bombay 400010
Res Tel No: 3765842,
3762065, 3765360



fire from the Doongaji Agiary being brought to Godrej Baug. Why couldn't the trustees use the same approach to shift the fire at the Godavra Agiary which too was languishing due to limited worshippers, pointed out Ms Khorshed Daboo representing Jamé. Before the year is out, one fire would be available for the Godrej Baug agiary, the trustees were optimistic.

While new constructions are being planned on the FSI available at Bharucha Baug, Khareghat Colony and the Dadar Parsi Colony, the norms for the merit rating scheme may be revised by consulting a panel of experts, informed Guzder. The income limit of Rs 7,500 per month which, if exceeded, disqualifies an applicant will also be reconsidered. When the Press was asked whether they were in favor of this limit, different opinions emerged with some believing that the worthiness should be decided on a case by case basis and others opining that under the urban land ceiling regulations the BPP is bound to give flats to the weakest section.

Many of the old Punchayet buildings are in urgent need of repair. A sum of Rs 82 lakhs have been set aside to start repair work on 14 such buildings. Repair work on other buildings will commence depending on availability of funds. The Punchayet provides land "for people to stay, not for trafficking," asserted fellow trustee Eruch Desai in reference to the residents of the Aderbad building who were provided flats at the rate of Rs 151 per square foot. Presently the price quoted for a flat on Hughes Road is Rs 10,000 per square foot. Some of the oc-

The Punchayet provides land "for people to stay, not for trafficking"

cupants are keen to sell out but refusing to share the returns with the landlord, the BPP, by parting with 50 percent of the unearned income from land as stipulated. Their offer to part with a "ridiculous" 10

percent of the price, the BPP has declined. In other housing colonies several flats are under dispute with illegal tenants being inducted and court cases dragging on. In light of the new provisions under the amended

Rent Act, by which landlords and tenants could legally accept money for transferring tenancies, what stand will the BPP adopt, enquired a press person. As the proposed reforms are still to be passed by the State Assembly, the trustees stated they had not decided on a policy as yet. A compromise for the present cases as suggested by some Press representatives Kanga had turned down arguing that it would not serve as a deterrent for future inductions. Ranina felt that such tenants needed sterner action in the form of retribution from the Punchayet for daring to make what should be "an obligation into a commercial proposition."

The criticism frequently levelled against the Punchayet's workings and especially its weak public relations made Kanga comment, "We are very grateful to the community for expecting us to be experts in every respect. We do make mistakes, are willing to improve, but why can't we be given guidance before hand instead of waiting for us to make mistakes and then pointing fingers?" Admitting that "brickbats for the Punchayet were because of lack of communication," Guzder had, at the October press conference convened after a lapse of five

It pays to invest in Pune properties

For purchase
of flats, bungalows, plots, etc.

Write to:
Minoo Bhatena
BySel Estate

302 Devika Apt, 2010 Janmohmed St, Pune 411001

**PRINCIPAL DR RUSTOM S. DAVAR
AND STAFF OF
DAVAR'S COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
MANAGEMENT & COMPUTERS
WISH THE PARSEE COMMUNITY
A HAPPY NAVROZ**

FIRSTS BY THE PARSEE COMMUNITY

- (1) Commerce Education was started by Davar's College in 1900 by Late Prof Sohrab R. Davar.
- (2) The first institution to recognise and provide for Management Training was Davar's College — Dr Rustom S. Davar is considered a pioneer in Management Education (e.g. having secured the Escorts Award for three of his books for contribution to management thinking) — and several courses in different fields of Management such as Marketing, Personnel, Administrative, have been introduced.
- (3) The first course in Travel, Transportation and Tourism was introduced by Davar's College.
- (4) Even Computer Education was introduced way back in 1970s at Davar's College and its Computer Courses are extremely popular.

Davar's Believe: "ONE SATISFIED STUDENT BRINGS TEN OTHERS"

Enquire Today At:

**DAVAR'S COLLEGE OF COMMERCE
MANAGEMENT AND COMPUTERS**

(Principal: Dr Rustom S. Davar)
IInd Counter, 51, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Flora Fountain, Bombay 400023
Tel: 2041634, 2875818

The name that paved the way for major Tata Companies



TATA SONS

Tel: 2049131, Tlx: 011-82618, Fax: 91-22-2048187

is now a leading name in various consultancy fields – and offers excellent and dependable services through its following Divisions:

TATA CONSULTANCY SERVICES: One of the largest organisations of its kind in South Asia in the fields of Information Technology & Management Consultancy. It handles a wide variety of turnkey and large-sized software development projects for clients in India and abroad. It has over 2800 professionals with impressive background from leading universities of the world.

Tel: 2024827, Tlx: 011-83733, Fax: 91-22-2040711

TATA CONSULTING ENGINEERS: Consultants for Thermal, Hydro & Nuclear Power Projects; Industrial and Chemical Projects; Special Projects; Public Health and Environmental Engineering Projects.

Tel: 3427661, Tlx: 011-73171 TCE IN, Fax: 91-22-3427419

TATA ECONOMIC CONSULTANCY SERVICES: An organisation providing economic, statistical and marketing services.

Tel: 2617621, Tlx: 011-84801 TECS IN, Fax: 91-22-2613810

TATA FINANCIAL SERVICES: Provides a wide range of services covering financial structuring of new and existing companies for their long-term and short-term financial needs and assistance in raising finance from the capital markets (in India and abroad), financial institutions, banks and other sources, evolving and implementing proposals for mergers and acquisitions and rendering related advisory services. Also provides services relating to treasury and portfolio management of companies.

Tel: 2049131, Tlx: 011-82618 TATA IN, Fax: 91-22-2048187

TATA RISK MANAGEMENT SERVICES: Offers expert guidance on matters connected with industrial safety, loss prevention and insurance planning. Consultants in the field of hazard identification, evaluation, off-site and on-site emergency control plans, disaster management, risk assessment, environment audits and its management. Consultants to reputed reinsurance brokers including for providing reinsurance assistance on specialised covers such as oil, energy and aviation risks.

Tel: 2021129, Tlx: 011-83234 TAIN IN, Fax: 91-22-2029023

years and eight months, made known his intention to adopt an open-door policy by holding periodic press conferences and Anjuman Committee meetings. "The best way to keep the community informed is through the Press... Nothing creates greater animosity than ignorance or lack of facts," he added.

The handouts distributed prior to each press conference gave a brief on the Panchayet's various housing projects at Bombay's Bharucha Baug, Godrej Baug, Khareghat Colony, Dadar Parsi Colony, Panthaky Baug and the Blue Hills property at Pune. Its scholarship assistance programs estimated nearly eight lakh rupees last year; by way of stipendiary and other help around Rs 1,50,000 were given to needy families and priests. Under its publication scheme two more booklets — on Behramji Malbari and Sorabjee Shahpurjee Bengalee — were made available. Community institutions benefitted from Rs 1,16,000 donated during the year 1993. Towards national causes too the Panchayet showed its largesse by donating Rs 1,50,000 for the earthquake victims in Maharashtra's Latur district. Acknowledging that there are certain areas where there has been no progress for the last several years,

CHINDHY'S INTERIORS

Decorative
Painters,
Designers
and
Furnishers

Firdaus Eruch Chindhy
Medhora Block, 4 East Street,
Poona 411001
Tel: 662974 Resi: 668267

MATRIMONIAL

Parents of a pretty graduate girl, aged 25, with an artistic flair, from a highly affluent and respected family invite matrimonial proposals from parents of boys well-settled in business or profession with similar family background, preferably with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana
Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/13-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here

With Best Compliments From

LYSHA ENTERPRISES

PROMOTERS, PROPERTY DEVELOPERS,
BUILDERS & INTERIOR DECORATORS

We undertake projects from concept to completion

Contact:

Mr D. H. Dhunjibhoy
Mr H. D. Dhunjibhoy
LYSHA ENTERPRISES

533/534 Clover Centre, 7 Moledina Road, Pune 411001
Telephone: 658123, 655957 (Resi: 669177)

Guzder responded, "We are trying to make amends for the things we did not do...We are now moving from a snail's pace to a racehorse's."

At both the meets the Press was represented by *The Bombay Samachar*, *Jam-e-Jamshed*, *Deen Parast*, *The Zoroastrian* and *Parsiana*.

Parinaz Gandhi

Reporting to the electors

Presiding over the first meeting of the new Anjuman Committee after the election of trustees, Guzder extended an apology on behalf of the Punchayet for "not being very consistent in holding Anjuman Committee meetings." The last Anjuman Committee meeting had been held in March 1986. During the six years while the restructuring of the BPP's electoral scheme pended before the High Court, no meeting had been called. The tenure of the last Committee had expired in 1987; the new Committee was elected at the fag end of 1992.

Guzder, who was visibly disappointed that "only a fourth of the house was occupied," noted that the Punchayet had booked the Patkar Hall for November 18, 1993 on the assumption that even if only one-fourth of the Anjuman Committee's

1,604 members attend, they could not be expected to stand (203 attended according to the BPP). He added that in the white paper he had issued earlier in 1993, he had committed himself to holding periodic press conferences and an Anjuman Committee meeting at least once a year. "Next time, if you like, we can have a meeting of the community. Please do drop us a line and let us know."

Referring to "comments like 'There is no such thing as a white paper' made by a very very responsible member of the community," Guzder gave the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* definition as British Government policy on particular issues. Guzder said he had similarly issued the paper as a summary of his recommendations to his fellow trustees.

Guzder was also at pains to establish greater interaction between the Punchayet and the community. Having disclaimed the perception of Punchayet trustees as akabars, "In this age of democracy, nobody can inflict their will on anybody else. The Punchayet must also follow democratic principles," Guzder added, "You have elected us...it's up to us to report to you."

Before throwing the meeting open to the audience Guzder requested that

speakers maintain a three to four minute time limit and avoid repeating questions: "This meeting is for an exchange of views ... not for anyone to impose their views."

Housing, repairs and the declining community figures accounted for most of the questions that were raised. The topics were discussed on much the same lines as at the press conferences reported above. Apart from the community's declining numbers, its distribution in Bombay was brought to the fore when the attention of the Punchayet was drawn to the fact that over the past two decades the Parsi population has shifted substantially to the suburbs and distant suburbs whereas of Bombay's 42 fire-temples only eight are available in the region between Dadar and Jogeshwari. Informed Ervad (Dr) Rooyintan Peer, principal of the M. F. Cama Athornan Institute in Andheri, "There is no place of worship beyond Jogeshwari. (Parsis in Vasai, etc) are drifting away from the community." He suggested that the Punchayet act as catalyst, appoint one of the seven members of the board as guardian trustee for the community settled between Andheri and Virar. Accepting the suggestion, Guzder volunteered, "We could

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS OF

Hotel Rutt Deen

*Ideally located in the heart of the city,
centrally air-conditioned with all modern
amenities at reasonable rates*

21 B, Loudon Street
Calcutta 700016

Tel No 401691, 401878, 402389, 403340, 2476911, 2475240

Fax No 91-33-2475210

send the Godavra Agiary fire, but the Court order prevents us."

With the community aging more rapidly, Tehmtan Davar urged the Punchayet to cover the community in a group mediclaim policy. He based his argument on the losses sustained by the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital due to its free/subsidized treatment to a substantial number of poor patients each year but Guzder replied that "community health insurance was not possible for a body like the Punchayet. We don't have the funds."

Accepting that geriatric wards are an unhappy place to visit, Guzder ascribed the problem to our "genetic propensity to old age" and suggested that community members band together to avail of comparatively lower premia for medical insurance. Specific health problems like heart disease and arthritis, attributable to the Parsi diet, could be better avoided through preventive medicine and medical guidance for the community, he added. A suggestion from Cyrus Bhaya that the Punchayet establish a second community hospital in the suburbs was similarly declined.

The Punchayet could report only 36 marriages and two engagements through



MAGNUM INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS & TOURS

The Friendly Travel Agency In Your Neighbourhood
For All Your Travel Requirements

Contact Us

Fraiy Villa, 10, Henry Road, Colaba, Bombay 400039 (India)

Tel: 241037, 2874730, 2852343, 2853271

Tlx: 011-86967 MAG IN Fax: 2871441, 2872220

Globe Hotel Udwada

Hotel with separate blocks,
clean, spacious, self-
contained rooms, excellent
food and service.

Now STD service for our
valued customers.

Dial 026387-2097

MATRIMONIAL

Parents of attractive, smart daughter,
UK based young graduate, 32 years,
working, domestically and religiously well-
trained, home loving, seek matrimonial
correspondence from highly qualified and
educated Parsi boy with culture, class and
good family background, well-settled
abroad, preferably UK. Write with full bio
data and latest photograph to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/8-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears
the reference number cited here.

Re-introducing the Prestigious & Oldest
Exhibition Gallery of Designer Furniture

The Drawing Room

Interiors Showroom

14, K. Dubash Marg, Kala Ghoda, Bombay 400023 Ph: 242986



With Compliments Of

D. S. Navsariwalla — Managing Director

BURZIN AND LEONS AGENTUREN

PRIVATE LIMITED

- | | |
|--|--|
| 1. Atic Industries Ltd | : Novatic Dyes, Procion Dyes, Dispersol Dyes |
| 2. ICI India Ltd | : Textile Auxiliaries, Speciality Chemicals |
| 3. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd | : Polyvinyl Acetate Emulsions, Acetic Acid, Acetic Anhydride and Polyvinyl Alcohol |
| 4. S. M. Dyechem Ltd | : Textile Auxiliaries, Speciality Chemicals |
| 5. Birla 3M Ltd | : Scotchgard Protective Finishes |
| 6. Pidilite Industries Ltd | : Pigment Emulsions, Binders, Auxiliaries and Chemicals |
| 7. Ashok Organic Industries Ltd | : Carboxy Methyl Cellulose (CMC) |
| 8. Imperial Chemical Industries PLC UK | : Dyes and Chemicals |
| 9. Kelco International UK & USA | : Sodium Alginate (Manutex RS) |
| 10. Kanematsu-Goshu Ltd/
Shin-Etsu Chemical Co Ltd
Japan | : Polyvinyl Alcohol Powder |

Head Office

Readymoney Bldg No 1, Sir Ratan Tata Marg, Tardeo Rd, Bombay 400034
Phone Nos 4944616, 4921255, 4930283

Branch Office

59, Manekbaug Society, S. M. Road, Ahmedabad 380015
Phone Nos 403201, 498997

their Marriage Bureau. "Something new takes on for the time being and then fizzles out," admitted Guzder, asking community and Committee members for advice on how to make the Bureau "more attractive and efficient" and was told to work in league with Ms Mithoo Jesia, the redoubtable social worker of the Dadar Parsi Colony, who runs a similar body.

Construction on dokhma land in Andheri and on top of small buildings in the Dadar Parsi Colony were alternatives suggested by Anjuman Committee members. The Punchayet has FSI in Dadar, conceded Guzder. One alternative was to break down a couple of small buildings and construct an eight or nine storey highrise if they succeed in overcoming the intransigence ("I was born here, I will die here") of some of the tenants. He was also committed to holding a joint meeting with other trusts in order to better utilize community assets like the Andheri dokhma land.

Poncha voiced his concern regarding the Punchayet's income in the face of rising costs. He contended that the BPP was "doing less in real terms than in 1973" as its funds "in real terms were going hopelessly down." The brunt of Poncha's



MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited from good looking, cultured, well-educated girl, prepared to stay in a big and industrialised city of Gujarat, for a handsome, fair, 5'6", 33-year-old boy, MBA from the USA working in a public limited company and earning handsomely. Apply with bio data and photo (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana

Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/11-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here

Elevators with latest & The most Reliable
MICROPROCESSOR technology for Single Speed,
Two Speed, A.C. VVVF (Variable speed) Drive, Collective,
Selective, Simplex/Duplex/Group Controls, Auto Doors,
Elegant Fixtures with Self Luminating Touch/Push Buttons.

NEW ELEVATORS

MODERNISATION of ANY TYPE of Elevator

MAINTENANCE of ALL Types of Elevators

ZAINA ELECTRIC & MECHANIC WORKS

**CON
CORD
ELEVATOR**

PROSPECT CHAMBERS ANNEXE, 2ND FL, DR D. N. ROAD, BOMBAY 400001

TEL 2047460 • 2041830 CABLE: NIRUPAMA.

SERVICE STATION 2067503

UNWALA BLDG, GR FL, 813/14 BHAWANI PETH, PADAMJI COMPOUND, PUNE 411042

PUNE OFFICE TEL: 654655



*Happy
Jamshedi
Navroze*

LORD'S CENTRAL HOTEL

Matheran 410102

Telephones
Matheran - 021483-228
Bombay - 3867776



criticism concerned the Punchayet's repairs policy. Poncha noted that the Punchayet's repair costs have been mounting by 25 percent per annum as against its earnings at 12 percent.

Alleging that not even one third of the moneys promised for repairs to Punchayet residential structures in 1984 had been spent, Poncha questioned with characteristic irony, "Because we live to 70-80 years of age as Parsis, does that give us the right to defer questions like

**"Nobody can
inflict their will on
anybody else.
The Punchayet
must also follow
democratic
principles"**

this?" He also berated the Punchayet for having failed to evolve a uniform repairs policy vis-a-vis repairs to Punchayet buildings where the aim is that the tenant and landlord share the cost of repairs equally.

Nariman Mehta referred to a recent sale of property on the periphery of Nowroz Baug that had netted the Wadia trust more than two crore rupees. Mehta was anxious to know whether the Punchayet would spend at least a part of the sum on the Baug. The Punchayet was willing to spend 50 percent of these receipts on Nowroz Baug, assured Guzder, but said that the charity commissioner wanted the trustees to capitalize the income and then decide what to do. In the meantime the municipality had served them a notice conscripting part of the Nowroz Baug area for road widening with a compensating FSI that could be used elsewhere, informed the chairman.

Guzder referred to the flaw in the new Khareghat Colony buildings where the entrance is through the balconies which are now sagging. The colony had no sinking fund ("How to create one when rents range between Rs 29 to 35?" asked Guzder). He also referred to the flaw in the community character when Parsis haggle with the Punchayet about sharing repair charges but are eager to install cable TV at Rs 75 per month in tenements where they pay Rs 16.50 as rent!

Only at Dadar TT

A to Z

Everything in Textiles

Furnishings



Carpets



Household Linen



Sarees



Shirting



Suiting

Imperial Mahal

Dadar TT

Bombay 400014

Tel: 4121936

Broadway

Shopping Centre

Dadar TT

Bombay 400014

Tel: 4124820

No branches

*With Best Compliments
from*



Blue Dart Express
Licensee

USE OUR EDGE TO SHARPEN YOURS

BLUE DART EXPRESS PVT. LTD.

Regd. Office : Lumbini Palace, 4, Tejpal Rd., Vile Parle (East), Bombay - 400 057

Tel : 832 8030, 832 8255, 832 8051, 832 8659, 8368961

Tlx : 011-78321 DART IN, 011-79454 DART IN Fax : 837 7439

CENTRALISED CUSTOMER SERVICE CELL : 4221588

NAVROZE MUBARAK To Our Dear Patrons

Brillianta®

*The Touch
of Sophistication*

- Leather Belts, Wallets,
Passport Covers,
Folders, Pouches etc
- Neck Ties & Bow Ties
- Handkerchieves Gift
Boxes with & without
Embroidery Initials
- Sash Bow Kerchief Sets
- Cufflink Tiepin Sets
- Varieties of Gift sets of
Gent's Accessories by

MARZBAN INTERNATIONAL

246 Dr. S. S. Rao Road
Lalbaug, Bombay 400012
Phone: 4132084, 4134881
Fax: 91-22-4145437

Available with All Leading
Garment Shops and
Departmental Stores

(Export enquiries will be solicited)

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited by parents of
smart, intelligent, beautiful
daughter, aged 22, 5'1"
working in foreign based
export house as fashion
designer/co-ordinator with
almost five figure income,
domestically well trained,
from educated well settled
preferably professional
gentlemen up to 30 years.

Write to:

The Advertiser, Parsiana
Matrimonial (Feb-March/15-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope
bears the reference number cited here

Trespassing was a source of worry, admitted Guzder. "One Kharwa (residents of slum colonies off Napean Sea Road tend to overflow into parts of the doongerwadi grounds) is so arrogant, he is preventing (the Punchayet contractor) from building a footpath to the doongerwadi from the mobed quarters (in Godrej Baug)," he added. Khareghat Colony residents also want a gate to their colony because of the problems they encountered during the riots last year when Muslims parked their taxis on the premises and the Shiv Sena wanted to burn them, said Jal Rabadi. At night people come and sleep in the Colony, he added.

With the exception of Kanga who was out of town, all the Punchayet trustees shared the stage. However, barring one query whether Ranina would seek reelection this year ("At this point of time, I will certainly contest," replied Ranina), all the questions were fielded by Guzder which led Jal Vakil to protest, "Other trustees may supplement the answers, because otherwise there's no use in their sitting there."

The Anjuman Committee members had been asked to bring their electoral certificates with them. Why was the circular invitation not good enough for identification purposes, enquired Davar. The dismal attendance was blamed upon poor publicity though Guzder countered that the Punchayet had advertized as usual in one or two English and one or two vernacular papers.

The trustees were questioned regarding their disagreement over who should be president of the board on the retirement of Dr Aspi Golwalla and the subsequent litigation pending in the Bombay High Court. "A lot of people ask me 'Kè chuléch, hajun garbar ché ké? Mona jawch ké? (How are things? Does the conflict persist? Do you acknowledge each other?)'" responded Guzder light-heartedly and added "I can put a hand on the prayer book and say our relations are most cordial."

Becoming almost lyrical Guzder said, "We expect criticism, we accept criticism, we welcome criticism," and assured the gathering, "We propose to fight the problem, reverse the trend, aim at another one lakh population. We're going to build, buy more land... Our business is to provide for the upkeep and accommodation of the community."

From the Publishers

Change in Parsiana Frequency

For the last 13 of Parsiana's 28 years of existence we have successfully labored to bring out 12 issues in a year. Despite the financial loss incurred in publishing the magazine, we have attempted to bring the best to our readers within the limited human and financial resources at our disposal.

We are grateful to our subscribers and advertisers for bearing with our publication delays over the last several months. As the September issue was behind schedule by nearly four months we had published a consolidated issue for four months and dated it September-December 1993. We would however like to assure our subscribers that the validity of their subscription period will be extended by three months to compensate for this combined issue.

To ensure that we remain on schedule in 1994, we shall henceforth bring out 10 issues in a calendar year instead of 12; the February issue being merged with the March issue, and the July issue with the August one. Since the March and August issues are well over 150 pages, we hope to give you sufficient reading material while ensuring that these special issues reach you in time for the Fasli and Shehenshahi New Years.

Subscription payments for Parsiana received before December 31, 1993 will be honored with 12 or 24 issues depending on the period subscribed for. For new or renewal subscriptions received after January 1, 1994, 10 issues will be despatched in one year or 20 in two years.

We hope our valued subscribers and advertisers will appreciate that this change in frequency has been necessitated by circumstances beyond our control. We also hope that you will perceive this change as necessary in the long-term interest of all concerned.

We look forward to your support in the coming years.

Arnavaz S. Mama

UP

AaYEga MaZaa

IRRESISTIBLE
New **Rasna**
soft drink concentrate

INTRODUCING

LEMON-UP

Clear Lemon Drink

What a
great taste
yaar!



New Rasna Lemon-Up. The fun and delicious taste of Rasna now in an all-new clear Lemon drink. Just take a sip and...mmm...Up Aayega Mazaa!

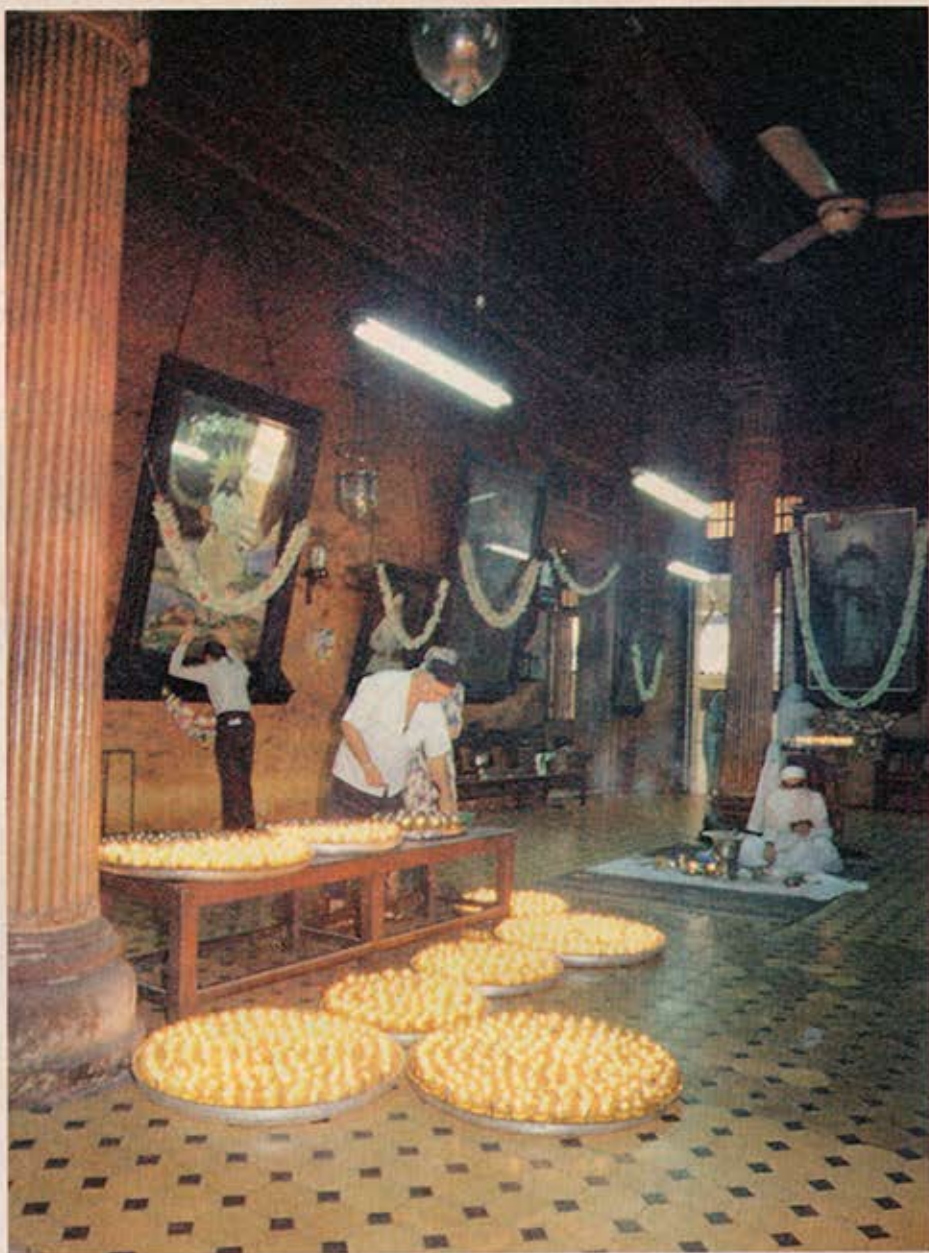
The holy fire crackled with greater intensity. An endless stream of Parsi Zoroastrians marked the occasion with offerings of sandalwood. The thickly carpeted central hall of the fire-temple buzzed with devout activity. Some pored over prayer books, others sat in silent contemplation, a handful prayed in full voice and a few clung to the railing around the holy sanctum where the fire burned. Evident in this diversity was the harmony of orange-red flames that danced in unison in the afargani.

Ardibehesht *roj* of Ardibehesht *mah* (September 24, 1993) marked the 96th *salgreh* or birthday of the Anjuman Atash Bahram off Princess Street in Bombay. Large trays of *divas* on the floor turned the outer hall into a sea of flickering lights. On the floor above, 72 white-robed priests celebrated a solemn *jashan* to mark the occasion. And the celebrations spilled out of the Atash Bahram's imposing wrought iron gates, aglow with garlands of colored lights, onto the street. Here one had to weave one's way through an obstacle course of traffic, sandalwood vendors and poor Parsis seeking alms.

The special significance of the Anjuman Atash Bahram is that it symbolizes the collective benevolence of the Zoroastrian community and the triumph of their faith in the religion. For unlike the other Atash Bahrams in Bombay — Wadiaji, Dadyseth and Banaji — that owe their existence to the generosity and piety of affluent families, this Atash Bahram was built from funds collected from the rank and file of the Zoroastrian community: a fact reflected in its name, Anjuman.

The Anjuman Atash Bahram, however, was conceived in controversy (see "Fires of Controversy," page 53). Around the 1880s a dispute over rituals split the Bhagarias, or priests of Navsari lineage at the Wadiaji Atash Bahram, into two groups. Eventually one of these groups left the Wadiaji Atash Bahram and turned to Dastur (Dr) Jamaspjee Minocherjee Jamasp-Asana, one of the three high priests of the Bhagaria priesthood, for help and redressal of their grievances.

Trays full of *divas* on the Anjuman Atash Bahram *salgreh* Photos: Gustasp Irani



When heat turned to light

Gustasp Irani

A disagreement within the ranks of the Bhagaria priests at the Wadiaji Atash Bahram led to the establishment of the Anjuman Atash Bahram

Unable to resolve the differences, the learned High Priest deemed it necessary to build an alternative atash bahram, where the aggrieved priests could conduct their religious ceremonies.

But atash bahrams require time and funds to build. So the High Priest made arrangements whereby the priests who had left the Wadiaji Atash Bahram could perform their religious ceremonies at the Dadyseth Atash Bahram till such time that the new place of worship was ready. Next he turned to the Zoroastrian community at large, and appealed to Parsis to fund his holy mission. They responded generously and donations started to pour in. Soon, on May 23, 1886 Jamasp-Asana laid the foundation stone of the new Atash Bahram in the presence of the elders of the community, including the then trustees of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP).

But as with most construction projects, there were cost overruns, and funds started to dry up before the building that was to house the holy fire was completed. The popular belief is that Jamasp-Asana turned to his friend Ervad Jamshed Kookadar, the panthaky at the Kappawalla Agiary at Tardeo, Bombay, for help. Deeply moved by the High Priest's plight, Kookadar gallantly offered to come up with the funds needed to complete the project. There was, however, one serious impediment: Kookadar did not have the resources to make good his promise, so he turned to the holy fire and prayed for guidance. As he prayed, divine inspiration instructed him to dig up a specified area of the flooring of his residence. Sure enough, he came up with two bricks of gold, the sale of which helped complete the Atash Bahram building. In appreciation of his efforts the front hall of the Anjuman Atash Bahram is known as the 'Dastur Jamshed Kookadar Hall.'

But there was still one important detail to attend to — the consecration of the holy fire. This task took more than a year

(from May 1896 to October 1897) of prayers and rituals to achieve. "Today even if we tried, even if we wanted to, we would not be able to build another atash bahram. We just do not have enough full-time priests to perform the ceremonies necessary to consecrate a holy atash bahram fire," says Khurshedji Desai, longtime secretary of the Navsari Atash Bahram. For instance, Desai points out, part of the rituals involve the reciting of 1,000 *vendidads* which were performed by 25 to 50 pairs of mobeds praying endlessly for days. "Today you will

find very few mobeds willing to pray even one *vendidad*. That's why when you consider that the Anjuman Atash Bahram in Bombay is probably the last atash bahram that will ever be built, you realize that it is a very significant one," says Desai.

The special event took place on October 17, 1897, 11 years after the laying of the foundation stone, when the Atash Bahram was officially opened to the Parsi Zoroastrian community with Jamasp-Asana as the High Priest and member of the managing committee of the holy shrine. It was a fitting tribute to the then 68-year-old scholar Dastur who, among other things, was awarded an honorary doctor of civil law degree by the Oxford University in recognition and appreciation of his contribution to the study of ancient Avesta and Pahlavi texts. As a token the University sent the Dasturji 'a gown and hood made according to the prescribed regulations for the use of doctors of civil law of the University of Oxford.' The University also hung a large portrait of the High Priest on the walls of the reading room at their Indian Institute.

But it was the Anjuman Atash Bahram that was the crowning glory of the Dasturji's eventful life. Eleven months after its establishment, he died in September 1898.

The mantle of High Priest of the Anjuman Atash Bahram rests today on the shoulders of his great-grandson Dastur Kaikhusroo M. Jamasp-Asa who took over the stewardship of the holy shrine in October 1955. The scholar priest, who sits on the Atash Bahram premises almost every morning, ensures that the running of the fire-temple is as crisp as the spotless white robes he wears. The boiwallas who attend to the holy fire, the Dastur informs us, must wear their priestly robes at all times. They must in general lead a simple life (not go to plays or the cinema or eat out at restaurants) uncontaminated by worldly impurities. Naturally, the



The well and the hall of the Anjuman Atash Bahram wear a festive look



88,000 people say

I'll use my Centralcard

at 33,000 establishments

From Electronic goods to Household provisions. Airline tickets to Restaurant bills. Centralcard gives you the confidence of free credit. So unleash your buying power and enjoy its unique benefits.

- Cash withdrawal at over 3000 branches.
- Special add-on membership for spouses.
- Corporate membership scheme for organisations.
- Personal Accident Insurance upto Rs. 1 lakh.
- Mail order facilities for books, periodicals and consumer goods at your door-step.
- Readily accepted by Railways and Airlines.

Centralcard is also issued by United Bank of India.



Centralcard

Your Card of Confidence & Convenience.

For more information, contact your nearest branch of Central Bank of India.

High Priest leads by example. Furthermore, the boiwallas must compulsorily perform the purification yasna ceremony each day before tending the holy fire.

Another ceremony common to all fire-temples is the *maachi* or enthronement of the holy fire (see "Maachi: the throne," *Parsiana*, August 1990) five times a day, at the turn of every *gah*. Since two of the *gahs* change at

around midnight and five a.m., the priests are required to wake up twice each night to perform the *maachi* ceremony. "We use an alarm clock to wake us up. But even if it does not ring, and this has happened on a few occasions, I get up anyway. It is almost as though someone is shaking me awake and saying: 'You must get up and perform the *maachi*,'" says 22-year-old Ervad Daraius Karanjia, the youngest of the four boiwallas attending the fire. The others are Kerspasp Kotwal, Darabshah Masani and Ardeshir Raoji, all in their mid-60s.

Earlier there were six boiwallas and JamaspAsa fears that there may not be enough full-time priests in the future willing to tend the sacred fire. Once, caring for an atash bahram fire was considered an honor, and only priests from the Bhagaria lineage were allowed to serve at the Anjuman Atash Bahram. Now any priest is gladly welcomed. Four years

ago in 1989 the first, and to date, only non-Bhagaria priest, Karanjia, was recruited as a boiwalla at the Atash Bahram.

Watching young Karanjia tend the holy fire is a heartening sight, but it also highlights the fact that there are very few young priests willing to make the same commitment. "Unless the community does something about this problem,

and soon, we will be faced with a serious crisis in the near future," says JamaspAsa.

The board of trustees of the Anjuman Atash Bahram, of which the High Priest is the chairman, is reportedly considering the possibility of supplementing the earnings of the boiwallas with a monthly stipend, and also appealing to other community trusts to provide them with facilities like housing, etc., to make the job more attractive. The other trustees are Eruch Dastur, Shiavax Sethna, Pheroze Katrak, Burjor Antia and Burjor Dabu. Currently the income of the four serving priests consists of an equal share of the pooled *boi* offered by devotees along with sandalwood, and their earnings from the higher liturgical ceremonies that they perform.

And they are earning more than they did before. The paradox is that despite the crisis in the Zoroastrian priesthood, there is a resurgence of religious aware-

ness in the community. According to Masani who has been a boiwalla for the past 40 years, more Parsi Zoroastrians have been visiting the Atash Bahram in the last 10 years than in the past. "Not just the old, but also the younger generation. We get a lot of boys and girls in their school uniforms who come in daily," he observes.

JamaspAsa agrees. Even though the total number of Parsi Zoroastrians is declining, more members of the community have been visiting the fire-temple in recent years. And many turn to him for spiritual guidance and for advice on how to handle personal problems. "I help and guide them as best I can," says the High Priest who does not elaborate further, for he prefers to keep his interaction with his flock on a one-to-one basis.

"As Zoroastrians I remind them that good will always triumph over evil. There is really no choice but to do what is right," he observes. We, however, remind him that in life things are not always black and white; that we are often confronted with shades of grey. The High Priest's stern countenance melts into an understanding smile. "I know," he answers. "But I still maintain that you must stay with the truth no matter what the consequences, and you will not go wrong."

Despite the crisis in the Zoroastrian priesthood, there is a resurgence of religious awareness in the community

Fires of Controversy

"They say that it takes one Brahmin to bring out the worst in another Brahmin. The same is also true of us Zoroastrian priests," observes Khurshedji Desai, longtime secretary of the Navsari Atash Bahram and a priest himself.

The dispute amongst the Bhagarias at the Wadiaji Atash Bahram in Bombay in 1880 was just another instance in the history of Zoroastrian priesthood that is checkered with differences of opinion over rituals and other religious matters. Where it differs from other such disagreements is that it led to the establishment of a brand new atash bahram.

The dispute erupted when the then High Priest of the Wadiaji Atash Bahram, Dastur Peshotanji Sanjana

broke with the tradition that required all Bhagarias, regardless of where they had settled, to return to Navsari to have their *navar* and *martab* ceremonies performed at the Atash Bahram there. He decreed that they could now be ordained as priests at the Bombay Atash Bahram too. One group of priests objected to this new ruling. They decided that they would rather leave than perform ceremonies in an atash bahram where the High Priest had so little regard for long-standing traditions.

The aggrieved group took their case to Dastur (Dr) Jamaspjee Minocherjee Jamasp-Asana, one of the three high priests of the Bhagarias. The rest is history.

Situation Wanted

High-ranking Parsi, ex-government official who is relocating to Washington DC, USA, is interested in working as a liaison officer for business houses/individuals who have interests in the US. The gentleman has 30 years experience in handling the financial and logistic functioning of large establishments and especial skills in human resource management. Extremely hardworking and honest, he is prepared to make adjustments and/or to undertake any training to enhance his skills.

Apply to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana (Emp-1)

GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

A hospital in labor

Arnavaz S. Mama

A tussle over a new labor agreement paralyses the working of the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital

Deserted corridors, locked rooms, empty beds — an uncharacteristic scenario for the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital (PGH). As on March 3, 1994 there were only 19 patients on the Hospital's sprawling premises. Since end January the Hospital has accepted no new patients and those who had been registered earlier have been progressively discharged. Even the geriatric ward is deserted, its inmates having been relocated at the Masina Hospital, The H. C. Jehangir Health Unit at Gamadia Colony or reluctantly taken "home."

This diaspora of Parsi patients in Bombay followed when labor at the PGH embarked on a go-slow so that patients were served their meals nearly two hours late, medicines were not issued on time and water and electricity supply were tampered with, according to the management's series of notices. Fearing for the health and well-being of patients, the PGH executive committee, by its circular of January 24, stopped new admissions and sought an early discharge of the patients in its care.

Ruling upon the complaint filed by the Mumbai Mazdoor Sabha (MMS) in anticipation of a lockout, the order of S. S. Hirurkar of the Bombay Industrial Court dated March 2, 1994 notes, "Pending hearing and final disposal of the complaint the respondents are restrained by injunction from declaring lockout of the respondent Hospital except by due process of law. The respondents are further directed to carry out negotiations with the complainant union and reach at the final settlement subject to complainant union and the workers (maintaining) peaceful working and normalcy in the Hospital..."

The red flags and mounting tension had led to a daylong (10 a.m. to 4 p.m.) gherao of the trustees and senior management on January 29 accompanied by the shouting of slogans and abuses ultimately requiring the police to be summoned, as notes the affidavit of Kersasp

Sirvala, general manager and financial controller of the PGH. Emphasizing the greater need for discipline in a hospital in contrast to a factory, the affidavit notes, "Any disruption or indiscipline behavior can result in a loss of life or permanent incapacity and hence it is incumbent upon the management to take all necessary precautions when workmen resort to a go-slow or undisciplined behavior."

The union and management had signed an interim settlement on May 4, 1993 (attached to both affidavits) according to which the Hospital would pay up to an additional Rs 12 lakhs a year in terms of wages and salaries. The union and management agreement to introduce a voluntary retirement scheme (VRS) was a part of this interim settlement which was supposed to be finalized in six months. The resources for the VRS were to be raised by the union by way of donation, as noted in a letter dated May 18, 1993 from PGH president Homa Petit to MMS president R. J. Mehta. In a notice put up on the bulletin board by the management, employees were informed that the vacancies created by the VRS will not be filled. The Hospital also paid an additional Rs 175/200 per month retrospectively to its employees for a 17-month period beginning January 1992, informs the affidavit.

However, in its draft proposals for a final settlement, the Union's demands amounted to Rs 27 lakhs per year, informs Sirvala's affidavit. The institution where 259 of its total 280 beds are partly or fully subsidized by charity, had registered a loss of 63 lakh rupees in March 1992, informs the affidavit. The union however believes that the Hospital is deliberately avoiding a final settlement. The affidavit of Manek Amrolia, senior bill clerk at the PGH and an MMS activist, claims that donations and charities have made the Hospital "financially viable, if not sound."

The union, in a letter dated February 7 suggested that "the alleged disputed is-

sue of financial burden" be referred to a "private informal arbitrator," the individual suggested being Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the Free Trade Union Multipurpose Project Trust who, as Bombay Parsi Punchayet president, is also custodian of the PGH property. Petit responded, "It would not be fair or proper to embarrass such a personality in this matter." Thereafter it appears that the MMS began refusing to accept letters, telephone calls and fax messages from the Hospital and its labor consultant, advocate S. G. Shivnani, as notes a letter written by Petit dated February 10 attached to the affidavit.

Alleging "unfair labor practices" by the Hospital, the MMS sought an injunction from the Industrial Court on February 14 restraining the PGH from declaring a lockout. Their application for interim relief says, "this is a fit and proper case where the Hon'ble Tribunal be pleased to dispense with the service of notice to the respondents for granting interim and ad interim reliefs." Accordingly arguing that "The delay arising out of the notice being given to the respondents could be utilized by the respondents to effect a lockout of the Hospital," the Court granted an ex parte ad interim injunction on February 14 preventing a lockout until the hearing and final disposal of the complaint.

When the case came up for hearing on February 22 the court amended its earlier ruling to what the Hospital demanded: that the Hospital be prevented from declaring a lockout "except by due process of law." The court added a further clause urging both parties to the suit to "reach at the final settlement subject to complainant union and the workers (maintaining) peaceful working and normalcy in the Hospital."

Until that laudable goal is achieved, a full staff and a near empty Hospital add to the drain on the coffers of a charitable institution even as they confound the community's suffering members.



BASIC STYLE.

SHIRTS, TROUSERS & CASUALS NOW AT MAHALAXMI CHAMBERS, WARDEN ROAD, BOMBAY 400 026.

VARELI CLOTHING



A Clothing Division of
Garden Silk Mills Limited

G/104/B



**Happy Pateti & Navroze Mubarak.
Jeevta Rejo. Sukhi Rejo. Udta Rejo.**

उडता रेजो  **AIR-INDIA**

Iranian pilgrimage...I

A Zoroastrian scientist traces his roots through Yazd and the surrounding areas

Ardeshir B. Damania



In the course of his work with the UN funded International Center for Agricultural Research in Dry Areas (ICARDA), plant ecologist Ardeshir Damania made a professional visit to Iran. It also enabled him to visit sites that are a part of Zoroastrian history and legend.

Damania's account of what he saw there is published here in two parts. In this issue we read of the shrines that commemorate the last Sasanians and the condition of Zoroastrians and Zoroastrian institutions in and around Yazd. The next issue of Parsiana will feature Damania's report on Persepolis, Pasargadae and Hamadan.

A winding dirt road, northeast of the small town of Ardakan on the plateau in central Iran, cuts through the dusty semi-desert. The hills glow in the blaze of the setting sun on a long summer day in June. Shrubs of wild watermelon with innocent-looking fruits, the size of baseballs, but poisonous if eaten, lie on either side of the road. After 15 km, the road appears to go no further; high, almost vertical, hills lie directly ahead and soon one expects to hit a dead end. Just at that moment, abruptly, the road turns right between two steep hillsides, and there, glowing red in the rays of the setting sun, hidden from the cruel world outside, lies the shrine of Pir-E-Herisht!

Dedicated to Herisht, the faithful servant of Yazdegird III, the last Sasanian (and Zoroastrian) king of Persia, the shrine is of great significance to the Zoroastrians of Iran and especially those living in Ardakan, Yazd and the surrounding towns and villages.

Pir-E-Herisht shrine
On June 24, 1993 when I visited the shrine of Pir-E-Herisht it was deserted except for 35-year-old Erach Marzbani who looks after the shrine under the supervision of Ms Whabiz Sohrabi. The elderly widow, convinced that I was a well-meaning Zoroastrian from India, instructed Erach to open the shrine for me. Climbing up the long flight of steps and after washing my hands and face with cool spring water and performing kusti I

entered the shrine. A plaque outside reads "Good Thoughts, Good Words and Good Deeds" in Farsi. Inside there are two rooms. The first room had a raised platform where King Yazdegird's fire was kept by Herisht. The fire was not burning (the shrine seems to be visited infrequently except on certain festive days). Photos of Zarathushtra and stalwart male and female Zoroastrians of the past from Yazd and Kerman adorn the walls.

The second room contains an altar where several oil lamps burn perpetually. The wall was once again adorned with photos of Zarathushtra and some Zoroastrian community leaders from the past. Erach was still suspicious because of the

Pir-E-Herisht shrine where Yazdegird III's fire was guarded by his faithful servant



**With best
compliments from**

AHURA Investments

presence of my Muslim colleagues who also entered the shrine and hence made little conversation. I once again performed kusti prayers inside, lighted a sandalwood incense stick proffered by Erach and exited after some hurried photography as light was fading fast. Erach immediately locked the shrine securely behind me. From his behavior I could deduce that both Whabiz and he are constantly wary of mischief makers tampering with the shrine or desecrating it (the fear is well-founded as you will read later in the case of the dokhmas).

A system of vents, which bring cool air from the earth below to the surface, serves as a sort of natural air-conditioning system. Nearby is an underground spring whose water is very cool and a plaque mentioning the Zoroastrians who came here from far corners of the world is placed atop the entrance. The spring water can be reached by descending a long flight of steps. A decent rest house with about four rooms for overnight stay of visitors is available. Other rooms and a dharamshala are also available for the pilgrims but these are in a neglected condition and the walls covered by graffiti.

Whabiz informed me (through an interpreter) that she has been looking after

the maintenance of the shrine for the last 40 years. The task was entrusted to her by her late father Dinyar Sohrabi whose picture hangs in her tiny unlit room. But she is now ageing and with failing eyesight most of the physical work is performed by Erach. Also, arthritis prevents her from climbing the many steps to go up to the shrine too often which is at least 100 meters above her humble dwelling place, a single room with a kitchen and toilet. She has a daughter, Keshvar, who lives in Tehran and comes to visit her occasionally.

By now the sun had set and it was rapidly getting dark behind the hill. Whabiz lit a petromax lantern (her electricity had been cut off) and offered to make tea. She retreated into the kitchen while I took photos of her room and picture frames of her deceased ancestors. In the dim light I could see the outlines of her few meager belongings and evidence of a bleak existence, no doubt due to poverty. Nevertheless, her faith was unwavering, and she vows to fulfill her duties till the end. Finally, totally overcome with sadness I placed a bundle of money in her hand, patted her cheek in encouragement, and made ready to return to Ardakan. As I turned for one last look a faint smile fi-

With best compliments

M/s Khator Fibre & Fabrics Ltd

Assembly Lane
Dadi Seth Agyari Lane
Kalbadevi
Bombay 400002

HAPPY NAVROZE

With best compliments from

STEEL & HIDE
Furniture Systems

28-A Nariman Bhavan
Nariman Point, Bombay 400021

With
Compliments Of

Classic Fashions Exporters

104 Neelgiri Ind Estate
183 T. J. Road
Sewri (W)
Bombay 400015

nally appeared on her creased face.

The same evening I visited a book and stationery shop in Ardakan. The owner, Gustasp Baliwani, informed me that his father Rostam Baliwani, was a mobed at the agiary at Ardakan. I bought some books from the shop in Farsi on the Zoroastrians of Kerman and Yazd and on the holy shrines in the Ardakan area. Gustasp promised to wait for me the next day at Pir-E-Sabz (Nikh Banoo), another larger shrine, as he knew the mobed there. I spent the night at the Ardakan Inn where the proprietor, after I explained the antecedents of my name, kindly agreed to be paid in Iranian rials instead of the hard currency demanded of all foreigners.

The legend of Nikh Banoo

Yazdegird III, the last Sasanian king, was crowned in 632 AD (the year Mohammad, the founder of Islam, died). The king was a devout Zoroastrian. His reign began promisingly but only four years later his kingdom was attacked by Muslim Arabs from the desert who had already conquered the Byzantine-ruled Syria and now marched upon the once mighty Persian empire. The fate of the empire was decided at the crucial battle of Qadisiyah (636-37 AD) on the banks of

one of the tributaries of the river Euphrates. The fortunes of battle fluctuated daily, but the Persian armies, already weakened by the long and hard Byzantine campaigns and internal dissent (of noblemen and priests), were ultimately routed by the Arabs. To these Arab conquerors, war, plunder, spoils, terror, rape, and ultimate salvation in heaven if killed, were all woven together in a package deal, to find release in a frenzy of religious zealotry and violence which was now unleashed on Persia.

After the loss at Qadisiyah, Yazdegird III retreated and regrouped his armed forces under his brave commander-in-chief Rostam, but the Persians were once again defeated in the final battle at Nahavand (642 AD), a town south of Hamadan which still exists. Rostam was killed and Yazdegird III fled to save himself and his family. Finally he retreated to the village of Ardakan (near Yazd) where he and his family and the remaining retinue stayed safely for a few years. Yazdegird III chose this area for refuge particularly for its bleak appearance, harsh climate and mountainous terrain which he thought would be difficult for his enemies to find. But the Arabs came to know of his whereabouts and came

With best compliments from

Tata Industries Limited

Bombay House
24 Homi Mody Street
Bombay 400001

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

ANTELEC Private Limited

Experienced turnkey Electrical Engineers and Contractors
executing projects as per Indian and International
standards for the last 25 years in India, Iraq, Jordan, Libya,
Nigeria, Nepal, Oman, Sri Lanka, U.A.E. and Yemen.

Specialists in high voltage indoor/outdoor substations,
power substations, power and lighting distribution, public
address, CCTV, fire alarm, lightning protection systems for
factories, stadia, railway complexes, 5 star hotels,
townships, hospitals, textile mills, commercial and
non-commercial institutions.

If quality, reliability and time are major parameters in
your project, call Antelec Pvt Ltd

REGISTERED OFFICE:

73, Jolly Maker Chambers No 2, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021

Tel: 2021067/2020563/2850384 Tlx: 11-85126 AEPL IN

Fax: 9122-2021040

BRANCH OFFICE:

802, Chiranjiv Tower, 43, Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019

Tel: 6463974/6417345 Tlx: 31-62527 AE IN

WHY TO GO FOR AN SBI MAGNUM

A. N. Shanbhag

Popular schemes of the past - like the National Savings Scheme, 1987 (Sec 80CCA), Equity Limited Savings Scheme (Sec 80CCB), New Equity Issues (Sec 88A) which were useful in slashing taxes - have been removed; now, there is only one benevolent umbrella, that of Sec 88, available to help save taxes. Here, aggregated contributions made out of

We shall study the extra-ordinary benefits of growth-oriented tax-saving schemes through 'Magnum Tax Profit - 1994' of SBIMF, which opened on December 27 and will close on March 31.

Salient features, whichever be the MF, are more or less identical. On paper, these appear to be the same medicine in different bottles. The most important decision-oriented

superior to the current market rate of interest.

The tax saving schemes appear less beneficial than growth schemes. But this is an illusion. Let us see why.

If a contribution of Rs. 10,000 is made to any specified scheme, the assessee can knock off Rs. 2,000 from his tax liability for the year. This essentially

SBI MUTUAL FUND SCHEMES - PERFORMANCE

Scheme	Plan		Date of Allotment	Term Months	NAV as on 07.01.94	Equivalent Returns %	Repurchase 31.01.94	Equivalent Returns	Market 14.01.94
Regular Income, 89	MRIS-89	Regular	31.03.89	60	137.74	17.74			
Tax saving, 88-89	MTSS-88-89	Tax Saving	01.04.89	120	235.87	27.66			
Monthly Income, 89	MMIS-89	Monthly	01.09.89	87	118.52	17.21			
Multiplier, 90	MMS-90	Growth	01.01.90	120	23.76	37.67			
Tax Saving, 90	MTSS-90	Tax Saving	31.03.90	120	194.16	24.76	115.00	9.78	34.50
Regular Income, 90	MRIS-90	Regular	01.08.90	90	117.30	14.63	104.00	11.01	
Equity Linked Saving, 91	MELS-91	Tax Saving	01.04.91	120	269.77	45.80			
Monthly Income, 91	MMIS-91	Monthly	01.07.91	72	117.35	20.17			
Triple Plus, 91	MTPL-91	Cumulative	20.11.91	86	169.02	27.88			125.00
Express	MEX-91	Cumulative	20.11.91	60	15.84	24.05			12.00
Growing Income from Tax Savings	GIFTS-A	Tax Saving	01.04.92	120	129.18	15.57			
Growing income from Tax savings	GIFTS-B	Tax Saving	01.04.92	120	137.21	19.57			
Multiplier Plus, 93	MMPS-93	Growth	01.03.93	72	14.58	55.45			12.00
Tax Gain, 93	MTAX-93	Tax Saving	01.04.93	120	13.12	42.30			

income chargeable to tax to avenues covered by Sec 88 are eligible to tax rebate of 20 per cent, up to a limit of Rs. 60,000 every year.

The best amongst these is, of course, PPF, the first one listed. The last in the list, 'Tax Saving Schemes of MFs' is better than the best. Basically, there are three of them - Regular Interest Paying Schemes (monthly, quarterly or yearly), 'Pure

criterion is the past performance of the mutual fund, in terms of returns on investments. Let us have a look at all the past schemes of SBIMF.

The equivalent returns are computed on the basis of the current net asset value, taking into account the time value of all the past interests, bonuses and rights, if any. It is also assumed that the interest amounts are reinvested in same (or similar schemes) attracting identical returns on investment.

means that his effective out-of-pocket contribution is Rs. 8,000. The interest paid, if any, on these schemes is on face value of Rs. 10,000. Moreover, at maturity, the amount paid back is Rs. 10,000, not Rs. 8,000. This extra Rs. 2,000 is not brought under the tax axe, either by the normal or the long-term capital gains tax. Unbelievably good, but true. The investor has to realise that the growth schemes offer only the benefit of the concessional tax rate applicable to long-term capital gains. The tax-saving growth schemes not only give this benefit, but also a tax rebate.

Growth Scheme: Magnum tax profit scheme is basically a growth scheme. The difference between the redemption price and the original investment attracts tax which works out to about only 10 per cent, irrespective of the tax zone you belong to. Just because investments up to Rs. 10,000 attract tax rebate, there is no reason to invest only Rs. 10,000. Those who have investible funds cannot find a better parking place.

Savings Scheme	Maximum Limit
1. 15-yr Public Provident Fund (PPF)	Rs. 60,000 p.a.
2. Life Insurance Premiums	10% of capital sum assured
3. Recognised Provident Fund	No limit
4. 10/15 yr Unit Linked Insurance Plan	Rs. 60,000 target amount
5. 10/15 yr Dhanaraksha	Rs. 60,000 target amount
6. National Savings Certificate - VIII	No limit
7. National Housing Bank	No limit
8. National Saving Scheme-92	No limit
9. Jeevan Dhara/Jeevan Akshay of LIC	No limit
10. Tax Saving Schemes of MFs	Rs 10,000

Growth Schemes', and an amalgam of the two. It is this amalgam that we are interested in. These growth-oriented tax saving schemes giving long-term capital gains benefits are far superior to the regular ones covered by Sec 80L (exemption of Rs. 10,000 in the aggregate).

There is a common phenomenon characteristic of all mutual funds. Pure Growth Schemes are by far the best.

Next in the line are the tax saving schemes. Schemes which pay regular interest are not performing as well as the others. Nonetheless, the returns on investments are

THE SBI MUTUAL FUND GUIDE TO PAY LESS TAX

There are perfectly legal ways to reduce your tax liability.

Invest in Magnum Tax Profit 1994 and on an investment of Rs. 10,000 u/s. 88 avail of 20% deduction from your income tax Rs. 2,000



Make the Right Choice

EARLY BIRD INCENTIVE

1st To 26th MAR '94
Rs. 10/- PER Rs. 1000/-

HIGHLIGHTS

- Growth Scheme with predominantly Equity Investments.
- Tax saving of 20% on investment upto Rs. 10,000 Under section 88 of Income Tax Act 1961.
- Liquidity through listing & repurchase after three years.
- Possibility of dividends even during lock-in period of three years.
- Possibility of end scheme capital appreciation.
- Assured allotment.
- No deduction of tax at source on dividends / capital gains.
- Tax benefits under Section 80L on dividends and Section 48 and 112 on Capital gains.
- Facility to invest in 3 instalments up to 31st March 1994.

PERFORMANCE OF EARLIER TAX SAVING SCHEMES					Face value	Post dividend NAV *
Dividends	1989	1990	1991	1992		
MTSS 88-89	10%	12.5%	10.5% (9 months)	14%	100	243.77
MTSS 90	10%		7.5% (9 months)	*	100	183.58
MELS 91	10%				100	299.65
GIFTS 92 A					100	142.02
B					100	154.01
MTGS-93					10	14.51

* MTSS 90 has paid an interim dividend of 6% in 1993.
* As on 25/2/94

"Your Kind of Mutual Fund!"



SBI MUTUAL FUND

Principal Trustee : State Bank of India
Investment Manager : SBI Funds Management Ltd.
191, Maker Towers 'E', Cuffe Parade, Bombay - 400 005.

RISK FACTORS ● Mutual Funds and Securities investments are subject to market risks and hence there can be no assurance that the objective of the scheme can be achieved. ● Performance of SBIMF in the previous schemes is not necessarily indicative of future results. ● Magnum Tax Profit Scheme is only the name of the scheme and does not in any manner indicate either the quality of the scheme, its future prospects or the returns.

APOLLO COURIER SERVICES

INTERNATIONAL
AND
DOMESTIC

22-1st Marine Street
Opp Metro Cinema
Near Kit-Kat Restaurant
Dhobi Talao
Bombay 400002
Tel: 2086917
Fax: 2085325

chasing to Ardakan. Yazdegird III's royal fire, which followed the King wherever he went, was hid and guarded by his servant Herisht among the hills. But one of Yazdegird III's three unmarried daughters, the 22-year-old Nikh Banoo, was not so lucky.

With the Arab hordes at her heel, Nikh Banoo fleeing all night, hid in one of the mountain gorges 37 km from Ardakan. Unfortunately, at daybreak she was found out and she climbed higher and higher up the gorge until a sheer wall of rock impeded further progress. Exhausted by heat and menstruation, surrounded by sheer walls of solid rock, with the blood thirsty and lustful enemies closing in from below, her fear and apprehension can well be imagined! Realizing that there was now no escape, Nikh Banoo thrust her walking stick in the ground and made a final desperate appeal to Ahura Mazda to save her honor! Legend has it that Ahura Mazda, in His immense mercy opened a crevice in the rock close to where she was standing and she wedged herself into this opening which closed instantly. Soon after this event a trickle of water began to flow at the spot from a mysterious source. Some say the mountain weeps at the tragedy it

witnessed.

The stick which Nikh Banoo thrust in the ground at the spot, revived by the water, grew ultimately into a huge tree which still stands. Her scarf, until about a 100 years ago, was still to be seen emerging from the rock, Zoroastrian pilgrims having taken away bits of the cloth for veneration in the past.

Today the spot has become a shrine. The Zoroastrians of Iran call it Pir-E-Sabz, the Arabic name is Hayat Banoo, and some, no doubt deridingly, call it Chak Chak, after the sound of the dripping waters at the shrine.

Yazdegird III's two other daughters and two sons were either killed by the invaders or died in hiding. One daughter, Pars Banoo, is buried at another shrine 50 km from Ardakan. Another daughter, Mehr Banoo, is also buried near Ardakan. One son is buried at Noraki 60 km from Ardakan, and another son at Sett-E-Pir. Yazdegird III was a very devout Zoroastrian and hence all these places are considered holy by the Iranian Zoroastrians. They are visited on festive occasions.

Depressed by the loss of his kingdom and these tragic events, Yazdegird III wandered from province to province until he was killed by a miller for his purse

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS

Rajeev Silk Mills

191, Kalbadevi Road
Bombay 400002
Tel: 2016028/2063862 Fax: 2087656

Wishing all our Parsi Patrons
A Happy & Prosperous
Jamshedi Navroze



HILLA BUILDERS

Private Limited

BUILDERS & ESTATE DEVELOPERS

Regd Office:

V. T. Mansion, 1st Floor
144, Perin Nariman Street
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2619399, 2621492

Site:

Plot No 169, Irani Wadi
Orlem Church
Malad (West)
Bombay 400064

Site:

Plot No 963/965
Gola Lane
Behind Handloom House
Fort, Bombay 400001

in 652 AD at Merv (now called Mary in Turkmenistan), one of the remotest outposts of his former empire.

Pir-E-Sabz shrine (Nikh Banoo)

I travelled 37 km on the dirt road through semi-desert to arrive at Pir-E-Sabz. Gustasp Baliwani was already there as promised. He introduced me to the mobed at the shrine, Rostam Rashidi. I washed my hands and face with the cool spring water (considered sacred) and performed kusti while the mobed unlocked the gates to the shrine. The gates were covered with brass plating and engravings of two handsome Persian guards (similar to the stone carvings at Persepolis). Inside I saw a fireplace in the center and another stainless steel lamp-holder close to the stone wall where Nikh Banoo had met her fate. Bits of colored cloth were nailed to the stone symbolizing the original scarf. Being a botanist I identified the tree, which grew out of the staff which Nikh Banoo thrust into the ground, as *Myrtus communis* (common name: sycamore, or button wood tree, or also sometimes called plane tree). The tree is Mediterranean in origin and grows to a height of about 100 feet. It can be propagated by budwood so



Marzbani guards the fire at the shrine of Pir-E-Herishu

it is possible that the stick which Nikh Banoo was using was in fact a live piece of wood albeit without leaves or roots.

The place had coolness and tranquility which brought great peace to one's soul. On my behalf, Gustasp inserted a bunch

of sandalwood incense sticks into the ashes at the altar which I thought was inert. But the embers were very much there below the ashes as the incense sticks lit up filling the room with sandalwood aroma. This was the way of keeping the fire alive 24 hours with minimum attention, said Rostam Rashidi. He also showed me some prayer books from Bombay printed at the Union Press which were in a cupboard together with other prayer books in Farsi. By this time a group of Zoroastrian and Muslim youngsters had gathered around the fire and Rashidi was once again narrating the story of Nikh Banoo, the tree and the miracle which is said to have taken place at the spot 1,300 years ago.

Zoroastrian farmers in Ardakan

The next day, I was taking an early morning walk outside the inn when I spied from afar an elderly woman and a younger one squatting in a field close to the road and harvesting wheat with a sickle. They did not wear the obsequious *chador*, the black garb for women in Iran which covers all but the upper half of the face. Some inner instinct made me approach them. I was pleasantly surprised to learn that they were Zoroastrians! The

With best compliments from

DINSHAW & DINSHAW

ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS

390/286, Bootee Street
Camp, Poona 1

FOR EVERYTHING IN HOMOEOPATHY
Contact

PARSI HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACY

256-A, Shamaldas Gandhi Marg (Princess Street)
Opp Parsi Dairy Farm
Ground Floor, Bombay 400002

Time: 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Halo: 2084884
(Sunday closed)

Available at reasonable rates

- * Genuine Homoeo and biochemic medicines of
Dr Willmar Schwabe and
Dr Reckeweg & Co, Germany
- * Bach Flower Remedies
- * Weight reduction medicines (Phytolacca Berry)
- * Medicines of reputed and leading
manufacturers of India
- * Arnica (medicated) hair oil to stop falling hair
and premature greying
- * Highly qualified and experienced doctors' service
can be availed of at our clinic throughout the day.
Consult our doctors for specialised
treatment in chronic ailments.

CUSTOMERS' SATISFACTION IS OUR MOTTO

With Best Compliments
From

**Mrs Dina
Dara Sukhia**

And

**Victory
Theatres**

2429 Gen Thimayya Road
Pune Camp 411001

older lady introduced herself as Goolbanoo and the younger woman, with light blue eyes, was Shirin, her daughter-in-law. They were delighted to know that I was also a fellow Zoroastrian from India, and that my late mother was also named Goolbanoo and one of my late aunts, Shirin.

They explained that they were cultivating the land left to them by their ancestors even though their holding was now much reduced due to the setback as a result of the construction of the Ardakan-Yazd two-lane highway. They said that only about 100 Zoroastrian families lived in Ardakan. Half of these are farmers and cultivated ancestral land and the other half work for the government in administrative jobs. They told me that at one time there was a very large Zoroastrian community in Ardakan but the younger generation migrated to larger cities (like Yazd and Tehran) or went abroad leaving only the old behind.

After meeting Goolbanoo and Shirin I could not help thinking that if my ancestors had not been among the ones who took the boat to India, these two, toiling hard in the sun in 40°C heat, could be part of my family!

The rainfall in and around the Ardakan

area, which borders on the desert, is very scanty i.e. approximately 100 mm (less than an inch) only. All cultivation is carried out by irrigation. In the bygone ages the Persians developed a unique system of irrigation by the construction of *qanats* (long underground tunnels) to transport water from the wet mountain slopes to the dry, arid and unproductive areas. This system of irrigation is still in use. The digging and maintaining of *qanats* is a highly skilled job, normally undertaken by families from the Yazd area.

Visit to the Ardakan Agiary

After asking for directions I located the home of Rostam Baliwani (Gustasp's father), a community leader and chief mobed in Ardakan. The house was situated in a very narrow lane (not unlike some in Navsari) in Sharifabad, an old quarter of Ardakan, where most of the Zoroastrians live. The home was modest and naturally ventilated against the heat with a series of indirect vents open to the sky. The house had a small garden in the center with pomegranate trees which are native to the areas around Yazd.

Rostam Baliwani was overjoyed to see me and narrated stories about Yazdegird

continued on page 78

With Best Compliments From

When in Bombay Contact

LEACH & WEBORNY

For attending to your laundry.
They are Launderers & Dyers of repute.
They will also attend to your carpets
for cleaning or dyeing.



66, Off E. Moses Road, Worli, Bombay 400018
Phone: Head Office 2654294 Factory: 4924384, 4925644

HERE COMES THE GRAND OPPORTUNITY ON AUSPICIOUS DAY OF JAMSHEDI NAVROZE FOR YOU

It is Jamshedi Navroze, the beginning of spring to blossom new leaves, flowers, fruits to take birth and it is a beginning of new life.

We are all children of one Almighty, who has given a life which is so wonderful, and which gives happiness, joy and pleasure to some of His children. There are also some weak and needy people in society such as poor, crippled and blind for whom He cares for the most. Let us also bring happiness and pleasure in their miserable life with our humble share.

Free Food Service Charitable Trust has come a long way in helping the poor, crippled and blind with the whole hearted patronage of our worthy donors. The trust is serving the down-trodden by providing them good food, clothes and medical aid. Free Food Service Charitable Trust has now extended their hand also to meet the needs of our community for education to the deserving and needy students.

As said, who cultivates the land to feed others does thereby enhance the causes of purity and goodness which our Trustees are seriously working on such a noble project to undertake.

The trustees, wish you a HAPPY NAVROZE and request you for generous donations on this auspicious occasion to earn the innermost blessings of the poor and needy.

FREE FOOD SERVICE CHARITABLE TRUST

Talaty Building, Khetwadi Back Road, Bombay 400004

Tel: 359433/356704

AS YOU SOW...

Rustom M. Daboo

Superovulation and Embryo Transfer have been suggested for a six-fold increase in the community's birth rate

The single most important problem that has emerged from all our deliberations is of the dwindling Parsi population, which has reached crisis proportions, demanding an immediate solution. It is feared that we may not be left with enough numbers to be classified as a community by the government!

I recall my grandfather, Dastur Khurshed Dabu's words on the subject — "Not for nothing has the Zoroastrian religion been kept alive and simmering in this world, for it has yet to burst into the pristine flames of its past glory and it has yet to guide the world!" Such faith had our ancestors in the survival of our religion and race, and maybe, in their wisdom, their prophesy may come true.

However, should we give the above hope a chance and lie low? Should we not try to do what we possibly can to overcome this crisis? Some believe that the migration from India coupled with an inaccurate world census of Parsis, has resulted in the reported "dwindling population." Maybe they are right, but do we just cross our fingers and wait for the best? I do acknowledge that they also serve, who with faith await. But, we must be more realistic in our approach and take prompt action as the worsening situation demands, lest — Ahura forbid — the Parsis as a race die an ignoble death.

At the youth workshop organized under the aegis of the World Zoroastrian Congress at Bombay, the reasons for the



diminishing birth rate were shortlisted as insufficient housing, late marriages and the financial crunch experienced by all of us today — the most important factor which prevents us from producing more than two offspring. A practical view of the situation demonstrates that financial well-being and the Parsi birth rate are directly proportional.

This conclusion seems to be rightly endorsed by Mr Jamshed Guzder, president, Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), who announced at the last Sanjan Day celebrations that the entire expenditure of the third Parsi child could be borne by the BPP.

Here it may be noted that the labor ministry is reportedly working on an amendment to the Maternity Benefits Act 1973, so that women with more than two children are not entitled to paid maternity leave. If women working in private companies choose to have a third child, it would be at their own expense and at the risk of losing their job. The government,

however, assures it will protect their jobs. This move has reportedly received the green signal from the health and family welfare ministry and the National Commission of Women, according to *The Times of India*, November 25, 1993. If this draconian law is passed, this has to be taken into consideration by the Punchayet as well.

Although Mr Guzder's pragmatic resolution is a step in the right direction, it is not sufficient to solve the crisis. The reason is that we marry late, due to which the number of offspring remains between one or two. Also many remain single. Therefore, one of the root causes of the declining birth rate, late marriages, must also be ad-

ressed urgently and incentives ought to be given for encouraging early marriages (e.g. the marriage expenditure of couples between the age-group 19 to 25 years, may be borne by the BPP).

Secondly, an information campaign ought to be launched to change the 'late marriage mentality' of Parsi youth, highlighting the advantages of marrying early.

Similarly, a fashion to marry within the community needs to be introduced, especially among the fashionable and affluent class.

The above steps, if taken, are surely in the right direction and together with the incentive for the third child and early marriages, if the fashion to marry within the fold picks up, the birth rate is likely to go up marginally. But you cannot expect a dramatic upsurge in our numbers. A bold, unconventional offensive is the need of the hour, as we need not only to arrest the downward slide, but we need to give a thrust upstream.

The Embryo Transfer (ET) technology

Make Your Shares Give You More Than Just Dividend, Rights And Bonus

Now



The unique scheme to provide you finance upto Rs. 5 lakhs against pledge of Equity Shares of one or more of over 450 approved companies and a number of other securities like debentures, units of Unit Trust of India and other Mutual Funds. Liberal card limits for approved securities enables you to avail maximum finance at a rate of interest that will pleasantly surprise you - 17.25% inclusive of interest tax.

Bank of India

The Bank that cares...

For details, please contact the nearest branch of Bank of India.



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS
FROM

Sovika Chemicals Private Limited

B-2 Parekh Mahal
80 V. N. Road
Churchgate
Bombay 400020



is presently used by the bio-technical institutes in the country and abroad to enhance the national breeding program of milch animals. This same technique can be applied for human breeding, but due to the population explosion worldwide, we cannot expect anybody to start this program on humans. It clearly means that we Parsis have to be pioneers by initiating this technique — yet another untried field.

ET is the quickest way to multiply "genetically superior and pure-pedigreed Parsis," six times faster than the natural rate of reproduction. In this technique, donor females are treated with certain hor-

**Do we just cross
our fingers and wait
for the best?**

mones to make them superovulate, i.e. produce around six eggs instead of the normal one. This enables the fertilization of six eggs simultaneously (by artificial insemination or naturally). After fertilization these eggs are flushed out non-surgically, using a catheter and a special flushing medium, and transferred through a syringe into a thin tube (called straw) where they are stored in liquid nitrogen containers at a temperature of -197°C . The flushed fertilized egg is transplanted artificially and unsurgically into the wombs of six 'desirous mothers' (of any race or creed) who ultimately give birth to six bonny pedigreed Parsis of pure lineage. The Parsis can hence multiply and produce children six fold within a year (i.e. six times the present birth rate). Recently a donor cow superovulated 11 embryos in a single flush in one year which produced 11 calves.

It is technically feasible and safe to use this ET technology to increase the human population. If the World Zoroastrian Organisation and the BPP akabars have the grit and the courage of conviction to really increase the Parsi population, are the present trustees in power ready to bring up and groom such Parsi children as Community children? If so, I am sure many a Parsi youth would be ready to participate in the ET program and donate embryos after two children, to the community pool.

A castaway on a desert island does not wave a hankie to attract attention. He lights a fire! The present critical situation necessitates such a daring, fire-lighting measure. Are the punchayets ready?



*With Best
Compliments From*

**SEALOL
HINDUSTAN
LIMITED**





With Best Compliments From

Cadbury's

CADBURY INDIA LIMITED

19, B. Desai Road, Bombay 400026

Yet another land



The oldest firm of architects in Mumbai, Shapoorjee N. Chandabhoy & Co. has designed prominent community institutions and regal palaces in its 125 years.

Parinaz Gandhi



Nusserwanjee Chandabhoy (above) founder of the firm that created monuments like (from top) B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital, F. D. Petit Sanatorium and M. F. Cama Athorinan Institute

Facing page: Jamshed Aga who designed and supervised the construction of the Indrajit Palace at Rajpipla (center and right)



nark

in Maharashtra,
and Company has built
tutions
years of creativity



Building on land was the routine business of Shapoorjee N. Chandabhoj and Company (SNC). Building under water was a novel project that proprietor Jamshed Aga wanted to float. He had envisaged an under-the-sea restaurant but when he found that there was no sponsor willing to take the plunge with him, he decided to defer the issue: "Aavtaa bhaavé aavsu taré karsu (We'll take up the project in our next incarnation)," laughs 77-year-old Aga who for 55 years has been associated with this firm of architects founded by his great grandfather 125 years ago.

The oldest firm of architects in Maharashtra, SNC, as informs Aga, is reputed to have designed and built monumental landmarks in Bombay like the Framjee Cawasjee Institute opposite Metro, the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital at Breach Candy, the F. D. Petit Sanatorium at Cumballa Hill, the Mount Mary Church at Bandra; in Yazd, Iran, the famous orphanage building and clocktower in memory of Peshotan Marker; and palaces and palaces — in Gwalior, Rajpipla, Chhota Udaipur, Devgad, Reva... Over 50 names feature in their list of prominent structures and clients.

The prevailing bribe culture, the inordinate delays, the deterioration in the quality of material and labor, are the conditions Aga eschewed. And realizing that he would "neither be able

to cure the system nor endure" he decided to call a halt to the firm's building activities seven years ago. Referring to the love and respect that an architect earned in the days of yore Aga recalled how a silver salver would be presented to him before the foundation stone laying and a gold *chhéra* (chain) and pocket watch gifted on the completion of the building. As soon as the bill was despatched the payments would be forthcoming. There was no question of deducting even one rupee.

Among Zoroastrians, at the time of laying the foundation stone, usually with a silver *pavda* (spade), there was also the custom of burying in the northeast corner a Chinese urn bearing a gold sovereign, a few denominations of the currency in circulation, a synopsis of the family history and the day's newspaper, often *Jam-e-Jamshed*. "Laborers then did not while away their time, smoking or chatting. In fact, the contractors and laborers used to understand each other even without labor laws," Aga continues. And the architects themselves used to be concerned about supervising the quality and progress of the work. Aga remembers the days when he used to climb 30 storeys of the Union Bank building at Nariman Point when it was under construction.

With advancing age, says Aga, he has slowed down his pace of activity. Yet he continues to work all through the



week, even Sundays and Navroze if necessary. As a life member of the Indian Council of Arbitration in New Delhi, Aga is loaded with assignments where he has to officiate on differences over immovable properties. Since the arbitration procedure accords relief quicker than law both the parties may agree to have one arbitrator. When two arbitrators are selected by the warring factions, an umpire is called for, Aga explains the workings. Whether the parties choose to accept the verdict or to take further recourse to the legal machinery is their choice. Occasionally the court may refer a matter to the arbitrators, in which case the award decided upon by the arbitrators along with the relevant documents are then submitted to the High Court.

A registered architect of India and UK who has distinguished himself as a corporate architect and surveyor plus as a chartered architect, Aga also contributes as a fire loss assessor and as estate duty and wealth tax valuer. Formerly a member of the Government of India's planning commission as also the Bombay Municipal Corporation's advisory com-

mittee Aga has served too on the board of advisors for the Sir J. J. College of Architecture, Bombay. In the history of the Indian Institute of Architects, theirs has



*Shapoorjee Chandabhoj (left)
and Burjor Aga*



been the only family where both father and son have served as presidents, reports Aga. While his father Burjor served a single term, Jamshed continued for two terms. Similar has been their record at the Iranian Zoroastrian Anjuman too where Aga is currently president.

The family's involvement with architecture dates to 1868 when Nusserwanjee Chandabhoj (Burjor's maternal grandfa-

ther) started his practice in Bombay, naming the firm after his son Shapoorjee. The son continued in this field until he was joined by his sister's son Burjor. Then came Jamshed, to be followed by his son Vistasp who assisted the family firm for a short while before opting to relocate in the USA. But Jamshed has no regrets because he realizes that his son has better prospects away from this corrupt economic climate: "Within 21 years of being away he's much richer than I am after 55 years of practice," notes a proud father.

Not just his son, but most Zoroastrians abroad are doing well for themselves, believes Aga. Dismissing the doomsayers' predictions on the community's inevitable death he insists, "*Aapré khalas nathi thai javana* (We will not die out)." Within India he has noticed that the girls are doing better than the boys. Besides, a lady's ethics are superior to a male's, he believes. "Try to bribe a lady; she won't grant you any favors," Aga is certain. One universal trait within the community is that "we're still cosmo-

continued on page 96f

With Best Compliments From

White Cloud Filter Pads Private Limited

**Pioneer Manufacturers of
Finest Quality Machine Made Filter Pads
in the Country**

412 Gultekdi Road
Pune 411037

Phone: 432236, 441078 Fax: (0212) 448942 Gram: Filter Pads

With compliments from

M/s S. F. Engineer

**Bombay Real Estate Development
Company Private Limited**

**Mazda Construction Company
Private Limited**

**Engineer Estates
Private Limited**

Property Developers

Noshirwan Mansion, Henry Road, Colaba, Bombay 400039
Telephone: 241475, 241491, 225665
Fax: 2833563

Billimoria's pres(s)tigious assignment

Homi Rogers

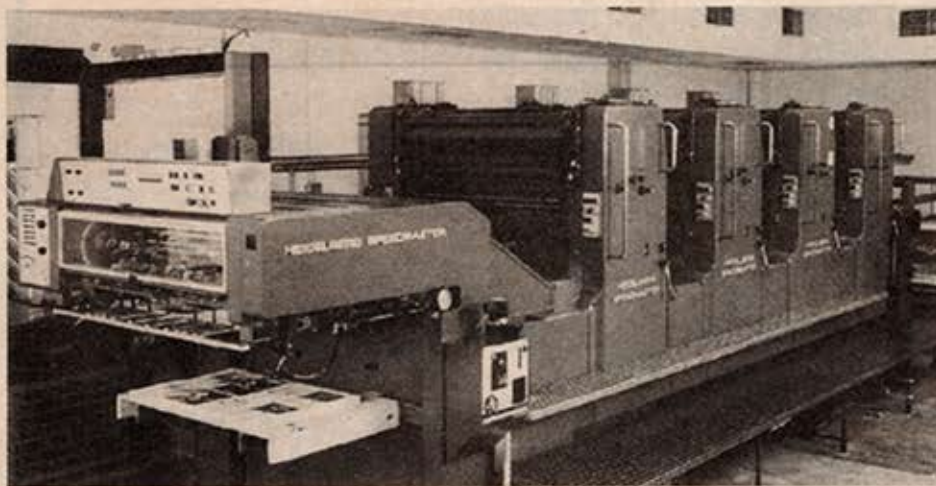


Managing director Hoshang Billimoria's innovativeness succeeds in making Tata Press a profitable venture



Facing page:
Tata Press premises at Prabhadevi
Inset: Billimoria

Sophisticated gadgets used at Tata Press:
(left) Harris high speed, four-color Web
offset machine; (center) Heidelberg
Speedmaster printing machine; (below)
computerized remote ink control



At the end of every rainbow, they say, there is a pot of gold. For those who seek to know which is the favored end, the Tata Press Annual report of 1991-92 could have held the answer. For here, beneath an arc resembling a truncated three-color rainbow lay the newly-designed logo of the company; and a family of satisfied shareholders would happily attest that the century-old Tata Press was their new pot of gold.

The scrip which had floundered at its inception, zoomed from Rs 45 in March '91 to Rs 700 a year later. (Today, after the scam took its toll of the market, and the company issued rights shares, it still hovers around the Rs 300 mark, and is considered undervalued by most market observers.) The company had posted an impressive net profit of Rs 1.62 crores against a mere 0.27 crores in the previous year: that figure in itself being a dramatic improvement on the loss of 56 lakhs in 1989-90. It was a performance that left everyone gushing. Everyone, with the exception of the architect of this dynamic turnaround: Hoshang Shavak-

sha Billimoria, the 41-year-old managing director of Tata Press.

A qualified chartered accountant, Billimoria was set to repeat, nay, better the performance the following year. And he did. The company posted an impressive four crore rupee net profit for 1992-93, with a 70 percent increase in turnover, the highest ever posted by the company in its history.

"It is the result of hard work, and complete identification with my goal," reveals Billimoria. We are seated in his spacious yet spartan cabin on the top storey of the three-floor Tata Press building at Prabhadevi in central Bombay, just a few days after the company had announced a 30 percent dividend. "It was a daunting task," concedes Billimoria, adding in jest, "one that I would not have risked

getting involved in had I been aware of the total picture."

Half of the company's share capital had been wiped out by a mounting debt burden. The staff's morale was low, and alternated between inefficiency and indiscipline: "Nothing could move unless the union said so." Its most talented managers had been transferred to Titan Watches, a company set up by the earlier managing director of Tata Press and now its chairman, Xerxes Desai (son of the late Sapur Desai, long-time secretary of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet). And the uniform accounting year introduced by V. P. Singh in 1989 had deprived Tata Press of its business of printing annual reports, which it had counted



ted on to keep it busy through the year.

Into this bleak scenario Billimoria was inducted as managing director. "I could never see myself retire as an accountant," Billimoria, partner since 1979 in S. B. Billimoria, a firm of chartered accountants, explains his switch-over

HOMA ENGINEERING WORKS

ENGINEERS, SHIP REPAIRERS & MARINE CONTRACTORS
AND SHIPPING AGENTS

**WINNERS OF INTERNATIONAL TRADE FAIR GOLD MEDAL IN 1983
& DIAMOND STUDDED AWARD IN 1984**

- * A Firm of Qualified Electrical, Mechanical & Marine Engineers dedicating services to Ship Repairing.
- * Licenced to carry out all types of Dry Docking repairs at Bombay.
 - * Main Engine Overhauling.
 - * Generator Overhauling.
 - * Pumps of all types overhauling and repairing.
 - * To carry out any mechanical and electrical repairs.
 - * Plating and Plumbing works.
- * Sea connections and heavy pipe lines in Dry Docks.
 - * Both electrical and gas welding.
 - * Remetalling of bearings.
- * Removing/refitting of tail Shafts, Rudders and Propeller Shafts at B.P.T. Dry Docks, including renewal of Lignum Vitae.
- * Survey of load line and safety equipment.
- * Well equipped workshop/Experienced skilled workforce for round the clock service to both Indian/Foreign vessels at Dry Docks, Wet Docks and in stream in afloat condition.
- * We are Contractors for ONGC, Bombay and Government firms.

Managed personally by Senior Partner Mr H. B. Bengali

Head Office:

Trapinex House, 5th Floor
Room No 504/506

15, Sholapur Street, Bombay 400009
Tel No: 3760444

Telex: 011-76643 HOMA IN Fax: 3715778

Dock Office:

Opp P & V Docks
Clock Tower

Manson Road, Bombay 400009
Tel Nos: 3427765/3431432

Workshop:

147, Tokersey Jivraj Road, Cotton Green, Bombay 400015
Tel Nos: 4131065, 4131871

Cable: "FASTREPAIR" Bombay 400009

SHIP REPAIRING IS OUR LIFE AND PART OF IT

from a world of cut-and-dry figures to a sphere of cut-throat marketing. The move from S. B. Billimoria to Tata Sons (the apex Tata body controlling the group's various ventures) as a deputy chief executive came about in 1988, when an ex-director of the Tata group invited him to join the august company. Billimoria's interest in general management made him accept the invitation and, in 1990, the challenge of turning around a sick company.

Billimoria, however, remains as interested and involved a chartered accountant as in 1976 when he qualified as one, winning the Deloitte Plender prizes at both the intermediate and the final examinations held by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of England and Wales. He has recently taken office as district director (India region) of the Institute of Internal Auditors (IIA), a 48,000-member international association representing internal auditors in over 100 countries.

The elevation to the post of managing director for a yet-to-turn-40 Billimoria was the culmination of a brilliant career. He recalls with justifiable pride that he stood first from his school, St Xavier's, in the 1968 Secondary School Certificate examination. Billimoria followed up this success at Sydenham College, securing first rank in the Inter-Commerce examination held in 1970, and topping the Bombay University list for his graduate degree two years later, the only student to get a first class. Like Kersi Gherda of the Tata Electric Companies ("In a 'power'ful position," *Parsiana*, August 1993), Billimoria exhibited an early flair for accountancy, and was placed first in the batch of students appearing with accounts and auditing as their special subjects at Bombay University. This talent was to stand him in good stead when he set about the onerous task of turning Tata Press around.

With the keen eye of an auditor, Billimoria studied the assets and liabilities of the company. The strength of Tata Press lay in its ability to print large volumes of high quality in very short periods of time. This allowed Tata Press to introduce its own products, rather than just print them for others. The seeds of a directory of business addresses, separate from the jobs Tata Press undertook for various telephone corporations, were already being sown. So, too, was the idea of launching a range of corporate give-aways, as distinct from the calendars and diaries being printed for various

companies at the Press.

In the early '90s, the accountant in Billimoria had to take precedence over the marketer in him. Operation costs were ruthlessly trimmed and better production schedules helped halve outwork and ancillary expenses. And Tata Press romped home from its stint in the red to a profit of 1.62 crore rupees within just two years of Billimoria taking the reins.

Billimoria may not have pioneered yellow pages but certainly he gave them respectability in the country

By the time better fiscal management put the Press on its feet, Billimoria had envisaged the growth areas and identified the weak links. If Tata Press was to get ahead, he reasoned, it would have to innovate and beat the other presses in the business. When the import of printing equipment was placed under open general license by the Rajiv Gandhi government, the result was a mushrooming of small presses ready to give customers a lower quote, feasible because of less flabby units and the need to keep their machines going. "We had to be different from the rest," says Billimoria, who conceived of his organization as an integrated communications company. "We wouldn't be just a printer, but a manufacturer of high quality products." This concept led to the setting up of the Design Shop, an advertising agency within the premises which offers to undertake a range of print-related creative works for its clients, ranging from the designing of annual reports, brochures, catalogues, diaries to creating and releasing advertisements for them in the media.

Another division formed early this year was to print and market a range of calendars, diaries, greeting cards and inter-relations stationery under the brand name of Touchstone. Early attempts in this line were a success and emboldened Billimoria to give the division a more complete line and a stronger marketing bite.

But it was the print sales that had to be bolstered if the company's turnover, and not just its profits, was to show an increase. With color printing being its forte, Billimoria decided that Tata Press should pursue products that needed color, rather than rummage for work in the already overcrowded and under-cutting market of securities paper and annual reports. "We bagged contracts for printing magazines and color supplements," beams Billimoria just as an aide, almost on cue, places before him a copy of the color pages of the anniversary issue of *Mid-Day*.

Tata Press today prints the best of magazines, even for publishers who have their own presses. Amongst the 15 odd publications printed here are *Business World*, *Voyage* (our sister publication), the color pages of *The Sunday Observer*, *ET Esquire*, and the two glossies, *Femina* and *Filmfare*, from the Bennett and Coleman stables. "We are not allowed to import glazed newsprint for these magazines and newspapers," states Billimoria explaining the rise in profits, but not in sales, despite being "the largest magazine printer in western India."

To keep pace with the growing needs, and help service them better, Tata Press recently imported a new printing machine that can give 40,000 impressions per hour, and a new binding machine that can bind hardbacks fast and flawlessly in line with international standards.

A tie-up with R. R. Donnelley and Sons, the world's largest printing company (ranked 117 on the Fortune 500 list of top US industrial corporations), in October 1993, marks yet another strategic move in Billimoria's gameplan to strengthen the Press. The memorandum of understanding signed with Donnelley (incidentally, the Asia operations of the company are headed by another Zoroastrian, Hoshi D. Deboo, based in Singapore) assumes special significance when one considers that the organization, in addition to being the world's largest printer of magazines, books, catalogues and inserts, is also the largest supplier of telephone directories and yellow pages in the world.

The *Tata Press Yellow Pages*, now a household name in Bombay, is Billimoria's brainchild. "There was, especially in Bombay," reasons Billimoria, "a complete lack of commercial information; so we gave the project all we could." Billimoria may not have pioneered yellow pages in India, but cer-

tainly it was he who gave them respectability and credibility in the country. "The *Yellow Pages* are a buyer's guide," asserts Billimoria who speaks of their international importance in disseminating data-based information. The second edition of the *Yellow Pages* in Bombay has recently been released and couriered to over five lakh people by friend and co-director on the Tata Press board, Cyrus Guzder, chairman and managing director of DHL Express. Delhi is getting ready for its first stand-alone directory (i.e. a telephone directory which is not the telephone company's official directory), and Billimoria has plans to launch it soon in other Indian cities as well, Bangalore being the first one on the anvil.

The foray into telephone cum business directories in Ahmedabad, Rajkot, Kheda and Junagadh in Gujarat has established the company's leadership in information services. The *Yellow Pages* and its supporting high-level advertising blitz has made Tata Press a name to be reckoned with, and given the staid, laid-back company, overlooked only a few years ago, a market presence.

We wondered if the new turnaround

tsar of Tatas could achieve a similar success for the community, and revive its sagging fortunes. "I have never been involved in community affairs," shrugs Billimoria, adding though that the Pun-

"We wouldn't be just a printer, but a manufacturer of high quality products"

chayet which looks after its affairs is "filled with old people."

"There should be no autocracy in management," Billimoria continues, taking a leaf out of his own Tata Press success story. "We should all be involved in the step forward." He also adds that the community must learn to move with the times. By not doing so "We are losing out on eminence," he rues. According to Billimoria, the community members must demonstrate a greater capacity for

hard work and entrepreneurship. "Parsis should get more into business," opines Billimoria. "The community enjoys tremendous goodwill among people for its integrity and character. Our members must cash in on this goodwill."

Given the chance and the challenge, Billimoria seems capable of breeding a new strain of Zoroastrians — energetic and enterprising. At the present, though, he spends most of his free time rearing fish! "I have a fairly large aquarium at home," Billimoria informs us. His interest in aquatic life stems from his childhood days. Billimoria has 15 fish in his home aquarium, including orandas, a particularly rare species "derived from the goldfish."

Does the man have an affinity for the color yellow? Or, did the fish turn gold — like Tata Press — with his Midas touch? The newly emblazoned logo of the company sporting three stripes of red, yellow and cyan (printers' blue ink) could be a guide to the fortunes of the Press under a dynamic manager who has steered the company from the red to its true blue status. With a little help from the yellow.



PRUDENTIAL SHIPPING AGENCIES Private Limited

Shipping Agents

77, Mint Road, Fort, Bombay 400001
Phones: 2622566/2620154/2622787 • Cable: "SHIPMENT"
Telex: 011-82307 PSAB IN • Fax: 91-22-2870139

- ☆ Experts in Liner Agencies For Container Vessels, Break Bulk, and Car Carriers
- ☆ Professionally Managed (Staff with 10 yrs experience), Hi-Tech Fully Computerised Office in Bombay's Business Centre
- ☆ Speedy Freight remittances and computerised accounting system
- ☆ Branches at Nhavasheva, New Delhi and Major Indian Ports

PROFESSIONAL ☆ PROGRESSIVE ☆ PRUDENT

Exclusive catering for
Weddings * Navjotes * Parties * Boat Cruises



POLAD

Caterers and Decorators

Specialises in:

Parsi, Moglai, Punjabi, Continental, Chinese and Gujarati Cuisine

Exclusive Ice Carving/Fruit/Salad/Flower Displays

Special boat cruises with grand buffet

K4, 23, Merwanjee Cama Park, Cama Road, Andheri (W), Bombay 400058

Phone: 6284171

Mahrukh Mansion, 170/A, Alibhai Premji Marg, Grant Road, Bombay 400007

With compliments from

B. B. GARDA & SONS

10 B. J. Road

Poona 411001

D. DAMODAR MITHAIWALA

Excellence in
Sweets
Since 1937

Only at:

Harganga Mahal
Khodadad Circle
Dadar TT, Bombay 400014

"SWEET" TALK ON
4144226, 4143980

MATRIMONIAL

Correspondence invited by
parents of tall, fair and
handsome doctor son
(innocent divorcee within
short period) well-settled
in a big city of Gujarat with
own accommodation and
earning extremely well,
aged 28 years, 5'8", from
parents of charming, good
looking, domestically
trained girls. Apply with
bio data and recent
photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana

Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/12-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope
bears the reference number cited here

IRANIAN PILGRIMAGE...I
continued from page 64b

III and the respect with which the last
king is held by Zoroastrians of Iran.

He mentioned that the number of Zoroastrians in Ardakan has become so low (now only 1,500) that it was difficult to collect funds for the maintenance of the dokhmas, shrines and religious places. At a recent Zoroastrian festival, when the hat was passed around, only three lakh rials (approximately Rs 6,000) were collected. They had hoped to collect enough to buy a generator for the agiary since electricity supply was sometimes very erratic. In the past, he said, Ardakan had a sizable Zoroastrian population and collection of funds for community work was not a problem.

The Zoroastrians in Ardakan have no quarrel with the Muslims. But he alleged that in recent years, there had been problems with the Bahais and followers of Meher Baba. In 1992 some members of the latter had taken over the Pir-E-Sabz shrine but the true Zoroastrians regained control of the shrine by taking legal action, he noted. Christianity, Judaism and Zoroastrianism are religions "tolerated"

With best compliments from

Nationwide Shipping Services

(A division of Transnational Supply and Service)

Cityice Bldg
298 P. Nariman Street
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel Nos: 2663186, 2661187 Fax: 2664117

WEATHERMATIC AGENCIES

Airconditioning Engineers

Estd 1969

Repairs, Sales &
Rentals of a wide range of A/Cs
Contractors to
Multinationals, 5-Star Hotels, Govt. Corps.
& Discerning Clientele

Service is our Credo
Customer confidence and
respect our goodwill

Shankar Building
Road No 5, Shivaji Park, Bombay 400016
Tel: 461456, 458422, 463029
Fax: 91-22-463025

Factory:
Gala No 6, Building No 2, Prakash Industrial Estate
Survey No 767/2, Somnath Road
Village Debhel, Daman, U.T. 396210

Proposed flats at Vasai

Parsi Trust proposes flats, with Agiari, at Vasai (E), six kilometers on main road from railway station, on L/L, as well as ownership basis. Regular public bus service available, Parsi Hospital, abundant shopping, English medium schools and colleges, admission easily available, scenic site, clean and green environment. Preference for houseless and those awaiting marriage. Giving full particulars of family, accommodation, employment, total income, maximum capacity to pay L/L fees and deposit, or ownership amount apply to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana (Accommodation)
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for very fair, beautiful, Parsi girl, honours graduate, B.Ed, teacher, 25/168. Write with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/7-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here.

by the Islamic authorities. All other religions and sects are officially banned. In the recent elections in Iran (May - June 1993) a number of seats were reserved for Zoroastrians. But Bahais, posing as Zoroastrians to the authorities, managed to grab some seats. Since many Zoroastrians in Iran do not wear a sudreh-kusti (although Rostam Baliwani and his family do) it becomes difficult for the authorities to determine whether one is a genuine Zoroastrian or otherwise.

Intercommunal marriages with Muslims is also leading to a decline in numbers since the Zoroastrian girl or boy is forced to convert to Islam before the marriage ceremony can take place. When I inquired of Rostam Baliwani as to whether he believed the Kurdish Yazidis in Iran and elsewhere were Zoroastrians, he replied diplomatically that he was not sure, but the Yazidis certainly had a lot of respect for Zoroaster ("Zaradhusht") and considered Him a prophet of God (Yazdan).

Later he guided me to the agiary at Ardakan where I did kusti and prayed for a while. The agiary was well maintained and seemed to be visited regularly by Zoroastrians. Even while I was there a few of them were praying from books written

in Persian. Inside the agiary I met one Sheriar who spoke to me, surprisingly, in Gujarati. It seems he had spent 40 years in India working in an agiary at Poona and in an atash behram at Dhobi Talao. Sheriar was overcome with emotion and told me that it was good that I had paid a visit to the *madar vattan* (motherland). He was forever hoping, he told me, that more Parsis from India would visit Ardakan and Iran just as the Muslims go to Mecca for pilgrimage.

The dokhmas of Ardakan

There are two dokhmas about three kilometers outside the town of Ardakan, practically in the desert. They are made of stones plastered over with clay and straw. One is older than the other. Close to the dokhma is the recently created town garbage dump where refuse is being deposited and burnt.

The outer walls of the first dokhma had graffiti written all over with red paint from an aerosol can which reminded one of the New York subway. The obscene writings and drawings included the Nazi swastikas and names of two American heavy metal rock bands which are notorious for sexually explicit and ungodly lyrics in their songs.

THE ZOROASTRIAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LTD

Estd: 1927

HEAD OFFICE: Zoroastrian Association Bldg, 16, Horniman Circle, Fort, Bombay 400023

BRANCH OFFICE: Gamadia Colony, Tardeo, Bombay 400007

- * Certified 'A' Class Bank under Audit classification.
- * Membership and Banking facilities of all types open to all communities.
- * Deposits accepted from individuals, firms, companies, Charitable Trusts, Housing Societies, etc at attractive rates of interest.
- * Loans, Overdrafts, Cash Credit and all types of advances are granted on competitive terms and conditions
- * Prompt and courteous service assured.

Please call on us for further particulars or contact on phone number

Head Office: 2665617 * 2665937

Tardeo Branch: 4927173

WE ARE BIG ON TRUST

CONCERN IS LOOKING FOR YOU

CONCERN INDIA FOUNDATION,

a registered Indian Public Trust
require immediately

TWO SELF-MOTIVATED SALES EXECUTIVES.

We are a group of professionals engaged in working for the underprivileged. If you are looking for a career opportunity that combines Corporate Marketing skills with grassroots level development work you will enjoy working for Concern.

Prior experience not a pre-requisite. Applicants with Sales/Marketing backgrounds will be given preference. Vacancies are for both full-time and part-time slots.

Please contact

Naheed Carrimjee

Monday/Friday 9.30 — 5.30 pm on 2852270

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for an educated, intelligent Zoroastrian girl, 41 years old, medium height, good-looking, green-card holder, settled working in USA. Man should be 45-50 years, professionally qualified Zoroastrian, preferably settled in USA. Please reply with full bio data and recent photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here

MATRIMONIAL

Correspondence invited for a 26-year-old, 5'3", slim and attractive girl, only child of well-to-do parents, Master of Commerce (Bombay), MBA (USA), presently working in the USA. Parents of educated boys from good family, settled in the USA or Canada, may please apply to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/10-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here

The place was completely deserted with no creature in sight. I was told that the dokhmas were not in use since the last 16 years. But on entering, after performing kustī, I was horrified to see skeletons lying helter skelter and pieces of human bones strewn all over. The central pit had some more skeletons including skulls and refuse. Perhaps the dokhma was used at a more recent time since I observed a skeleton of a large hand with some of the dried skin and long white nails still attached to it! It was obvious that the powerful rays of the sun, which at Ardakan shines almost all year round, took care of the bodies. There were no birds or animals in the vicinity and no odor whatsoever was detected even inside the dokhma.

Could it be possible that some devout Zoroastrians of Ardakan still insisted on a dokhma disposal as a last wish, even though the towers have long since ceased to function as such? Could not the Zoroastrians of Ardakan take better care of their dokhmas even if they are not being used? They could at least bury the remains from recent funerals some place else. If not, could not the central pit be kept clean? Could they not seal the narrow entrances since the towers are not

supposed to be in use or keep a watchman?

Near the two dokhmas is the bungli used for religious ceremonies before consignment of the body to the towers.

I came away somewhat shocked and sad at the state of affairs at the dokhmas. Is this what one can expect to happen to the towers of silence in Bombay at some time in the next 100 years when our community is greatly reduced in number as compared to the past?

Perhaps it is time the Bombay Zoroastrians give some thought to the future, and look at alternative methods of disposal of the mortal remains of departed souls. The dokhma system works speedily and efficiently and is ecologically sound only if there are a good number of carnivorous birds (vultures) to carry out the disposal. If not, other methods, should be considered. While we are still economically strong and many in number we must make provisions for the time when our population in Bombay may dip below 5,000, like it is today in Yazd or Ardakan. If there are not sufficient bodies consigned to the dokhmas, the birds will depart and look for sustenance elsewhere. The bodies may decompose rapidly under the powerful rays of the tropi-

In Service of the Suffering

MAZDA MEDICAL ELECTRONICS BURJIS N. KHURSEDJI & CO

104 Amit Industrial Estate, 61 Dr S. S. Rao Road
Parel, Bombay 400012

Tel: 4135468 Tlx: 11 71233 MAZD IN Fax: 91 22 4130148

FUNTOUR

Group tours and individual packages with India's largest tour organisers

S.E. ASIA TURKEY USA
AUSTRALIA MAURITIUS
EGYPT MALAYSIA KENYA
EUROPE & UK MALDIVES
COLOMBO GREECE

24 CARAT INDIAN HOLIDAYS

Group tours & holiday packages in India, Bhutan & Nepal.



Honeymoon packages to make your memories last forever

Special Representatives in India

EURAIL

Unlimited rail travel across 17 countries in Europe. Economical. Convenient. Comfortable. Choose from a variety of passes available. Bonus: Free/discounted fares on ferries, steamers and buses.



Offers unlimited rail, boat, bus and tram travel in Switzerland.

GREYHOUND

Unlimited coach travel in USA and Canada

NOW AGENTS FOR

cosmos

Only TCI offers you a wide variety of value packed vacations in Europe & UK at bargain prices from Cosmos of UK.

EuroDisney

Now you need not go all the way to USA to discover the thrilling world of Walt Disney.

OVER 100 TRAVEL OPTIONS JUST ONE CHOICE



Travel Corporation (India) Ltd.,
Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Bombay-400 021. Tel: 2021881/2027120
Fax: 2029424. Chembur: Tel: 5529634/5. Pune: Tel: 668872/666951.
Fax: 642460. Ahmedabad: Tel: 407424/408164. Fax: 427549. Baroda:
Tel: 336476/321801. Fax: 321742. Or any of our 27 offices in India.

Subject to RBI/FTS/NTS rules & regulations

ADVERTS

With Compliments From

KARTIK SILK MILLS

Mfrs:

Suitings, Shirts and Dress Materials

Mill:

Gandevi Road, Bhandup (W)

Bombay 400078

Ph No: 5649369 : 5641748 : 5647047

Head Office:

Nagindas Chambers, 2nd Fl

(Hotel Sealord Bldg), 167, P. D'Mello Road

Carmac Bunder, Bombay 400001

Ph No: 2612634

Godown:

Krishna Bldg, 479, Chira Bazar

Girgaum Road, Bombay 400002

Ph No: 2052781

Residence:

24/4, Nav Alka, A. G. Road

Worli, Bombay 400018

Ph No: 4937717 : 4939253

cal sun. But what would happen on cloudy days during monsoons? I, like many of us, hope to see a resurgence in the community, but what if this resurgence does not take place? It is now high time our community leaders think and act. Later could be too late.

Life in Yazd

Yazd is one of the major cities of Iran and, after Tehran, the city where a large number of Zoroastrians live. The total population of Yazd is 61,000 households according to the latest census, of which only 1,500 households are Zoroastrian. Hence the Zoroastrian population of Yazd could not be more than 4,500-5,000. I had hoped to stay for two nights in Yazd but the Inquilab Hotel did not honor my booking and I had to leave after one night. I went to the atash behram at 11.45 a.m. but it was closed, a notice said open from 7.30-11.00 a.m. and 2.30-4.30 p.m. This was very disappointing. There were sports facilities for Zoroastrians run by the Anjuman of Yazd close to the atash behram. Also nearby I saw the clock tower built in memory of Peshotan Marker.

I was told that when a student wishes

to apply for a scholarship to go abroad he/she has to undergo not only an examination to show competence in the selected subject, but also a religious examination. During the latter examination, the Islamic examiners ask questions such as "Do you believe in God?" etc. They also inquire with one's colleagues if the candidate has made any untoward criticism of the government or individual mullahs. In the case of Zoroastrian or Jewish candidates they often reject the application, but no reason is officially given. Permission to travel abroad for other purposes was also restricted to non-Muslims in the same manner by the authorities' refusal to provide an exit visa.

About 10 km outside Yazd, raised on a hill about half a kilometer from the road to Ardakan, is located a dokhma. But it is in disuse and is relatively inaccessible and hence well preserved and undisturbed.

Pressed for time because of my official work, I could not stay longer in Yazd and continued my travel by car towards Shiraz through picturesque scenery of snowcapped mountains and poplar trees. (The concluding instalment will appear in *Parsiana*, April 1994.)

With Compliments From

JEENA & COMPANY

IATA approved

Air Cargo, Clearing, Forwarding & Warehousing Agents

10, Veer Nariman Road, Fort, Bombay 400001

Cable: "JUSTITIA" Phone: 2042032 Telex: 82313, 83495 Fax: (22) 2026853

Airport Office

Unit 132, Adarsh Industrial Estate

Sahar Road, Andheri (East), Bombay 400099

Cable: AIRJENA Phone: 8324279 Telex: 79234 Fax: (22) 8341024

Branches

New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore
Pune, Tirupur, Cochin & Hyderabad

With Best Compliments Of

GREAT WESTERN STORES

The Famous Landmark

AND

F. D. MEHTA & COMPANY

(Estd 1916)

Standard Buildings
336/346, Dr Dadabhai Naoroji Road
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel No: 2046941

POONAWALAS

Pioneer Processors

Three generations of the Poonawala family have strived to perfect the art of engraving and processing for the printing industry

Homi Rogers

Making a good first impression, then ensuring that the last is as good as the first, is a difficult task. But the Poonawalas have mastered and perfected the art over the past 60 years and converted it into a successful family business. In the last fortnight of December 1993, when the firm founded by Framroz Poonawala was on the threshold of its diamond jubilee, grandson Fred was winging away to Dubai to garner even more business — internationally — for the company.

The 'impressions' that the Poonawalas have been involved in have to do with finely-etched blocks which, like people cast in the right mold, possess sharp characteristics and clean faces that account for clear impressions. The Poonawalas were amongst the first block-makers in the country, the pioneering and ace Parsi family in this demanding line of enterprise.

Over the years, with the advancement of technology, blocks have been replaced by offset lithography. Keeping abreast of technology, the three generations of Poonawalas have progressed from a block-making concern to a full-fledged pre-print unit specializing in making positives (photographic films of the original) for printing. It ranks amongst the best in the country. The fundamental copper and zinc blocks have given way to scanners and hi-tech computerized equipment for graphic reproductions which can, with visual wizardry on a color monitor, convert a car into a limousine whilst printing. All in the name of, as a laconic and under-played com-

pany advertisement informs us, "Commercial Art:" a befitting label conceived by Framroz Poonawala for his enterprise when he started it 60 years ago.

The beginning was strangely ordained. Framroz Rustomji Poonawala, an assistant accountant in a shop in Aden, returned to India to accept a position as production executive in the advertising department of the Dunlop Tyre Company. He had to check the quality of blocks issued to the press. He had no formal education or specialized training, but his tenacity and enterprise saw him through. He learnt fast on the job, aided by the few back issues of Hunter Penrose Annuals which he perused, and a British boss who preferred to spend more time in clubs than in his cabin. "This left my father to deal with the suppliers directly, and more often than not, tell them what to do to improve the quality of their blocks," recalls his son Burjor. At the end of a three-year stint Framroz felt confident enough to strike out on his own. He set up his own block-making unit, Commercial Art Engravers (CAE) Pvt Ltd, in 1933-34.

"There was little plate-making activity in India then," states Burjor who, with his brothers Dadi and Cyrus, now manages the family business. As only minimal advertising was done in India in those days, there was not much demand for blocks from local companies. Also, most of the raw material for block-making and the blocks themselves came from abroad. The elder Poonawala was soon to realize that it is one thing to know one's onions, and another to be peeling them. Prevalent eco-

nomie policies apart, one's own enterprise requires a fair amount of derring-do. "Hard-working though he was, my father was not daring," says Burjor, but pays tribute to his mother Alamai, who was bold and forthright, and encouraged his father to keep the business going. "How I mind the house is my business; you mind your own," she said encouragingly, spurring Framroz to continue his nascent venture.

Within barely five years of its inception, matters took a dramatic turn at CAE. For the better. The Second World War broke out. Imports of raw materials from England ceased, and as all plate-making activities for advertising had to be undertaken indigenously, business boomed. "By the end of the War, we had 60 people in our employment, from just four to start with," reminisces Burjor who could claim an osmotic relationship with CAE, having been born around the same time as his father's enterprise.

But suddenly ill winds blew over the Poonawalas. The British Government requisitioned the 4,000 sq ft office space of CAE at Ballard Estate for their war effort. The Poonawalas were out on the streets within just 15 days. The search for alternative premises ended atop the Tutorial High School building at Nana Chowk. Till 1970, when the color section shifted to its present office in Prabhadevi in central Bombay, CAE continued to produce quality black-and-white and color blocks. One of its first major works, incidentally, was for an art book written by Karl Khandalavala (profiled in

"Khandalavala's art and acumen," *Parsiana*, June 1993), which had to reflect the vibrancy of the paintings of Amrita Sher-Gil, a Khandalavala 'find.' The monochrome and color engravings processed by Framroz for this book were of the highest grade, and the work was the harbinger of many more art books. It won plaudits from art historians and scholars from all over the world.

"John Kenneth Galbraith, American

Ambassador to India, practically fell in love with us and our work," recalls Burjor proudly, leafing through a pile of old correspondence neatly maintained by elder brother Dadi, which documents the many letters of appreciation received by them. Galbraith put CAE onto leading scholars and publishing houses in America, like Cary Welch of the Fogg Art Museum. And CAE continued to win laurels from many art connoisseurs like Douglas

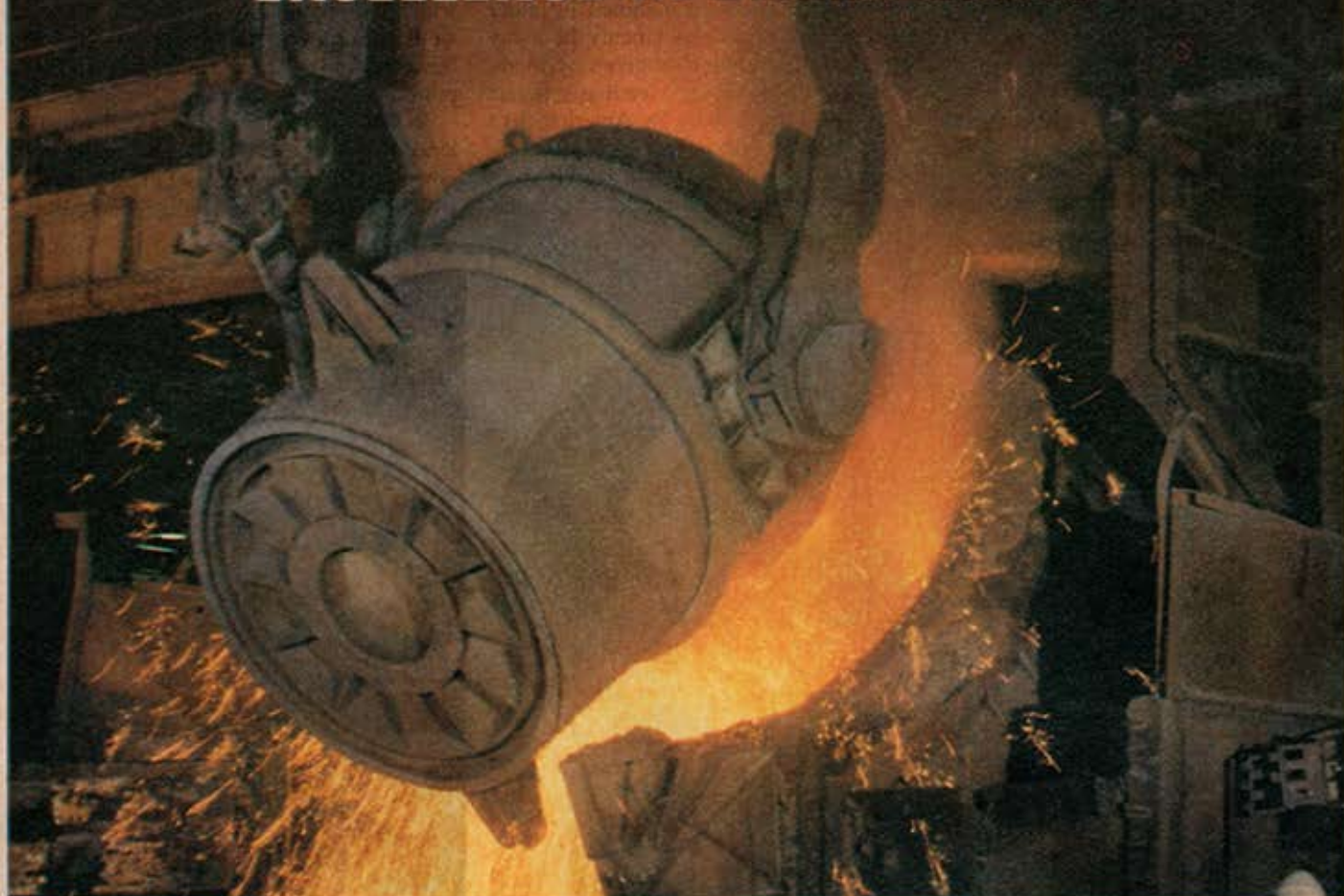
Barrett and Robert Skelton. Harry Adams, a US publisher of the finest art books, praised the quality of their plates which, "if anything, is superior to that of similar European publications." Says a beaming Burjor, "Such fine reviews do us proud."

It was the relentless pursuit of excellence that led CAE to introduce many innovations in the business, a fair amount of which were developed indigenously due



Left: The Poonawalas
(Above) Framroz and Alama
(Below, from left) Dadi, Cyrus and Burjor
Right: Keeping pace with technology
An old advertisement (above)
in contrast with hi-tech computerized
equipment in use (below)

EXCELLENCE IN ENGINEERING



Today, Dasturco is a name synonymous with steel plant expertise — worldwide. From concept to completion — over 200 projects successfully engineered to date.

Prestigious projects being handled by Dasturco include Misurata Iron and Steel Complex in Libya; Al Zara Steel Project in Syria.

Visakhapatnam Steel Plant — India's first coast-based integrated plant. Alloy Steels Plant, Durgapur, Special Steels Plant, Salem. Tata Steel and Rourkela Steel Plant modernisation. Sunflag Iron and Steel Plant — India's first composite DR-EAF plant.



M. N. DASTUR & COMPANY LIMITED

Calcutta : Tel : (033) 265420, 270500. Fax : (033) 261422.

DASTUR ENGINEERING INTERNATIONAL GmbH

Düsseldorf : Tel : (0211) 350106-8. Fax : (0211) 363913.

New York : Tel : (212) 557-0998/9. Fax : (0212) 599-6923.

Tokyo : Tel : (03) 3545-3621. Fax : (03) 3545-3681.

CONSULTING ENGINEERS

"It has been our philosophy to continuously update and invest in the latest machinery"

to import restrictions. In 1960, when Burjor returned to India, armed with a first class diploma of the City and Guilds Institute of London as well as the London College of Printing and Graphic Arts, and hands-on training in Germany, the company switched to film, as against the wet plate process that was being used for creating images.

In 1968, the first electronic engraving machine manufactured by Dr Hell, a forerunner of the scanner, was installed. "We paid seven lakh rupees for it, at a time when an apartment in El Cid (a prestigious building in Bombay's Malabar Hill area) cost Rs 1.25 lakhs." A further Rs 15 lakhs were expended in 1973 to update all equipment by importing modern technology. In between, in 1971, Framroz floated Comart Lithographers Pvt Ltd, a company bearing the first three letters of the parent company's name, to especially cater to the requirements of offset presses which were fast becoming the order of the day, squeezing out the earlier letter press units. "It has been our philosophy to continuously update and invest in the latest machinery," asserts Burjor, wondering with a laugh whether an investment in El Cid would have been a better proposition! "But then," as he spells out the company's policy, "we do not expand and modernize to earn more money," but to ensure the best quality possible.

Unfortunately, Framroz was not around to witness this big leap forward. An astrologer had forewarned him that 1973 would be a fateful year for him. Having survived through the better part of it, and having opened a letter of credit for the import of equipment, Framroz went to thank Iran Shah for sparing his life. But death, caught up with him as predicted, and he succumbed to a massive heart attack at Udva on the night of December 26, 1973. Twenty years later, the family still recall the incident with pain.

It's not just the memories of the founder-patriarch that linger on: The Poonawalas still have in working condition block-making machines over 100 years old, which Framroz had purchased second-hand when he set up the business. "Since block-making has become practi-

cally obsolete now, they are not much used," Burjor informs us. More importantly, what still remains is the old Parsi ethos, reflected in the Poonawalas' corporate philosophy: "We try to run a straight, clean business, upholding the finest traditions."



Sanj Vartman (Annual) of 1936 carried this advertisement featuring two-year-old Burjor Poonawala

If, however, there is a change it is in the brothers' experience with employing Parsi youth. Framroz, a product of the Surat Orphanage, used to write to his alma mater to send down to him young Zoroastrian lads. But, "our youths today are work shirkers," states Burjor. "They have no loyalty to the company, and indulge in trade union activities," he adds. Such activity is apparently anathema to the Poonawalas, who claim "fairly harmonious relationships with workers" today. They cannot forget the prolonged strike of 10 months in 1982 which practically put them out of business and caused

Burjor to undergo severe physical and mental stress, resulting in a heart attack and subsequent bypass surgery.

Burjor is prepared to cite innumerable examples when Parsis who were offered jobs, let him down. Of two recruits recently, appointed by him at the instance of a persevering well-wisher, one did not join after learning of the number of holidays; and the second left after three weeks. "He found the work too hard." Yet another Parsi youth, frets Poonawala, returned within 100 hours from a foreign assignment, complaining of homesickness. "They don't want to dirty their hands," says a visibly-disturbed Burjor who continues to practise the German philosophy of work which he picked up during his training there. "No one can work with his hands in his pockets. But if a Parsi youth is prepared to work hard and learn this business, I would be happy to teach him, if he came forward and said so," avers Poonawala who attributes the family success to "hard work and sacrifice."

Yet another reason for this success story could be the rare togetherness of the family. Brothers Dadi and Cyrus — both diploma holders in printing technology from London — look after the administrative side of the company. Dadi's son Fred handles the sales. Burjor, his hands ever busy, is the technical supremo. His two children, Khurshed and Shernaz and nephew Neville (Cyrus' son) look after the electronic scanning systems. Every vital function is handled by a family member at its helm. Yet the "fairly God-fearing" Burjor, who visits the fire-temple every morning, points out, "It is the Almighty who controls our successes and failures, our joys and sorrows."

The Poonawalas have experienced a fair amount of life's vicissitudes, like the light and shades of the photographic film. The Rs 4,000 Alamai gave her husband by pawning her jewelry have 'reproduced' an 'impression' a thousand times over, with a sparkle that illumines the company's diamond jubilee as it turns 60. Today, with its six and a half crore turnover, CAE ranks as one of the most reputed processing companies in the country, respected by leading publications, presses and art directors, and honored nationally and internationally for its jobs.

With the scope "almost limitless," to quote Burjor, as satellite transmissions will make image processing possible even on telephone lines, the Poonawalas see an impressive future ahead.

WITH THE BEST COMPLIMENTS OF

GHARDA CHEMICALS LIMITED



A MARK OF QUALITY, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

RESEARCH-BASED PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY GHARDA

PESTICIDE INTERMEDIATES:

Cypermethric Acid
Cypermethric Acid Chloride
Ortho Phenylene Diamine

VETERINARY BULK DRUGS:

Oxyclozanide & Rafoxanide

PESTICIDES/ AGROCHEMICALS:

Cypermethrin (Pyrethroid Insecticide)
Alphamethrin (Pyrethroid Insecticide)
Temephos (Public Health Insecticide)
Isoproturon (Wheat Herbicide)
Anilofos (Rice Herbicide)
Mepiquat Chloride (Plant Growth Regulator)

A RESEARCH-BASED COMPANY IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY
GHARDA CHEMICALS LTD.

Regd. Office: 48 Hill Road, Bandra (W), Bombay 400 050 Tel: 6422173, 6422230, 6426852 Tlx: 011-71658 GCPL IN

Fax: 91-22- 6404224 Gram: GHARDACHEM

Factory: MIDC Ind. Estate, Plot No. B-29, Dombivli, Dist. Thane Tel: 0251-465216-20 Tlx: 0135-208 GCPL IN

Factory: D1/2 MIDC Lote Parshuram, Tal. Khed, Pin 415 728, Dist. Ratnagiri Tel: (02356) 72018, 72252, 72254 (Lote), Tlx: 0190-7207 GCL IN

Dinshah Sanjana: All that jazz

Gustasp Irani

Dinshah Sanjana and band Divya have been performing at international jazz festivals

As we listen to the music of Dinshah Sanjana's jazz band Divya we are intrigued by its complexities: it's Indian and Western, it's modern and traditional, it's intense and laid-back, it's vocal without words, it's electronic and more. Call it fusion if you will, but it's distinctly different and it's Sanjana's musical statement to the world. In a way it reflects its 37-year-old creator's life-style.

From childhood Sanjana pursued music with an uncompromising passion and commitment that kept him in step with a rhythm that was often out of sync with conventional living.

Relatives, friends and acquaintances expected him to become a doctor like his father Minoo F. Sanjana. But by the age of 14 he had decided otherwise. "I asked my dad, 'Do you want me to be a good musician or a bad doctor?' He looked at me for a moment and answered, 'A good musician,'" Sanjana recalls the fateful day that sent the lives of father and son into a tailspin.

"People started to ostracize us. Friends stopped coming over or inviting me to their place as their parents thought that I was a corrupting influence on their children. Patients even stopped coming to my father for treatment. We were treated like lepers. Even today, I meet people who ask, 'What do you do?' I answer, 'I'm a musician,' and they react as though I have said a bad word." Sanjana briefly relives the rejection and is visibly moved. But now he is not unduly disturbed by this social paradox where it is chic to appreciate music and go 'tut, tut' at musicians.

As a younger man, however, Sanjana withdrew into a shell and pursued his music with an even fiercer commitment. The piano was his mode of expression

but he also learnt how to play the guitar and the tabla. Each day he put in long hours of practice, perfecting his skill. "I started playing the piano when I was five and played classical music. In my teens I was into rock music and grew up with the Beatles and the Rolling Stones. Rock



is easy listening, music that communicates with words. Jazz is different. You don't need words. Musicians communicate as they play, literally talk to each other. It's fascinating," says Sanjana as he traces his changing tastes in music till he discovered his niche in jazz.

He is not particularly religious in a conventional sort of way, but you realize that there is almost a spiritual dedication to music. "It's a full-time commitment. Your instrument is your altar. You have to pray long hours every day and only then will God say, 'I will be with you.'"

And the god of music hears Sanjana's prayers. Today he is probably one of India's best known and most talented of jazz exponents and composers. In 1978 he started his first jazz band, Holy Smoke. A series of other bands followed:

Tryst in 1980, the Ji-Whiz band in 1983 with whom he recorded an album in Holland, Ultimatum in 1985, and finally Divya in 1987 with whom he recorded two albums, *Madras Cafe* and *In a Manner of Speaking*. Success came to Divya almost immediately when it was selected as one of the 10 finalists at the ninth Belgian International Jazz Concert of 1987 and won an award in the contest. From here on, the world was their stage and they performed at a number of international jazz festivals in Holland, Poland, Hungary, Denmark, Sweden, USSR, Hong Kong, USA, Japan, Malaysia and of course India.

Sanjana particularly remembers Divya's first performance on US soil at the Fifth John Coltrane Festival, Los Angeles, in 1991. Eighty percent of the audience consisted of jazz musicians and the atmosphere was emotionally charged. "Miles Davis (one of jazz's greatest sons) had died the previous day and every group was playing for him. We were on stage and had just started our first song and... the sound system quit. We froze." Al Jarreau, an immensely popular jazz player, jumped onto the stage and pulled off what Sanjana considers to be one of the finest rescue acts. For 20 minutes he entertained the audience and ad-libbed with the members of Divya till the sound system was set right and the show was on again. "What Al Jarreau did that night was what jazz is all about: communication and ad-libbing," says Sanjana with profound admiration.

Jazz, Sanjana explains, is different things to different people. "It's street music. It's hep and cool. It's ad-libbing. It's playing the moment. It's much more cerebral than rock. It's not music for the masses, you have to understand it to re-

The Divya jazz group
(from left): drummer Sanjay
Maroo, vocalist Sandhya
Sanjana, electric bassist
Jaykanth Srinivasan,
Dinshah Sanjana,
guitarist D. Wood and
saxophonist Carl Clements



ally appreciate it," says Sanjana. And yet it has popular appeal. Sanjana recalls the time Divya performed at a concert for street kids at Colaba Woods (he lives opposite them) and his composition *Electric Lungi* went down particularly well with the audience. "After that the street kids would see me on the road and hum *Electric Lungi* back to me," he says.

And probably the oldest form of jazz is Indian classical music, according to Sanjana. "Puritans and traditionalists may object but both forms of music have a lot in common. Both are about communication, ad-libbing and playing the moment," says Sanjana. In fact, a distinguishing feature of Sanjana's music is that it has undertones of Indian classical music; and the lead 'instrument' of Divya is the voice of Sanjana's wife Sandhya who is a keen student and exponent of North Indian classical music.

And the bond between husband and wife is special. "Sandhya moved into my home the very first day we met 20 years ago, and has not left it since," says Sanjana. Providence, in the form of a thunderstorm, played its part on that fateful day. The play *Jesus Christ Superstar*, in which Sandhya played a part had got over and she found herself stranded in South Bombay, unable to reach her home in the suburbs. So along with a friend who knew Sanjana well she turned up at his house for shelter... and has stayed on with him ever since.

The musical talent of the Sanjanas is inherited by their two children Ambika,

Il, and Jeto, nine. Sanjana believes they have exceptional skills that far exceed his own. "And I don't say this as a proud father," he clarifies. The older girl plays Western classics on the piano and the son plays a mean set of drums and a whole range of instruments. Sanjana hints at the possibility of them exploding on MTV in a sensational manner.

Of course Sanjana does not expect his own brand of music to feature on MTV. "The problem is that jazz is not music for the masses. It's intellectual and does not have a large audience. This is also true abroad," he explains. Jazz musicians cannot expect to live by their music alone and have to moonlight to make ends meet. Check out the musicians behind rock stars prancing about in the limelight, and you will probably recognize a number of jazz musicians. "These guys are professionals. They are the ones who add class and gloss to rock music," says Sanjana.

Similarly in India, Sanjana has worked with a number of local rock stars by providing them with backup accompaniment and helping them smooth out the lumps in their compositions and arrangements. His more serious commercial enterprise is composing and recording advertisement jingles at his personal recording studio which is reportedly one of the best in the country and housed in a soundproof room at his residence. Vimal and MRF are only two of the endless list of companies that have featured over 2,000 jingles that he has

composed and recorded.

He plays for us the one he recorded the night before for a Dubai based tea company. The rich orchestration is laced with a distinct flavor of the Arabian deserts. Listening to it we could almost visualize the moving sands of endlessly rolling dunes.

The individual strains of instruments that blend together to make up an orchestra have been simulated through computer-aided synthesizers and electronic equipment, he explains. We are treated to a demonstration of the process by which the drums and percussion instruments, the piano and the violin, etc are woven in turn into a tapestry of harmony. "Beethoven and Bach would have killed for equipment like this," Sanjana observes as his fingers dance over the keyboards with ease. Indeed, his recording studio is an extension of jazz into his personal life; the assimilation and synthesizing of different experiences.

One of Sanjana's greatest influences has been his late father Minoo. "He was the jazz musician of medicine. He studied and practised homeopathy, allopathy and ayurvedic medicine and mixed all the disciplines in his profession. He was my hero. His advice to me was that if you don't give what you do all you've got, it's not worth doing at all," says Sanjana. He certainly gave jazz his best shot and under that rebel image of flowing locks tied up in a ponytail, there is a dedicated and sensitive musician.

NEW

MOTI SANDAL SOAP



BT/47/244

Made for you.
To pamper your skin
with the goodness of sandal.
To surround you with
the fragrance of sandal.
Moti sandal soap.

Reflects your
true beauty.

A TATA PRODUCT

**EXCLUSIVELY IN
ENVIRONMENTAL POLLUTION CONTROL
FOR OVER 33 YEARS**



**ASSOCIATED INDUSTRIAL CONSULTANTS
(INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED**

1301, RAHEJA CENTRE, NARIMAN POINT, BOMBAY 400021
TEL: 234052, 242076, 243220 FAX: 2040398
TELEX: 011-86841 CABLE: CONTRAPOLL

Family adds flavor

A Cordon Bleu cook teams up with her son-in-law to offer delectable food at Delhi's Basil and Thyme

Bhicoo Manekshaw

The Santusti Complex was the brainchild of Srilata Katre, wife of the then chief of air staff, Air Chief Marshal L. M. Katre, in 1985.

I was asked by her to start a restaurant at the complex. I was even told that all the equipment for the kitchen and the restaurant would be provided; all I had to do was to run the restaurant. My answer was no. I was asked again by the wives of the succeeding chiefs of air force to take on the Eatery (how I hate the word!). Again the answer was no.

Then Asha Suri, the last chief's wife, who augmented the complex with extra shops and laid the whole area out with the help of Mohit Gugal, asked me to start a new restaurant (the old one was broken down to make place for a shop). When I said that I was too old, she asked if my daughter Erna, along with her husband Sunil Chandra (who had resigned from the Flagship of the Oberoi hotel in Delhi about four years ago) would take it on, as the first choice was given to families of air force personnel. So I rang up my son-in-law, asked if they were interested. Yes, came the answer after some thinking, but only if I would help. Well, one cannot say no to a son-in-law, so that is how my love affair with Basil and Thyme started.

Our application went in with other strong contenders, but we got the contract. Not only because of the air force connection, but because we were a powerful team, Sunil



with his 20 years of hotel experience and I with 30 professional years in the field of cookery.

We toyed with several names for the restaurant, till Sunil came up with Basil and Thyme. We thought it more sensible than calling it Plats du Jour which would attract a hundred and one questions from all our patrons. But we had no answer ready when we

were asked who is Mr Basil and who is Mr Thyme! Sunil felt there was a need for a restaurant of this type where a person could sit and eat good continental food in pleasant surroundings without having to pay through the nose. We have maintained the standard because we will not cut on quality.

Quiche Lorraine and Sale and the pâté have not been removed from the a la carte menu since the inception of the restaurant because of their popularity. And, of course, the famous Gateau Zara was created for and dedicated to granddaughter Zara, aged six, who loves chocolates.

We opened on October 26, 1992. We went in with a prayer on our lips and a lighted *divo* — nothing else. Of course the *torans* and chalk patterns were there, and the first dish made on the new stove was *ravo* which sweetened the mouths of all our staff. We had not advertised, but weeklies and magazines that wished to comment on us were not stopped.

Since not many people knew of our new venture, the first week of the restaurant was poorly attended. On October 31, the death anniversary of Indira Gandhi, as I sat listening to Hari Prasad Chaurasia's magnificent flute, I prayed for the restaurant to be a success. At that very moment a leaf fell on my lap — and I knew my prayer had been answered. I went to work after the ceremony was over and that day was a complete sellout; we ran out of everything at the restaurant. After that, we have not looked back. The plats du jour of soup, main course and dessert change every day. And so far, even after a year, we have not repeated a single dish except on request.

What is it like to work for a son-in-law? My husband was not at all keen. My daughter Erna was nervous as both of us have strong personalities and strong views of our own. What Erna and her father evidently forgot is that Sunil had 20 years of dealing with very difficult people, while I've had the experience of working with everyone, from the top brass to the lowliest utility worker, at the West End Hotel in Bangalore, Delhi's India



Basil and Thyme: popular for its food and personal attention. (Above) Manekshaw

WHEN YOU RETIRE, YOUR INCOME NEED NOT.



LET THE BLOOM REMAIN... WITH A STEADY INCOME.

AKSHAYA PENSION YOJANA

Retirement may seem like a very unsure time, especially financially. Akshaya Pension Yojana assures you of a good, steady income, month after month.

By depositing Rs. 100 or in multiples thereof, every month for a period of 5 to 10 years — you get an attractive pension, every month for the rest of your life. You could use it as an additional income for your children's education or other expenses.

What's more, your principal amount remains intact. So don't let retirement unnerve you. Check out details on Akshaya Pension Yojana, from any of our branches.



Bank of Baroda
(A Government of India Undertaking)

Imageads/BOB/91454

Sardar Dastur Schools Trust

runs three renowned schools right from pre-nursery to SSC, imparting high level of education through English medium, with separate hostels for boys and girls, and best mess facilities (veg & non veg). Special concession to deserving Zoroastrian students may be considered. Parents desiring to enrol their wards in the schools' hostels are requested promptly to write or contact:

The President
Sardar Dastur Schools Trust
2 Lt Col Tarapore Road
Poona 411001
for the hostel prospectus

International Centre, Chef Air and Air India.

But ask Sunil what it's like having ma-in-law in tow. If asked this question, he is likely to say, Bhicoo is not working for me, but with me! But he is the boss as the restaurant belongs to him and Erna. He is the kindest and most considerate man I have ever worked with. Even if he does not agree with me, he will put his arguments in such a way that I cannot but see his point of view. He has never shown impatience or curtness as some younger people do to their elders in this day and age — even if at times, I know, I exasperate him! So, what is it like to work for a son-in-law? Very fulfilling and satisfying, because he is like a kind and loving son.

I cannot give away the recipes of Basil and Thyme which have made it famous, as they no longer belong to me but to Basil and Thyme. But I wish to put down on paper, for the readers of *Parsiana* magazine for which I have deep affection, a few dishes prepared at the restaurant.

One last word before I give you the recipes. What has made Basil and Thyme famous is not only the food, but the personal attention of Sunil, Erna, Jay



INDIAN INSTITUTE OF ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT NEW DELHI - 110 030

Phone: 6865084, 6575114 Fax: 657637

ADMISSION NOTICE (Correspondence Course)

POST-GRADUATE PROGRAMME IN ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENT

Duration: Two years. **Eligibility:** Graduate of any discipline
Forms & Prospectus: Available from the Institute's Office on payment of Rs. 15.00 by cash or Rs. 20.00 by M.O./I.P.O. in the name of the Institute.
Last Date: Completed applications must reach the Counsellor, Indian Institute of Ecology & Environment, Paryavaran Complex, Saket Maidangarhi Road, New Delhi-110 030 latest by **31st March 1994.**



III

MATRIMONIAL

Correspondence invited for Parsi lady, 32 years, 5'6" tall, well built, fair, wearing spectacles, from qualified well placed, Parsi/Zoroastrians, businessmen/professionals, up to 38 years, from India and abroad. Please reply with detailed bio data, phone number and full length photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/14-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

*Please make sure the reply envelope bears the reference number cited here.

MATRIMONIAL

Immigrant Parsi parents invite alliance for their 24-year-old daughter, 5'10½" tall, slim, pretty, well-educated, from eligible Parsi doctors, engineers, 6" tall or over, willing to settle in the USA. Please write with photograph and complete personal and professional details to:

The Advertiser, P.O. Box 2246
Time Square Post Office
New York, N.Y. 10108, U.S.A.



1916 to 1994

78 years of
quality and service

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Princess Street, Bombay 400002

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Tilak Brdg, Dadar, Bombay 400014

PARSI DAIRY FARM DAIRYLAND

Nariman Nagar, Talasari 401606

Under the auspices of the MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE and the ALL INDIA SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY (for Scientific and Educational Research)

The one and only

in the world

ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE

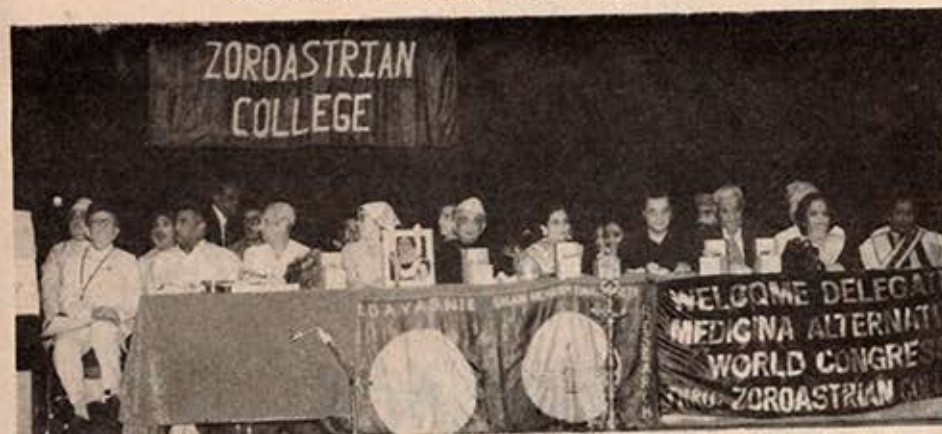
Correspondence address: Mustafa Building, (2nd floor), Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Bombay 400001, India. Tel: 2660214

2662950 after hours: 3644737

Fax: Bombay India 022-2662735-A/c 121

NOWROOZE MUBARAK.

Z.C. CONVOCATIONS-STAFF-STUDENTS-THESIS.



Z.C. CONVOCATION JANUARY 1994 - L TO R

ERVAD NOSHIRWAN KANGA; DR. BEHRAM SHAH PITHAVALA; Rtn. DR. KHUBO GURSAHANI; PROF. DR. ANTON JAYASURIYA; DR. GAMINI OF SINGAPORE; DR. J.M. JUSSAWALLA; DR. MEHER MASTER - MOOS; PADMA SHRI HOMI J.H. TALEYARKHAN; DR. MRS. HARPRAKASH SAHANI; DR. MRS. MALTI SIRSIKAR; JUSTICE DIN SHAH MEHTA; MR. SAHANI; JUSTICE Y.S. DESHPANDE; DR. ALLA OF RUSSIA; DR. MRS. SHYAMALA CHANDRAN; DR. LEO REBELLO.



Ph.D candidates seated on left : Dr. Sharad Nayampally, Prof. Sam Doctor as Proxy for Mr. Jehangir Medora; Prof. Mineo Moritani; Prof. Homai Billimoria as proxy for Dr. Joyce Penn; Dr. Sandeep Sathye; Dr. Sudhir Shah; Mr. Rustom Chothia; and Dr. Mrs. Zarine Turel; Ms. Nawaz Kotwal; Mrs. Hutokshi Kotwal; Dr. Meher Master - Moos; Mrs. Abab Patel; Dr. John Jayasuriya; Dr. Behram Shah Pithavala; Prof. Anton Jayasuriya; Rtn. Dr. Khubo Gursahani; DR. J.M. Jussawalla and others.

Since January 1990, Annual CONVOCATION Ceremonies have been held in Bombay adjacent to the MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA CONGRESS. This month we review the performance of past five years of unusual and original RESEARCH conducted world wide through the facilities provided by the ZOROASTRIAN College, various Departments, for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy, by Research Thesis.

1990: DR. DARA R. HAKIM, Alternative Medicine Dept. Head of

Z.C. was the first medical person in Asia to be awarded the prestigious ALBERT SCHWEITZER AWARD for his unique pioneering work in promoting the method of late Col. DIN SHAH GHADIALI'S SPECTROCHROMETRY (Colour Therapy). Dr. Dara R. Hakim descended from a family of generations of Hakims is an internationally renowned F.R.S.C. qualified medical doctor, the only Parsee doctor who combines allopathy, homeopathy ayurveda & colour therapy, using rare medicinal formulae, preserved as

family secrets. He has a distinguished record, being the first person to introduce microbiology on the College Curriculum in India during the British Raj, and is a Poet and Scholar of the ZOROASTRIAN faith.

DR. ALI IRANI was the first candidate to submit his original Research Thesis for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This was on the subject of SPORTS MEDICINE. Dr. Ali Irani is well known as a specialist in this field, and is appointed by the Government to accompany all the major Indian Sportsmen on local and foreign tours. The Chief Minister of Maharashtra was so impressed by him, that he was given a special O.P.D. at the Nanavati Hospital in Bombay to treat the patients for all kinds of Sports Injuries. Dr. Ali Irani's family resides near Sanjan, the location of the Z.C. Research Centre.

DR. AHMAD ABDALLAH Of Jordan, was the first candidate from abroad to submit his Research Thesis for the Ph.D Degree, through the Inter Faith Peace Dept. He is well connected with the Royal Family of Jordan and with connections in former U.S.S.R. His unique Research Thesis on the subject of "PEACE in the MIDDLE EAST" provided the historical insight and practical solution to the problem of claims for the same territory by Jews, Christians & Muslims all of whom historically have vested interests in the land. His Thesis provided a working solution which eventually resulted in the King of Jordan succeeding in bringing about the Peace Settlement between the Jews & Palestinian Muslims, and the final Peace Accord with Palestinian leader, Arafat, in 1993.

The Chief Guest, Guest of Honour, Guest Speakers at the 1990 Convocation included. Mr. Justice Madhukiran & Mrs. Vimlabehin Kenia, Mr. Justice Sam and Mrs. Varavar of Bombay High Court. Padmashri. Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan, Prof. Dr. Sir. Anton Jayasuriya Chairman O.I.U.C.M. Dr. J.M. Jussawalla, Dr. Meher Master - Moos, Mrs. Aloo Jal Chibber, Mr. Marazban Patrawala, General Administration Department Minister, and others. The Convocation venue was the Taj Mahal Hotel.

1991: Dr. Prof. FRANCIS DESSART of Belgium, of the United Nations Peace University was conferred the Prestigious ALBERT SCHWEITZER AWARD for his outstanding work in promoting PEACE studies in many countries. The award was conferred "in absentia", with the Dy. Consul for Belgium in Bombay accepting the award in his place. Prof. Dessart is a member of the ZOROASTRIAN College INTER FAITH PEACE, DIALOGUE & STUDIES DEPT. & INTERNATIONAL ADVISORY BOARD. He is also actively associated in the several International Educational associations in the European Economic Community, including "ERASMUS Program in Belgium, and the International Association of Educators for World Peace.

Prof. Dessart also submitted an original Research Thesis for the Degree of Doctor of philosophy through the Z.C. on the subject of INTER-CHURCH PEACE DIALOGUE, to bring about "Unity" within the Christian Churches. His outstanding work, resulted in 1993 in the Catholic Cardinal of Milan, CARLO MARIA MARTINI Church History by celebrating High Mass jointly with the Syrian Orthodox Patriarch for the first time in two thousand years. Dr. KAIKHUSHROO D. CHARGEMAN of Bombay, a retired Engineer over 80 years of age, had a life time of experience of coping with Daily Life Health problems. He compiled together his own original experience & Research, and submitted his Thesis entitled HELPFUL HINTS FOR HEALTH IN DAILY LIFE. At this Convocation Ceremony, held at Oberoi Towers Hotel, Bombay, The Chief Guests and Honour included Justice Parekh of Bombay High Court, Minister Arun Gujarati, Prof. Dr. Anton Jayasuriya, Chairman, O.I.U.C.M., Dr. Meher Master - Moos, President Z.C., Dr. Shyamala Chandran, Dr. Mrs. Vijaya Sathe & Dr. Leo Rebello, Dr. Behram Shah Pithavala

1992: The Bombay Medicina Alternativa Congress Venue was at the Soviet Culture House. DR. PURVIZ KOLSAWALLA, President of the Parsees of Sydney NSW, Australia, submitted his unique Research Thesis on the "HOM YAZAD", and simultaneously the first Worldwide Release of his Magnum Opus, on COMPUTER DISC - The Avesta/English & English Avesta Dictionaries based on the work of the late 19th Century Scholar, Kangaji, was released. Dasturji KAIKOBAD PHIROZE DASTUR, High Ervad Kavaji Eduljee Priest of Iran Shah, Udvada, and NOSHIRWAN M. DASTUR, High Priest of Surat, presided for the Release of the Book and Computer Disc, - a truly remarkable achievement in the World of ZOROASTRIAN Religious Scholarship.

ROTARIAN DR. KHUBO GURSAHANI, Vice President of the International Sindhi Association and Past Governor of Rotary District, conducts three free charitable clinics at Haji Malang.

Dr. Gursahani is a devotee of the Sant; and he produced an unusual Thesis entitled **THURSDAY'S DOCTOR SAHAB** about the various ways by which the poor patients living in the Lepers Colony and on the 2,000 steps of the mountain are given treatment every Thursday by him and his group of Doctors.

DR. SHIRISH THAKUR, is a noted Acupuncturist of Bombay. He has established training in Bombay sub-urban Schools for Acupressure and Yoga. He was closely associated with the production of the SUB - SONIC ACUPUNCTURE machine, marketed by Panacea for Pain Relief. He submitted a scientific Thesis on the Principles of Physics involved in the production of the Panacea machine, and the Gateways of Body Pain Relief.

1993: The World Congress Venue was Russian Cultural Centre, with Justice S.Y. Deshpande, Padmashri Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan, and Consul Fyodor Rozovsky as Chief Guests. From Malaysia, **PROF. P. KRISHNAMOORTHY IYER** submitted a massive four volumes Thesis on Astrology entitled **THE PHYSICAL AND MATERIAL IMPLICATIONS CAUSE BY COSMIC VIBRATIONS**. This Thesis is a valuable original work of great use to Astrologers, giving for the first time in English, certain ancient South Indian system of Astrology.

From Australia, the Persian Scholar, **KEYOUMARS FEREDDOON KEYANIAN** submitted a well researched 3 volumes Thesis entitled **ZOROASTRIAN INFLUENCE AND CULTURAL SPREAD IN SURROUNDING REGIONS OF IRAN**. This contains much original material on ZOROASTRIAN customs in Iran, ZOROASTRIAN Religious places of archeological interest and a compilation of famous ZOROASTRIAN personalities and Biographical details of Zoroastrains residing in various countries of the World. This is a most useful original Thesis.

1994: THE WORLD CONGRESS VENUE was the Russian Cultural Centre with Consul General Gleb Ivanshensov, Consul Fyodor Rozovsky, Minister Ram Rao Adik, Minister Marazban Patrawala, Padmashri Homi J.H. Taleyarkhan, Justice Y.S. Deshpande, Justice Dinshah Mehta and others as Chief Guests, 3 candidates from abroad and 3 from India submitted original Research Thesis of exceptional quality.

Dr. JEHANGIR R. MEDORA, of Canada through the Inter-Faith Peace Department, submitted a fascinating Thesis entitled **THE HOLY CROSS**, giving the History of the Iranian Sassanian Dynasty King Khosrau and the Byzantine Emperor and the manner in which the Cross

was brought to Iran and returned to the Church.

Dr. PROF. MINEO MORITANI, Professor of English literature at the University of Kobe, Japan submitted a splendid Thesis of over 30 years Research entitled **A THEORETICAL STUDY OF MILTON'S ART - AN INTERPRETATION OF PARADISE LOST ON MAN'S FIRST DISOBEDIENCE**.

Dr. JOYCE PENN of England presented an unique Thesis on **PSYCHOTHERAPY AND NATURAL MEDICINE**, presenting for the first time to the World the method she has evolved for Psychological Therapy termed **CONCEPT RELEASE THERAPY**, using also Acupuncture, Spiritual Healing, Hypnotherapy and Kinesiology, and a combination of other methods.

From India **Dr. SHARAD P. NAYAMPALLY** presented a Thesis on **SURYA NAMASKAR** indicating how valuable this Yoga Exercise is for general promotion of good health.

Dr. SUDHIR O. SHAH, the wellknown Astrologer of Bombay who writes weekly columns in the Bombay Samachar, submitted his original Thesis on **MEDICAL ASTROLOGY** indicating the method by which the would be parents can choose to have a boy or girl baby.

Dr. SANDEEP SUDHAKAR SATHYE wellknown Eye Specialist of Poona, of the Sathye Eye Hospital Inter Disciplinary Eye Research Centre submitted an intensively Researched original Thesis entitled **HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT OF VERNAL KERATOCONJUNCTIVITIS** of great value to Eye Specialists in tropical countries who have to cope with epidemics of this disease.

The work conducted through **ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE**, to encourage original Research Worldwide, has enabled many persons who would not have had the possibility to present their own original work for the Public benefit, to do so, through the format of the Research Thesis, for the Degree of Doctor of Philosophy. This work is for the Universal benefit of humanity.

IF YOU ARE INTERESTED IN SUPPORTING THE WORK OF THE Z.C. DONATIONS, BY CASH OR CHEQUES, IN FAVOUR OF "SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY" MAY BE SENT TO THE MUSTAFA BUILDING ADDRESS. PERSONS INTERESTED IN SUBMITTING THEIR RESEARCH THESIS FOR M. Phil. OR Ph.D. DEGREE MAY ALSO CONTACT THE Z.C. OFFICE AT THE ABOVE ADDRESS.

ADVERTISEMENT

(Sunil's brother who is also a hotelier) and my 11-year-old grandson Rohaan. They have served in person and helped guests feel at home and comfortable; and that is the secret of the success of Basil and Thyme.

BASIL AND THYME PRAWN SOUP (serves 6)

Prawns (500 gms — with heads and shells)

Strong chicken stock (6 cups)

Onions (2 medium — chopped)

Carrot (1 medium — chopped)

Celery (2 sticks — chopped)

Garlic (4 cloves — crushed)

Basil leaves (4 tsp — chopped)

Thyme (4 tsp — chopped) or dried thyme (2 tsp)

Tomatoes (6, blanchd, deseeded and chopped)

Butter (60 gms)

Dash of Tobasco

Dash of oil

Wash prawns well, remove heads and shells and de-vein. Put shells, heads, onions, carrot, celery, garlic, salt and pepper in stock and bring to boil. Lower heat and simmer for 15 minutes. Strain. Cut prawns into small pieces. Heat butter and oil, add prawns and saute for ½ minute.

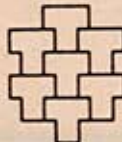
TATA HOUSING

Building magnificent new ideas.

In keeping with the TATA GROUP'S spirit of innovation and its continual pursuit of excellence TATA HOUSING, has evolved a whole new concept in property development.

The company, whose activities comprise the development of real estate, including project identification, design, management & marketing, has successfully completed quality residential & commercial complexes in Bombay & New Delhi, with others in the development stage.

Currently in progress is an office building at Bandra, which in terms of design & specification could legitimately be considered to be the best that can be bought.



Tata Housing Development Co. Ltd.

Eruchshaw Bldg., 249, D.N. Road, Bombay-400 001. Tel: 2616761, 2616154.
27, Kasturba Gandhi Marg, New Delhi-110 001. Tel: 3711651.



Those magnificent men and their cleaning machines!



1923-1994
Seventy-one years of
clean service!

DIANA-ECLIPSE

For all your carpet and upholstery cleaning
☐ "Parag" 27, Peddar Road, Bombay
Tel: 4941987, 4945302

Bring stock to a boil with tomatoes and herbs and seasoning. Add prawns, remove from heat and serve with hot French bread.

CHICKEN SAUTE ALSACIENNE

(serves 4)

Roasting chicken (1 kg)

Oil (1 tbsp)

Butter (60 gms)

White wine (200 ml)

Strong chicken stock (made from giblets, neck, onion, bay leaf, black peppercorns, a piece of carrot and celery — 100 ml)

Cornflour (1 to 2 tsp)

Foie gras (100 gms; I use a good chicken liver pate)

Cream (4-6 tbsp)

Salt (to taste)

Pepper (to taste)

Joint chicken, sprinkle with salt and pepper. Melt butter with oil and when foaming add chicken, skin side down and saute till brown on all sides. Add half the wine and saute till cooked. Remove from frying pan and keep warm.

Add rest of wine and stock in frying pan and bring to a boil. Slack cornflour with a little water and add to liquid. Bring to a boil and strain into a pan. Mash foie gras till smooth or sieve it.

YAZDANI RESTAURANT and BAKERY

FOR REAL BREAD

THE ASTONISH COMMEMORATION MILLION



To be run at 4.00 p.m. on Sunday, 17th April, 1994,
at Mahalakshmi Race Course, Bombay



**TO COMMEMORATE THE HISTORIC ACHIEVEMENT BY ASTONISH
- THE INDIAN CHAMPION, TRIPLE CROWN WINNER -
HAVING WON HIS VERY FIRST RACE AT HONG KONG
THEREBY BRINGING INDIA ON THE INTERNATIONAL RACING MAP**



ASTONISH winning *The Red Room Handicap, Class 1, debut run at Sha Tin, Hong Kong*

"INDIAN IMPORT LIVES UP TO NAME AND 'ASTONISHES' ALL" - S. China Morning Post, HK.

"FOWNES ASTONISHED BY FIRST RUN" - The Standard, Hong Kong.

"ASTONISH ASTONISHES HONG KONG" - The Statesman, Calcutta.

"AN ASTONISHING ACCOMPLISHMENT" - The Metropolis - Independent, Bombay.

"ASTONISH'S ASTONISHING FEAT" - The Times of India, Pune Plus.

"INDIAN HORSE MAKES HISTORY" - The Times of India, Bombay.

Astonish, the first ever Indian Export, opens Export Flood Gates

Poonawalla Stud Farms, Breeders and Exporters of Astonish express their gratitude to all those who have contributed to this historic achievement.



ACCLAIM

◆
From

*A
well-
wisher*

◆

Add to the wine liquid, mix well, add cream. Reheat carefully (do not boil) and spoon over the chicken and serve with roast potatoes cooked the Cordon Bleu way, buttered broccoli and carrots.

PERSIMMON MOUSSE

(serves 6)

Persimmons are one of the most delightful fruits I have come across. Given below is a recipe which retains its delicate flavor. The fruit must be ripe.

Persimmons (1 kg — ripe)

Whipped cream (250 gms)

Sugar (to taste)

Gelatine (2-3 tbsp dissolved in 6 tbsp water, according to the weather)

Lime juice (made from 1 or 2 limes)

Pinch of salt

Cut persimmons in half horizontally and remove stone. Scoop out all the pulp and mash. Fold in cream and sugar to taste adding lime juice (if needed only, to perhaps sharpen the flavor). Add gelatine and stir gently and occasionally till semi-set over ice. Pour into a glass dish or individual glass dishes. Chill till set and serve covered with a thin layer of cream. This recipe is without eggs. The strictest of vegetarians can enjoy it. Bon appetit !

WHETHER AN EXECUTIVE

OR A STUDENT.

SRTCC HAS COURSES FOR BOTH OF YOU.

AND COMPUTERS FOR ALL OF YOU.



Yes, Sir Ratan Tata Computer Centre has more number of computers. It means lots of practicals, more computer time and greater computer competence. This and much more at the most competitive fees.

Being a part of Tata Trusts, SRTCC is not a profit-making business venture but a committed educational institute, with a variety of courses for all of you and yes, computers too.

SIR RATAN
TATA
COMPUTER
CENTRE

PROGRAMMED FOR
A BRIGHTER FUTURE

Sir Ratan Tata Bldg.No.12, Sir Ratan Tata Street, C.J. Colony,
Tardeo, Bombay 400 034. Tel. : 492 8847 - 493 3590.

(3 minutes' walk from the Bombay Central Rly. Stn.)

(A division of ertytoys industrial scheme trust.)

JEHANGIR MEDICAL ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES

**ASSOCIATE COMPANIES
JEHANGIR ENGINEERING ASSOCIATES
JV BIOMEDICS INTERNATIONAL**

PRODUCTS RANGE

- * ELECTROTHERM Portable 250 Watts Shortwave Diathermy unit
- * THERASONIC Portable Ultrasound therapy unit
- * ELECTROMYODYNE muscle stimulator
- * MEGATHERM
- * FARADYNE Faradic stimulator
- * SONOMIST Ultrasound Nebulizer
- * CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION UNIT
- * TRANSCUTANEOUS NEUROANALGESIA (TNS)
- * ELECTRONIC TRACTION FOR CERVICAL & LUMBER
- * TRACTION TABLE FOR ABOVE

Pioneer of manufacturing of Physiotherapy equipment &
Electrosurgical equipments in our factory.

Our Popular latest Jehangir's Solid State Electrosurgical units
MEGATOM-UROATOM-BIPOLAR COAGULATOR
are widely used all over this vast country.

Our MEGATOM is specially used for TCRE & all type of LAPAROSCOPIC Surgeries.

All correspondence to:

92/94, Engineer Bldg, Ardeshir Dadi Street, Khetwadi,
Bombay 400004
Phone: 3888020

Factory: Unit No 308 Bussa Heavy Industrial Estate
Lower Parel, Bombay 400013
Phone: 4930853/4922782

QUICK

"CORE-CHILL"

Freshly
Picked

(even crated!) or Piping-Hot
Cooked
Foods...



...preserve the freshness, flavor, color
and quality of vegetables, fruits & sauces.

Fast, Simple...Reliable. In minutes, Croll-Reynolds' Rotajectors® chill foods right down to the core! A unique vacuum-cooling process quickly flashes off heat while it removes entrapped air and surface moisture from foods. Rotajectors® offer a cost-effective and energy-efficient way to process food products quickly and effectively without sacrificing flavor. And, with no moving parts, you are assured of virtually maintenance-free reliability.

Speeds Up Food Processing. Quick Core-Chilling is so effective, it even works on foods that are already crated and ready to be shipped. Operated by steam, even the same low-pressure steam used for cooking, Rotajectors® cool large volumes of freshly picked foods at field temperature, or piping-hot cooked foods, down to as low as 35°F in minutes.

Cools Without Chemical Refrigerants. Environmentally safe Rotajectors® eliminate the wilting, browning and spoilage that can result from products sitting around for hours in conventional refrigeration systems before they are sufficiently cooled.

NOW! Test Quick Core-Chilling in Your Facility. Find out today about the new Croll-Reynolds' Rotajector® test unit that can be setup in your facility and tested on your food process.

Call or FAX : Mazda Controls Ltd.

Patel Chambers, Near H.K. House, Ashram Road,
Ahmedabad-380 009, India.

Tel : 408967, 408014, 408654 Telex : 0121-6620

Fax : 0272-427394

Designed in USA by :

Manufactured in India by :

CROLL-REYNOLDS



THE LEADER IN VACUUM SYSTEM TECHNOLOGY

YET ANOTHER LANDMARK

continued from page 72

politan. We always go on merit," points out Aga.

A non-partisan and impartial approach is what Aga likes to carry with him to the board meetings of 11 institutes and trusts — like the Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy (Baronet) Charity Funds, The Zoroastrian Building Fund, the Maneckji Cooper Education Trust — where he is a trustee; of nearly 10 bodies which he has headed like the Satara Suburban Municipality and The Maharashtra State Anti Tuberculosis Association; and nearly 30 other organizations — like the Society for the Vocational Rehabilitation of the Retarded, the Association for Senior Citizens, the Consumer Education and Research Society — where he is a member. Aga is not only an architect but also a mason. Six pages of his curriculum vitae refer to his involvement with the freemasonic movement, he being a senior and founder member of many lodges.

With community institutions Aga's involvement has been equally if not more enduring. Several of the community landmarks in and around Bombay were built by SNC: agiaries like Sethna, Batliwala, Mithaiwala, Fasli, Motlibai Wadia; educational institutions like the Sardar Dastur Boys' and Girls' Schools, Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' School; Cama Athornan Institute; buildings in residential colonies like the Tata Colony and Zoroastrian Building Funds at Tardeo, and the Dadar Parsi Colony. In the case of the Tata Colony, Aga remembers the then European manager of BEST who on hearing that the flats would be rented for Rs 20, enquired of him, "Can I take all the flats?" Innumerable other residential and commercial establishments like the old Stock Exchange Building are regarded as SNC's contribution to the Bombay skyline.

Among the monuments particularly dear to Aga are the athornan madressa at Andheri and the Framjee Cawasjee Institute. Describing the Madressa building, he talks of the stone facade and the stone columns which make the building "plain and simple and yet beautiful." Of all the palaces that have been built by SNC, the one at Rajpipla Aga considers particularly striking. The hospital with its four-pronged wings in Rewa is another of SNC's structures in which Aga takes infinite pride. Built in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the blueprint of the Hospital is now in the custody of the United Nations, mentions Aga.

The concrete jungles of today hold no fascination for the old-world architect. They are not even worth a second look, he feels, equating them to old ladies who apply powder and rouge in the mistaken belief that they will look attractive. With air conditioning now considered the basic requirement of every new structure, present day architects don't have to bother to design creations keeping in mind the presence of natural light and breeze, he has noticed.

For one who has "never accepted or given a bribe," Aga is appalled at how money has become the most important consideration in the construction industry. "Barring the government, the builders and a few private parties, who can afford" to keep paying bribes to construct a house, he asks. The thrills that Aga derived from his job involved accommodating the clients' requirements within the resources available. For ultimately, "You have to satisfy the owner," Aga continues, "and that too is an art."



PHEROZE FRAMROZE AND COMPANY (REGD)

(Established 1947)

EXCHANGE BUREAUX IN BOMBAY

Head Office:

Kalpataru Chambers, 6 Nanik Motwane Marg, Fort, Bombay 400023

Tel: 271566 * 271432 * 271452

Telex: 11 84097 PFCO IN Fax: (022) 2624837

Air India Building, Nariman Point Tel: 2022790 & 2871071

Bombay Airport, Sahar (International) Tel: 8326444

Bombay Airport, Santacruz (Domestic) Tel : 6128807

Bombay Docks

EXCHANGE BUREAU BRANCHES

Goa: No 119, Hotel Fidalgo

18th June Road, Panjim 403001

Tel: 226291-9 Ext 119

New Delhi: GF 9-11 Indraprakash Bldg

21 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001

Tel: 3724008, 3310028

Fax: (011) 3724008

Contact us for Foreign Currencies against FTS/NTS

**Special facilities and rates offered to banks,
authorised dealers and money changers**



M. PALLONJI & CO
PRIVATE LIMITED



Leading Contractors for
Industrial Painting and Coatings,
Anti-Corrosion Waterproofing, Construction,
Diving & Offshore
Related works



87, Abdul Rehman Street, Bombay 400003
Tel: 3424150/3436607 Tlx: 011-75871 MPEL IN
Fax: 91-22-3423035 Cable: "PALLONJIM"

Community housing: fertile or futile?

Ava Khullar

Study of the Effects of Housing on the Fertility Behaviour among the Parsis by Dr (Ms) P. M. Sandhya Rani. Published by the Trustees of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet Funds and Properties, Bombay; Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, New Delhi; Surat Parsi Panchayet, Surat. Pp: 88+xiii. Price: not mentioned.

The fear that the Parsi Zoroastrian community is an endangered species has come to nudge, if not to haunt, the conscience of more and more of its members, especially in the last two decades or so. Since 1948, when the late Sapur Desai, the long serving and highly motivated erstwhile secretary of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet (BPP) propounded his thesis, *A Community at the Crossroad*, there has been a growing interest among scholars, social scientists, leaders and concerned members about the path of self-extinction that the Parsi Zoroastrian community appears to have almost wilfully chosen for itself.

While various socioeconomic characteristics have been considered for this demographic decline, the abiding reason for the phenomena of late marriages and low fertility — the two crucial indicators of population growth — in the popular mind has been the lack of housing, especially in Bombay, where an overwhelming majority of Parsis reside. The issue gets magnified and often charged with emotion because while philanthropic Parsis have left large housing complexes — the famous baus of Bombay — the allotment of these to needy Parsis is left to the discretion of the BPP and a few private trusts. In a metropolis where limited space and a fast burgeoning popula-

tion make real estate in the open market a prized and expensive commodity, the claimants for community housing outnumber the accommodation available. Families applying for such housing, consequently, have to wait several years, the average working out to 5.5 years; and for couples contemplating marriage this leads to long engagements and delayed marriages.

It was thought imperative, therefore,

to carry out an empirical study on the repercussions of housing on the reproductive behavior of Parsis as compared to other socioeconomic, demographic and cultural factors. The project was undertaken by Dr (Ms) P. M. Sandhya Rani and financed by the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, the BPP and the Surat Parsi Panchayet.

While the purpose of the study was to know

the effect of housing on fertility behavior, the subject was wisely made more comprehensive and had the following specific objectives:

- To know the fertility behavior of Parsis who have been allotted houses by the BPP, as compared to those who have their own sources of accommodation.
- To study the various factors that influence fertility behavior among the Parsis.
- To assess the impact of housing allotted by the BPP on the fertility behavior of the Parsis.

A hundred couples who were allotted flats by the BPP between 1983 to 1989, and 500 couples married since 1982 who had their own housing, comprised the study samples. In both categories, the wife was in the reproductive age-group of 15 to 44 years. From the information

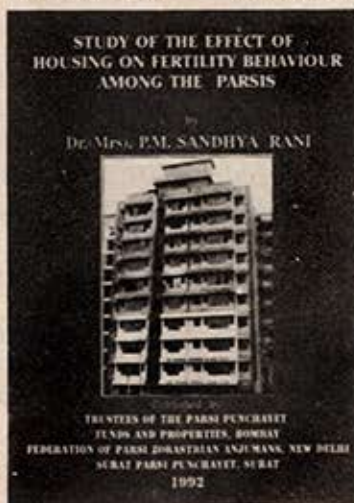
collected on the basis of a specially prepared questionnaire, there emerged a socioeconomic profile of the sample population which provided data on age composition, educational, occupational and income status, family size, housing condition and other demographic indicators.

The age composition of the allottees, both male and female, at the time of the survey, was relatively higher than that of their counterparts among the non-allottees (the husbands registered an average 40 years as against 34.8 years, the wives 35.1 years as against 30.7 years). However, this is more an indication that allottees in general get housing allotment after a considerable waiting period.

The higher age is not, the survey shows, an indicator of delayed marriage among a majority of the allottees as the difference in the mean age of marriage between both groups is marginal. The non-allottees marrying at slightly higher ages (husbands: 30 years as against 29.7 years among allottees and wives: 25.9 years as against 25.4 years among allottees).

The same kind of uniformity between the two groups is evident at the educational, occupational and income levels. The overwhelming majority consists of graduates working in the service sector. However, an unexpected picture emerges when family income is considered. The comparative levels show that allottees outnumber non-allottees in the higher income brackets: 15 percent as against 10.2 percent in the Rs 5,001 to 6,000 per month income; 11 percent as against 8.4 percent in the Rs 6,001 to 7,000 per month income; and 23 percent as against 17.4 percent in the Rs 7,000 and above income bracket. Taken together with the assumption that non-allottees (50.6 percent of whom stay in rented accommodation, obtained presumably in the open market), pay a much larger percentage of their income on rent — Bombay being the most expensive Indian city as rents go — while the allottees pay a nominal rent, the allottees appear to be better off on the whole, belying the theory that community housing is for the needy.

The finding on marital age confirms the pattern of late marriages noted in earlier studies undertaken by the BPP in



1961, by Dr (Ms) Malini Karkal in 1974 and 1982, as well as studies in Delhi, Belgaum, Bhavnagar, Visakhapatnam, etc. Population experts tell us that the proportion of Parsi females not married between 20 and 29 years is an index of late marriages and the 1982 survey in Bombay showed this to be 68.2 percent, while comparative all-India figures for non-Parsi unmarried females showed six percent! These statistics could not give a clearer picture of the stark contrast in marital behavior between Parsis and other Indian communities.

Late marriage tells only half the story, the more crucial half concerns fertility. The survey findings show 26.5 years as the mean age of the Parsi woman at first conception, which clearly demonstrates that married couples go in for their first child within one or two years. But what they start, they then curtail drastically — and this is the most devastating aspect for the community's survival. The mean number of children for the majority of Parsi couples surveyed is 1.19 with the rate being slightly higher among allottees (1.67 as against 1.09). However, the report clarifies that this is due to allottees being relatively older and having completed their family size. Note further that

Independent housing may speed up marriages but there is no way of ensuring more offspring!

18 percent of non-allottees and six percent of allottees have not conceived at all. Further, only a few Parsi women in the sample had three or more conceptions.

The reasons for this go much deeper and seem to be embedded in the Parsi psyche. Statistics from earlier censuses and researches show this trend as not of recent origin. Sociologists have noted that the Parsi birth rate has been declining over a century, way back since 1881. This is around the time that fertility started going down in the developed world also, so comparisons are apt. However, the difference between the Parsis and the Europeans was that while

the latter tended to marry late, once married, there was no conscious effort to curtail the number of children. The Parsis demonstrated the contrary preference for fewer children.

It would be too simplistic and naive to claim lack of accommodation as the prime motivator for either delayed marriages or low fertility. About 30 percent of the couples in the survey gave "no reason" for late marriage and another 28.2 percent asserted that in fact it was the "proper age" to get married. Only a quarter of the allottees mentioned lack of housing as a cause for delayed marriage. Similarly, a majority of the respondents, more significantly among allottees of BPP flats (70 percent) said they did not desire any more children.

To the direct question if allotment of housing had brought about a shift in the number of children, 79 percent of the allottees indicated no shift, and only 21 percent responded with one more child, of which 16 percent had a second child.

The report clearly establishes that there is no direct relationship between housing and fertility behavior of Parsi couples. To a limited extent, independent housing may speed up marriages but that is meeting only half the problem: once

STERLING AND WILSON ELECTRICALS PVT LTD

Leading Electrical Engineers & Contractors

Bombay Office

Esplanade House, 2nd Floor
Hazarimal Somani Marg,
Fort, Bombay 400001
Telephone: 2041882, 2044177
Telex: 011-85153 SWIL IN

New Delhi Office

Flat No 205, Ansal Chamber II
6, Bhikaji Cama Place
New Delhi 110066
Telephone: 608250, 6882454
Telex: 031-82025 SWIL IN

Registered Office

70, Meadows Street, Fort, Bombay 400023
Telephone: 273287

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

JMM ENTERPRISES
JMME AGENCIES & EXPORTS
Private Limited

(Buyers Representatives
for all types of processed seafoods)

C/O NO 68, "THE ARCADE"
WORLD TRADE CENTRE
CUFFE PARADE, COLABA
BOMBAY 400005

Telephone Nos: 2186650, 2189498
Tlx: 11 84620 JIM IN Fax: 2187972

married, there is no way of ensuring speedy and more offspring!

The solution, if any, must be found elsewhere. It is here that the survey does not go far enough and deep enough. What is vital here, if any meaningful breakthrough is to be achieved in raising fertility rates, is to probe the attitudes and the flickering conscience of the young, including the young marrieds, towards the community's demographic dilemma.

Youth involvement in world Zoroastrian congresses, all-India Federation deliberations and annual youth conferences has created in the youth of the '90s more positive awareness than their counterparts in the '50s and '60s.

The attack must be conducted on two fronts: firstly to activate youth perception of the deep crisis and thus hopefully encourage personal commitment towards the Parsi community — as happened among the Jews, where couples take pride in large families; and then the community organizations and individuals could step in to offer the necessary economic and emotional support to help couples marry and bear children.

What the study has missed out on (as a logical sequence to the inquiry on fertility behavior), is in collecting suggestions from the couples themselves on community measures or incentives which could have induced them to go in for more children. The report touches only on two community aids, namely day-care centers and family counselling. The picture on both fronts looks dismal, with 80.2 percent of couples having no day-care center in their locality and 60.2 percent not aware that family counselling centers exist for their benefit. Hopefully, their participation in the survey has opened their eyes.

In its concluding remarks the report suggests financial assistance for education, more easily accessible day-care centers, speedier allotment of BPP housing. It also recommends a movement out of congested Bombay to other cities where better employment opportunities and healthier living conditions are possible; and, finally, programs to bring young members of both sexes together to get them to share views and understand each other, which may hopefully lead to matrimony.

Over the years several suggestions for economic and other incentives have been made. The community now needs to induce the young to respond to these posi-

tively and a dialogue on this is long overdue.

However, as was brought out clearly by more than one speaker at the Fifth World Zoroastrian Congress, the issue of marriage and children requires a flexible attitude from both youth and elders. The encouragement and moral support by the older generation, along with offers of financial backing, if needed, to enable their children to marry early and then helping in the upbringing of grandchildren would be, in my view, the most positive attitudinal adjustment. In recent years, a young working mother has often felt inclined to consider one more child, if only the parents and in-laws would share the burden of rearing it. More day-care centers could be run by the old who are retired and in need of activity and remuneration. What better way than to be involved with the community's young?

Can we overcome the sense of utter helplessness that lulls us into a stupor of inactivity, and make even a last ditch attempt to stem the tide of racial suicide? The answer lies hidden within us.

Singles surveyed

Ava Khullar

Parsis And Marriage by Dr (Ms) Perin H. Cabinetmaker. Published by the author from B-303, Ashit Apts, Sudhir Pawar Road, Mody Baug, Pune 411016 in 1991. Pp: 116. Price: Rs 50.

It is evident that the ethos of the Parsi community is more akin to western modernized communities. However, the Parsi condition is comparatively dismal. As demographic stories show, Parsis have almost the lowest percentage of young in the 0-14 years age-group, and without replenishment by way of babies the community can only age as each year progresses, and finally pass away into oblivion. Small households of two or three in the West signify young couples seeking their independence, while small Parsi households usually are of the aged who are childless, or left behind as the young migrate to other lands.

The 1982 survey of the Parsis of Greater Bombay (jointly sponsored by the International Institute of Population Studies and the Bombay Parsi Punchayet) had a special schedule (Schedule B) which was administered to "never-marrieds" in ages 25 to 49 years. These never-married adults (numbering

390 men and 369 women) were asked to respond to a battery of 38 statements which purported to ascertain their attitudes towards the institution of marriage, family and children. In her book *Parsis And Marriage*, the responses of this group have been painstakingly analyzed by Dr (Ms) Perin Cabinetmaker who served as a member of the advisory committee which designed the 1982 study. She concludes that the reasons for the demographic woes of the community are: late marriage, no marriage, small families, childless families and marriages outside the community.

The attitudes to marriage are generally grouped under the factors that affect it, such as marriage and health, marriage in relation to housing, economic and cultural aspects of marriage, marriage and children, marriage and a sense of responsibility to the community, non-Parsis and marriage, etc.

The trends which emerge from the analysis appear to irrevocably establish what has been seen and feared in earlier studies: a marked inclination towards personal independence in choosing a life partner, and a very strict criteria for marital happiness and fulfilment, which, if not satisfied, could easily lead to renouncing marriage.

The responses given to the following statements, which the author has analyzed under the four socioeconomic variables of education, occupation, income and housing, illustrates this beyond doubt:

- Marriage limits one's freedom — 69 percent agreed.
- Single status is happier — 53 percent agreed.
- Marriage is not essential for satisfaction of one's basic needs — 48 to 68 percent agreed.
- Marriage comes in the way of a successful career — 35 to 61 percent agreed.
- A man or a woman wedded to a vocation or a profession or a career has no time for marriage — 47 percent agreed.
- A couple should have a house of their own — 90 percent agreed. (This in an overcrowded city like Bombay, where housing availability is scarce and consequently prohibitively expensive.)
- One must choose one's life partner himself/herself — 85 percent agreed. (This, in a miniscule group where the choice of a partner within the group is severely limited!)
- Everyone should get married — 34 percent disagreed.

With the compliments of

RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

Ralli House
21, D. S. Marg, Bombay 400001

But more significant than attitudes to marriage are the attitudes towards having children, illustrated by the following:

- Children are not essential for a happy marriage — 30 percent agreed. (A truly alarming sentiment!)
- Marriage is not complete without children -- 19 percent disagreed and eight percent were undecided.
- Parsis should encourage large families — 46 percent disagreed.

It would have been interesting if the views of those already married could have been elicited on these issues. It would have given a deeper insight into the thinking of a crucial wider group covering both marrieds and unmarrieds.

How typical these responses are to the Parsi situation in India can be understood if one were to obtain responses to such a questionnaire from sister communities e.g. the Hindus for whom the institution of marriage is not only sacrosanct, but the bounden duty of every adult male and female, and a childless marriage is unthinkable!

However, this reviewer would like to put in a word of caution regarding the 38 statements in Schedule B. In several instances, these were worded in the manner of generalized truisms about the

Without replenishment by way of babies the community can only age as each year progresses

institution of marriage and family rather than as individual attitudinal probes. For example, to the statement "The institution of marriage should be abolished" only 14 percent agreed while 68 disagreed, indicating that in spite of the growing spinsterhood there is no aversion to the institution of marriage. Considered from another angle however, it may be said that one is loath to condemn a generally accepted institution irrespective of one's personal preference towards marriage. Hence this was not really an attitudinal probe, but a general statement to which an average person, irrespective of community or marital status, is likely to respond negatively.

Again the statement "If Parsis really

care for their community they should get married and have children" is a sentiment with which most respondents, irrespective of their education, occupation or income are likely to agree.

That the community has a demographic problem and therefore requires remedial support from its members, is accepted as valid on a theoretical level. But when it comes to actually modifying one's personal life to meet such communal obligation, one encounters a contrary set of priorities. In such a situation the tendency is to get a socially acceptable answer which may often have no relation to the respondent's own personal bias or behavior pattern.

If, on the other hand, the statement had probed the respondent directly by asking if he/she considered marriage and children to be an obligation on his/her part because of a sense of responsibility to a diminishing community, the response would have been more accurate.

A major portion of the book is devoted to relating these various answers to socioeconomic characteristics among the sample of respondents. The analysis is done according to the respondent's educational level (SSC, graduate, postgraduate, diploma, etc), income levels and oc-

SERSON

Electrolytic Capacitors

For

All Electronic Applications

From

12 VDC To 350 VDC

Manufacturers:

Serson Industries Pvt. Ltd.

Pimpri P.F.P.O., Poona-18.

Cable: Etchfoil Poona-18. Phone: 772379 & 774296

With Best Compliments From

UNIPHARMA GLASS PRIVATE LIMITED

AMPOULES  DUBASH CONTAINERS

Manufacturers of
Machine-made Precision Neutral Glass Ampoules,
Freeze Dried Ampoules, Vials, Phials,
Tablet Tubes, Test Tubes, Suture Tubes,
Droppers, etc, etc.

Victoria Building
S. A. Brelvi Road, Fort
Bombay 400001

Cable: UNIGLASAMP Phones: 2660069/2660130

Telex: 11-84739 DFCO IN

cupational divisions (profession, clerical services, crafts, business, non-earning, etc) and housing. This is the normal demographic method used to draw a comparative pattern of differing attitudes between the groups interviewed. However, because the statements were framed in this generalized fashion, this exercise has not brought forth very meaningful variations in the responses.

The book includes some interesting information about the marriage practices among Zoroastrians in ancient Iran which placed great stress on continuity of lineage. So much weightage was given to this that in one type of marriage called Sutar Marriage, if a couple were childless, the man went through a formal wedding ceremony with a maiden, who was then given in marriage to a man who agreed to allow one of their children, preferable a male, to be adopted by the childless couple. The man had no contact with the girl before or after the ceremony, as it was just a formality. Thus the family name was kept alive.

The book also deals briefly with marriage practices of the Parsis after settling in India, including the laws governing marriage and divorce, which should be of interest to students working on the subject.

promote a cause dear to him, the laws, rules and regulations that enmesh charitable organizations are a befuddling maze. He is overwhelmed, and understandably so, by what will be demanded of him should he have the temerity to set up a charitable trust. And so many good intentions and good deeds never come to fruition.

There are a host of problems that confront charitable organizations, but one of the most difficult is how to handle its money so that the charitable organization is put on a sound, self-sufficient basis, able to support its work and its overheads. It is the rare and fortunate charitable organization or trust that is endowed so generously by its benefactor that it will rarely, if ever, have to raise further funds to carry on its work.

But to all charitable organizations at all times will come the dilemma of how to invest the funds they have to the best advantage, to get the maximum returns, to avoid that ever ready tax net and penalties. This is where Noshir Dadrawala's booklet *Investment Opportunities For Charitable Organisations* will come as a big boon to all managers of funds for charities.

Dadrawala, starting at the source, has explained and set out from the relevant law the duty that is cast upon all trustees of private charitable trusts, namely to invest the funds of a trust which are not required immediately for the trust's purposes. Certain investments have better yields; certain disqualify the trust from tax exemptions; certain would put the trust in breach of the provisions of the law... should I carry on? This will daunt the generous and giving even more!

This is the last thing Dadrawala would want to happen. But for every trustee, it is invaluable to be armed with the

knowledge and information on prudent planning that Dadrawala imparts in this booklet.

As Dadrawala has said, these guidelines and information on investments are only broad ones, done with broad brush strokes, the details and nitty gritty of which the trust managers will have to pore over in order to make intelligent and gainful decisions.

To this I would add my own word of caution: One of the main failings and weaknesses of our legal system is what has been very appropriately called "the maddening instability of our laws." Today's writ may not hold good even for the length of one financial year. Investments which are permissible for charities one year may be withdrawn the next. That such vacillation and indeterminateness forfeit the faith of the public in our laws and are, therefore, detrimental to the working of a trust has not been appreciated by the powers.

For example, years ago trusts were permitted to invest in the shares of public companies. This meant better returns for the trust, both in terms of returns and capital appreciation. One would have thought this was a situation eminently in the public interest. But this facility was withdrawn and no public charitable trust can now make such investments. Investments can only be made in "approved" areas — mainly in government securities, government companies and institutions, banks, etc, the yields from which are significantly lower than those which could be got from investments in public companies in the private sector. The reason for this is not difficult to fathom and needs no elaboration.

The industrial and economic climate of our country has undergone a sea change. Liberalization and economic ad-

Minding the funds

Shirin Bharucha

Investment Opportunities For Charitable Organisations by Noshir H. Dadrawala. Published in 1993 by The Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy, C/o J. N. Marshall Ltd, Mistry Mansion, 4th Fl, 107, M. G. Road, Bombay 400023. Pp: 44+vi. Price: not mentioned.

For the ordinary citizen who wishes to

Gifts & Things

The Friendly Gift Shop
for handicrafts, festive gifts,
religious artefacts, executive desk sets,
exclusive shell items, designer jewelry &
specialising in wood & copper-enamel gifts.

BOMBAY SWADESHI STORES LTD.
(Mezzanine Floor)
Sir P. M. Road, Bombay 400001
Phone: 2873443/2872730

Always remember



સ્તીલમાં TATA

બુટમાં BATA

કેટરમાં KHAMBATA

Ketayun & Bomi

22/A, Wellington Terrace,
Wellington Street,
Bombay-400002.
Tel. No. 2069636.

Godrej[®] STORWEL

My only choice because
it lasts a lifetime.



Buying a Godrej Storwel has been one of my wisest decisions. Borne out by years of trouble-free use.

I don't know what gauge or grade of steel Godrej uses (that's my husband's area), but I can clearly see that it's the best. And he also talks of a unique anti-corrosion treatment and a special electrostatic technique of painting. Whatever the process, it must be really terrific, for the Godrej Storwel stays looking marvellous for years.

The workmanship — even a fussy person like me can't help but admire it. There are no gaps which means

insects can't come in. There is plenty of storage space too. What's more, the adjustable shelves allow me to reorganise the storage space according to my needs.

I know many of my friends who went in for cheaper steel or wooden cupboards and have regretted it. I'm

sure you realise that it makes a lot more sense to spend more initially for Godrej Storwel because it gives value that lasts and lasts.

Trust Godrej like I did and buy one today. There's a wide range of models and colours to choose from.



Godrej[®] STORWEL

Trusted by over 30 lakh families for years.

vance are in the air. In this vastly improved scenario Dadrawala, with his commitment to charities and their work, should take this up with the government. Turning back the clock on this restriction on trusts would inestimably help charitable work in India; and his efforts in this direction could be made through the Centre for Advancement of Philanthropy. Can we persuade him to take up this difficult but most rewarding task?

This booklet is a companion piece to the previous two by the author — *Handbook on Administration of Trusts* and *The Art of Fund Raising*; and together they give a bird's eye view, but in the round, of the subject. No charitable trust should be without them.

Dark Glasses, CLEAR VISION

Homi Rogers

The Man in Dark Glasses by Jimmy P. Avasia. Published in 1993 by the Department of English, St Xavier's College, 5 Mahapalika Marg, Bombay 400001. Pp: 32. Price: not mentioned.

Jimmy Avasia began writing in the '70s, when Indian poetry in English was in its nascent stage. Two decades later, *The Man in Dark Glasses*, strangely enough his first published work (and that too "for private circulation only") bears witness that he has lost little of his incisiveness, but the earlier rage and despair have been replaced with boredom. In his very first poem in this slim collection he says: "A future will come with its trimmings... I'll meet my maker, bored As if I were a sage. The future is assured."

Not that the angst that distinguished Avasia's poems 20 years ago and made him the voice of the 'flower power' generation, is absent in this collection. The very title of the book sets the tone for a *dekho* at the world around him with a fatalism that is disturbing. Sample his sparse words in *Atlas Divided*, which so effectively create our present times: "This my country, this map traces a geography of diffidence. A history charts impotence masquerading tolerance."

We do not know when this poem was written. Avasia provides no place names, or, more importantly, dates with his collected verse. The inclusion of such

details would have helped the serious reader to appreciate the poet as a seer, and a molder of people's thoughts. But perhaps this omission is calculated. A good poem, as Robert Frost has written, is like an 'immortal wound.' "That is to say, permanence in poetry, as in love, is perceived instantly. It hasn't to await the test of time."

The poems in this collection, which includes his new work and a sprinkling of his earlier output, are designed to wound. They arouse a reader's sensibilities and make him receptive to the sting in lines which continue to enthrall us to date. In thought and content the present collection brings to mind the metaphysical poems of William Blake and John Donne as Avasia tackles the questions of life, death and time in his poems through a fine blend of free verse and controlled meter. His *Nursery*, where he writes of his parents taking possession of an uninhabited house, "that will absorb its every master like a hungry room opening a hinged mouth: cavities of disaster"

reminds one of Thomas Hood's *I Remember*. Avasia's *Nursery* ends with a fatalistic resignation to the fact that though "each room is linked with more deaths than an open acre," father knows best as he is the home maker and "I am a child." Hood concludes his poem on the house where he was born, and where he believed the fir's slender tops to be close against the sky, with "It was a childish ignorance, But now 'tis little joy To know I'm farther off from heaven, Than when I was a boy."

Avasia's mocking stand on age and our elders, which so endeared him to the youngsters who strove to be heard, is discernible in many a poem, the tone varying from the humorous vein to disillusionment. Sample his ode to his grandad who, as he states in his dedication, "began it all for me." The old man "was not a bigot/but he had his ideas." And to the

grandchild who pleaded "don't die, don't die" in his final moments, "He said never interrupt me child." Contrast this with: "Forgive your parents, you cannot understand them... When you need a hand And they give you a glove You will know your dependence

From your love."

It is as if Avasia wishes that he would never grow up; a feeling echoed in *Childhood's End*: "Rise now from this death-bed Rise if you are able Enter the world Or die in your cradle."

And re-echoed in *Mana*, where the nanny dies "of heartbreak" when the child grows up.

Yet, like Tennyson in his *In Memoriam* Avasia "wage(s) not any feud with Death." If Ten-

nyson is angry with Death because he "put our lives so far apart/we cannot hear each other speak," Avasia "fear(s) the death of family, the one by one dropping out," because when alone as both sentry and king, "who will sleep when I guard?"

Avasia's poems transcend all barriers of caste, creed and religion, as they are addressed to humanity. There is no echo of anything Zoroastrian in his poems, though Zoroastrian death rituals could make for some visual lyricism, or morbidity. Yet it is this very catholicity of imagery that makes Avasia's work appealing and enduring. It seems a pity that his prolific pen is limited to just around 30 poems in print, when his total output over the last two decades would be enough to fill a sizeable volume of verse.

But in this age of hype and tripe, a wordy Seth (paradoxically, Avasia's reading was held in the same week as Vikram Seth read his magnum opus in Bombay) is preferred to a thrifty Avasia. The slimness of *The Man in Dark Glasses* may be attributed to Avasia's economy of language. (It is a commendable feat since Avasia is a practising counsel in the Bombay High Court where briefs are anything but so.) And yet how telling and effective can such restraint and brevity be!



**J. M. SHROFF TRANSPORT
PRIVATE LIMITED
TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS**

For

**Bulk Liquids, Petrochemicals, Petroleum Products,
Acetic Acid and other Chemicals all over India.**

**Special Fleet of Stainless Steel
“MINI-TANKERS” for loads up to 6 KL or 6 M.T.**

Sita Estate, “A” Wing, No 1
1st Floor R. C. Marg
Chembur, Bombay 400074
Tel: 5555425, 5519359

BRANCHES

BARODA: Tel No 329924, 329818
HYDERABAD: Tel No 812515

Vision, Integrity, Industry
We built our house on it as our
founder did for service

INDUSTRIAL PERFUMES

LIMITED

A Tata Enterprise

Makers of
Perfumery Compounds, Aroma Chemicals
Isolates, Resinoids, Oleoresins, etc.

Hay Bunder Road
Tank Road PO, Bombay 400033
Tele: 3711001, 3711003, 3711004
Telex: 11 76695 INPF IN
Fax: 91-22 3780461

Nevertheless, two high priests performed the Zoroastrian ceremony.

The orthodox priesthood seems to have kept absolutely mum on this issue. Is that only because the said groom is the son of a well-known baronet and so gets "special dispensation?"

When Ms Roxan Shah's death kicked up an unseemly controversy and when the likes of Dastur Kotwal dub those married outside the community "adulterers" and their children "illegitimate" why this silence over a Zoroastrian marriage for a part Parsi groom?

I know of a child who is three-quarters Parsi and a quarter non-Parsi whose navjote was not permitted simply because the quarter non-Parsi blood came from a non-Parsi grandfather. If this child should also marry a Parsi then their children would be virtually wholly Parsi, yet according to the foolish notion prevalent among the orthodox, such a child would not be permitted to be a Zoroastrian as the non-Parsi blood would have come from a distant non-Parsi male ancestor!

My own personal belief is that bigotry of any kind has no place in our religion and any child of a Parsi parent, mother or father, should certainly be permitted to be a Zoroastrian.

ZERKIS DUMANIA

Women's rights?

It was, after all, only a court ruling which decided that Parsi men could marry non-Parsi women unopposed, remain Parsis until death and thereafter, and bring up their children as Parsis, whereas Parsi women would lose everything of their religion if they did the unspeakable (i.e. marry a non-Parsi).

Any right-thinking person would see at once that all this is done to give a seal of approval to Parsi men to go ahead and marry non-Parsi women, as they have nothing to lose.

Moreover, in the Parsi community the women not only outnumber the men, but also outshine them (they are superior to the men in every respect!). So if a Parsi woman marries a non-Parsi man, it is done out of sheer desperation because the Parsi men are rare and hard to find.

I would have gladly married a Parsi man if I could have found one! Can't the court ruling (which has nothing to do

with religion anyway) be changed or amended to give the same rights to Parsi women as are given to Parsi men?

Ms SHEROO GUPTA

The Editor replies

No court ruling has decreed that "Parsi women would lose everything of their religion" if they married a non-Parsi. A Parsi woman so married under the Special Marriage Act is entitled to all her personal rights as a Parsi Zoroastrian.

As for the children of inter-community marriages, according to the 1908 judgement of Justices Daver and Beaman, children of Parsi Zoroastrian fathers are considered Parsis as this was an accepted practice prior to the case and racial heritage was deemed to descend from the father. There is no dictum regarding the children of Parsi mothers.

No Parsi woman has gone to court to expand the definition of Parsi to include the children of Parsi mothers married to non-Parsis. Under the Indian constitution, men and women have equal rights and it is unlikely that any court would permit the male's children to be considered Parsis while denying this right to the Parsi female.

WITH
BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

**SOFT-HEARTED
'WIBS' BREAD**

WESTERN INDIA BAKERS' PRIVATE LIMITED

**KHODADAD BUILDING, 100 D'LIMA STREET
DOCKYARD ROAD, BOMBAY 400010**

The Parsis' true host

Every year we celebrate Sanjan Day in pious memory of our ancestors who first arrived and settled here. We also pay our respect to the Maharaja of Dharampur who is a direct descendant of Jadirana who allowed Parsis to settle down in Sanjan.

After the fall of the Sasanians, most of the population accepted Islam but a few orthodox groups preferred to migrate to India to save their life and religion. Why they selected India is explained by history: friendship between Shah Khushru Parvez and Pulkeshi Chalukya of Badami Kalyani. The Irani ambassadors used to visit his court with gifts and messages of goodwill and this proof can be seen even today on wall paintings of the Ajanta caves.

It was a storm at sea which forced Parsis to land on the soil of Sanjan. Even when Padshah Allah-ud-din Khilji attacked Sanjan, the Iranshah was first taken to the hills of Bahrot and then to Ghodmal in Vansda state where the Iranshah was protected by Chalukya descendants who ruled there.

Indeed the mighty Chalukyas are the true hosts of the Parsis in India. When we pay our respect to the Maharaja of

Dharampur we faithful Parsis should also pay our respect to the Maharaja of Vansda who is a direct descendant of Pulkeshi Chalukya.

Dr KERSI BILIMORIA

Bilimora

Robert Burns in the Gulf

This was right in the midst of the Gulf War on January 20, 1992, in the middle of the Arabian desert on the outskirts of Riyadh in Saudi Arabia. We, the medical detachment of 205 General Hospital based in Glasgo, were on high alert because of almost nightly attack by scud missiles, so much so that these scuds speeding towards us were jokingly referred to as the "Scud Express" from Baghdad.

This did not deter our Scottish friends from holding the Burns Night — the annual birthday celebration of Scotland's national poet and hero Robert Burns (1759-1796), a colorful character who, like most Scottish people, loved his drink and women and showed it — in as authentic a manner as circumstances and the environment would allow. Can you imagine a Burns Night without whisky? The thought makes one sick! We all gathered in our dining room with a mouthful of tablets and an armful of in-

jections against the expected chemical and biological attacks via the Scud missiles.

We all dutifully carried our NBC (Nuclear, Biological and Chemical) suits, NBC gas mask and overshoes, all neatly rolled up in a specially provided holder, the gas mask in its own separate nylon bag. As if this were not unusual enough there was Red Alert (imminent attack) right in the middle of the Commanding Officer's speech extolling the immortal poet. I will never forget the transformation of that gathering in the next few minutes. Everyone of us (as trained) whipped out our gas mask and donned it with the usual "gas, gas, gas" while exhaling, followed rapidly by the NBC suit, gloves, overalls and boot protectors, plus of course the "tin" hat. Then there was the scramble for seeking protection under the tables. Then came the agonizing wait; wait that could be one's last few moments on earth, or the beginning of prolonged hospital treatment for the injuries received as a "war casualty."

As per our training we had to stay in that position until the "all clear" was announced. Every second was a minute and every minute an hour. The heat and claustrophobia were indescribable. At

With best compliments of

Starlite Electrical Works

**ELECTRICAL ENGINEERS
& CONTRACTORS**

104, Shree Hanuman Industrial Estate
42 B, G. D. Ambekar Marg, Wadala, Bombay 400031
Tel: 4140887, 4146424

With best compliments

From

DEECO INDUSTRIAL SUPPLIES PVT LTD

DEECO TECHNICAL SERVICES PVT LTD



Registered Office
96, Maker Chambers III
223, Nariman Point
Bombay 400021

Telephones: 22-6148/24-4361
Telexes: 11-86758 DCO IN, 11-82412 HODA IN
Telefax: (91-22) 204-4033

New Delhi Office
201, Pal Mohan Sadan
26/32, East Patel Nagar
New Delhi 110008

Telephones: 571-9421, 573-2567
Telex: 31-77221 DCO IN
Telefax: (91-11) 575-4613



With Best
Compliments
From

PENOSH

94-A, M. G. Road
Pune 411001

Tel: 645162-65

Fax: 645166

Telex: 145-7418



last, after what seemed ages, we were given the "all clear." What a relief to take off the gas mask and breathe "God's good air," the air which we take so much for granted!

The Burns Supper continued with the ceremonial entry of the haggis by the chef, preceded by the piper. Being a country where alcohol is banned, two glasses of water (yes water!) were duly placed and offered to the chef and the piper, instead of the traditional whisky. Robert Burns would have turned in his grave!

However it was not to be. The Scots would not, could not, let down Robert Burns. A bottle of whisky was produced from a gas mask bag and duly replaced the water. I have never seen anybody grab and down the precious liquid so quickly with a hearty "Slainte Mhath." The whole crowd applauded and cheered as loudly and sincerely as was possible. When it came to the singing of *Auld Lang Syne*, there were tears in many an eye, including mine.

I had not known Robert Burns from Adam. I made it a point of attending the Burns Night celebration on January 25 whenever I had the opportunity. I ate, drank and sang with my Scottish friends and officers.

In spite of this I never really appreciated the great regard in which Robert Burns is held by the Scottish people or their longing for Scotland. All this was brought home to me at this most unusual and bizarre Burns on record.

It is when one is far away from home that the Burns supper takes on a very precious, nostalgic and sentimental meaning. In this particular case, close to death as well (only a few days ago a scud missile had landed on an apartment block killing 20 American marines)! This feeling knows no political, religious or class barriers. It affects us all to a lesser or more degree depending upon what state of inebriation we are in; and of course the feeling for near and dear ones back home, where one's roots are.

More whisky bottles appeared on tables and we all had our traditional "dram." I had three. The last two were "medicinal," prescribed by a doctor (me) for another doctor (me). What a Burns night! If anyone knows of a more memorable one I would like to know. On second thoughts, don't bother!

Li Col BEHROOZ IRANI

Edited by Amavaz S. Mama



RATAN SURVEYOR & Company

Engineers,
Contractors
and
R. C. C. Specialists

Engineers of
Repute
for Construction
Works of
Good Quality

Piramal Mansion
235/37 Dr Dadabhoy
Naoroji Road, Fort
Bombay 400001
Phone: 2619670



With The Compliments Of

**B. E. BILLIMORIA
AND CO. PVT. LTD.**

Engineers and Consultants

Wankhede Stadium
(North Stand) 'D' Road, Churchgate
Bombay 400020

Telegram : BILCONS
Telex : 11 85606 BCPL IN Fax : 91-22-2017731
Telephones : 2030551/2055235/2014835/2058348

**REGISTERED CLASS I CONTRACTORS (UNLIMITED)
ON GOVERNMENT APPROVED LIST**

MILESTONES

This combined issue of *Parsiana* for the months February and March 1994 presents Milestones data for the months of December 1993 and January 1994.

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 19 and 41 years, the arithmetic mean (the total number of individual ages divided by the total number of brides) being 25 years. The corresponding figures for the grooms were 23 and 45 years, averaging at 29 years.

As per the data available to *Parsiana* there were 51 births for the two-month period of December and January as compared to 173 deaths in Bombay. Heart disease claimed the most victims — 39, of whom 18 were 80 years and above. The other major killers were pneumonia and lung disease (33), cancer (15), hypertension (14), old age and general debility (12) and brain disease and septicemia (11 each). Five Zoroastrians succumbed to tuberculosis, three each to fractures, bronchitis, malaria and diabetes. Nervous disorder, accidents and atherosclerosis (deposition of fatty substances in the arteries) took two lives each. The isolated cases registered for the two months were: Pneumothorax (air or gas in the pleural cavity), kidney failure, blood disease, dehydration, anemia, Parkinson's disease, urinary tract in-

fection, acid peptic disease, liver disease, uremia, asthma, motor neuron disease and arteriosclerosis (degenerative arterial change associated with advancing age). One death was attributed to "haemorrhage and shock due to firearm injury" and another to "haemorrhage and shock due to multiple firearm injuries." Four youths, aged 17, 19, 20 and 21, were also lost to the community. The oldest to breathe her last was a 97-year-old lady.

The data on births, marriages and deaths has been compiled from information supplied by various newsletters and anjuman in India and abroad, courts and hospitals. This information is not always complete or consistent. For example, the birth figures for Bombay are supplied by four hospitals; births in suburban hospitals and private nursing homes are not included unless individuals send us information together with a copy of the birth certificate. In the breakup of deaths according to illnesses, especially of the elderly, death is often due to a combination of several diseases.

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

AHMEDABAD

BORN

A boy, *Shahrukh*, to *Khushnuma* and *Perseus Banaji* on September 29, 1993

BOMBAY

BORN

A girl, *Ava*, to *Anahita* and *Cyrus Nagaporewalla*; September 14
A girl to *Frenny* and *Zerxis Lakdawalla*; December 2
A girl to *Shehnaz* and *Bemuni Hajati*; December 4
A girl to *Roshni* and *Noshir Sethna*; December 4
A girl to *Khorshed* and *Meher-nosh Avasia*; December 7
A boy, *Marzban*, to *Rashna* and *Khushroo Amroliwalla*, brother to *Niloufer*; December 7

A boy to *Sharmin* and *Khushroo Moudawalla*; December 11
A girl to *Nippa* and *Heinz Mirza*; December 12
A boy, *Kaizen*, to *Farzana* and *Keku Writer*; December 13
A boy to *Dinaz* and *Vispy Bilimoria*; December 14
A boy to *Farah* and *Ramyar Balsara*; December 16
A boy to *Maharukh* and *Ratan Daruwalla*; December 16
A boy to *Goolcher* and *Jimmy Mehta*; December 18
A boy to *Daisy* and *Pervez Sidhwa*; December 18
A girl to *Tanaz* and *Kersi Deboo*; December 19
A girl to *Gulnar* and *Sharookh Irani*; December 19
Twin girls to *Shiraz* and *Adil Kandawalla*; December 19

A girl to *Reshma* and *Ashad Udwardia*; December 19
A boy to *Delna* and *Rumi Balliwala*; December 21
A girl, *Delshad*, to *Silloo* and *Aspi Irani*; December 21
A boy to *Kashmira* and *Hirji Elavia*; December 23
A girl to *Eileen* and *Rasheed Ardeshir*; December 24
A boy to *Shahnaz* and *Shahrukh Irani*; December 24
A girl to *Kashmira* and *Meher-nosh Nazir*; December 24
A boy to *Khushnum* and *Cyrus Raimalwala*; December 26
A girl to *Farida* and *Shiraz Tarapore*; December 30
Twin boys to *Havovi* and *Ruhinam Fouzdar*; December 31
December 31
A boy to *Hoofish* and *Khurshed Kuky*; January 1, 1994
A girl to *Mahazarine* and *Porus Patel*; January 2
A boy to *Jean* and *Peshotan Wadia*; January 2
A boy to *Dilshad* and *Noshir Lala*; January 3
A boy to *Tehmina* and *Hormazd Irani*; January 5
A girl to *Farzana* and *Dicky Vajifdar*; January 9
A girl to *Tanaz* and *Rohinton Contractor*; January 12
A boy to *Monira* and *Jimmy (Jamshed) Bhada*; January 13
Twins (boy and girl), *Jehan* and *Jennifer*, to *Farida* and *Percy Karkaria*; January 14
A girl to *Beroze* and *Shapoorji Mistry*; January 14
A boy to *Kashmira* and *Aspi Dadina*; January 15
A girl to *Zeenia* and *Godrej Gudder*; January 17
A girl to *Tanaz* and *Meherwan Daruwalla*; January 18
A girl to *Aban* and *Soli Irani*; January 18
A boy to *Binaifer* and *Dinyar Gandhi*; January 19
A boy to *Anahita* and *Kali Driver*; January 22
A girl to *Delna* and *Daravus Mehta*; January 22
A girl to *Yazmeen* and *Cyrus Contractor*; January 25
A boy to *Banoo-Benaaz* and *Minoo Dastur*; January 27
A girl to *Tinaz* and *Minoo Mody*; January 28
A girl to *Manashini* and *Rajendrakumar Patwa*; January 30

MARRIED

Shiraz Burjor Tarapore and *Yazdan Manchershah Fulwadi-wala*; October 19, 1993
Kashmira Zahir Guddar and *Behram Jal Amroliwalla* of *Bhusaval*; November 8
Goolshan Dinshaw Kamdin of *Bharuch* and *Sharookh Soli Contractor*; November 14
Vahishtai Rashid Medora of *Ahmedabad* and *Jamshed Soli Daboo*; November 15
Daisy Kersi Panthaki of *Surat* and *Nariman Furokh Elavia*; November 15
Maharokh Parvez Nalladaru and *Mehervanji Aspi Nalladaru*; November 15
Dilshad Maneck Dubash and *Meher-nosh Noshir Buhariwalla*; November 18
Khurshid Phiroze Daruwalla and *Nadir Noshir Elavia*; November 18
Benaifer Kersi Bhagalia and *Ruzbeh Melhi Parbhoo*; November 19
Jeroo Eruchsha Katila and *Porus Soli Sheriar*; November 18
Yasmin Homi Mistry and *Nariman Darabshaw Khan*; November 20
Rukshana Nadar Mistry and *Homi Jal Heerjibehdin*; November 21
Armin Nariman Marfatia and *Zarir Lovji Shroff* of *Kalyan*; November 21
Parizad Godrej Mehta and *Nozer Behram Bhamgara*; November 22
Gulshan Homi Kasad and *Rohinton Ratan Kasad*; November 22
Farida Rustom Irani of *New Delhi* and *Cyrus Nari Katgara*; November 22
Navaz Darabshaw Bhathela of *Secunderabad* and *Parvez Keki Daruwalla*; November 23
Shiraz Pervaz Zack and *Shiraz Jal Kanga*; November 23
Dhunu Minoo Pastakia and *Paurusasp Bomi Tavaria*; November 23
Parvin Khushroo Desai and *Aspy Phiroze Buhariwalla*; November 25
Maharukh Phiroze Gagrati and *Neville Homi Clubwalla*; November 25
Rashna Russi Javeri and *Navroze Russi Bilimoria*; November 26

"Goodness, I left the tap on!"



The next time
you're careless,
remember over 250 million Indians don't have
access to drinking water.

Buckau Wolf with Krupp technology



BUCKAU WOLF



KRUPP

More than engineers. People with a sense of values.

Nexus/BW/66

Arnavaz Burjor Doriawalla
and Percy Jal Kothavala;
November 26
Shahdokht Khodayar Dehmeri
and Jimmy Fareedoon Dholoo;
November 28
Jernaz Hosang Dhabhar and
Mehernosh Adi Mehta;
November 28
Rukshana Rustom Fuladi and
Farokh Aflatoon Shokri;
November 28
Paricher Adi Mody and Cyrus
Jamshed Kanga of Navsari;
November 29
Mahatab Rusi Damania and
Neville Erach Gheewalla;
November 30
Beneifer Hoshider Yazdabadi
of Poona and Neville Dinyar
Madan; November 30
Delna Behram Dumasia of New
Delhi and Viraf Manekshaw
Sutaria; November 30
Binaifer Noshir Motiwala and
Darayas Minu Dadachanji;
December 2
Binaifer Kersi Jamadar
and Parvez Jal Balaporia;
December 3
Khushnuma Homi Sukhia and
Arzan Rusi Khambatta;
December 3
Roxzana Minoo Crawford

and Khushroo Kersi Mistry;
December 3
Monaz Cawas Poonawalla and
Porus Bahadur Soonawalla;
December 3
Shahnaz Ratan Mehta and
Shiamak Edul Soonawalla;
December 3
Dhun Jimmy Hormusji and
Firdosh Homi Cooper;
December 4
Pervin Keki Bengali and Ratan
Pervez Mistry; December 4
Kashmira Sarosh Bhada and
Kerman Aspi Shroff of
Ahmedabad; December 4
Khurshid Sarosh Patel and
Porus Behram Taraporewalla;
December 4
Arnavaz Khurshed Cooper and
Dinyar Erachshaw Kodia;
December 5
Khushi Dinshaw Jassawalla
and Cyrus Dara Vevaina;
December 5
Persis Fali Homavazir and
Vispy Erach Bhot; December 6
Tinaz Rusi Buhariwalla and
Xerxes Hormasji Panthaky;
December 6
Monaz Soli Variava of New
Delhi and Heroiye Hoshang
Ranina; December 6
Denaz Minoo Katpitia and

Hormuze Shiavax Kandawalla;
December 7
Niloufer Pesi Sakhidas and
Darayus Jehangir Panthaky;
December 7
Benaifer Nozer Ania and
Zubin Freddy Shroff;
December 7
Parveen Naval Daruvala and
Zareer Minoo Mistry;
December 9
Nina Nanabhoy Mistry and
Hoshang Burjor Guard;
December 9
Anahita Minoo Bharucha
and Vispy Hosang Aibara;
December 10
Parizad Behramji Tampal and
Neville Sorabji Gandhi;
December 10
Marzbin Aflatoon Irani
and Sheriar Homi Irani;
December 10
Nancy Homi Bhagalia and
Parvez Soli Daruwalla;
December 11
Nelly Navroze Wadia and
Cyrus Noshirwan Katrak;
December 11
Maharukh Kersi Homavazir
and Kaizad Rusi Patel;
December 11
Jasmine Khurshed Daru-
khanawalla of Thane

and Percy Aspi Katrak;
December 12
Yasmina Jehan Contractor and
Kerfegar Aspi Bajina of
Middlesex, UK; December 14
Huzaan Kali Bilimoria and
Naozer Cusrow Dalal;
December 14
Shernaz Sorabji Gandhi
and Kerman Bomi Mistry;
December 14
Mehrtaj Syrous Ghibi of Tehran
and Mehrdad Bahram Namira-
nian of Denmark; December 17
Anahita Mehernosh Mistry
and Burjis Sorabji Mehta;
December 18
Jasmine Behram Dotiwalla of
Nasik and Viraf Jal Todiwalla;
December 18
Kashmira Bomi Karanjia and
Cyrus Pesie Billimoria;
December 19
Rohena Nariman Irani and
Neville Rusi Khodabux;
December 19
Shernaz Fareedoon Irani
(Shokrekhoda) and Fredy Rusi
Kapadia; December 20
Jasmine Jal Dumasia and
Zubin Khurshed Shroff;
December 20
Maharukh Nariman Mistry
and Neville Adi Anklesaria;

With Best Compliments From
**Indian Dyestuff Industries
Limited**

Mafatlal Centre,
Vidhan Bhavan Marg,
Nariman Point, Bombay 400021

SUN-GRACE-MAFATLAL



Setting the Pace of Change ...

.....TOWARDS THE GLOBALIZATION
OF INDUSTRIAL INDIA.

GRINDWELL NORTON LTD. India's No: 1, Pioneer & Leaders In World - Class Abrasive Products

Grindwell began as an idea. Rooted in the seed vision of two enterprising Parsi entrepreneurs and their inspired mission to make newly-awakening India a potent, self-reliant industrial force. Free to forge its own independent destiny. That was in 1941.

Today in 1992, Grindwell - with 50 years of intensive manufacturing and application engineering experience in its core business area of grinding wheel technology - is a well diversified multi-located, multi-product company with 4 distinct divisions and 6 separate industrial product lines.

Add to this heady-mix the fact of a dynamic marketing team of tested professionals, a field-network of over 17 branch offices staffed by experience-honed engineersand over 1200 highly motivated and trained stockist outlets.

You can just tell that Grindwell - with a strong market presence in Germany, France, Italy, the Middle East, Australia, Japan & the East European Countries - is a company poised for an evolutionary leap into a new dimension - The globalization of Industrial India.

NORTON

GRINDWELL NORTON LTD.

Army & Navy Building, 148, Mahatma Gandhi Road,
Bombay-400 023. Tel: (022) 244727 Tlx: 011-82840 GNO IN
Cable: "GRINDWELL" Fax: 022-2023711

December 21
Heena Dara Mevawala and Jhangir Pestonji Kerawala of Calcutta; December 21
Zarin Manek Dordi and Hormuzdiar Erach Nariman; December 21
Dilnavaz Jhangoo Elavia and Zersiss Hoshang Buhariwala; December 23
Hoofrish Rusi Jall and Keki Jal Nagporewala; December 23
Katayun Rusi Gilder and Sarosh Homi Bana; December 24
Pervina Ratan Doctor and Farrokh Parvez Mahava; December 24
Frenaz Faredoon Shaher and Zubin Dali Sarbhanwalla of Thane; December 26
Amy Sami Mistry and Rohinton Siavax Sinor; December 26
Khushnaz Dara Saklat and Yazdi Jall Wadiwalla; December 26
Tannaaz Jehangir Sethna and Sheriar Sorab Irani; December 27
Havovi Fali Framji and Erich Rusi Tavadia; December 27
Freny Jamshed Wadia and Mahiyar Jal Kapadia; December 28
Niloufer Farrokh Sidhwa and

Rumy Nariman Dukandar; December 30
Arnavaz Adi Doctor and Hormuz Bomi Bhaka; December 31
Farida Burjor Mirza and Bomi Sam Gandhi; December 31
Kamal Farrokh Keravala and Firoz Keki Motafram; December 31
Jasmin Hoshang Palsetia and Firdaus Rusi Bhathena; January 1, 1994
Kermiz Godrej Patel and Histasp Burjor Mehta; January 1
Kareena Jimmy Panthaki and Cyrus Kersie Vandrevalla; January 1
Maharukh Kersi Patel of Canada and Aspi Jal Kootar; January 2
Meher Kobad Panthaki and Rustom Dara Patel of Thane; January 2
Anahita Phiroze Choksey and Hormuz Minocher Bhagwagar; January 3
Diana Noshir Kateli and Mehernosh Behram Kotwal; January 3
Mahtab Firoze Munshi and Shahrugh Marzban Cooper; January 4

Katayun Shapur Navder and Mahiyar Gustad Dastoor; January 4
Jennifer Rohinton Gunder and Berjis Firoze Gilder; January 4
Dilshad Faredoon Delkhan and Sheriyar Sohrab Tirandazi; January 4
Shernaz Minoo Vesuna and Yazdi Fakir Bardoliwalla; January 6
Tenaz Dinshaw Dastoor and Rumy Jehangir Cooper; January 6
Firza Bomi Peer and Hoshedar Pervez Elavia; January 7
Havovie Jamshed Marfatia and Neville Ratansha Pardiwalla; January 9
Laila Homi Commissariat and Jehangir Dinshaw Petit; January 9
Freny Framroze Antia and Naozer Rusi Wankadiya; January 12
Dinaz Jamshed Vazifdar and Sarosh Firoze Khan; January 13
Jasmine Eruch Cooper of Navsari and Nozer Dhanjisha Sadri; January 13
Anahita Sorab Billimoria and Merwan Adi Dubash; January 16

Bakhtawar Keki Ghadialy and Rustom Khodu Shelangi; January 16
Anahita Erach Amaria and Rohinton Phiroze Aderianwalla; January 17
Binaifer Behram Kapadia and Zarir Sam Amaria; January 17
Shahin Jamshed Varzavandi and Darayes Nariman Munshi; January 18
Almitra Nadirsha Dumasia and Darius Jamshed Desai; January 20
Kamal Nariman Mistri and Marazban Shiavax Doctor; January 20
Ferhiz Jimmy Cooper of Poona and Darius Philly Lawyer; January 21
Tinaz Pesi Elavia and Farhaad Jimmy Unvala; January 22
Navaz Keki Irani and Dinyar Noshir Anklesaria of Karachi; January 23
Shahernaz Meherjee Jilla of Thane and Khoorshed Jamshed Buhariwala; January 23
Feroza Marzban Bhujwalla and Khusrow Dady Dadabhoy; January 23
Tanaz Minoo Irani and Neville Godrej Dubash; January 23
Benaaz Burjor Hiranmanek and

**With best
 compliments from a
 Well-Wisher**

Steamship agents – master stevedores
dubashes – lighterage contractors

Darabshaw B. Cursetjee's Sons (Bombay) Pvt Ltd

Darabshaw House, Ballard Road, Bombay 400038

Grams: DEADWEIGHT Telex: 5824 DBCB IN

Phone: 2610021 (4 lines) (Dock Office: 2612230)

Also associates at

**Calcutta, Vishakhapatnam, Kakinada,
Mangalore, Bhavnagar, Bedi-port, Navlakhi,
Veraval, Porbunder & Kandla**

**Also sole Government Landing contractors
at Jamnagar, (Bedi) Bhavnagar**

Pheroze Kearsasp Mistry,
January 23
Kashmira Minoo Fanibanda
and *Farrhad Purviz Vakharia*;
January 23
Binaifer Rusi Kelawala and
Sharukh Minoo Mandroina;
January 24
Shirin Dara Contractor and
Behzad Keki Mehta; January 24
Farzana Jamshed Irani of
Dahanu and *Ardeshir Merwan*
Namdarian of Palghar;
January 24
Benaifer Soli Daruwala and
Naozer Sohrab Bachana;
January 25
Tanaz Cawas Todiwala
and *Zubin Rustam Mehta*;
January 27
Dilmeher Hoshang Bharucha
of Navsari and *Hoshedar*
Phiroze Bhola; January 28
Maharukh Sorabsha
Dhamodiwalla and *Hormuz*
Hoshang Lavangia;
January 28
Avan Dinyar Bhagat and
Kayomars Faramarz Doomasia;
January 30
Pouruchisti Noshir Sethna and
Rustom Jamshed Wadia;
January 30
Firuz Minoo Daver of Thane

and *Yezdi Diniar Bajan*;
January 31

DIED

Pirozshah Ratanji Dalal (82),
residing at F. N. Patel Agiary,
19, Gunpowder Rd, Mazgaon,
400010; December 1, 1993
Sherbanoo Ardeshir Engineer
(83), 14, Jer Bldg, Khetwadi 6th
Lane, 400004; December 1
Goolbai Aspandiar Irani (80),
9, New Mistry Bldg, Balaram
St, 400007; December 1
Gool Jehangir Mistry (63),
E/10, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd,
400039; December 1
Rusi Hormusji Mistry (60),
Motibai Bhavan, Proctor St,
Grant Rd, 400007; December 1
Dina Faramji Fitter (68), 7/694,
Doctor Bldg, Dr Dinsha Master
Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
December 2
Aimai Nadirshaw Patel (82), 3,
Cama Bldg, Merwanji Cama
Park, Cama Rd, Andheri (W),
400058; December 2
Pestonji Navroji Patel (79),
Golwalla Bldg, Khetwadi 8th
Lane, Grant Rd, 400004;
December 2
Banoobai Phirozeshaw Shroff
(87), 72/B, Cozy Bldg, Gowalia

Tank, 400036; December 2
N. M. Surty (70), Sanjivni
Prasad, Khed Gali, Sayani Rd,
400025; December 2
Jamshed Ardeshir Daji (95), 82,
Persepolis, Cuffe Parade,
400005; December 3
Nadirshaw Maherwanji
Karbhari (91), Karbhari
Cottage, Subhash Rd,
Jogeshwari (E), 400060;
December 3
Godrej Pestonji Mugasheth
(82), 319, Samudra Mhl,
Dr Annie Besant Rd, 400018;
December 3
Khushroo Boman Aurophy (75),
12/A, Papa Bldg, Contractor
Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim,
400016; December 5
Neville Homi Hakim (19), C,
Mistry Bldg, Balaram St, Grant
Rd, 400007; December 5
Dara Pallanji Kheshwala (70),
8, Patel Bldg, Forjett St Cross
Lane, A. K. Marg, 400036;
December 5
Hoshang Dhunjishaw
Taraporewalla (65), Noor-E-
Rehmat, 59, B. J. Rd, Bandra,
400050; December 5
Banoobai Eruchshaw Dumasia
(76), S. Dalal Est, Lamington
Rd, Bombay Central, 400008;

December 6
Ardeshar Hormasji Engineer
(Cawas Cama) (92), B/7,
Tardeo Chmbs, Avabai
Kashinath Rd, Tardeo, 400034;
December 6
Daulat Marzaban Irani
(Abadan) (85), 18, Station
Ter, Sleater Rd, 400007;
December 6
Shireen Cursetji Limjee (88),
77, Hirabai Petit Bldg, Opp
Grant Rd Stn, 400007;
December 6
Jehangir Dadabhai Madon (83),
Bhiwandiwalla Bldg, 10/12,
Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034;
December 6
Sam Bomanji Mistry (84), 22,
Wadia Bldg, Marazban Clny,
Dr A. L. Nair Rd, 400011;
December 6
Rustom Kaikhushroo Manjara
(78), 723, Dr Dinsha Master Rd,
Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
December 7
Dolat Edulji Kalyaniwalla (85),
B, Merwan Irani Bldg, Opp
Grant Rd Stn, 400007;
December 8
Tehmina Sorabji Patel (93), 34,
Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame
Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar,
400014; December 8

FIRDOS & S. CAMBATTA CO.

'Cambatta Central', Bharat Bobins Ltd Premises
Rakhial Road, Ahmedabad 380023

Agents in Gujarat for:



M/s ION EXCHANGE (INDIA) LTD
For INDION Water Softening Plants,
Demineralisers, Cation & Anion Resins,
Filters, Chemical Dosers etc

☆☆☆



Sole concessionaires in Gujarat for:
M/s INGERSOLL-RAND (INDIA) LTD
For Air Compressors and Vacuum Pumps

With the compliments of

**THE EASTERN ELECTRIC
LIGHT & POWER COMPANY
Private Limited**

Alli Chambers
4-B, Homi Mody 2nd Cross Lane
Fort, Bombay 400023

Grams: Eastlight, Bombay
Phone: 2653314 Fax: 91-22-2652125
Internet: guzder.eelpco@axcess.net.in
aXcess: guzder.eelpco

Estd 1881

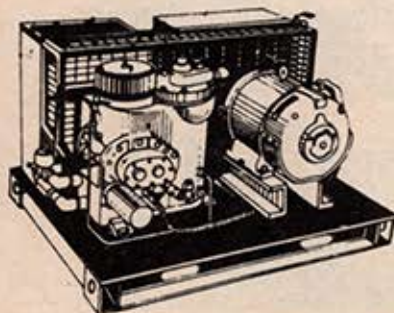
**ELECTRICAL, MECHANICAL & LIFT
ENGINEERS
AND CONTRACTORS**

Rusi Feroz Cooper (79), Cooper Bldg, Corner of Grant Rd, 400007; December 9
Burjor Jamshedji Khambatta (78), 10, Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; December 9
Dhurmai Dorabsha Udhawala (81), 29, Ganesh Bhavan, Noori Baba Rd, Makhmal Talao, Thane, 400601; December 9
Framroze Burjorji Shroff (89), Hormaz Baug Bldg, Kashinath St, Tardeo, 400034; December 10
Ratanshaw Hiraji Bhiwandiwala (70), 2, Kavarana Bldg, Dadar Cross Rd, Dadar, 400014; December 11
Bhanu Dhunji Daruwala (75), 5, Nariyalwala Bldg, M. M. C. Rd, Mahim, 400016; December 11
Cawas Faramroze Jassawala (71), C/o 21, Alankar, Worli Sea Face, 400025; December 11
Maneckshaw Meherjibhai Khambatta (86), 16, Dubash Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; December 11
Jerbai Rustomji Mehta (90), C/1, Petit Block, Baramam St, Grant Rd, 400007;

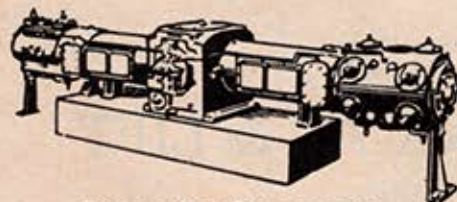
December 12
Behram Framroze Nava (65), 247, Vira Hse, Dr Cawasji Hormusji St, 400002; December 12
Dinamai Jalejar Dordi (79), 617/B, Cooper Bldg, J. Shankersheth Rd, 400002; December 13
Khorshed Ardesir Engineer (82), Jehangir Mans, 1st Marine St, 400020; December 13
Sheru Rustom Sethna (87), Seervai Bldg, Sleater Rd, 400007; December 13
Mehrwan Nariman Haivai (67), Engineer Bldg, Princess St, 400002; December 14
Khorshed Bejanji Kanga (83), 23/22, Guru Ngr, Four Bglws, Andheri (W), 400058; December 14
Nelly Dadi Naegamwala (80), Chapsey Ter, 30, Altamount Rd, 400026; December 14
Jamshed Burjorji Patel (80), 2/2, Malegaumwala Bldg, Murzban Clny, Gilder Lane, 400008; December 14
Minocher Dossabhoj Shroff (68), C/o Ms Jer Naval Shroff, 10/2, Kashinath Bldg, Kashinath St, 400034; December 14

Mehra Dinshaw Italia (80), 1, Kashinath Bldg, Avabai Kashinath St, Tardeo, 400034; December 16
Perviz Jal Balliwala (44), 27, Rupal Apt II, 98, Dada Saheb Phalke Rd, Dadar, 400014; December 17
Arnaz Darayus Irani (20), 9, Piroja Mans, Opp Grant Rd Parcel Office, 400007; December 17
Jal Manekshaw Kotwal (83), C, Contractor Bldg, Kashinath St, Tardeo, 400034; December 17
Amy Kaikhushroo Master (81), Sakseria Sadan, 20, Nepean Sea Rd, 400036; December 17
Dadabhoj Pestonji Fanibanda (95), V/9, Dalal Est, Bombay Central, 400008; December 18
Jal Rustomjee Fenivala (87), Meher Mans, Jamshedji Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007; December 18
Shirin Behram Irani (70), 11, P. P. Qrs, Ambawadi, B. G. Kher Marg, 400006; December 18
Jerbanoo Kuwershaw Bulsara (70), 275/1, Master Bldg, Tardeo Rd, Chikalwadi, 400007; December 19
Rustom Boman Irani (77), 32/E, Parsi Punchayet Blocks,

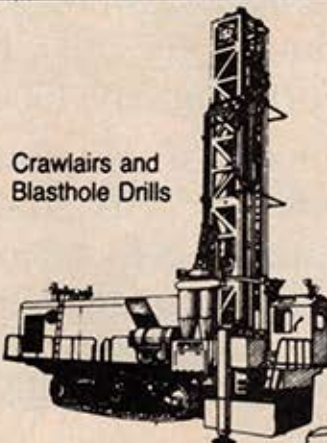
Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; December 19
Mehli Manchershaw Photographer (64), Soonawalla Bldg, Khetwadi, 12th Cross Lane, 400004; December 19
Eduji Cawasji Pavri (82), 6, Jehangir Mans, 1st Marine St, 400020; December 19
Goolcher Minocher Antia (73), Pannalal Bldg, Bazar Gate St, Fort, 400001; December 20
Jer Jehangirji Sopariwala (73), A/3, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; December 20
Burjor Ratanji Bhagwagar (63), 16, Habib Hse, M. Shaukatali Rd, 400007; December 21
Jal Cawasji Hansotia (60), 387, Tata Ngr, Near Qureshi Masjid, Govandi Stn Rd, 400043; December 21
Mehroo Farokh Patel (77), Josephine Apts, Chimbai Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; December 21
Shirin Rustomji Pithawalla (84), F/11, Contractor Baug, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; December 21
Colan Framji Vania (87), Jalbhai Seth Bldg, 279, Tardeo Rd, 400007; December 21
Rustom Phiroze Master (59),



Rotary Screw Air Compressors



Process Gas Compressors



Crawlaire and Blasthole Drills



Water Well Drills



Portable Compressors

Air and Gas Compressors • Construction & Mining Equipment

INGERSOLL-RAND

Ingersoll-Rand (India) Ltd., Maybaker House, S.K. Ahire Marg, Bombay 400 025

IR.191.86

*With Best Compliments
From*

ZORO GARMENTS Private Limited

(An Eligible Export House
Recognised by the
Government of India)

**Manufacturers and Exporters
of Readymade Garments,
Made-Ups & Fabrics**

Address:

C-3, Industrial Estate, Ambattur, Madras 600058
Phone: 652416/652497 Telex: 4122059 ZORO IN
Fax: (91) 44-6257789

A/26, Anand Ngr, Forjett St,
400026; December 22
Jer Darabsha Vesuna (70),
2/20, Park Darshan, Opp
Lallubhai Park, Andheri (W),
400058; December 22
Homee Cawasji Ragina (89),
3/1, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc,
Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012;
December 23
Minoo Bomanji Sahiar (85), 24,
Palkhiwala Bldg, Dhobitalao
Lane, 400002; December 23
Nariman Maneckshaw Amrolia
(65), 733, Ratanbai Katpitia
Bldg, Rd no 4-14, Parsi Clny,
Dadar 400014; December 24
Dinbai Maneksha Ghadiali
(83), C/o, Sheramai Katrak,
Banaji Bldg, Forjett St, 400026;
December 24
Khodadad Mondegar Irani (72),
4, Henre Bldg, Sleater Rd,
400007; December 24
Dina Dhunjishaw Patell (82),
3/3, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd,
400027; December 24
Burjor Behramji Wadia (Banga)
(60), C/1, Petit Bldg, Avabai
Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007;
December 24
Bomi Motabhai Anklesaria (77),
5, Sai Niwas, J. Petit St,
Balaram St, 400007;

December 25
Sheriyar Merwan Irani
(Kuchiyogi) (82), 1/7,
S. B. Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd,
Andheri (W), 400058;
December 25
Noshir Rustomji Shroff (76),
Motlibai Wadia Bldg,
Chikalwadi, Grant Rd, 400007;
December 25
Cawas Darabshaw Bhatena
(58), 1A/31, Tata Mills Co-op
Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel,
400012; December 26
Firoze Burjorji Bulsara (72),
F/20, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug,
400012; December 26
Kali Hormusji Vesuna (62), 1,
Padamji Bldg, Khan Est, Parsi
Clny, Mahim, 400016;
December 26
Kety Nadirsha Vesuvala (84),
614, Jame Jamshed Rd,
Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
December 26
Sorab Jamshedji Forbes (84),
Jer Manzil, 17, Oliver Rd,
Apollo Recl, 400039;
December 27
Rustom Khodadad Irani (75),
G/20, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd,
400039; December 27
Homai Fram Merchant (80),
602, Shiv Shakti, Ceasar Rd,

Andheri (W), 400058;
December 27
Goolbai Nadershaw Sidhva
(97), The Beacon, 140, Backbay
Recl, 400021; December 27
Freny Jamshed Pochkhanawala
(81), A/2, Cuffe Castle, Cuffe
Parade, 400005; December 28
Bacha Rustom Irani (71), A/24,
Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Rd,
Byculla, 400027; December 29
Naju Nanabhoy Patel (70), 780,
Karani Mans, Mancherji Joshi
Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
December 29
Perin Framroze Dabhoiwala
(82), 14/B, Carter Rd, Bandra,
400050; December 30
Alanmai Jamaspji Raja (86),
14/A, Dr Sukhia Hse, Cawasji
Patel St, Fort, 400001;
December 30
Lovji Maneckshaw Fraser
(Frasis) (82), 501, Sankalp, 65,
Turner Rd, Bandra, 400050;
December 31
Sorab (Sorabji) Cawasji
Dotiwala (80), 603, Goola
Mans, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi
Clny, Dadar, 400014;
January 1, 1994
Hoshang Muncharshaw
Polishwalla (76), 61, Go-Nidhi,
10, Hill Rd, Bandra, 400050;

January 2
Naju Jehangirshah Shroff (75),
7/B, Tata Blocks, Tardeo,
400007; January 2
Pesi Pirojshah Engineer (61),
E/11, Rustom Baug, Victoria
Rd, Byculla, 400027; January 3
Roda Homi Aga (62), 347/C,
United Chmbs, Grant Rd,
400007; January 4
Feroze Framroze Cama (75),
1, Malegamwalla Bldg, Chotani
Rd, Mahim, 400016; January 4
Aimai Minocher Khandadia
(84), 44/A, Batliwalla Villa,
Sleater Rd, Grant Rd, 400007;
January 4
Darabshaw Faramroz Machhli-
wala (70), A/6, Jer Baug, Dr
Ambedkar Rd, Byculla, 400027;
January 4
Navabhai Pirojshah Mistry (92),
7, Kety Ter, Sleater Rd,
400007; January 5
Behram Barjorji Ankleshwaria
(53), C/o Ms A. H. Vazifdar,
106-11, Godrej Clny, Stn Rd,
Vikhroli (E), 400079; January 6
Dina Burjor Ginwalla (76),
Lalita Kunj, 63, Ambedkar Rd,
Khar, 400052; January 6
Najoo Khurshedji Jassawalla
(85), 808, Boman Lodge,
Khodadad Circle, Dr B.



For Pure Diamonds

K. WADIA
JEWELLERS

324, Grant Road, Bombay 400007. Telephone 3099648 Fax 3073483
APPOINTED VALUERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

With Best Compliments From

R. NOWROJEE and Company

Specialised in
MICR Cheques
Public Issues
and
Multicoloured Offset Printing

Pallonji Compound
Dadoji Kondev Cross Marg
Victoria Garden
Bombay 400027

Tel: 3722550, 3710617

Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; January 6
Banubai Eruchshaw Tangri (86), 4, Banu Manor, Azad Rd, Andheri (E), 400069; January 6
Naja Khurshed Tata (79), R, Dalal Est, Bombay Central, 400008; January 6
Alamai Kekobad Bamboat (80), 4/A, Satya Bhama Nivas, Kashinath Rd, Tardeo, 400034; January 7
Khurshed Jamshedji Dhondy (84), 630, Gemfrina, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 7
Noshir Ferdunji Divecha (75), C/o 250, Bazar Gate St, Fort, 400001; January 7
Freny Aspi Irani (81), Chinoy Mans, Warden Rd, 400026; January 7
Meherbai Nadirshaw Mistry (83), 42, Shroff Hse, Sleater Rd, 400007; January 7
Shavaksha Dinshawji Gotla (86), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; January 8
Framroze Erachshaw Cooper (93), 4/9, Beuno Vista, Windy Hall Lane, Colaba, 400005; January 9
Roshan Cyrus Dubash (56),

Best View, Raghavji Rd, Cumballa Hill, 400036; January 9
Dhunjishaw Nasserwanji Sethna (52), Tapia Bldg, Jalbhai St, Grant Rd, 400004; January 10
Jer Bejan Khambatta (63), 7/19, Panthaky Baug, Andheri (E), 400069; January 11
Jaloo Eruchsha Medhora (90), F/11, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004, January 11
Sorabji Jehangirji Mistry (82), 647, Gai Bldg, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 11
Freny Ardeshtir Katki (58), A/9, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; January 12
Darabshaw Phirozsha Banker (80), C/o F. S. Madon, 12/1, Sleater Hse, Sleater Rd, 400007; January 13
Aloo Minoo Billimoria (56), 691, Dr Dinsha Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 13
Allamai Dhunjishaw Chhoga (89), 2/4, Sir Ratan Tata Bldg, Tata Blocks, S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400050; January 13
Noshir Merwanji Karanjia (91), Najoo Kutir, 20th Rd, Chembur, 400070; January 13
Padam Savaksha Patel (77),

C/o Eric Padam Patel, 502, Samer, 206, I. C. Clny, Borivli, 400103; January 13
Mehroo Dhunjisha Wadia (59), B, Wassiamall Bldg, Grant Rd, 400007; January 13
Keki Sorabji Medhora (82), 112, Maneck Bldg, Lamington Rd, 400008; January 14
Shavak Pestonji Anklesaria (79), Motibai Bhavan, Proctor St, Above Cine Corporation, Grant Rd, 400007; January 16
Roshan Pestonji Damania (68), Zaveri Bldg, Albless Baug, Charni Rd, 400004; January 16
Navalshaw Ratanji Daruwalla (82), Piroja Ter, Near Zanda Chowk, Vapi, Dist Valsad, Gujarat, 396001; January 16
Jal Hormusji Dumasia (66), 6, Maneck Mans, Stn Rd, Mahim, 400016; January 16
Hanosh Rashid Khambatta (17), 7, Sai Ashish, Dr Peter Dias Rd, Hill Rd, Bandra, 400050; January 16
Nadirshaw Nanabhoy Mistry (90), Shroff Hse, 42, Sleater Rd, 400007; January 16
Hoshang Sorabji Wadia (75), R/4, Shapoorji Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; January 16

Zavareh Jal Havewala (46), 34, Panday Sanatorium, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; January 17
Kawasji Shapurji Kanga (84), 12, Patel Bldg, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; January 17
Faroque Jehangirji Rustomji (72), 54/5, Vijay Chmbs, Tribhuvan Rd, 400004; January 17
Roda Tehmuras Contractor (65), Cosy Corner, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; January 18
Sheramai Erachshaw Cooper (87), 14/1, Panthaki Baug, Andheri (E), 400069; January 18
Tehmina Ardeshtir Kapadia (76), 618/D, Bhiwandiwalla Ter, J. Shankarshet Rd, Dhobitalao, 400002; January 18
Minocher Ratanji Khambatta (87), Mishra Bhuvan, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; January 18
Sam Sorabji Mistry (79), A, Yusuf Mans, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; January 18
Shirin Homi Bharucha (83), 4, Phayre Rd, Pune, 411001; January 19
Burjorjee Eruchsha Khambatta (88), 659, Keki Hse, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; January 19
Jamshed Framroze Charna

Best Wishes From

RUSY & PURVIZ SHROFF

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

JAMES MACKINTOSH & COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED

(Regd. Office: 231, Dr D. N. Road, Bombay 400001)

**SHIP OWNERS, SHIP AGENTS
CHARTERERS, SHIP BROKERS
P & I CORRESPONDENTS**

Administrative Office: "DARABSHAW HOUSE," 3rd Floor
Shoorji Vallabhadras Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay 400038
Cable: "MACKINTOSH," Telex: 11-82413 JMCO IN, 11-84896 JMCO IN
Tel: 2610161/62, 2619232/33, 2618764, 2610001
Fax: 91-22-2615725

(62), 595, Jagannath Shanker-
seth Rd, 400002; January 20
Behram Savak Suntoke (65),
2/A, Skyscraper, Bhulabhai
Desai Rd, 400026; January 20
Dinshaw Dadabhai Kapadia
(72), 648, Kaka Bldg, Firdoshi
Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
January 21
Jehangir Jalejar Daruwala
(65), 27-28, Hill Niketan,
Mount Mary Rd, Bandra,
400050; January 23
Rustom Eruchshaw Irani (64),
R/30, 23(A), C, Bhabha Block,
Bhabha Sanatorium, Bandstand,
Bandra, 400050; January 23
Aloo Dhunjishaw Kharas (93),
62/A, Grand Paradi, August
Kranti Marg, 400036;
January 23
Sorabji Edulji Modi (93),
Mithaiwala Mans, Khetwadi
12th Lane, 400004; January 23
Banoo Pestonji Toddywalla
(81), B/17, Cusrow Baug,
S. B. Rd, 400039; January 23
Hilla Kaikhushroo Madon (82),
Motabhoys Mans, 130, M. Karve
Rd, 400020; January 24
Jimmy Nasarwanji Motiwala
(74), 73, Shangrilla, Colaba
Post Office, 400005; January 24
Mithan Minoo Pavri (77), 16/A,
Anand Ngr, Forjett St, 400036;
January 24
Jal Maneckji Todiwalla (84),
92, Engineer Hse, Ardesher
Dadi St, Khetwadi, 400004,
January 24
Eruch Shavaksha Batliwalla
(77), 554, Jonette, Jame
Jamshed Rd, Matunga, 400019;
January 25
Sarosh Manchi Bharucha (21),
Shiv Parvati Bldg, Elphinstone
Rd, 400013; January 25
Roshen Pheroze Gimi (72), 12,
Jer Mans, Gowalia Tank Rd,
400036; January 25
Khodamorad Rashid Kohinoor
(65), Ahmed Mans, Arthur
Bunder Rd, 400005; January 25
Tehmina Sorabji Bilimoria (90),
B/20, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar
Rd, Byculla, 400027;
January 26
Coomi Jal Press (74), 36, Press
Bldg, Mangalore St, Fort
Market, 400038; January 26
Maneck Burjorji Sahiar (87),
650, Karani Bldg, Firdoshi Rd,
Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
January 26
Aloo Rustomji Talati (80),
D-3/31, S. B. Bharucha Baug,
S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
January 26
Mehlli Hormusji Umrigar (74),

A/14, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug,
400012; January 26
Roshan Nasarwanji Bharucha
(63), 24/10-A, Sir Ratan Tata
Clny, Tardeo, 400034;
January 27
Jamshedji Burjorji Mirza (88),
C/o S. M. Sidhwa, R/4/12,
Sundar Ngr, Malad (W),
400064; January 27
Rusi Darabshah Modi (77),
F/21, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd,
400039; January 27
Sheroo Jehangirji Sidhwa (75),
F. S. Parukh Dharamshala, 34,
Hughes Rd, 400007; January 27
Darabshaw Dhanjishaw Elavia
(74), 28, Daruwala Hse,
Dhobitalao 1st Lane, 400002;
January 28
Dina Homi Panthaki (75),
2/3, Bai Jeevanbai Tata Bldg,
S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400050;
January 28
Shirinbai Ratansha Sahuraja
(87), T/2, Nowroz Baug,
Lalbaug, 400012; January 28
Banubai Nadirsha Thanawala
(85), Sethna Bldg, Parel Tank
Rd, 400012; January 28
Perin Dinshaw Fitter (71), 3/10,
Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd,
Byculla, 400027; January 29
Rustom Nanabhoy Shroff (76),
C/12/A, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd,
400004; January 29
Tehmina Sheriar Sidhwa (88),
M. Wadia Bldg, Wadia St,
Tardeo, 400034; January 29
Nergish Bomansha Mody (89),
8, St Martins Rd, Bandra,
400050; January 31

CALCUTTA

BORN

A boy, *Sarhan*, to *Sharmila* and
Sohrab Italia; October 22, 1993
A girl, *Natasha*, to *Priscilla*
and *Kershasp Anklesaria*;
January 8, 1994

MARRIED

Denaz J. Bhesania and *Amrit-
endu Roy*; December 17, 1993
Sujata Kumar and *Xerxes Pesi
Gazdar*; December 26

COONOOR

DIED

Dorab Kanga; November 15

DELHI

MARRIED

Navaz Daroga and *Zubbair
Aria*; November 21

POONA

DIED

Khodabux F. Irani (54), 3,

M. G. Rd, 411001; October 5
Edulji Shapoorji Poonawala
(90), B/16-18; Connaught Rd,
411001; October 5
Nargesh F. Merchant (79),
551/6, Gultakdi, Salisbury Park,
411001; October 8
Jal Ardesher Meher-Homji,
father of Feroze; November 8
Khushroo Minoo Fraser (42),
22, Jaysom Bldg, Lullanagar,
411040; November 11
Sam Kaikhushroo Patel (65),
90, Konark Ngr No 1, Viman
Ngr, 411014; November 15
Percy Pervaz Kapadia (19),
Neta Ngr, 411040;
November 21
Rohinton Khodadad Govarian
(28), 956, Sachapur St, 411001;
December 12
Hosang Jehangir Buhariwala
(68), 33, Banoo Apts, Dastur
Meher Rd, 411001;
December 13
Jimmy Jehangir Ollia, brother
of Jal, Noshir and late Nargesh
Wadia; December 15
(cremated)
Manijeh Firoze Mehta (85) 895,
Synagogue St, 411001;
December 18
Phirozeshaw Burjor Mehta
(94), 827, Dastur Meher Rd,
411001; December 19-
Gool Rustom Wadia (72)
Canopus Apts, Boat Club Rd,
411001; December 28
Roshan Dinshaw Irani (69),
8, Kahun Rd, 411001;
January 7, 1994
Jehan Savak Dastur (90), 14,
Stavley Rd, 411001; January 24
Lovji Maneckshaw Malegaon
(71), 7, East St, 411001;
January 30

SURAT

MARRIED

Jennifer Wadia, daughter of
Mehru and Pesi of Jamshedpur
and *Firdose Kapadia*, son of
Khorshed and Aspi of Ahmeda-
bad; November 18, 1993

DIED

Ratanshaw Eruchshaw Patel
(90), Par Mohallo, Nanpura,
395001; December 3
Tehmina Rustomji Kapadia
(83), 12/1260, Maachlipith,
395003; December 5
Najamai Gustadi Vesuna (86),
Par Mohallo, Nanpura, 395001;
December 10
Najamai Dinshawji Dalal (80),
Vado Mohallo, Rustompura,
395002; December 13
Minocher Hormusji Dumasia

(86), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
December 13
Alamai Dinshawji Pajniagara
(68), Unwala Bldg, Nanpura,
395001; December 21
Cawashaw Dinshawji Daruwala
(89), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
December 22
Freny Keki Elavia (65),
Rajendra Ngr, Sasapati,
Rajpipla, 393145; December 23
Fareedon Rustomji Adajania
(59), December 29
Pirojbai Eruchshaw Pithawala
(84), Ankita Apts, Vanki
Bordi, Shahpore, 395003;
January 2, 1994
Sheramai N. Unwala (86),
Nariman Home and Infirmary,
Shahpore, 395003; January 8
Jehangirji Framji Jalgaonwala
(90), 334, New Peth, Stn Rd,
Jalgaon; January 10
Framroze Darabsha Mehta
(85), Dangore St, Nanpura,
395001; January 22
Aloo Nariman Petigara (63),
Sherdiwala Blocks, Shahpore,
395003; January 23
Framroze Ardesher Vakharia
(76), 4, Yogi Smruti Apt,
Nanpura, 395001; January 23
Dadi Cawasji Bhathena (60),
Bhathena Mans, Muglisara,
395003; January 24
Khorshedbanoo Manekji Turel
(74), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
January 30
Kekhashroo Rustomji Dastoor
(Randeria) (71), Parsi Wad,
Rander; January 31

AUSTRALIA

Sydney

BORN

A boy, *Rishad*, to *Nilufer* and
Rohinton Shroff; October 11,
1993

CANADA

Calgary

DIED

Noshir Kapadia, husband of
Freny and brother of Kersy,
Nani and Pervaz; December 17

HONG KONG

BORN

A boy, *Farhad*, to *Roxy* and
Rustom Jokhi; January 11, 1994

PAKISTAN

Karachi

BORN

A boy, *Behram*, to *Shahnaz* and
Yazdi Sethna; September 13, 1993

With the compliments of

**N. S. Guzder
& Co. Ltd.**

Neville House
Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038

A girl, *Miraal*, to *Delara* and *Murzban Mavalwalla*; October 3

A boy, *Homi*, to *Yasmin* and *Aspi Sethna*; October 22

A boy, *Sharyar*, to *Juliet* and *Julian Patlu*; October 26

A boy, *Shaun*, to *Dilnawaz* and *Eruch Malbari*; November 23

A girl, *Evita*, to *Armin* and *Yazdi Mehta*; December 31

DIED

Perin Nariman Marker (84); November 1

Eruch Dorabji Kapdia (70); November 21

Daulet Felfali (79); December 8

Homi Nadirshaw Mehta (93); December 22

UAE

Dubai

BORN

A boy, *Nushzaad*, to *Khushnum* and *Malcolm Darukhanawalla*; October 19

A girl, *Amy*, to *Zenobia* and *Dinshaw Billimoria*; October 30

UK

London

BORN

A boy, *Byrom*, to *Susan* and

Mehernosh Irani, brother to *Jasmine* and *Mubarakh*; October 21

USA

Columbus, Ohio

DIED

Noshir Toddywalla, husband

of *Barbara*, son of *Rusi* and *Rhoda* and brother of *Aspi*, *Adil* and *Ronnie*; November 11

Los Angeles

BORN

A girl, *Shahnaz*, to *Mahrugh* and *Khushroo Fitter*, sister to

Roxanne; August 4

Monrovia, California

BORN

A boy, *Eric*, to *Nora* and *Cyrus Batty*; August 24

Compiled by *Roxana A. Driver*

TOTALS FOR 1993 AND 1994

	Bombay			India			World		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
BORN									
Boys	24	136	10	2	7	—	9	32	1
Girls	27	135	12	1	2	1	4	36	—
MARRIED									
Parsi	128	320	44	2	10	—	—	11	—
Intercommunal	—	54	—	2	4	—	—	5	—
DIED									
INTERRED									
Male	92	563	44	21	98	5	4	48	—
Female	81	524	40	13	75	4	2	33	—
CREMATED									
Male	—	2	—	1	1	—	—	—	—
Female	—	5	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

A: Total numbers in this issue

B: Running totals for 1993 (February 1993-February-March 1994 issues)

C: Running totals for 1994

A dry earth or a green world.



It's for us to choose.

Acid rain. Forest fires ...
global warming ...

Yes. The choice of the
future is entirely ours.

We at Tatas are ever
conscious of the dangers
facing the environment. And
are involved in its
preservation. Be it planting
of trees. Or installing
electrostatic precipitators.
So that we can leave behind
a beautiful world for our
children.

TATA
ENTERPRISES

Reaching for the Sky



Two landmarks in Bombay – the Commerce Centre of the World Trade Centre Complex and the new Reserve Bank Building.

Both built by Shapoorji Pallonji of course!



SHAPOORJI PALLONJI & CO. (PVT.) LTD.

Shapoorji Pallonji Centre, 41/44, Minoo Desai Marg. Colaba.
Bombay-400 005. Phone: 2870211/2870195/2870197.



The JNM Forbesons Group

Vidya viheenah pashuh.

So said our forefathers.

Thus ashrams were born, where the knowledge and principles needed to live an honest and fruitful life were inculcated in the child. The foundation of a man's character was laid within these homes. The style of education has changed considerably today. But the motive behind it is much the same. To prepare you for a tomorrow.

Which is our line of business, too.

The JNM Forbesons Group.

We use our knowledge and skills in the field of steam engineering and control instrumentation. We work to optimize manufacturing processes and to lower manufacturing costs. To increase efficiency. To do all this with a minimum effect on the environment.

The JNM Forbesons Group.

We constantly keep in mind our basic commitment and obligation to society. We have several vocational skills training facilities and community development programs. A full fledged hospital equipped with a pathological lab, an x-ray unit, a twenty-two bed ward with a large, well-equipped operation theatre. This is for the benefit of the neighbouring township of Kasarwadi with a population of 60,000 people.

The JNM Forbesons Group.

Committed to service.

the steam engineering and control instrumentation people

Bombay-Pune Road, Kasarwadi, Pune-411 034.

Tel: 91 (0) 212-773495, Tlx : 0146-221/265 JNMS/JNMPIN, Fax : 91 (0) 212-777413/777593

A 34/35 MIDC, Pimpri, Pune- 411 018

Tel : 91 (0) 212-770 171,777762, Tlx : 0146-323 FSON IN, Fax : 91 (0) 212- 777049

J. R. D. TATA

A penchant for perfection

Arnavaz S. Mama

Zoroastrians around the world claimed him as one of their own. Erect figure, steady gaze, unfailing courtesy — they were part of the legend that surrounded a man implacably correct and unflappably outspoken. All of us basked in his reflected glory.

Jehangir Ratanji Dadabhai Tata's speeches invariably made headlines even as little known stories of his many acts of kindness sometimes surfaced in an evening to lighten the weariness of the homebound commuter. Like the time he had been spotted helping a couple of old ladies bravely pushing their stalled car in the rain; or when red faced TELCO (Tata Engineering and Locomotive Company) officials, dumbstruck that a wheel of the model truck they presented to their chairman with fanfare had come adrift in his hands during the ceremony, were set at ease by Tata's masterly diffusion of the crisis: "Does it come with a warranty?"

The fine honing of humor and timing that came so effortlessly to JRD thickened the mystique round the 89-year-old who steadfastly disclaimed the eulogies showered upon him.

Now, in death, Zoroastrians everywhere bemoaned his loss. Nor were they alone. A spate of public condolence meetings all over India and the spontaneous outpouring of affection and respect in the Press for almost a month after his death in Geneva on November 29, 1993, gave the lie to his own disarming self-assessment: "I have usually felt that I had plenty to be modest about."

Apart from the death of Jawaharlal Nehru and the assassinations of Mahatma Gandhi and Indira Gandhi there has not

been "one case in post-Independence India when the death of an individual has been so universally mourned," attested Governor of Maharashtra P. C. Alexander at the condolence meet convened by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) at Cusrow Baug. "So much has been said and written about him in the past 10 days... But there is one common denominator. He was invariably referred to as a good man... We have lost several



men who could be described as great (but) it is very rare that in addition to being a builder and doyen of industry, patron of the arts and prince among philanthropists (one can be) correctly and faithfully described as a good man." Alexander recalled that Tata, on being asked to indicate the guiding principles of his life had noted, "No success or achievement is worthwhile unless it serves the interests of people and is achieved by fair and honest means." I wonder how many people can say such a thing anywhere in this world with the moral courage of J. R. D. Tata.

"When we speak of the business world we have a profile of bitterness, rivalry, putting down competitors, resorting to all sorts of means. Success is the god that's worshipped. JRD contributed a moral dimension to success... that is JRD's main contribution to our country's society, business and culture." (As Lt Governor of Delhi P. K. Dave expressed in the condolence book, "India will remember him not only for his achievements but also for his dominant role in civilizing society in innumerable ways.")

Alexander referred to Dadabhai Naoroji, Jamsetji Tata, JRD, Homi Bhabha as "peaks of excellence... deeply, passionately committed to the country, intensely patriotic, men of vision (and of) impeccable character, straightforward, honest men who respected themselves and therefore respected all men." Reflecting on the vast economic power JRD wielded, "the enormous clout, the influence he could have used for himself," Alexander concluded, "Real power is to touch power but be un-

touched by it."

BPP president Jamshed Guzder referred to the meet in April 1992 to felicitate Tata on the Bharat Ratna award and poignantly recalled Tata's speculation that he may not be around when the BPP calls the next meeting on the Cusrow Baug lawns. Guzder noted how Tata had succeeded in fusing the more than 80 commercial units that comprise the House of Tatas into a family. His decision to start a social audit in Tata companies led to not only the employees being looked after, but embraced the people of the area where the industrial unit was located. The initial area with a five-mile radius around Jamshedpur has grown to incorporate land and people within a 45-mile radius of the steel city, noted Guzder, including the land, waters, forests and creatures that inhabit them.

"The zest for life can begin to fade as we get older," reflected Guzder, contrasting the general image against Jeh's attitude that spurred him into learning skiing at the age of 45 and enjoying the sport for the next 40 years!

Surat Parsi Panchayat president Dr Sam Bhacca stated that people in Surat who had never once met JRD were desolate at his passing. The observation is corroborated by several messages in the condolence book at Bombay House and letters in the Press from people who had never known him yet felt orphaned by his death and spoke of the vacuum his loss had created.

Legal luminary and ACC (Associated Cement Companies) chairman Nani Palkhivala described Tata, one of the last to leave Bombay House at the end of the day, as a frugal man, a simple man: "Extravagance was foreign to his nature. He did not believe in ostentation." He underlined Tata's legendary openmindedness: "He often revised his ideas. Not for him the obstinacy of a man who thinks he's always right." Palkhivala said he "didn't remember a time when (Tata) thought of profitability before the welfare of people. His warmth of heart, genial temperament, understanding of human frailty endeared him to colleagues, staff and employees. He saw to it that everybody had a fair deal."

According to N. Vaghul of the Industrial Credit and Investment Corporation of India (ICICI) JRD had "risen above petty narrow interests, beyond country, beyond community, to humanity at large... In the 1930s he thought of professionalized management in his



JRD and his Puss Moth: a long love affair

companies. That was his major impact... (and) Tata symbolized what business ethics really mean. We are always told it is very difficult for business to be honest. JRD proved that it (is) possible to grow and prosper with high business ethics. Tatas' ethics became the cornerstone of their philosophy for 50 to 60 years." Noting that modesty was almost a byword with Tata, Vaghul added, "modest people have dignity, not only in life but in death."

Bombay Sheriff F. T. Khorakiwala took up the story from there, noting, "We know more about JRD after his death than when he was alive." He ascribed the goodwill present in Tata organizations to JRD's accessibility, humane nature, his ability "to make people feel they were not working for him but with him." The Sheriff referred to Tata's commitment to communal harmony and his spirited (though infructuous) demand during the Bombay riots of 1992-93 that government take a firm stand. Khorakiwala said he knew he "wouldn't find a better Zoroastrian -- (one who) followed good thoughts, good words, good deeds throughout his life."

JRD was wont to say that after death he would return from time to time to see how things were shaping in India, as notes *India Today*. If perchance he was present at the condolence meet he might

have known the man (perhaps a driver) who, while the audience listened to the articulate speakers, stepped in front of his garlanded frame, carefully stuck a single rose among the rest, namaskared and departed.

While the turnout at Cusrow Baug had been substantial, an even larger number of mourners of all communities had flooded the doongerwadi as 12 mobeds led by Dastur (Dr) Hormazdyar Mirza and Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa performed the uthamna ceremony. Despite the unpleasantness generated by a few orthodox dissenting priests (see "JRD: the rites and wrongs," *Parsiana*, January 1994) all ceremonies for the first month after his death were conducted at the H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram and thereafter at the Tata Agiary in Bandra, informed a source at Bombay House. His devoted secretaries ensure that a *diva* continues to burn on his desk under his benign, smiling photograph in his green and white Bombay House office.

JRD's qualities of head and heart, his immense humility and lack of ego were similarly extolled at the condolence meeting convened by the Delhi Parsi Anjuman where Dr Karan Singh, minister of civil aviation and tourism during Tata's years as chairman of Air India, Air Marshal Arjun Singh, Union welfare minister Sitaram Kesari and Harish Khanna who had been associated with JRD due to their involvement in family

planning, recalled their individual experiences with Tata.

A lady employee of Tatas related an incident at Bombay House where the lifts are not available for going down from the first floor. A greenhorn liftman, punctiliously following the law, prevented the chairman with whom he had not yet been acquainted, from entering. Everyone around was discomfited except JRD who walked down the stairs, connected with the liftman on the ground floor and complimented him on discharging his duties so responsibly!

A samast anjuman meeting was summoned by Byram Avari, chairman of the

reveal that JRD touched many lives in many ways: "In my humble capacity... I have been involved in assisting Mr J. R. D. Tata," wrote Jiban Mukhopadhyay, a senior economist at Tata Services. "Each assignment was not only a challenge but an education for me in the sense that a job has to be done (to) meticulous perfection, in total dedication and seriousness, and that excellence is a moving target... He was, and will always remain, my personal hero."

"He was a towering figure — he never allowed others to feel small before him," writes A. R. Gupta of Tata Steel "... Why did you go so soon? I am addressing this

tary," writes R. L. Mehta of New Delhi. "The likes of him visit the planet but rarely. The meetings won't be the same again, and nothing else with which he was associated."

As R. Chandrasekhar has noted in *The Independent*, "the image of JRD that has endured in (my) memory is of one who stood up for a person in the latter's moment of adversity."

Farokh Khodaiji recalls how Tata would visit cricket, football and hockey matches impromptu to watch his teams perform, exchanging a few words with them after the game. "It did wonders for the morale of the Tata boys and the teams were inspired by the presence of 'their' chairman... The Tata business philosophy permeated to the Tata sportsmen as well. They were always well turned out, well behaved and believed in the spirit of sportsmanship."

David Rockefeller, chairman of the international advisory committee of New York's Chase Manhattan Bank on which JRD served as a member for more than 20 years, paid a personal tribute to Tata in the *Sunday Observer* of London. "There have been only two or three members of the committee who served as long as he did. Because of his personal charm, modesty and wisdom, The Chase asked Mr Tata to remain on the committee far beyond a normal retirement age and until he himself indicated two years ago that the lengthy trip from India to New York had become too tiring for him to make." It may be noted that this committee comprises the crème de la crème of international business and finance.

As Ratan Tata, the man he groomed to succeed him to the chairmanship of the House of Tata notes, "Jeh never preaches, he merely lets his practices stand out as examples."

The early years

Jehangir, the second child of Ratanji and Sooni (née Suzanne Brière) was born in Paris 70 days after the demise of the founder of the House of Tata, Jamsetji Nusserwanji Tata, on May 19, 1904. In a sense Ratanji was Jamsetji Tata's nephew, being the son of Dadabhai, his wife's brother. Being a Tata from another branch of the family, he was also Jamsetji's cousin. This was Ratanji's (RD as distinct from Ratan, Jamsetji's second son) second marriage, contracted at the age of 47 to the 20-year-old French beauty. His first wife had died shortly after their youth-



With heir Ratan Tata: practice rather than precept

Karachi Parsi Anjuman Trust Fund. Their condolence resolution notes, "His was a rich life, dedicated to service and humanitarian work which should serve as a guiding star to the present day youths... In 1953 his name was included in the book entitled *The Hundred Most Influential Persons in the World*..."

Almost every city in India held a condolence meeting. Zoroastrian associations around the world passed resolutions commemorating this renaissance man whose interests spanned industry, management, philanthropy, aviation, science, technology, the arts... Indeed, any activity that reflected on the human condition seemed grist for JRD's intellect.

Outpourings in the condolence book

to you JRD Saab, because I feel you are alive through your memories and work," writes S. Venkatraman.

"Our undisputed leader, our pillar of strength and source of inspiration..." Ms Usha Mehta's tribute to her co-trustee on the Central Gandhi Smarak Nidhi, the trust which administers Mani Bhavan, the Mahatma Gandhi museum at Bombay's Gamdevi, encapsulates the charisma to which a galaxy of speakers and writers have alluded.

"We in aviation shall miss him the most. HAL (Hindustan Aeronautics Limited) in general and self in particular have lost a real well-wisher," writes R. N. Sharma, chairman of the Bangalore based public sector giant.

"I found the late Mr J. R. D. Tata 'a gem of purest ray serene' whenever I met him at meetings when I was labor secre-

ful marriage many years ago.

RD became a partner with Jamsetji, 17 years his senior and Jamsetji's son Dorab when Tata and Sons was established in 1887 writes R. M. Lala in his book *Beyond the Last Blue Mountain*. Ratan joined them a few years later. Fascinated by gems and silk, RD established trading companies in Kobe and New York. On his deathbed Jamsetji had expressed the hope that his two sons and RD would carry on his work together. Though RD and Dorab "did not always see eye to eye, they decided to work together and honor his wishes," writes Lala.

JRD's youth was divided between schools in France, India and Japan. After his mother succumbed to TB in 1923 at the age of 43, he was sent to a crammer in England to brush up his English before entering Cambridge. But a new rule in France required all male citizens aged 20 to do a two-year compulsory stint in the French army. Eldest sons were permitted to opt out after one year. At the end of the year JRD had learnt to wield a sabre on horseback and had expected to continue with the planned study in Cambridge. "But father decided that a college degree was not essential for a career in Tatas and summoned me to India,"

JRD told his biographer, adding ruefully, "This decision is one I've regretted throughout my life and which caused me to have a long-lasting inferiority complex."

When RD died in 1926 JRD, 22, inherited his father's position as a permanent director of Tata Sons at a salary of Rs 750 a month. Years later JRD told his biographer, "Honestly, if I had not been the son of R. D. Tata or the son of one of the main Tatas, I don't think I would have been so driven. I was driven by the fact that there was Jamsetji Tata in my life and so that is what urged me to do things to justify myself. I was very doubtful about my own capacity to follow these people. I had great admiration for my father, little for Dorabji Tata, enormous for Jamsetji Tata and what Tatas meant." The motivation spurred JRD to all manner of activity and self education.

At 22, JRD became the head of his family; at 34 he succeeded Sir Nowroji Saklatwalla to the chairmanship of Tatas. Between those years he had not only acquired his pilot's licence — the first to do so in India (in 1929 — the certificate with No 1 endorsed on it was a prized possession), but had participated in the celebrated Aga Khan competitive solo

flight between England and India, gallantly losing to 18-year-old Aspy Engineer who used the spark plugs JRD spared him as their paths crossed in Cairo, to win the prize.

JRD's fondness for fast cars, especially his Bugatti, had led to his being framed in an accident by the Bombay Police. To clear his name Tata sought the services of Jack Vicaji, a top criminal lawyer. In the process he met Thelma, the beautiful daughter of Jack's brother Sohrab Vicaji (also known as 'Prince Vicaji') and his estranged wife Muriel, an English doctor with a taste for adventure. Thelma and her sister Kitty had been brought up by Jack as his own children.

JRD won the case and the girl.

Soon after their marriage came the establishment of the Tata Aviation Service transporting mail between Karachi, Bombay and Madras with JRD personally flying the first leg solo from Karachi to Bombay. It marked the inception of civil aviation in India.

Though it was only a modest weekly service, as per Lala, "Tata Aviation achieved what Indian aviation is now struggling to achieve. Cent percent punctuality," notes an *Economic Times* special publication on JRD Tata. "Indeed,

Kermani Transport Service

Truck Owners & Contractors

H. O. & Admn Office:
Guru Himmat 'A' Wing
Dr Mascarenhas Road
Mazgaon, Bombay 400010
Phone: 3723333, 3712715

Booking Office:
Opp Jakeria Masjid
7-C, Dhobi Street
Bombay 400003
Phone: 3420271, 3420272

Branches:

Delivery Godown: B-Anjirwadi, Mount Road, Mazgaon, Bombay 400010, Tel: 3725002/3724273

Thana: (1) Chitalsar, Manpada, S. V. Road, Next to Tatwadyan Vidhyapeeth, Tel: 5344823

(2) Purna Village, Thana Bhiwandi Road, Near Uttam Roadways, Tel: 24698

Vapi: Near R. T. O. Check Post G. I. D. C., Tel: 20437/22766/22767

Valsad: Kamla Nehru Road, Tel: 2284

Billimora: Gohar Baug Road, Tel: 3175/3397

Navsari: Opp Central Bank, Tel: 4008/4009

Delivery Godown: Zaveri Sadak, Tel: 1601

Udhna: Road No 2, Tel: 88612

Surat: Delhi Gate, Dangi Sheri, Tel: 35428-35712

Delivery Godown: Ring Road, Near Surat Textile Market, Tel: 24026

UNN: Near Bus Stand, Tel: 972807

**The
Winner
in
taste.
The
Winner
in
Size!**

**Duke's
Lemonade**



Artificially flavoured. Contains no fruit juice or pulp. 300 ml.

the directorate of civil aviation in its report for 1933-34 asked Imperial Airways to send a team to the Tatas to learn a few lessons on reliability: 'As an example of how an airmail service should be run, we commend the efficiency of Tata Services who on October 10, 1933, arriving at Karachi as usual on time, completed a year's working with 100 percent punctuality...Even during the most difficult monsoon months when rainstorms increased the perils of the Western Ghats portion of the route no mail from Madras or Bombay missed the connection at Karachi nor was the mail delivered late on a single occasion at Madras...Our esteemed trans-Continental Airways, alias Imperial Airways, might send their staff on deputation to Tatas to see how it is done.'"

Punctuality was the chairman's hallmark. When Air India International's maiden flight reached London, Tata, with pardonable pride, urged all within earshot to set their clocks by its touch-down. Another was his penchant for perfection. Chandrasekhar recounts an informal session with the patriarch after the press conference at Bombay House. He complimented the journalists on their reports, then added, "But why are you so careless about the articles? You know,

'a,' 'an' and 'the.' They are never where they should be. You should get them right."

The man who twice reenacted his historic solo Karachi-Bombay flight in the same antiquated little plane — to commemorate Air India's 30th and 50th anniversaries (he was 78 years old in the second instance) had been equally nonchalant in telling the government that its socialist policies was a case of misplaced enthusiasm. By 1952 he had urged them to contain the burgeoning Indian population (and was duly rapped on the knuckles by Jawaharlal Nehru who claimed that India's large population was her asset) and to unshackle the nation's creative economic energy.

The government responded in due course by abolishing the managing agency system, by nationalizing the airlines, the banks and life insurance and by unceremoniously relieving him of his job as chairman of Air India which "provided yet another opportunity for Mr Tata to give proof of that force of character which made him the spokesman for Indian industry," as notes *La Croix L'Evenement* of December 2, 1993. JRD countered by establishing the Family Planning Foundation of India, the International Institute for Population Sciences

and, more recently the JRD and Thelma Tata Trust for the education of women because he understood well the inverse relationship between female education and fertility.

The decentralization of management became an art as Tata nurtured his professional managers into mega stars in their own right. As notes the special publication on JRD produced by *The Economic Times*, no other industrial house can claim to have a "galaxy of high profile chief executives" like Darbari Seth, Nani Palkhivala, Russi Modi, Ajit Kerkar... According to Tata, "the crux of the issue lies in finding a person with a deep sense of values and then giving him the latitude to carry on with his job," as notes *The Economic Times*. He had told *Gentleman* three years ago, "I make full allowance for a man's character and idiosyncrasies. You have to adapt yourself to their ways and deal accordingly and draw out the best in each man." At times, he explained, "it involves suppressing yourself. It is painful but necessary. To be a leader you have got to lead human beings with affection."

When JRD stepped down from the chairmanship of Tata Sons in favor of Rata Tata on March 25, 1991 the

continued on page 140

DINSHAW SHAPOORJI & COMPANY

414/3, Kasarwadi, Bombay-Poona Road
Pimpri, Pune 411034

Pimpri Phones 778373, 778055
Fax (212) 779656
Telex 0146 204 DIN IN
Poona Phone 662052
Poona Grams "Truck"

Branch Office 92C Mohamedali Road, Bombay 400003
Phone 3432497, 3423977, 3435392
Telex 011 76597 DSA IN
Bombay Grams "Motor Truck"

TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS LUXURY COACH & STAFF BUS OPERATORS

Kuka's screening success

Homi Rogers

For Peshotan Sorabji Kuka, a pioneer in the business of film exhibition in India, the final curtain came down on November 22, 1993. Kuka, who had been ailing for some time, never recovered from a stroke in early November. Complications set in, and he passed away after valiantly fighting death for a fortnight at the Breach Candy Hospital in Bombay. He was 86.

A self-made man, Kuka possessed an indomitable spirit which helped him to triumph over life's many vicissitudes. Born on July 28, 1907 to a poor Parsi priest from Surat, Kuka lost his father when he was barely 11. The eldest of three sons in a family of four, he grew up doing odd menial jobs to help his mother Avabai with her duties at the agiary where, as a *gorani* (priest's wife), she made the *daran* (ceremonial food offerings). Yet, through all this, Kuka did not abandon his quest for knowledge, inherited from his father who had valued books and education.

Kuka graduated in philosophy from Wilson College, and was associated closely with scholars like Professor P. A. Wadia, Dr D. R. Gadgil and Irach Taraporewalla. Kuka even helped to publish the latter's monumental translation of the *Gathas*.

Such acts of generosity, and support for causes in the sphere of education and the dissemination of knowledge, were a feature of Kuka's life. For 25 years he was chairman of the Bharat Education So-

ciety, an institution formed with 60 pupils for the uplift of the weaker sections of society. Today Kuka's daughters Meher Master and Perin Marfatia, are justifiably proud that the Society has grown to a full-fledged college of commerce and economics, with over 3,000 students. He similarly changed the fate of Masina Hospital when it was on the verge of being sold, he had related the facts in an interview with *Parsiana* in 1989. By his personal involvement, Kuka collected a record figure of Rs 10 lakhs for the Hospital's platinum jubilee fund, which made it an economically viable unit. At the same time its services were augmented.

For Kuka, trained in the hard school of life, such an accomplishment was not a fortuitous occurrence. In his lifetime he rescued many theaters and gave a new dimension to film exhibition — a career he embraced more by chance than by choice when forced out of the teaching profession by a throat problem that would not allow him to speak for long.

Kuka was initiated into the line by his *sala* (wife's sister's husband) Eruch Sukhia, ex-general manager of Calcutta's Madan Theatre who ran a cinema house (Majestic Talkies) in Ajmer. Later, back in Bombay, holding on to a job with the Western India Oil Company, Kuka 'moonlighted' with Sukhia's brother Dara and took theaters on lease to exhibit films. He was reasonably emboldened by his initial success and ill at ease with being in

service ("the root of the word is 'servitude,' which means 'slavery,'" he had said to *Parsiana*). Tired of "checking bills and passing vouchers despite being a philosophy graduate," according to Marfatia, Kuka took the inevitable (in those days, incredible) step: he threw up his job.

From humble beginnings in Kolhapur, the then crucible of the film industry in Western India, where Kuka took up two theaters for management, the network spread to Sangli, Ichalkaranji, Pune, Bili-mora, Surat, Ahmedabad, Baroda and Nadiad. In the course of his career Kuka owned, leased and/or controlled nearly 50 theaters, including 15 cinema houses outside India. The worldwide distribution of Indian films through his companies resulted in an enlarged market for Indian cinema. But in the autumn of his life, what with the demise of his partners and the government's taxation policies, Kuka sold his shares in cinemas abroad, and with his sons-in-law, Minoo Master and Adi Marfatia, settled down to manage the Novelty and Dreamland cinemas in Bombay.

He lavished his total attention and care on these theaters, especially his flagship cinema house Novelty, a 1,200-seater which he described as a "theatre magnificent." It was this theater that made Kuka, who started to manage it in 1938, a film financier and distributor "under sufferance," as no good producer or distributor would offer this decrepit theater a film for screening. Kuka bank-rolled his own films so that he could screen them here, fired with a 'never-say-die' attitude. "He would return home only after the last show was over," reminisces his eldest daughter Meher, "and the collections for the day accounted for."

Yet, Kuka never ceased to be a family man. "We were fortunate to get parents like them," his daughters agree, each recalling moments of shared happiness with their late father and mother Najamai, who with her broad and cheerful outlook was always a pillar of strength to her husband. "He made a very loving father: thoughtful, caring and affectionate," they reiterate.

Kuka's affection was not confined to his family, but extended to all in the film trade who sought his advice, which he freely gave both in his personal capacity



Kuka: enlarged market for Indian cinema
Photo: Varghese Fernandez

and as life patron of the Theatre Owners' Association, a body of which he was the founder-president. Longtime associate and friend, film journalist Burjor Karanjia remembers the encouragement Kuka gave him when he was about to launch his film magazines. "He was very warm-hearted and generous," avers Karanjia, who recognized in Kuka a visionary who had the interests of the film trade at heart.

The trade in turn respected and honored Kuka in no small measure. He was one of the 75 select individuals to be conferred an award when the industry celebrated its platinum jubilee in 1988, for his "valuable and significant contribution towards the growth of Indian cinema." Two years later, he was honored again when the 'talkies' completed 60 years.

Kuka's affectionate nature was also reflected in his philanthropic activities. Silently, without fanfare, he would contribute to causes. His daughters aver that he was a Zoroastrian in the true sense of the word, adding that he brought up all his five children to adhere to the precept of good thoughts, words and deeds.

In at least one more way Kuka was "like all good Parsis," to quote Karanjia. "He loved good food." He also loved to read, anything and everything from philosophy to politics to Persian poetry (Kuka had read the entire *Shah Namah*). He liked to socialize and travel. "A travel fiend," as daughter Perin describes him, Kuka loved the outdoors and had travelled widely across the country and five continents. Even in his last years when the flesh was weak (Kuka, used to do his daily exercises and enjoy a swim till he was 84), the spirit was willing.

He is survived by his wife Najamai, who is also his first cousin (*kaka-nidiki*), and five daughters — Meher Master, Perin Marfatia, Roshan Daruwalla, Khorshed Vakil and Dhun Netarwalla.

J. R. D. TATA...

continued from page 138

BusinessWorld editorialized, "He not only led his own industrial house to new heights of achievement but — more importantly — played a vital role in setting standards for Indian industry as a whole. In the latter he proved to be a truly worthy successor to the legendary Jamsetji Tata who famously declared his 'sound and straightforward business principles' as follows in 1885: 'We consider the interest of the shareholders our own, and the health and welfare of the employees the sure foundation of our prosperity.'" [At the Cusrow Baug function in 1992 JRD had acknowledged, "I was determined to be largely guided by (Jamsetji). On a number of times, on problems that were not directly connected with Jamsetji, I asked myself how Jamsetji would respond to such a proposal... I have tried to, want to and continue to do whatever is right and honest and simple and humane."] "Not surprisingly," states *BusinessWorld*, "our politicians have never been comfortable with JRD. They rarely, if ever, sought his advice. On occasion, politicians have gone out of their way to treat him shabbily."

As notes *Business Today*, "Indeed the management system he introduced in the House of Tatas, the decentralization of decision making he followed with single minded devotion, and the insistence on honesty which he elevated into a near metaphysical belief will be of even more significance tomorrow than they are today... His legacy consists of human values bequeathed not just to the business sector, but to the nation. There will never be another man whose morals and methods, rather than mastery of moneymaking, can be held up as an example to future generations."

He never forgot the lean years of Tata Steel when Dorab Tata pledged his entire personal fortune, including his wife's jewels, for a bank loan to pay his workers, as one reads in *Beyond the Last Blue Mountain*. An excerpt from a forthcoming book by Fredun Dadachanji published by the Informal Religious Meetings Trust Fund of Karachi speaks of a time the Tatas nearly sold their shares in the Swadeshi Mills to a mercenary businessman who wanted a controlling interest in the mill: "Alarmed at Tatas' intention to disinvest, small shareholders expressed apprehension. They told the Tatas that they had invested their hard-earned money in the company because

the Tatas managed it. How can the Tatas abandon them now and throw them to the mercy of the rapacious (profiteer)? Tatas promptly dropped the idea... 'Investors' interest comes before ours,' said a Tata spokesman."

Towards the end the government changed its tack vis-a-vis Tata: He received the Bharat Ratna award in 1992; the Maharashtra government announced a three-day state mourning — an unprecedented step for a private citizen; the Bombay Stock Exchange was closed in his memory; the finance minister flew to Bombay to attend the uthamna ceremony; the external affairs minister attended his funeral in Paris (where the *geh sarna* was performed by two mobeds from London before his body was laid to rest in Paris) celebrated Père Lachaise cemetery beside the remains of his parents, and his brothers Darab and Jimmy. His elder sister Sylla Petit had also predeceased him). More importantly, he lived to see the gradual unshackling of the Indian economy as well as the national realization that India's runaway population needs urgent reining-in.

Tata, who had rejected the British offer of a knighthood in 1944, had been awarded the Padma Vibhushan in 1955 and was made an honorary air vice marshal of the Indian Air Force in 1974. In the course of national and international recognition the rank of Commander of the French Legion of Honor was conferred on him in 1983 and the prestigious UN Population Award came in 1992. More poignant indications of JRD's place in the hearts of people unknown to him were evident when Damania Airways named its first plane *Spirit of JRD* and the late Ms Bhikaiji Kharas, the activist octogenarian who bequeathed the new burns unit to Masina Hospital, felt her life's desire had been achieved when JRD performed the ceremonial inauguration!

The patriarch, who loved children but had none of his own, and his wife Thelma who had suffered a stroke, lived in The Cairn, a bungalow off Altamount Road rented from the Petits. The property has been bequeathed to the Petit Trust.

In the words of Palkhivala, "Of Jeh it could be truly said that having done what men could, he suffered what men must. When the end comes you should not feel sad but be glad that a great man, a good man had departed."

JRD is survived by his ailing wife Thelma and sister Rodabeh Sawhney.

Statement of Ownership

& Other Particulars about Parsiana: Form IV

(See Rule 8)

Place of Publication: Bombay

Periodicity of Publication: Monthly

Printer, Publisher, Editor: Jehangir R. Patel

Nationality: Indian

Address: 285, J. Dadaji Marg,

Bombay 400007

Proprietor: Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd,

39 A. K. Nayak Marg, Bombay 400001

Shareholders holding more than one percent of the total capital: Jehangir R. Patel, Veera and Simin J. Patel, address same as above.

I, Jehangir R. Patel, hereby declare that the particulars given above are true to the best of my knowledge and belief.

Sd. (Jehangir R. Patel) 1 March 1994

DO YOU LOVE YOUR HUSBAND ENOUGH?

SHOW HIM
YOU CARE...
SERVE
AL KABEER
FRESH FROZEN
MEAT.

For the No.1 man in your life, the No.1 meat. Al Kabeer meat.

Prime quality meat that's fresh. Hygienic. Great tasting. And nutritional.

Because of sophisticated processing, freezing and packaging techniques.

Offering incredible value for money, being also pre-cut, pre-cleaned and ready to cook.

Enabling you to make his favourite dishes that much tastier and quicker.

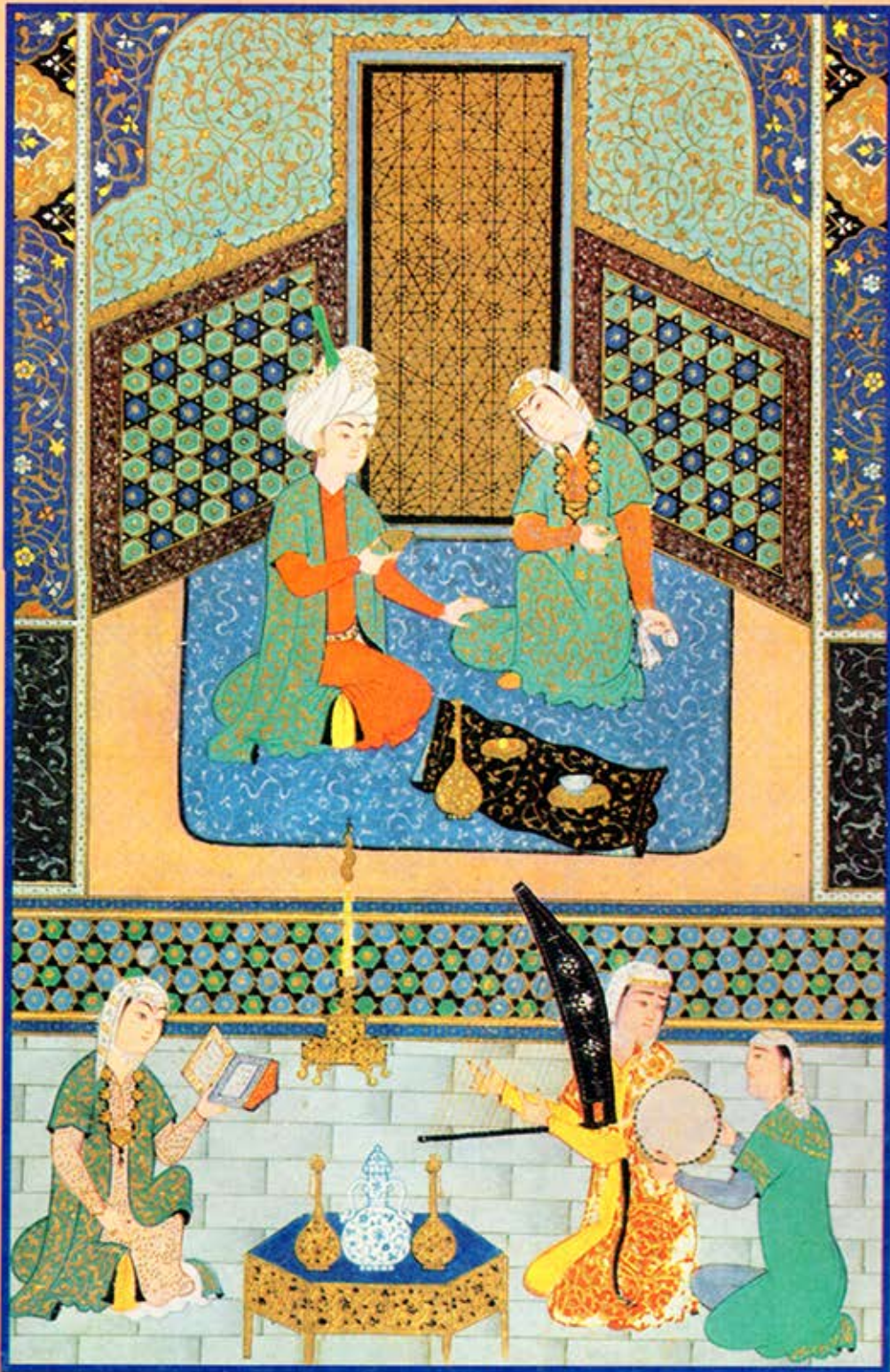
DART/AK/2542



- Mutton Cubes • Chops • Mince in Polytubes • Paya
- Brain • Kidney • Liver • Soup bones and many others.

Available in Bombay/Delhi/Pune/Lonavala/Goa.





*With Best Compliments for Jamshedi Navroz
From The Boman Family*

India International Co Pvt Ltd
Wine & Spirits Merchants

Retail Shop: 545/547, Kalbadevi Road, Dhobitalao, Bombay 400002 Phone 2012585
Regd Office: Readymoney Mansion, 43, Vir Nariman Road, Bombay 400023 Phone: 2043158
Warehouse: 285/287, Princess Street, Bombay 400002