

Prasānā

JULY-AUGUST 1994 Rs 24



**Ervad
Jehangir Turel
Ritual honor**



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.



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

July-August 1994
Volume 17 Number 1

EDITOR Jehangir R. Patel
MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz S. Mama
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz M. Gandhi
SENIOR EDITOR Dina Mehta
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Roxana A. Driver
DESIGN Kranti M. Shiltri,
Varghese W. Fernandez
MARKETING DIRECTOR Veera Patel
ADVERTISING MANAGER Zarin Mistry
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVE
Niloufer Panthaky
FINANCE B. L. Arora
EDP Rohinton E. Daroga
MANAGEMENT Jasmine Driver
COMPANY SECRETARY Noshir Lawyer
DTP Bakhtavar R. Batiwalla, K. P. Ravi
SUBSCRIPTION/CIRCULATION
Khurshid Panthaki, Bindu Pillai
OFFICE Smitha Nair, Swarupa Kamat
OFFICE ASSISTANTS Umesh Poojary,
Selvan Mark, Sunil Sakhare, Pramod Patil,
Govind Salgaonkar, Mahipat Jadhav

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 Lithographers;
black and white processing, Samir Scantech.
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 for one year
(10 issues) Rs 150; for two years (20 issues)
Rs 275. Foreign subscription rates: Sea mail for
one year Rs 375/US \$ 13/UK £ 8; for two
years Rs 600/US \$ 22/UK £ 13 (please allow
six months or more for delivery from the time
of publication). Air mail for one year
Rs 625/US \$ 26/UK £ 16 (for Pakistan,
Indian Rs 350); for two years Rs 1,150/US \$ 50/
UK £ 29 (for Pakistan, Indian Rs 650).
For Indian upcountry cheques add Rs 10 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.

2 Readers' Forum

28 Events and Personalities

43 Zoroastrians Abroad

48 Dinshaw Mehta's Iron Grit by Gustasp Irani

58 Homi Ranina: "More Effective Outside"

63 Sir J. J. College: Lucrative lessons by Homi Rogers

66b Udvada: Where pilgrims progress

68 The 'Regal' Sidhwas

78 The changing forest by Shahriar Shahriari

84 Ervad Jehangir Turel: Ritual honor by Arnavaz Mama

88 Beseaching the Lady at Mahim Church

93 The sacred aglary and the sordid affair by Parinaz Gandhi

110f Pizza Parlays by Sherree Desai

118 Dr Nargesh Motashaw: "Life is so precious..."

130 Recipes by Bhicoo Manekshaw

134 Jehan Daruvala: An instrument of change

136 Bachi Karkaria: A-way with words by Roxanne Kavarana

146 Books

158 Milestones

174 In Memoriam

Cover: Felicitating Ervad Jehangir Turel at the H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram

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



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.

The third child

The trustees of the Parsi Punchayet, Bombay have initiated a scheme to help those families in which a third child is born on or after July 1, 1993. Precise details of the assistance to be given are being worked out separately.

In the meantime, the trustees have decided to invite applications from eligible parents in whose family a third child has been born on or after July 1, 1993, to elicit the following information:

Full name, address; total number of family members staying with the applicants; date of birth of the third child; total family income; any special reasons in support of the need for assistance to the third child; and the nature and extent of help expected.

Applications for the purpose were invited to reach us latest by June 15, 1994, to

be addressed to the Joint Secretary, Bombay Parsi Punchayet, 209, Dr D. N. Road, Fort, Bombay 400001.

Ms GOOL TATA

Joint secretary, Bombay Parsi Punchayet

"Widening horizons"

In order to increase the Parsi population the chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) revealed that the BPP will give $\frac{1}{4}$ to $\frac{1}{2}$ litre of milk and an egg daily, plus 100g of butter fortnightly, to the third child ("Widening horizons," *Parsiana*, February-March 1994). When the third child gets the milk and egg daily and butter every fortnight, the other two children whose parents cannot afford milk and eggs for them will naturally feel jealous of the third child and thus resent their own brother or sister. Again you do not mention till what age you will provide for the third child. What about other needs like food, clothing, education, etc which will cost the family much more than what you will provide them with?

You mention that after the third child, those living in a one room flat will be given a two room flat, if available. What about the increase in the rent? Will the BPP accept the same rent from them?

The present board of the BPP has announced this scheme. In the future, when others succeed them, will they follow the same rules or will they then say that they do not have the funds, so we stop this scheme. No sensible couple will have a third child on the above basis.

In another article "As you sow," it is maintained that Mr Guzder announced that the entire expenditure of the third child could be borne by the BPP. It would be better if they elaborated on this point and mentioned what "entire" explicitly means and till what age.

Instead of squabbling over the Dadiseth Atash Bahram otas, build houses on the same ground with reasonable affordable rents for lower middle class couples, and for those waiting to get married and start a family.

Ms GORDAFRIED N. KOLAH

Rusi K. Anklesaria, chief executive of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet replies:

The issue of milk, egg and butter is normally for the poor and undernourished children of the weaker sections of the community as per the doctor's recommendation, and the same is being given from

the Health Unit at Gamadia Colony irrespective of whether it is for a first child or subsequent ones.

As regards the other specific types of assistance to be provided to the third child born after July 1, 1993, the modality of the scheme and the benefits to be provided thereunder are being worked out and they will be announced hereafter. In the meantime, a questionnaire has been issued through the press inviting certain basic information from all parents who have a third child born after July 1, 1993, who wish to seek assistance from the Punchayet. This is in order to assess the quantum of demand which may arise when bringing up the third child.

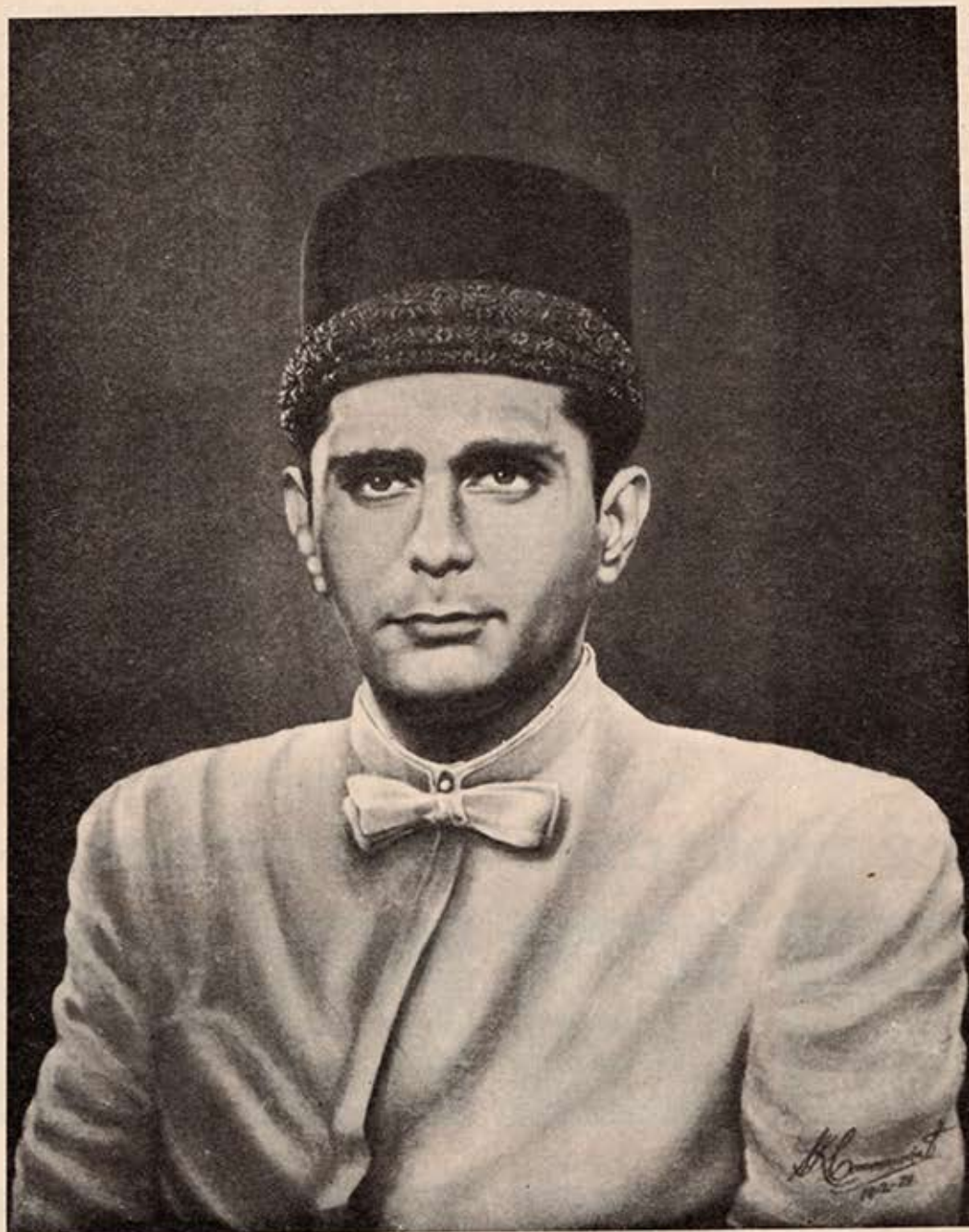
The decision to give all those already having three children at present or hereafter a two room kitchen flat if they are presently residing in a one room kitchen flat is subject to the availability of such two room kitchen flats at the time when the request arises. For all those who are poor and needy, the BPP trustees sympathetically consider giving a rent subsidy.

No welfare schemes of the BPP have come to a halt for reason of paucity of funds. However, review of any welfare scheme at certain intervals is necessary in the interest of community funds; for if such a scheme does not adequately serve the intended purpose or ceases to be productive, the present or future trustees have a duty to modify/alter or discontinue it.

"Iranian pilgrimage"

Congratulations to *Parsiana* for printing two excellent articles by Ardeshir Damania on his "Iranian pilgrimage" (*Parsiana*, February-March 1994 and April 1994). Can he not be prevailed upon to furnish yet more travelogues?

It is thus with some trepidation that we presume to correct Mr Damania on his findings during his sojourn at Naksh-e Rostam. What he saw along the base of the Achaemenian tombs was a series of remarkable rock reliefs emanating from the Sasanians. Following his directions, from right to left, we see Narseh's investiture (293 AC) by Anahita; double equestrian panel of Bahram II (276-293); Shahpur I (241-272) victory scene, with defeated Roman emperors; the enthroned Shahpur II, the long-ruling autocrat (309-379); equestrian combat scene of Hormazd II



In Memoriam
Mr Fali Meherji Variava
Ex-Director

BLAZE TOURS & TRAVELS PVT LTD

(302-309); Bahram II's equestrian combat; a scene of homage by family and dignitaries to Bahram II; and Ardashir I's (226-241) horseback investiture with the kingship being conferred by a mounted Ahura Mazda.

The last-mentioned asserts the founding dynast's claim to legitimate kingship: a defeated Ardavan of the Parthian dynasty lies prone under the hooves of Ardashir's charger; Ahriman is similarly depicted under Ahura Mazda's horse! All eight tableaux represent Sasanian ascendancy: an on-going propaganda is discernible to the beholder, not least the high-priest Kirdir's very visible part in it! Shapur I's victory scene was probably responsible for the myth that Shahpur I was in fact Rustam; hence the naming of the site as Naksh-e Rostam — the portrait of Rustam seated on his famous steed Rakhsh. Others saw in him the Old Testament's Samson: observably before he encountered Delilah!

It's a pity that Mr Damania did not visit the Tak-e Bostan with its very famous panel on whose left-hand figure is based a million representations of our Prophet. Nor did he view the ruins of the Adar-Gushasp fire temple in its magnificent setting at Takht-e Soleiman.

FARKOKH VAJIFDAR
London, UK

"Zarthusti presence..."

As usual, *Parsiana* of February-March, 1994 made enjoyable reading. But we were dismayed to find Calcutta's name omitted (although Jamshedpur, Delhi, Bombay and Karachi are mentioned) among the names for jashans around the world in the article entitled "Zarthusti presence pervasive" in *Zoroastrians Abroad*.

An account of the jashan appeared in the issue of August-September 1993 of *Calcutta Gavashni*, the bimonthly newsletter of Calcutta's Parsis. So we would have liked to be included among the cities that took FEZANA's request to heart and acted upon it.

May we mention that our city has a fair concentration of Parsis, that we welcome Zoroastrians from neighboring cities and those in Nepal or North-Eastern India for our annual ghambars, muktads and other occasions, and that we want to be counted among the Parsi communities of India.

R. D. ANKLESARIA
Trustee, Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's
Religious and Charity Funds

The omission is regretted — Editor.

In memory of JRD

This is in dear memory of JRD, a true Zoroastrian, who lived his life by the highest standards of ethics, integrity and public morality amidst galloping corruption in every field in our country: political, government, industry, business and public life. He went his independent way.

Please accept a cheque for Rs 1,001 in his memory as a token of appreciation of *Parsiana's* work.

DINSHAH MALEGAMVALA

"JRD: The last..."

This has reference to Arnavaaz Mama's "JRD: The last rites and wrongs" (*Parsiana*, January 1994), in which two points call for clarification. Mama writes: "In the articles in support of the priests, orthodox lobbyists like Noshir Dadrawala and Faribourz Nariman harped on JRD's acknowledged distaste for rituals and organised religion..."

The Shorter Oxford English Dictionary defines lobbyist as "one who frequents the lobbies of the House of Representatives in order to influence members in their votes. Also occasionally, a journalist, etc., who frequents the lobby of the House of Commons." Maybe Dadrawala fits in



MARCO POLO,

the renowned traveller of antiquity, did not use a Travel Agent. Yet, to the delight and wonder of posterity, he managed remarkably well.

TODAY'S TRAVELLER cannot hope to emulate Marco Polo.

TODAY'S TRAVELLER needs PROFESSIONAL ADVICE and above all, GOOD PLANNING.

That's where we, at ATS, come into the picture.

WE PLAN AND ARRANGE HAPPY HOLIDAYS AND TROUBLE-FREE TRAVEL



ASIATIC TRAVEL SERVICE

THE HOUSE OF TRAVEL

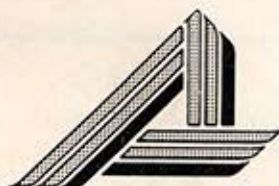
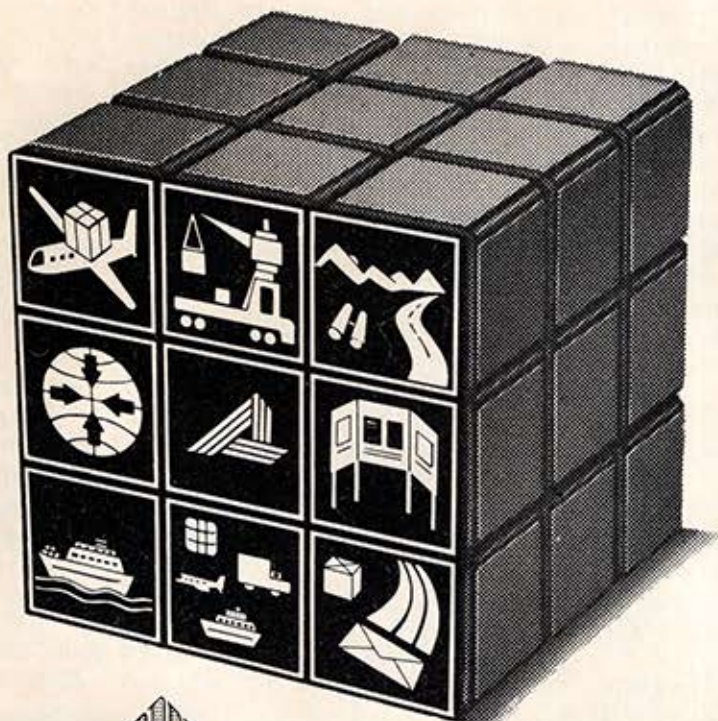
BOMBAY

12, Murzban Road, BOMBAY 400 001 Tel: 2048151/2851162
Fax: 022-2873355 Telex: AIRA IN 011-83151. Grams: AIRASIA

PUNE

G-3 Konark Apts., 175 Dhole Patil Road, PUNE 411 001 Tel: 626431/
621493/621746. Tlx: 145-472 AIRA IN Fax: 0212-627934.

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.

the second category, if not the first, but surely I am not given to either lobbyism or journalism, and hence I am taken aback by the word 'lobbyist,' the adjective notwithstanding.

Again, Dadrawala's article may have been written "in support of the priests" [Ervad (Dr) Firoze Kotwal and Ervad (Dr) Peshotan Peer], but the same cannot be said about my article (in *Jam-e-Jamshed*, January 2, 1994). In fact I have made it amply clear that my article is not written to support both. To quote the relevant portion: "Here we shall speak only about the Dasturji and not about the Ervad sahib, because we are fully aware of the latter's adherence to un-Zoroastrian concepts of reincarnation and vegetarianism..., it being none of our business to defend propounders of un-Zoroastrian concepts." As reported by Mama, Peer does not want "to be involved in new karma," and so he demonstrates, though unwittingly, what has been quoted above.

To conclude, even conceding that 'lobbyist' has been used rather loosely, there is no way in which one can say that my article was written "in support of (both) the priests."

FARIBOURZ NARIMAN

If *Parsiana's* goal is to restrict its publica-

tion to the proclamation of illogical and controversial indigenous news, it would be wiser to distribute the magazine only in India. At least that would stop discouraging and depressing the progressive Zoroastrian community scattered around the world, especially the younger generation. For example, the majority of the adult and younger generation of Zoroastrians, residing outside India, is not familiar with the internal affairs of a man by the name of JRD, whose international reputation was a cause of pride for Zoroastrians.

Consequently, the derogatory remarks made about him could well discourage a lot of Zoroastrians from attaching much importance to the tradition of Zoroastrian rites. Would it not have been better, if instead of printing the picture of the two Dasturs, some pictures of the Tata family were printed? At the very least a few lines could have been written to inform the community of the services rendered by the Tatas, the greatest benefit of which has been to the Zoroastrian community in India, so that other Zoroastrians could emulate their extreme acts of generosity?

The contents of past publications of *Parsiana* that often draw the attention of a reader (specifically of a reader who does

not belong to the inner circle of Parsis in India), are based on insular conflicts and internal disputes of the indigenous community. The larger part of such controversies is based on censorship and criticism within the circle of a few hypocritical mobeds, addressed mainly to each other as well as to the people. Predominantly, to verify their own opinion they rely on specific terminology such as "venerated scripture." Despite the fact that the majority of them are aware of the correct and true axioms, they try nonetheless to establish their own authoritative rules in order to strengthen the chains of the hierarchy. Their aim seems to be to prevent people, from using their God-given intelligence.

In order to illustrate, in part, the above factual statement, I bring to your attention a paragraph from the book *Darab Hormozdyar*, published in 1922 AD from preserved authentic documents and correspondence at hand.

From the year 847 to 1142 Yazdgerdy, correspondence concerning religious directives was exchanged between the Iranian dasturs, mobeds and the rural governing bodies and the immigrant Zoroastrians of India. Since these letters

With Best Compliments From

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**

With Best Compliments From

BOMBAY CARBON DIOXIDE GAS CORPORATION

India's largest manufacturers of
carbon dioxide and dry ice suppliers to all major
beverage and industrial consumers in Maharashtra,
Gujarat, Karnataka and Goa

Bombay Office:

1st Floor, Jehangir Villa, 107, Wodehouse Road, Colaba, Bombay 400005
Phone: 2183961, 2187994

Chembur Works:

Next to RCF Ltd, Maravali, Chembur, Bombay 400074
Phone: 5564063, 5564064

Panvel Works:

Next to HOC, PO Rasayani, District Raigad, Panvel, Maharashtra 410207
Phone: 50729



E. A. Chindhy

INDUSTRIAL & DECORATIVE PAINTERS

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



consisted of religious questions and responses, they were kept with attentive consistency by the Parsis of India. The most significant section, of the narration of *Darab Hormozdyar* relates that during those eras, the Indian Parsis were ignorant of religious rituals, knowledge of rites and traditions. Consequently conflict was at a maximum. Hence they elected a person called Nariman Houshang and despatched him to Iran. He had to reside a year in Yazd. Thus he was able to obtain from the mobeds the answers to the complex and intricate religious questions, by actual practice; and in order to enlighten and educate the (Herbads) in India, they asked that two learned Herbads from India be dispatched to Iran and be educated in the Pahlavi language, so they personally learn 'Shayest Va Nashayest' (the intricacies of the do's and don'ts of the religion).

Also under cover of another letter dated 996 Yazdgerdy, a copy of the *Vendidad* (The law against demons), which was written during Parthian and/or Ashkanian times, was sent to India, confirming the need for such a book.

The purpose behind these two statements is to use the chronological record of past events to illustrate that if today in India the practice of religious rites is so strictly enforced, it is because the directions were sent out only 514 years ago by the Iranian mobeds. If we pay close attention to the letters and even the books that were despatched, we see that they contained questions and answers about specific traditional rites and ceremonies unrelated to the pristine teachings of Ashu Zartosht Spitman.

During the Sasanian rule, with the passage of time and the pressure brought to bear by the assembly of mobeds, the true message of the *Gathas*, which is mind inspiring and guiding (Mantra), was forgotten. It had become overshadowed by authoritative rules and directives of everyday life.

To create more interest amongst your international readers I suggest more articles and publications of authentic documentation regarding the teachings of Ashu Zartosht, scholastic research and publications about the true Zoroastrian religion, the history of ancient Iran, historical, cultural and scientific facts about our motherland, roots and heritage.

News about positive and admirable activities of Zoroastrians all over the globe would also be welcome.

FARANGIS K. SHAHROKH
Anaheim, Ca, USA

With
Best Compliments from

MARINE TRANSPORT Company Private Limited

Steamship Agents for
DSR-Senator Lines
Joint Service

Specialising in transport
of Containerised
and Project
Cargoes for various
destinations

Bombay Office:

"Dubash House"
15, J. N. Heredia Marg
Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038
Cable: CHARTERING, Bombay
Tele: 2614094/95/96
2622680/81
2620748/63
Telex: 011-85002 MTCO IN
011-83485 MTCO IN
Fax: 91-22-2611657

Delhi Office:

A-18, Ram House
304/305, Connaught Place
New Delhi 110001
Tele: 3323256/3321741/3323123
Telex: 031-63100 TOUR IN
Fax: 011-3326286

"We were surrounded in a foreign environment.

It was like being in an international store.
Surrounded by a staggering range of clothes.
In fact the whole atmosphere was amazing. A large
shopping area (Seemed like thousands of square feet).
A great service staff. Parking space (would you believe it!). It was nothing
like I'd ever seen before in India. Frankly, this is really the way shopping should be."



Feel the experience. While you shop.

S. V. Road (Near flyover), Andheri (W), Bombay-58. Tel: 6240451-54. Fax: 6207145

CONTRACT. SS.908.93

**M/s R. B.
Godiwalla
and Family**

**Wishes all
Parsi Patrons
A Very
Happy and
Prosperous
New Year**

**For the tastiest
food in town;
with moderate
rates too; none
to beat the
Godiwallas!
Just give us
your budget and
we'll fit you in.**

**Telephone Nos
3765842, 3762065
3765360**

"Doors closed to..."

This refers to Mr H. E. Eduljee's letter ("Doors closed to...", Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, February-March 1994) which questions my earlier rejoinder (*Parsiana*, August 1993) to Ms Homai F. Bode on her strange supposition (*Parsiana*, April 1993) concerning the vintage of our ethnic identity consciousness.

For greater clarity, I would like to define more sharply the broad issue that necessitated my rejoinder. Ms Bode had this to say: "We have been Zoroastrians for thousands of years, Parsis only since we came to India about 1,300 years ago." It is important to realize that what this statement seems to suggest is that our ethnic consciousness came into effect only after the Arab conquest and our flight to India, whereas for long before that, our ancestors in old Iran had acknowledged a religious identity only.

There is no reason at all to change my contention that this is a mistaken, misleading and spiritless supposition, for it denies and dismisses a robust ethnicity that was factually professed and proclaimed as far back as circa 500 BC by our enlightened Achaemenian ancestors.

The conclusive historical evidence for this is provided by the testimony of the Old Persian cuneiform rock inscriptions of Darius and Xerxes, where both these sovereigns categorically declare their identity as "Parsa" and as "Ariya." Please note well that these are decidedly ethnic and racial references.

Quibbling over the terms "Parsa" and "Parsi" is not relevant to this issue, for nothing can change the simple fact that Darius and Xerxes identify themselves ethnically as "Parsa," this being the ancient ethnic name for their key natal province located in south-western Iran, and for its people as well. Additionally, in a further and even more ancient affirmation of their roots, these illustrious monarchs also identify themselves racially as "Ariya," this being a direct racial reference to their Aryan descent from the remotest of times.

By what authority can anyone try to deny to the august Achaemenians their avowed ethno-racial identity? And by what right can anyone try to deny to their descendants this aspect of their ancient and precious heritage?

Although the matter of the ancient name "Parsa" and the later "Parsi" is not germane to the central issue defined and discussed above, Mr Eduljee's opinion that "Mr Khan is misled by the word *paarsa* and its resemblance to Parsi" forces some sepa-



From

**A
well-
wisher**



When life
is full of
unexpected
TWISTS
and
TURNS

Goodyear Power Tread Super Radial. A tyre designed to help you win over life's demanding situations.

A unique 'S' shaped tread funnels out water, removing the danger of slip-ups. Special road stayer sidewalls keep you in complete control at critical points. And extraordinary heat-resistant compounds keep the tyres cool even when the temperature is unbearable. But that's not all. Power Tread's exceptionally low



spring rate absorbs shocks upto 30% on bumpy terrains, driving the fatigue away. Plus, upto 50% extra mileage and upto 5% improved fuel efficiency make life wonderfully hassle-free.

But then, it's the least you can expect from Goodyear. A company whose leading-edge tyre technology has reigned over the World Grand Prix Circuit for years. And a company whose superior car tyres help millions reach home. Safely.

GOODYEAR

POWER TREAD SUPER RADIAL

Take me home

Chaitra Leo Burnett D GY 493



RATAN SURVEYOR & Company

Engineers,
Contractors
and
R.C.C. Specialists

Engineers of
Repute for
Over Forty-five
Years for
Construction Works
of Good Quality

Piramal Mansion
235/37 Dr Dadabhoy
Naoroji Road, Fort
Bombay 400001
Phone: 2619670



rate comment. If Mr Khan is mistaken, so are Dr I. J. S. Taraporewala and Dr H. K. Mirza, each of whom quotes the Old Persian rock inscription of Darius the Great at Naqsh-e-Rostam, and then provides his own translation — in which "Parsa" is translated as "Parsi" throughout. To illustrate, here is Dr Taraporewala's translation: "I am Darius, the Great King, the King of Kings... the son of Vishtaspa, the Achaemenid, a Parsi (sic), the son of a Parsi (sic), an Arya of Aryan lineage." Mr Eduljee may verify from Taraporewala's *The Religion of Zarathushtra*, third edition, Bombay 1980, and from Mirza's *Outlines of Parsi History*, Bombay 1974.

The fact of the matter is that the later "Parsi" is a genuine derivative of the ancient name "Parsa." There is no question of being "misled" by any empty and random "resemblance" or coincidence between the two. Suffice it to say that trained scholars of the order of Taraporewala and Mirza are not in the habit of blundering into such elementary, childish traps.

The Old Persian "Parsa," signifying the key province and its people, became "Pars" for the province, and "Parsik" as the adjective for the people as well as for their language, in Middle Persian or Pahlavi. And "Parsik" became "Parsi" in later usage. The vibrant synergistic relationship between all these sequential terms is authentic and deliberate, not illusory and fortuitous. In passing, it may be mentioned that as the Arab conquerors of Iran had difficulty in pronouncing "p-," the sound "f-" was substituted, so that "Pars" and "Parsi" became "Fars" and "Farsi," respectively in Persian.

The exact juncture at which "Parsi" came into regular usage may be an interesting subject for debate, but it does nothing to vitiate the great antiquity of our ethnic heritage, as "Parsi" is a later form of the "Parsa" of 2,500 years ago.

Incidentally, the Old Persian term "Parsa" has also produced derivatives in Western languages. The ancient Greek writers converted this name into "Persis," from which are derived the English "Persia" and "Persian," and the corresponding words in other European languages.

Mr Eduljee will find all the above etymological aspects given in Mirza's *Outlines...* and in R. R. Motram's *Zoroastrianism*, Volume 1, Bombay 1989 reprint.

The various artful attempts to doubt, denigrate and deny our lustrous and legitimate ethno-racial heritage, in order to accommodate certain heterodox notions and practices, should be recognized and re-



M. NUSSERWANJI & COMPANY

Transport
Contractors
and
Fleet Owners

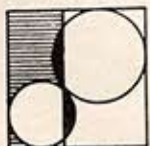
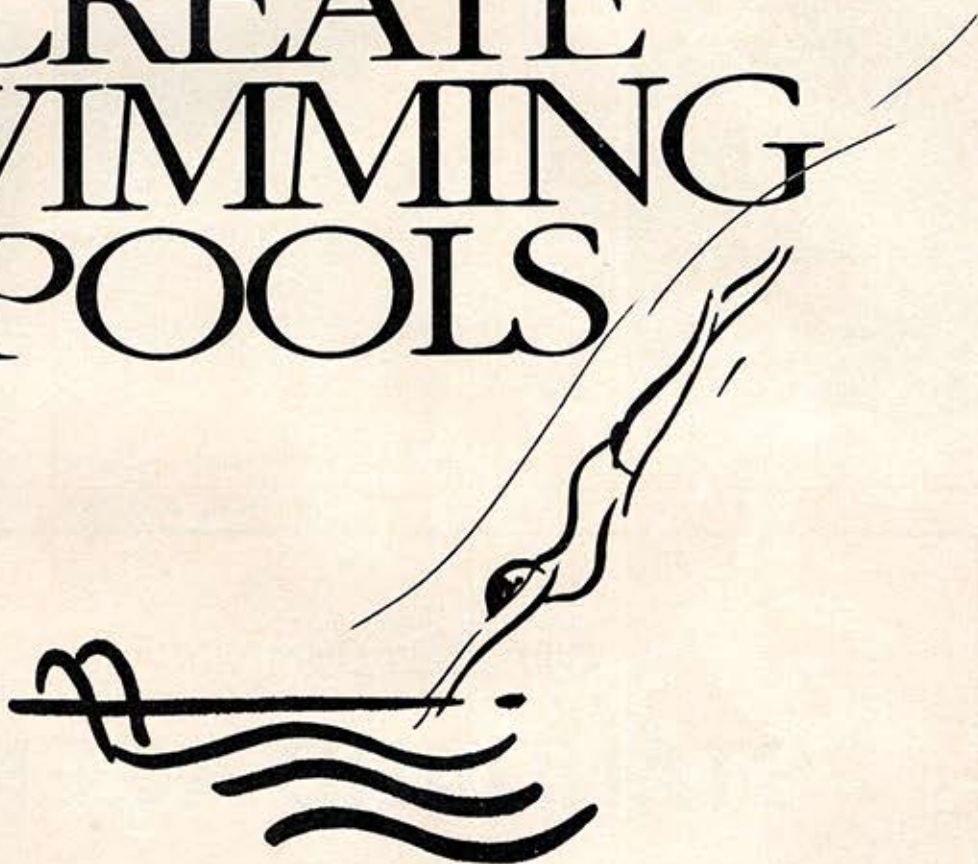
PUNE--BOMBAY
MADRAS--BANGALORE

Trusted name in
Road Transport for over
three decades

Head Office:
94, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Pune 411001



WE CREATE SWIMMING POOLS



PROFESSIONAL CONSULTANCY SERVICES

HOTELS, RESTAURANTS, POOLS, SPAS AND RECREATIONAL CONSULTANTS
7TH FLOOR, ROSE MINAR, CHAPEL ROAD, BANDRA, BOMBAY - 400 050. TEL.: 642 80 26/643 44 89

For your birthday party,
engagement,
anniversary or any
other celebration
in the family

The best place to order
Chinese food is

**GOOD MAN
CHINESE
RESTAURANT
AND BAR**

Lamington Road, Next to
Naaz Cinema.

For free home delivery of your
party orders contact us on
3878833, 3822007

*Wishing our
Parsi
community
a very happy
Papeti and
Navroze*

**T. C. Bajan & Co
Private Limited**
Katni
Madhya Pradesh

sisted before the identity crisis into which
we have already embroiled ourselves proves
fatal to the Parsi community. RONTIK KHAN

"You have to leave!"

It is obvious from Mr Rohinton Chichgar's
letter (*Parsiana*, January 1994) that he is
frustrated and therefore gives irrelevant
examples. Yes, Saudi Arabia is a Muslim
country and obviously they prefer Mus-
lims, but at the same time there are many
Parsi industrialists and business execu-
tives who too prefer to employ Parsis if the
credentials are nearly the same. Are they,
too, called racist? Can you blame them?
No, because we are Parsis; so obviously if
a Parsi gives us a good job we have praise
for him, don't we?

I just wanted to make one point clear in
my letter which was that knowing all the
bad points of Saudi Arabia we still want to
go there if we get a job. Why? Because
money counts in life. No one forced any-
one of us to go and work there, hence is it
fair now to sit in India and write against the
country which increased one's bank bal-
ance? Be practical, and give a chance to
other Parsis to go there and work and make
some money too. Reading such discourag-
ing articles any parent would get worried,

With Best Compliments From

STANDARD AGENCIES

Dealers for elegant readymade kitchens,
post-formed laminated shelving systems,
wardrobes, and living room units.

CARYSIL kitchen sinks. DEESHE exhaust chimneys.

Contact

Mr Jasper S. Tavaria

S.50 Clover Centre, 7, Moledina Road
Pune 411001

Telephone: 658875 Fax: 654050

**Only
the very best
ingredients
have gone into
the making of
our ice creams.
At Vadilal,
we don't know
any other way of
making
ice cream.**



Vadilal Milk Products Pvt Ltd. Plot No. 24;
Shubhangan, Gulmohar Road, J.V.P.D. Scheme, Bombay-400 049. Tel: 6208760/6208761.

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

which does not encourage family members to go there for employment. We were some of the lucky ones who made our share so do not deprive the others!

Regarding the false Iqama I can give a list of Parsis who joined after 1990 with 'Zoroastrian' on their Iqama and many renewed 'Zoroastrian' as their religion on their Iqama after 1990. (We were there from 1990-1992). Hence to say that every Parsi is on a false Iqama is incorrect.

Life is full of adventure if you take it as it comes. If given a chance, do go and visit Saudi Arabia and then see for yourself if the choice was right or wrong. Yes, it is not paradise, but it is fun!

There are thousands of people who when offered a good opportunity in a smaller city, will not move to it from major cities like Delhi or Bombay, but prefer to struggle where they are. I understand from the All India Zoroastrian Youth Organization that there are many Parsi business executives in smaller cities willing to employ educated Parsis, but they are not available as no one wants to leave the fun life of Bombay and Delhi. If this is so in India, why would they venture to Saudi Arabia?

Ms FEERUZA SHAH
Wilmington, Del, USA

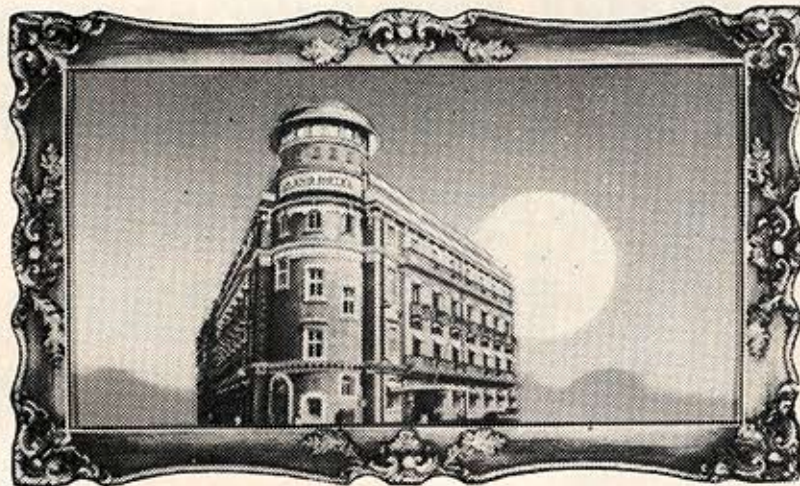
A tribute to the WZO

We are residents of Malayasia and have been following the activities of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO), specially the help they give to the poor Zoroastrian farmers of Gujarat. We must say that they are doing a fantastic job for these forgotten co-religionists.

I have had occasion to see this work in person when I visited the villages in 1991, and again in February 1994. In 1991 we were introduced to a family in Anklesh village, for whom we agreed to provide the required finance for starting a poultry farm. WZO took up the task of rehabilitating the whole family.

Tehmurasp and his two sons aged 19 and 17 years were sent for a training course in poultry farming at the Tata Marginal Farming Research Institute. Their daughter Maharukh, aged 16, was sent to school in Navsari and Goolbanoo kept the home fires burning, looking after their half acre plot and growing rice, if the rains came. Tehmurasp, who was a chasniwalla at one of the agiaries at Tardeo, Bombay, where he was earning about Rs 2,000 per year, had to give up his job to learn poultry farming. During the training period WZO built the necessary poultry cottages and

GRANDEUR
perfected to a fine art

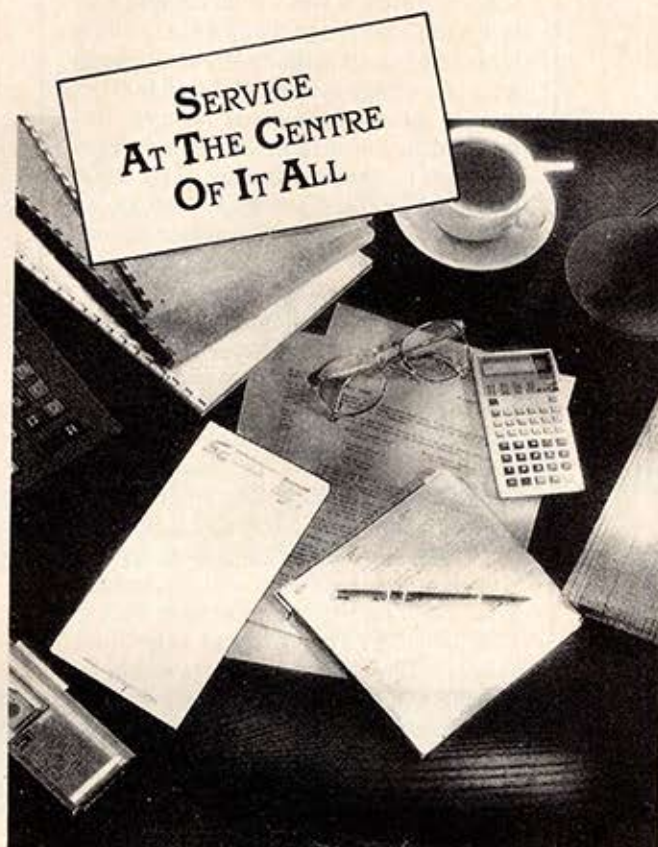


Here you'll find the answer to your every need, from a friendly smile to personalised service, from tastefully appointed rooms to the varied restaurants. This makes your stay with us a grand one.



GRAND HOTEL

Ballard Estate, Bombay-400 038. Tel.: 2618211/12/13/14



Absolute convenience has never been so good.

Sea Green Hotel – The perfect location for a business traveller in the heart of Bombay's commercial and entertainment centre & facing the scenic Marine Drive – the hotel commands a superb view, with the comfort and convenience a business traveller deserves.

45 beautifully appointed AC & non-AC rooms and suites with Telephone, 4 channel music, TV & Cable in each room. Superior level of personalised service that's attentive but never intrusive.

Try us and appreciate the visible difference – You will find your stay with us most refreshing.

We are in the heart of it all!



SEA GREEN HOTEL

145, Marine Drive, Bombay 400 020 Tel: 222294



APM-SG-94-1

HAPPY
NEW YEAR
FROM

HOMI & Company

Opticians and Contact
Lens 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 ☎ 3823980
Peddar Rd ☎ 3861073
Girgaum Rd ☎ 3879629
3823564

installed the equipment.

In January 1992 after completing their training, Tehmuras and his two sons started their poultry farm with 200 chicks. Goolbanoo helped and they worked pretty hard; and after several setbacks they have now prospered. It was a sight for sore eyes to see this family again in February 1994, fairly prosperous in their surroundings and with an average earning of Rs 45,000 per year. In their affluence they have not forgotten their kinsmen in the other villages and want to repay an amount of Rs 1,000 per month so that other needy farmers can be helped. This was truly a lesson in self-help, for which WZO is to be congratulated.

WZO has an excellent team of workers at the ground level in Navsari, which provides the necessary physical and technical help to poor Zoroastrian farmers. We would like to specially thank Dinshaw and Bachi Tamboly, the leaders of the team, Mr Piroj Panthaky, ex-director of agriculture, government of Gujarat, Mr Farrokh Kasad, a big sugarcane farmer in Gujarat and Dr Rohinton Avari, director of the Tata Marginal Farming Institute who have each in their own way been of great help to the farmers. There are many others whom we may have missed and they are all working to help our forgotten co-religionists.

The secret of Tehmuras's success and that of 100 other families lies in the dedication of the workers, both the recipients and the helpers and instructors. The basic philosophy of the WZO, with which we totally agree, is 'No doles.' Nobody is given cash. Everyone is provided with the necessary implements, training and other help to make for themselves a fairly successful way of life.

We have been so satisfied with the first family at Anklesh that with the help of other Zoroastrian friends from Malaysia, we have adopted two other families of Jal and Noshir Avari at Chasmandwa. They each have over three acres of land, but no water and had to depend on seasonal rain. They have been provided with a bore-well, pump and fairly long piping to their farms. During our recent visit we were able to see their fields growing lush sugarcane from which they will be able to make a gross sale of Rs 90,000 and a fairly good profit to lead a comfortable life. They have also agreed to start paying back from next year a fixed amount per month to help other Zoroastrian farmers in need. All these families have worked hard, and deserve the success they have achieved.

The two key principles of WZO, 'no

Burjor Framji & Company

Licensed Plumbers
Sanitary & Drainage
Contractors

Marine Mansion
1st Marine Street
Bombay 400002
Tel: 2083207

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



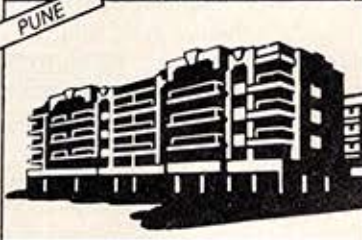
Flats at **RAHEJA COMPLEX**, Kalyan
 • 1/2 Bedroom flats • Economical rates
 • Near Railway Station • Club house, gardens, Dish Antenna, within the complex

LONAVALA



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.



TARACHAND & Company

Suppliers of the
meatiest of
Venky's Chicken
Products
Mafco's Pork, Dairy,
Meat Cold Cuts,
Sausages
Al Kabeer's Mutton
and Tender Meat
Products
this side of town

We give free home
delivery for bulk orders

K & D Distributors
Exclusive
suppliers of
**Venky's Chicken
Products**
for South and
Central Bombay



80, Sleater Road
Grant Road (West)

Tel 3883691/3871277

doles' and 'repayment' are excellent watch-words for any charitable organization, and WZO deserves great approbation for the same. This is a new philosophy for Zoroastrian organizations and one worth emulating.

We heartily urge all our Zoroastrian friends in India and overseas to donate to this worthwhile cause to help the poor of our community to realize the maxims of self-help and hard work, which are the cornerstones of success in life.

NOSHER N. PUNDOLÉ
Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia

Delhi Dharamshala

The Delhi Parsi Anjuman invites you to spend your holiday with your family at the Mengusi Parsi Dharamshala at Bahadurshah Zafar Marg, New Delhi 110002, where excellent lodging/boarding facilities are available (double bedrooms with attached bath, etc, as may be expected at a rest house, including good homely Parsi meals). The rooms are going to be increased shortly, with a lounge facility to take care of larger numbers of visiting Zoroastrians.

The location is central — 10 minutes' drive from Connaught Place and 15 minutes from the New Delhi railway station. Connections with inter-state bus terminals and airports are easily accessible. This is an excellent and economical place for spending your holidays, as well as for short business trips to the capital. The anjuman strives to constantly upgrade all the facilities, which are used by visiting Zoroastrians from all over the world.

Ms Dhun Daraius Bagli, manageress of the Dharamshala, can be contacted on telephone nos 3318615/3731228, or you could send a fax to the undersigned at the Delhi Parsi Anjuman, fax no 4627621. We will respond.

DADIE MISTRY
Vice President, The Delhi Parsi Anjuman

Rao's omission

On his recent visit to London, the Indian Prime Minister Mr Narasimha Rao unveiled a portrait of Rajiv Gandhi, paid floral tributes to the statue of Mahatma Gandhi and the bust of Jawaharlal Nehru. The Prime Minister rightly and proudly extolled the virtues and inimitable contributions of these illustrious Indian leaders of the past. It is, however, distressing that in the midst of all these tributes no mention, not even a passing reference, was made to the 'Grand Old Man of India,' Dadabhai Naoroji, the first among many firsts in India. By ethical, pragmatic and



*Happy
New Year*

LORD'S CENTRAL HOTEL

Matheran 410102

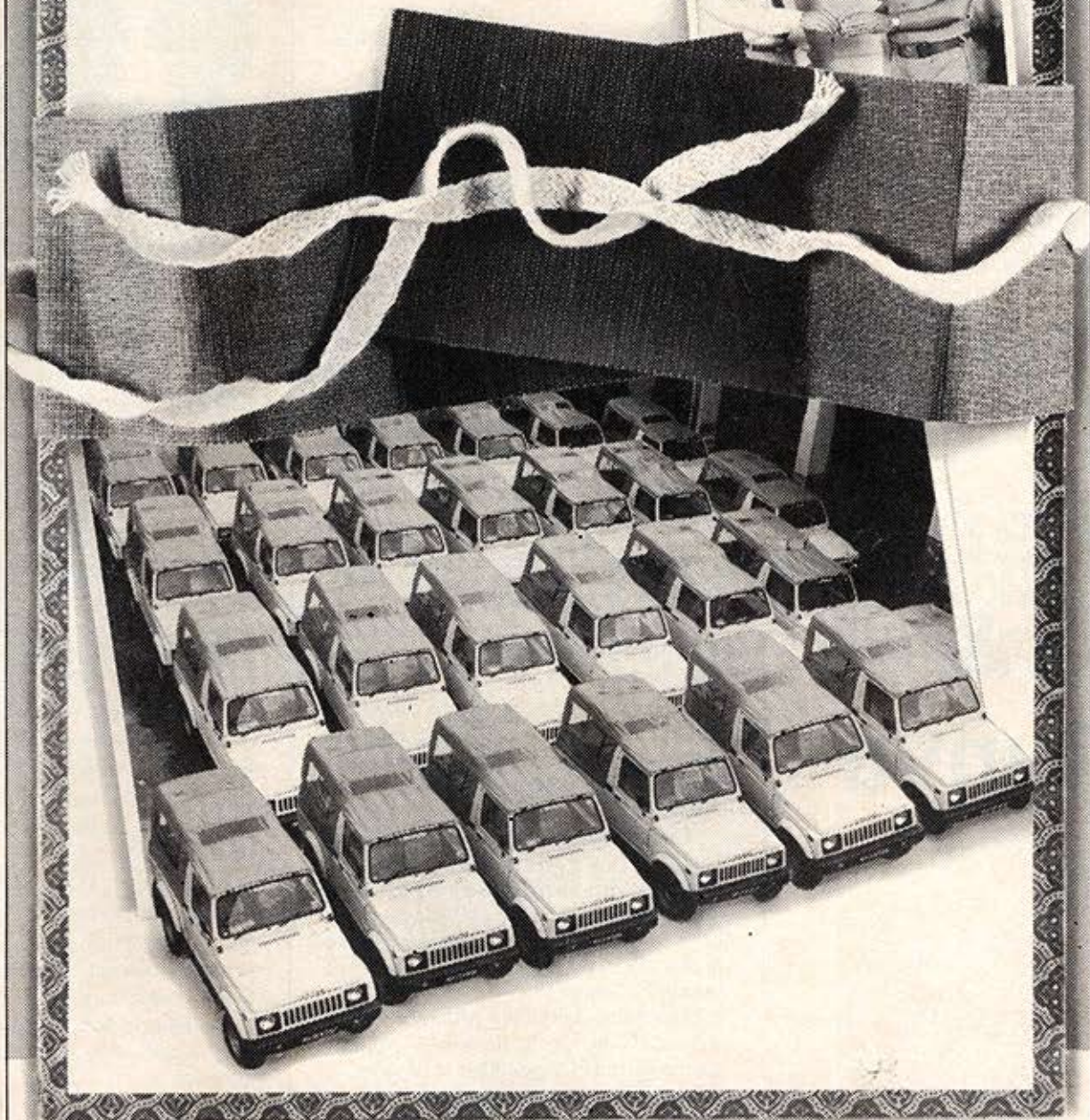
Telephones
Matheran -- 021483-228
Bombay -- 3867776



The case of 32 Gypsies.

Booked by Bombay Police
and released by Vitesse.

Mr. Parvez Bachana, Sr. Mktg.
Executive, Vitesse, is handing
over the keys to Mr. B.T. Temkar,
DCP, Motor Transport Div. of
Bombay Police.



IF IT'S MARUTI IT MUST BE
VITESSE



Turf View, Hornby Vellard Estate, Nehru Planetarium Road, Worli, Bombay 400 018.
Tel.: 4945464 (8 Lines), Telex: 011-76539 VTPL IN. Fax: (91-22) 494 7052

With
best wishes
from

Farah
&
Tanya

objective minds this seeming slight to the Zoroastrian community (Parsis of India) could rightly be interpreted as a subtle indication of the low esteem accorded to them by the Indian PM, despite their almost unequalled contribution to the well-being and upliftment of India.

Or, could it be a snide rebuff to the managing committee of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe in London? Or is it a subtle ruse to curry favor with the ultra-right of India, the Bharatiya Janata Party and their ilk? Perhaps, some of your principled, pragmatic and erudite readers have some answers for us.

FURIOK K. TANGREE
France

'Receives a shadow'

Much has been said by many erudite scholars that our religion does not permit non-Parsis at religious functions.

In fact, a couple of years ago a German scholar gave a 'research' lecture on our prayers at the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe's Zoroastrian House in London. In the course of his talk he referred to the finding of a Zoroastrian historical 'Prayer Place' in Germany in a mountainous area.

With projector slides, he proved that during prayers Zarathushtra or Asho Farohar, the heavenly angel, is present. But should a non-believer be present in the congregation, the heavenly being receives a shadow and is obscured. Thus our priests have been proved correct when they say that non-Parsis cannot attend our religious functions.

RUSI P. S. BILLIMORIA
London, UK

The other wise man

Some time back I read a book, *The Story of the Other Wise Man*, by Henry Van Dyke, which has given me much information and insight into our ancient religion. These I would like to share with the readers of *Parsiana*.

The following points emerge from the book:

- The three wise men who went to Bethlehem to pay obeisance to the child Jesus at his birth, with gifts of gold, frankincense and myrrh, were the Magis, the followers of Prophet Zoroaster.
- There is the following prophecy in the *Avesta*: "In that day Sosiosh the Victorious shall arise out of the number of prophets in the east country. Around him shall shine a mighty brightness, and he shall make life everlasting, incorruptible, and immortal, and the dead shall rise again." Is this a fact?
- There was a fourth wise man, the protago-

Bombayites have
perfected at least
five ways of killing
this puppy.



Car hits. Beating. Stoning. Starvation. Poisoning. Just a few examples of the senseless cruelty puppies like this are exposed to every day.

We at The Welfare of Stray Dogs have prevented the birth of thousands of such unwanted, ill-treated pups, through mass sterilisation. So far over 2,300 dogs have been sterilised, vaccinated against rabies and tattooed for identification in Bombay and New Bombay.

Help us. Call 3085116 (Bombay) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Or mark your cheques/demand drafts to: "The Welfare of Stray Dogs" and send them to Regal Theatre Building, 2nd floor, 41/F Apollo Pier Road, Bombay 400039.



The welfare of stray dogs

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

Pestonji & Co.

Makers of Fine Jewellery since 1936.

Pestonji & Co.
296 Raja Rammohan Roy Road, Next to Albless Baug, Charni Road
Bombay 400 004 Phone: 361 1121

Exclusively designed & crafted jewellery in gold & precious stones

nist of the book under reference, who believes the above prophecy. He has sold all his belongings to buy three jewels: a sapphire, a ruby and a pearl, to carry as tribute to the child Jesus.

•As the story unfolds, this fourth wise man, whose name is Artaban, is not able to join the other three on their journey to Bethlehem. On the way he stops to help the sick and the needy. First, he helps a sick man lying unattended on the way, and so is late for the meeting with his friends who leave without him. He sells the sapphire to buy camels and provision to overtake them. Next he stops to help a woman save her child from the soldiers of Herod, who in their search for Jesus are killing all newborn children; for this he has to part with his ruby. Thirdly, he saves a young woman from being sold into slavery and pays the pearl as her price. Ironically, this happens near Golgotha where his search for the child Jesus has brought him.

•Even in those days (according to the book), the dead were disposed of in the manner the Parsis practise today. They called it "the funeral of the desert from which the kites and vultures rise on dark wings, and the beasts of prey slink furtively away, leaving only a heap of white bones in the sand."

•In the book is also found "the Ancient chant of *Yasna*... a beautiful hymn to Ahura Mazda."

I have read and re-read this book, which consists of only 60 pages. Each time what strikes me is that the story of the other wise man is the story of the Parsis. Like Artaban, they would rather spend their wealth in good works to help the needy than pay lip service to temple rituals, and hence our innumerable charities.

I would be grateful to our theologians if they could inform the community whether the facts as given in the story are true, or if this is just another very interesting, readable book.

Ms SOONU JAL

Neemuch

Opt for Mandalism?

The writer wishes to state that he does not want to create a new controversy, as our community is already beset with many of them: a unified calendar, inter-marriage, conversion, the passage of a resolution by WZO allowing a non-Parsi spouse of a Parsi to become its member, etc. Rather, I want to initiate a debate, in which I would invite eminent members of our community to join in.

As the readers are aware, the Central

Government has accepted that 27 percent of jobs should be reserved for scheduled castes, scheduled tribes, etc. The Parsi community should ponder whether the time has not come for it to opt for Mandalism, especially in the case of our less fortunate brothers and sisters in the villages of Gujarat.

Here I would like to narrate a relevant anecdote. There was a vacancy for a top post in a public sector bank. There were two aspirants for the job and both were called for an interview on the same day. The first candidate who stood before the panel of interviewers was a BCom with banking as a special subject, a CA well-versed in management techniques and knew something of psychology. He was grilled for about an hour but stood the test.

It is human nature that when called for an interview, we check with each other the kind of questions asked, who was the most fearful interviewer and so on. The second candidate seemed to be unconcerned and nonchalant. The first candidate was a bit puzzled when his rival walked out of the interview smiling and in no time at all. It transpired that the second candidate had rather haughtily introduced himself to the panel as an SSC student who was a member

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
PRIVATE LIMITED**

PROSPECT CHAMBERS ANNEXE, 2ND FL, DR D. N. ROAD, BOMBAY 400001
TEL 2047460 • 2041830 CABLE: NIRUPAMA.

**CON
CORD
ELEVATOR**

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: (0265) 324372 Fax: (0265) 330906

Naren

Travel pack

Your master plan for travel !!!

With Best Compliments From

TRANSOCEAN SHIPPING AGENCY PVT LTD

Registered Office

7, Kumpta Street, Ballard Estate, P.O. Box No 1251, Bombay 400038

Phones: 2618340, 2618348, 2618349, 2611349, 2612348

Fax No. 22-2620711

Telex: 11-83515 TROS IN, 11-81052 TOSA IN. Grams: "TROSHALT"

Branch Office

2nd Floor, Port Users' Building, Sheva, New Bombay 400707

Phones: 7242526, 7242538

Telex: 01313-212. Fax 7242545

With compliments from

B. B. GARDA & SONS

10 B. J. Road

Poona 411001

of the schedule caste and insisted that Mandalism be applied in his case. The entire panel agreed and assured him that he would get the job.

BHIKHAJI M. ADENWALLA

Parsiana one liners

A magazine like *Parsiana* can certainly educate. The people we need to educate are our youngsters, for they are the future of our community. However, education via long, involved, verbose articles does not always have the required effect. People, and youngsters in particular, get bored. What is needed to make *Parsiana* more interesting is a series of one-liners. These one-liners could take the following form:

- a) 'Did you know that...?'
- b) 'Why is it that...?'

Now, both the above could deal with religious, cultural, social or any other parochial issues. No one, for instance, has ever told me why banana leaves are used (or were used?) at Parsi weddings and navjotes. So: "Why is it that banana leaves are used instead of traditional plates at these functions?" Or: "Why is it that women cannot visit the Tower of Silence at funerals?" And perhaps the 'Did you know that...?' series of questions could touch on the more amusing aspects of life.

Perhaps 10 of each of the above may be included in each issue of *Parsiana* — punchy, precise, digestible and interesting questions. Perhaps your readers could submit obscure items of fact, and even ask the questions. You could even give a prize for the best one-liners received by *Parsiana*. It may sound odd, but in this day and age our religion has to be marketed to our own youngsters, and I really believe that informing our people via the above method is a good start.

S. RUSTOMJI
Middlesex, UK

Handicapped pen friends

Parichay, a guidance centre, has started a Pen Friend Club with the intention of providing a communication outlet for the handicapped — especially for those who are crippled and cannot move. For those interested in corresponding with the disabled, please contact the undersigned at Parichay, No 4 (old No 38), 5th Cross, Vasanthanagar, Bangalore 560052.

B. R. PRASAD
Covener, Parichay

Knock! Knock! Parsis

I am sending *Knock! Knock! Parsi* - 2, as

compiled by me. The first collection had appeared in Readers' Forum, *Parsiana*, August 1993.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Aloo
Aloo, who?
(H)A-loo, speak louder please.'

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Homai
Homai, who?
Ho-mai, look what we've got ourselves into.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Rusi
Rusi, who?
Now, (R) u si me, now you don't.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Dilbur
Dilbur, who?
My, Dil-bur(n)s for you.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Dina
Dina, who?
You can't Di-na, these jokes are good.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Perwin
Perwin, who?
You get two points Per-win, one for a draw.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Sanaya
Sanaya, who?
Sa-naya, makes one rupee.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Maneck
Maneck, who?
Ma-neck is paining writing these jokes.

Knock! Knock!
Who's there?
Aban
Aban, who?
There ought to be A-ban on these jokes.

D. B. RUSTOMJI

Edited by Amavaz S. Mama

MATRIMONIAL

Parents of a beautiful graduate girl, aged 25, ht 5'2", wt 53 kgs, with aptitude towards painting and craft from affluent, respected, well-known business family invites matrimonial proposals from parents of boys well-settled in business or profession with similar background. Write with returnable photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana,
Matrimonial (July-Aug/47-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

Events and Personalities

An unpleasant episode

The H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram has been the scene of two antithetical events in recent months. In early June it was the venue of an unusual celebration where Ervad Jehangir



Bombay's H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram (Right) Testing a registrant for G6PD deficiency at a free camp organized at Gamadia Colony Photo: Spectravision

Turel was felicitated by a grateful community (see "Ritual honor," pg 84). A prior incident was distinctly less laudable.

According to the community grapevine, when Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal, High Priest of the Atas Bahram, was readying for his open heart surgery in end March after a severe heart attack in December 1993, the trustees of the Atas Bahram realized that their boiwallas had presumably executed an ignoble coup, depriving the Atas Bahram trust of a large sum of money. Various estimates at Rs 30,000 and Rs 3,00,000, the money had been paid by various individuals booking 20-year maachis under an existing scheme of the Atas Bahram.

The trustees are said to have got wind of the alleged embezzlement through a relative (one source maintained it was an act of God) and, having realized that the boiwallas

were reportedly issuing fake receipts, the trustees got a Zoroastrian police officer to investigate the matter privately. The inspector, it is said, found that three boiwallas were not only involved in allegedly siphoning away the maachi money but that they were also reselling the sukhad that behdins offered to the sacred fire. The boiwallas, all under the age of 45 (a couple of them are said to be in their early 30s) were presumably smug in their belief that shortage of priests would prevent the trustees from discharging them.

The offenders having reportedly handed in their confession and apology were allowed to resign from the Atas Bahram, as corroborated its managing trustee Homi Wadia in a telephone conversation. It is said that eminent athravans like Turel, Aspandiyar Dadachanji, panthaky at the Sorabjee Vachaghandhy Agiary, and others rallied round the Atas Bahram and arranged for three mobeds from Surat to take over the sacred duties. The Surat mobeds however reportedly demanded a salary of Rs 4,000 (exclusive of boi offerings and ashodads) which the Wadia trust was ill prepared to meet, until the Athravan Educational Trust (AET) volunteered to contribute Rs 2,000 per mobed per month.

The AET funds are currently estimated at Rs 22,00,000 to 23,00,000.

The offenders are said to have been dismissed from the AET's benefits scheme. But the shortage of priests, may enable them to freelance successfully.

Arnavaz S. Mama

G6PD camp

That the Parsi community which has a relatively high rate of G6PD (Glucose 6 Phosphate Dehydrogenase) deficiency may be made aware of certain important facts concerning this enzyme, the Lady Hirabai Cowasji Jehangir Health Unit at Gamadia Colony, Tardeo conducted a free camp on February 20, 1994 which was inaugurated by Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP). The first 200 Zoroastrians to report at the camp were promised a free detection test with an identification card describing the individual's G6PD condition, noted a press release sent by Ms Arnavaz F. Khan, honorary treasurer of the Health Unit. Ultimately 270 persons were checked and the positive feedback has encouraged the organizers to hold a blood group and Rh factor camp and thereafter start a donor directory.





The Damania Law of Aerodynamics:
Think 'Domestic' to become a great international airline.
Think 'International' to become a great domestic airline.

One reason people rave about international airlines is because they feel 'at home' flying with them.

Now what makes people feel 'at home' on a foreign airline?

It's because international airlines fly people of all countries as carefully as they would their own family.

Feeling 'at home' then is much more than just a friendly crew that jollies you along.

It's the confidence of knowing you are in expert hands.

It's the trust you have in the airline's sense of responsibility.

It's knowing that you are safe, because no expense or effort has been spared to assure your safety.

Passengers free from distracting thoughts pay full attention to all the nice treatment lavished on them.

Ergo, they feel 'at home'.

We have proof that our theory is right. Observe that everyone raves about the service on board a Damania Airways flight.

It may be happening because they feel secure enough to sit back and enjoy it.

As it is with an international airline, so it is with a domestic airline. Q.E.D.

 **DAMANIA AIRWAYS**
EXPECT THE WORLD OF US

OUR WORLD OF VACATIONS-1994

**Lala tours announce the opening of bookings
for our vacation packages**

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



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.
BTQ passengers only

For details
contact us or your Travel Agents:

H.K. LALA & CO.

Capitol Cinema Building
Murzban Road, Bombay 400001.
Tel: 2045094/5744/3006 Telex: 011-83680-LATO IN
Fax: 022-2046925

Absence of G6PD makes an individual prone to hemolytic anemia when exposed to certain antibiotics, antimalarial drugs, sulfa group of drugs, methylene blue, etc. Therefore if a crisis in the form of coma and death is to be averted it is necessary to know beforehand which drugs should be avoided in an emergency. An outline of this deficiency constitutes the major portion of the press handout.

The Parsis account for a high incidence (almost 12 percent) of this deficiency in India, followed by the Gujarati, Kutchi and Sindhi communities, according to the release. And among the Parsis, this inherited deficiency is more prevalent in the males as this disorder is transmitted by a mutant gene located on the X chromosome. The camp findings showed that 22 males and 15 females were found to have a G6PD deficiency, according to a press release from the BPP. Medical technologist Ms Ruzbeh Mowdawala and her team of assistants conducted the tests.

Advising all G6PD deficient patients to be wary of the drugs they consume, the handout further recommends that the G6PD card should also be carried on the person always. By intimating your doctor beforehand, by forewarning your spouse, and by screening your children too at birth, timely diagnosis may preempt a disaster, it cautions.

The BPP presidency

In light of the Bombay High Court's delay in providing a written order in the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) chairmanship case, Justice A. P. Shah has permitted prominent businessman Jamsheed Guzder to continue as chairman of the BPP's board of trustees till September 13, '94 and maybe thereafter, depending upon the status of his appeal.

Guzder and his three cotrustees -- Jamsheed Kanga, Minoo Shroff and Ms Silloo Kavarana -- had decided to file an appeal against the order of Justice Shah who had held on April 19 that seniority and not election must be the mode of selection of the president of the BPP board under the current scheme of election of trustees. At present, the seniormost BPP trustee is noted solicitor Eruch Desai.

The filing of the appeal awaits the written order detailing the reasoning behind the judge's verdict. Shah had originally allowed the litigants time up to June 20 to implement and/or appeal his judgement in the originating summons filed by BPP trustees Homi Ranina and Ms Mehroo Bengalee. Ranina, whose 10-year-trusteeship term expired in July, 1994 has not sought reelection to the Punchayet board.

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

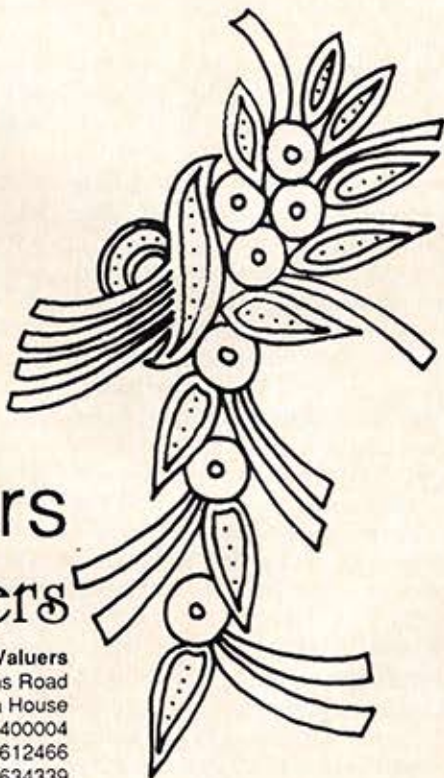
45, New Marine Lines, Bombay-400 020
Tel: 2039121, 2057484. Fax: 91-22-2057506
Telex: 011-2892 BEST IN. Gram: BESTHOTEL



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

Pransukhlal Brothers Jewellers

Govt Authorised Valuers
7, New Queens Road
Opera House
Bombay 400004
Phones: 3612197, 3612466
Fax: 3634339





Allahabad activities

In Allahabad, president Capt Homi Dandiwalla is goading members of his anjuman to join Zotarians, the newly constituted wing of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India that seeks to promote exchange of ideas and resources among professionals and businessmen. Referring to the presence of 38 Zoroastrians (19 men and 19 women) in Allahabad, Dandiwalla writes, "Most of us have the qualities (of) becoming founder members" of Zotarians.

At the general body meeting of the Anjuman convened in May '94, the community sanctioned a donation of Rs 3,001 to the Indian Cancer Society. The 28 members who attended the meeting also enjoyed a hearty repast at Hotel El Chico, informs the president.

Among the very regular members at their anjuman meetings whose absence has been noticed in recent times is Ms Khorshed Faramroz Ghandhi who died last September at the age of 67. Despite her handicaps — she was a born a blue baby, could neither hear nor speak, and her right wrist was amputated due to cancer — she would communicate with the members in her kind and loving manner and would even manage other activities like embroidery and shopping independently, reminisces Dandiwalla.

Another anjuman member whose achievements have been highlighted is 23-year-old Hanoze Ratan Sagar who graduated in agriculture from the Allahabad Agricultural Institute with 71 percent marks after which he was appointed assistant manager in the Chamraj Estates of the United Nilgiri Tea Estates Company.

Play Centre's work

With the receipt of a munificent donation of five lakh rupees from an ex-member, Homi K. Italia of Hong Kong, The Nowroze Baug Play Centre introduced a medical diagnostic scheme which has become operative since March 21, 1994. The scheme — to render assistance in all types of radiological and pathological tests — covers residents of Nowroz Baug as well as members of the Play Centre and their families and recommendations from the Italia family, announced the joint general secretaries of the Centre Adi Mogrelia and Aspi Ustad in the 47th annual report of the Centre.

The Play Centre, which describes itself as a multipurpose social welfare center, took an active interest in 1993 to draw up a plan for the reconstruction work to be undertaken in Nowroz Baug through the Nowroze Baug Maintenance and Development Committee, mentions president Nariman Mehta.

Claiming a membership of 1,322, during the year the Centre was active with its educational, medical, welfare, sports, cultural and excursion activities, as evinced from their annual report. Besides merit scholarships, education is encouraged through their free exercise book scheme and school fees scheme. A drawing competition is a regular activity for the young members.

The Centre's medical aid is extended through their allopathy scheme, free homeopathic dispensary, hospitalization-cum-specialization scheme and the new diagnostic scheme. Yoga classes for ladies were a regular event. Besides launching on old newspaper collection drives, for the

At the Nowroze Baug Play Centre's cultural program (from left): Mehta, Rustom Tirandaz congratulating child president Navroze Tarapore and Jamshed Guzder.

Dara Amroliya and Ustad in a scene from Suri Vachhe Supari

victims of the earthquake at Latur too the Centre contributed its mite.

In sports, the Play Centre was very active during the year organizing an athletic meet, football tournament, volley ball and throw ball tournaments as also a cricket match. Their annual tour was arranged to Dalhousie and Dharamshala. Cultural programs are also organized periodically, the last being held on June 3, 1994 when two plays were presented, *Kabhi Hero Kabhi Zero*, and *Suri Vachhe Supari*.

On account of Coke

Sorab Mistry's movements are linked to those of Coca-Cola. After a year's posting in Bombay as executive vice president, Tara Sinha McCann-Erickson (TSME) which is in charge of the Coca-Cola account in India, he has been appointed senior vice president, Asia Pacific. Mistry had first handled the Coca-Cola account in Tehran after joining McCann-Erickson as a management trainee in 1973. When the upheaval in Iran forced Mistry to leave the country, he looked after the company's account in Europe. Now after a 10-year stint with J. Walter Thompson in Toronto, Bombay-born Mistry is back with Coca-Cola, articles in the *Ad-World* of May 31, 1993, May 15, 1994 and in *The Metropolis on Saturday* of May 22-23, 1993 chart 44-year-old Mistry's career graph.

In addition to the Coca-Cola account Mistry's job entails managing TSME's Bombay operations which is actively pitching for new accounts in a liberalized economy. Erickson which is rated as the number one ad agency in the world has increased its equity stake in TSME to 51 percent so the Indian partner has to improve its performance too, Mistry is quoted in *The Metropolis*. Some of TSME's major clients are Johnson and Johnson, Nestlé, Videocon and BPL-Sanyo. "Our clients... are among the best and they demand the best... and we try our best for them," notes Mistry who believes that what is important in advertising "is building brand equity over a long period of time and not just going from one short-lived clever ad to another."

A graduate in economics and statistics from St Xavier's College, Bombay, Mistry's knowledge of the languages extends to French, German and Spanish. He is impressed with the level of English in this country as also the talent, "but what shocked me on my return is to see the level of decline in personal ethics and integrity," he acknowledged to *The Metropolis*.

Bharat Nirman awardees

Of the 10 ladies selected for this year's Bharat Nirman Talented Ladies' Awards for their "outstanding contribution made in the cause of enhancing the position and prestige of women in the society and in the

nation" were two Zoroastrians: Jerry Kumana and Dr Meher Master-Moos. The award is instituted to recognize and promote talent in women in all walks of life and is given every year to 10 chosen women and two distinguished guest awardees, according to the citation. At a special function organized on January 31, 1994 at the Birla Kreed Kendra, the award consisting of a citation and a cash purse of Rs 1,000 was given away at the hands of guest dignitary Ms Bilkees Latif.



Sorab Mistry: Back with Coca-Cola

A prominent theater personality, Kumana has acted in over 25 English and Gujarati plays, not only in India but also in Belgium and London, notes a press release.

In the last 27 years that she has been performing, she has participated in two musicals, two operas, four revues and also several TV productions, according to her bio data. She comperes for All India Radio regularly and is professionally involved in dubbing foreign films in English. Casting co-ordinator for the film *On Wings of Fire*, Kumana was entrusted a similar role for a couple of other productions too.

Kumana's work experience has not only been with well-known stage directors like Alyque Padamsee, Ms Pearl Padamsee, Adi Marzban, Hosi Vasunia, Pravin Joshi, Dinyar Contractor and Cyrus

Dastoor but also with the Government of India when she worked as a tourist guide, with other travel and tour organizers, with the British Council...

Despite her stage and professional commitments, 57-year-old Kumana also makes time for the World Zoroastrian Organisation's Bombay chapter, working as its joint honorary treasurer, has served on the welfare committee of the Cheshire Homes for the destitute in Andheri, and is currently a gazetted officer of Maharashtra, mentions her bio data.

An economics graduate from St Xavier's College, Kumana's dynamism and leadership were evinced during her college days and also when she was a student of the J. B. Petit High School winning the school's senior trophy in elocution, adds the press release.

Dedicated to Zoroastrian philosophy, Master-Moos has written books and papers on religious subjects and has been invited by many Western countries to deliver lectures on Zoroastrian subjects. She is the founder of the Zoroastrian College in Bombay-Sanjan which aims "to spread the knowledge of the ancient cosmic wisdom for the universal benefit of humanity," informs a write-up in the souvenir brought out on the occasion. She is associated with many charitable organizations as a principal office bearer and has received degrees from alternative medicine related universities.

Reportedly the first Parsi lady in the history of Oxford to read law and the first

Oriental lady to be awarded the Barbour Scholarship for law at Michigan University, USA, Master-Moos is an advocate by profession and a visiting professor and examiner of law at various foreign and Indian universities, mentions the write-up. After her primary and secondary education in India and East Africa, 50-year-old Master-Moos went to UK to pursue a degree in law at Lincoln's Inn, London.



Latif (left) presenting Bharat Nirman Award to Kumana
Right: Master-Moos

Lead on gas-run cars

In India's first CNG (Compressed Natural Gas) powered car rally in early 1994, the driver to emerge victorious was Minoo K. Mistry, an executive with Premier Auto Electric Limited, steering his company's 118 NE vehicle. His navigator was Minoo H. Contractor, service manager, notes a press release sent by one of his office colleagues Ms A. S. Printer. Of the 51





Minoo Mistry (left): winner of India's first CNG car rally

vehicles which participated in the race, 49 completed the race "accounting for the reliability of CNG powered cars. CNG has great potential to become the most practical, economical and eco-friendly alternate fuel developed," according to the February issue of *Indian Auto*.

"CNG is a mixture of hydrocarbon gases consisting principally of methane in gaseous form which has been compressed for use as vehicular fuel," notes a brief explanation. Since it is indigenously available it serves as a substitute to petroleum products and thus results in saving foreign exchange. It is also supposed to reduce vehicular pollution substantially and is therefore considered better from the health point of view too. Besides, being lighter than air it disperses easily in case of leaks and hence reduces the risk of fire or explosion, inform its spokespersons.

"One kg of CNG which costs Rs 10.80 is equivalent to 1.3 litres of petrol costing over Rs 20," states Mistry. But the disadvantage is its limited cylinder capacity (10 kg) which necessitates frequent refuelling. Presently the distribution system is such that CNG is available at only a select few outlets of oil companies in Bombay and some other parts of India, we are informed.

When the ministry of petroleum and natural gas sought to promote CNG in

India, the Gas Authority of India Limited (GAIL) was assigned the task of introducing CNG in Delhi, Bombay and Baroda. In addition to the infrastructure required to supply CNG, GAIL also had to oversee the availability of specially designed conversion kits that were required to be fitted into vehicles that opted for CNG. As on May 18, 1994, 237 automobiles in Bombay and 284, all over India had opted for CNG. The rally, as part of the oil conservation week activities in early January 1994, was jointly organized by GAIL, other oil companies and the Petrol Conservation Research Association, states a report in *The Times of India* of January 10.

Godrej — a new generation

"I interact very closely with my father: he's influenced me greatly. I admire his business acumen. He's also a sensitive and rational man, very up with the times. It's very profitable to be working directly under him." The respect that 25-year-old Ms Tanya Godrej, the eldest heir to the Godrej Soaps empire, has for Adi Godrej was reflected in an interview with *The Economic Times* of April 15, 1994.

Working as executive assistant to her father for the last three years, she has studied the organization and befriended its 3,300 workforce, gaining acceptance from



Godrej: consensus inclined (left)
Cawasji: leading a mountain artillery brigade

the seniors. Where she differs from her father is in her style of working she admitted: "I suppose I am softer and lean more towards consensus than he does."

In the selling of Godrej Soaps Tanya has been given credit for looking after "the creative side of publicity." She is particularly happy that the seniors within the organization are favorable towards "young, enthusiastic colleagues who offer intelligent and novel suggestions."

Conscious of the fact that their business is diversifying and, with collaboration with multinationals like Procter and Gamble, no longer restricted to the family circle, Tanya feels the want of an MBA degree in her career which she believes "lends you some sort of credibility." After schooling at Bombay's Cathedral and John Connon, Tanya proceeded to Brown University, USA, where she studied economics and political science. Her other interests are swimming, playing bridge, horse riding, going to the theater and reading, according to the article.

Cawasji in command

Recently promoted to the rank of brigadier, Parvez D. Cawasji is presently commanding a mountain artillery brigade in the northern sector after serving as director of army aviation in the army headquarters, notes his father who is keen that Parvez's achievements be regarded as "an inspiration for the younger generation to serve in the defence services."

During his nearly three decades of association with the defence forces Cawasji has fought in the Indo-Pak war and also faced insurgents in Punjab and Kashmir. When posted in the Siachen Glacier, regarded as the highest battlefield in the world, he was instrumental in saving a lot of army and civilian casualties, according to his bio data.

For his "acts of valor and devotion to his task beyond the normal call of duty and regardless of safety to self," he earned the chief's commendation on two occasions and was awarded the Vishist Seva Medal by the President of India in 1981.

A qualified flying instructor who has imparted aviation training to others in the army too, Cawasji's expertise extends to swimming, boxing and gymnastics. When he graduated from the Indian Military Academy, Dehradun, he was adjudged the best cadet in tactics and leadership. Secunderabad born Cawasji, who had studied at St Patricks High School, also holds a masters degree in economics, notes his curriculum vitae.



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

BHARUCHA & MOTIVALA

Builders & Engineers

14, Boat Club Road, Poona

*With Best
Compliments From*

Indian Dyestuff Industries Limited

Mafatlal Centre,
Vidhan Bhavan Marg,
Nariman Point, Bombay 400021

SUN-GRACE-MAFATLAL

19th century crusaders

They were both committed social reformers. Both of them used the power of their pen to fight against injustice and oppression. They were both products of 19th century India. In many other respects too they were similar yet both Sorabjee Shahpurjee Bengalee and Behramji Meherwanji Malbari made a distinctive



Malbari (left) and Bengalee

contribution to the community and the country. The noteworthy achievements of these two public figures have been highlighted in short biographies authored by Hormazdyar Shahpurshah Dalal. *Sorabjee Shahpurjee Bengalee — A Crusader* and *Behramji Malbari — A Gunijan* are two more booklets published by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) in 1994, as part of its series on prominent Parsis.

Quick to react to social injustice and superstitions, Bengalee took to writing letters to the editors of different papers. Very soon he had taken up the editorship of popular papers like *The Bombay Samachar*, *Jagat Premi* and *Rast Gofar*. Love for the country and the welfare of the common man were said to be the guiding principles of his writings. With Bengalee's involvement with the Young Students' Association (started by Dadabhai Naoroji) commenced his active struggle for female education, and his interest in the management and founding of certain schools and madressas. Once he was able to raise the requisite funds he was even able to fulfil his cherished dream of starting a school in the name of his mother — Bai Bhikhaiji Shahpurjee Bengalee Girls' School. In the founding of the Cama and Alibless Hospital for women his was a significant role, the book recalls.

As joint secretary of the Parsi Law Association he succeeded in impressing the British Government to enact laws for Parsis in the spheres of inheritance and divorce. He is said to have introduced elections in the municipality. Besides being an elected member of the municipality he was appointed member of the legis-

To our dear Parsi Patrons



Saal Mubarak

from

*Croissants
etc.TM*

CHURCHGATE
AT KAMDARS
INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE BLDG
CHURCHGATE BOMBAY - 400020
PHONE - 221066

BANDRA
NO 5, 6 PLUTO
PERRY ROAD, BANDRA
BOMBAY - 400050
PHONE - 6425702

MALAD
OSCAR CLASSICS
SHOP NO. 4
40, LAURDES COLONY
ORLEM-MALAD
BOMBAY - 400 064

CUFFE PARADE
7 / 8 MAKER ARCADE
BOMBAY - 400005
PHONE - 2186534

JUHU
SHOP NO 4, FIONA APTS
176, JUHU TARA ROAD
BOMBAY - 400049
PHONE - 6104252

VASHI
MAHAVIR CENTRE SHOP NO 22
NEXT TO GOLDEN PUNJAB
BEHIND BIG SPLASH
SECTOR NO. 17, VASHI
PHONE - 7682007

WARDEN ROAD
BEACH VIEW BUILDING
93, WARDEN ROAD
BOMBAY - 400 036
PHONE - 3643797

7 / BUNGLOWS
3, SEAGREEN APTS
RAHEJA COMPLEX
7 / BUNGLOWS
VERSOVA ANDHERI (W)
BOMBAY - 400061
PHONE - 6234218

CHEMBUR
SUSWAGATAM OPP DIAMOND
GARDEN CENTRAL AVENUE ROAD
BOMBAY - 400071
PHONE - 5556474

LINKING ROAD
MANGAL BHAVAN BLDG
BEHIND SATGURUS
14TH ROAD, KHAR
BOMBAY - 400052
PHONE - 6431506

ANDHERI
MANU BHARATI HOUSING SOCIETY
NEXT TO SHOPPERS STOP
ANDHERI WEST
PHONE - 6210231



MAGNUM INTERNATIONAL TRAVELS & TOURS

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

Contact Us

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

Tel: 2852343, 2853271, 241037

Tlx: 011-86967 MAG IN Fax: 2874730

MATRIMONIAL

Parsi youth, 38 years, freelance TV technician, invites correspondence from respectable, home-loving Parsi girls. Write enclosing recent photograph to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/41-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for Parsi boy, professional, 31 years, 5'6". Girls willing to stay in India and abroad may apply with details and photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/39-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

lative council and served as sheriff of Bombay.

More vociferous in his struggle to get infant marriage and its correlated evils abolished was Malbari who strengthened his argument by collecting statistics to show that married girls in the under-nine age-group outnumbered boys three times over. Seeking women's emancipation he advocated, "If new India is to be blessed with a generation of free and enlightened sons, a nation able to manage their own affairs, the Hindus of today ought to rear in their midst a race of free, enlightened mothers."

For the upliftment of lonely women Malbari (described as *gunijan*, meaning God's good man) established Seva Sadan in Bombay. A refuge for TB patients was provided in the form of Dharampore Sanatorium in Patiala state.

In later life he is believed to have been so engrossed in serving the people and the country that he did not have time to write new poems for which he had talent. His first collection of verse to be published was *Niti Vinod* which brought him success when he was only 21. His works in English, *The Indian Muse in English Garb* brought him acclaim as "the appearance of a true

Britania & Co Restaurant

Opp New Custom House
Ballard Estate

Wishes the Parsi community Saal Mubarak

Tel: 2615264

Timings: 8 a.m. to 4 p.m.

"My husband left me for another woman. In fact two. Two very helpful women. Part of a fantastic team of service staff at Shoppers' Stop. They escorted him around the massive shopping area (30,000 sq. feet of it). They showed him the staggering range. This was truly an international store. Then he came back to me. His hands full of clothes for me."



Feel the experience. While you shop.

S. V. Road, (Near flyover) Andheri (W), Bombay 400 058 Tel : 6240451/52/53/54. Fax : 6207145.

Contract. SS.909.93

poet and mastermind in India." *Wilson-Virah*, *Sarod-e-Itifaq* and *Admi Ane Teni Duniya* were his other well-known compositions. His foray into journalism was deemed most remarkable when he took up editorship of *The Indian Spectator*. His wish to bring out a daily in Gujarati did not materialize.

The personal nuggets woven into both the biographies make the books interesting. If one overlooks the typographical errors, the awkward phrases and the absence of certain vital words which change the intended meaning, much can be learnt about the selfless lives of these two men. The 57-page book on Malbari priced at Rs 12 and the 51-page text on Bengalee at Rs 11 can be bought from the office of the BPP at 209, D. N. Road, Bombay.

Ailments and emergencies

"It should serve to indicate when medical advice should be sought, and what first-aid or help to render in case of emergencies. It may also serve to allay undue anxiety about illness, and stop unnecessary visits to the family physician," writes Dr Aspi F. Golwalla in his introduction to the second edition of *Common Ailments and Emergencies in Your Family*.

Since busy doctors seldom have the time to explain in detail the nature of ailments to patients, Dr R. H. Dastur in his foreword commends this book to the layman: "It is a work of profound scholarship and will serve as a ready medical reckoner for the family."

The second edition has the advantage of an additional chapter on Nutrition, Vitamins and Minerals. Besides, constant medical advances have also necessitated the revision of certain chapters which had become dated since they were written in 1989.

The 356-page easily readable book has separate sections devoted to: diseases of children; diseases of the skin; ear, nose and throat diseases; diseases of the eye; diseases of women and childbirth; psychological ailments; the digestive system; diseases of heart and blood vessels; respiratory disorders; diseases of the nervous system; disorders of endocrine glands; blood disorders; renal disorders; infectious diseases; tropical diseases; rheumatic diseases; poisoning; sexual problems; common dental problems; cancer; first-aid. Under the miscellaneous head are included

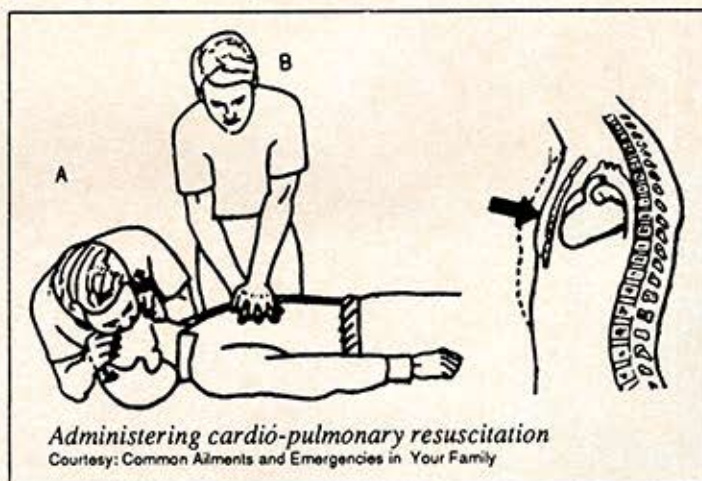
problems as diverse as snoring and sweating!

Regretting the lack of sufficient illustrations, Golwalla further forewarns, "No book of this type can be an alternate to a doctor's advice. Indeed self-treatment can at times be dangerous." However knowing that ignorance can at times be the prime cause of disease and death in a medical emergency, Dastur is happy that Golwalla has ventured into an informative book for the layman after authoring several desk-top companions for under-graduates and postgraduates in the Indian subcontinent and the Far East.

Those interested in the book, priced at Rs 80, can contact the author at Empress Court, Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay 400020.

Gujarati book on GOM

Close after the centenary celebrations of Dadabhai Naoroji's entry into the British Parliament, the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute (KRCOI) published a Gujarati booklet on the Grand Old Man of India (GOM) which is a translation of Dr Sarosh Wadia's book, *Dadabhai Naoroji, A model for Indian Youth Today*. The 24-page Gujarati translation by Dr Dharmendra Master summarizes the outstanding events and experiences in Naoroji's life in his struggle for India's independence.



Administering cardio-pulmonary resuscitation
Courtesy: Common Ailments and Emergencies in Your Family

"India for Indians" was the slogan adopted by Naoroji who is credited with being the first Indian to ask for self-government for his country, the first Indian to be appointed on a Royal Commission, the first Indian to be a member of the British Parliament and the first Indian professor at Bombay's Elphinstone College.

The founder of the Indian National Congress who regarded himself "an Indian first" Naoroji had refused knighthood and

had also declined a decoration from the Shah of Iran. Among the causes dear to him was female education, and the correct understanding of Zoroastrian tenets which he sought to promote by bringing out two magazines — *Dharma Marg Darshak* and *Rast Gofar*.

The four appendices give a chronological summary of the highlights in Naoroji's life, a glimpse at his family tree, a bibliography on Naoroji, and an account of his family. Priced at Rs 10 the Gujarati booklet is available from the KRCOI at 136, Bombay Samachar Marg, Fort, Bombay 400023.

Extended courtship

In Japan, the national fertility survey for 1992 has indicated that one of the causes of late marriages is a longer courtship period. As compared to the average time lag of 1.97 years between the first meeting and marriage for couples who had married 15 years earlier, the 1992 survey showed that the time interval had increased to 2.97 years for couples married between 1987 and 1992. These findings of the national fertility survey, conducted every five years by the ministry of health and welfare, have been reported in *Japan Calling* in its issue of November-December 1993. *Parsiana* highlights some of the findings which may have a bearing on the Parsi community.

The average number of children born to a married woman showed a marginal decline from 2.05 in 1985 to 2.045 in 1992. While a woman marrying later (at 29 or 30 years of age) bore an average of 1.63 children, those who married at 19 or 20 years of age had an average of 2.51 children.

Another finding of the survey that showed a dramatic reversal of tastes was in the mother's preference for a female child. Of the women who said they would like only one child, 75.7 percent hoped

for a girl as versus 51.5 percent women who had hoped for a boy in the '82 survey.

SPOTLIGHT

Working as a career agent for the Life Insurance Corporation for six years, Adil Dalal of Nagpur writes that in the last financial year he was able to secure new business worth Rs 1,17,46,000 from 171 policies to make him a "crorepati agent."

Compiled by Parinaz Gandhi

EROS



E L E V A T O R S



Clover

*set standards
in gracious living...
and
the tradition
continues...*

UNIQUE PROJECTS

Clover pioneered the concept of Townships in Pune,
with Clover Village.

Spread over acres of lush green it comprises
apartments, penthouses, row houses, twin bungalows.

DISTINCTIVE FEATURES

Reliable construction, unmatched quality, spectacular
craftsmanship, luxurious facilities, timely possession...
need we say more...

UNUSUAL AMENITIES

Only Clover gives you...

- Solar Energy Hot Water System • Amphitheatre
- Especially landscaped gardens • Garbage disposal service



CLOVER

PUNE : "CLOVER CENTRE", 7 MOLEDINA ROAD, PUNE 411 001 • TEL : 640891, 655892, 641952

• FAX : +91-212-641292

BOMBAY : "CRESCENT CHAMBERS", 2ND FLOOR, TAMARIND LANE, FORT, BOMBAY 400 023

• TEL : 2652339, 2657781, 2652341 • FAX : +91-22-2650539

Simply years ahead



Researching management

Research into management is a growing and lucrative field says Prof Farok Contractor

Arnavaz S. Mama

How do you put a rupee or dollar value on a patent? How are international technology licensing agreements negotiated? What is the role of the developing countries in the changing environment of international trade and technology? Why should firms cooperate?

Such abstruse questions of business constitute the homing ground for Dr Farok Contractor, Rutgers University's erstwhile area chairman for international business, a professor and mentor to its MBA and PhD students. Contractor's research and publications in the field have resulted in his being listed as the leading author of scholarly articles in the field of international business by J. J. Morrison and A. C. Inkpen in their analysis of significant contributions to international business literature (*Journal of International Business Studies*, First Quarter 1991).

In India recently on a lecture tour of the Indian Institute of Management (IIM), Bangalore and the Indian Institute of Foreign Trade, New Delhi, sponsored by Unilever, Contractor personifies the growing affiliation between industry and academia. A Fulbright Fellowship in 1992 had taken him to IIM (Ahmedabad), IIM (Calcutta) and the Xavier's Labour Research Institute. The low academic standards current in India today he ascribes to the "low standards of the faculty because of abysmally low salaries."

But with the opening up of the economy things are bound to change. In 10 years Contractor prophesizes that Indian schools should have better professors. As the Indian economy expands, private industry will require professional advice and pay

well to get it, he says. Consequently, those who concentrate on academic research and intellectual application to the problems that industrial organizations encounter will be in increasingly lucrative demand, he says.

Rutgers in New Jersey, USA, belongs to the American Association of Universities — a club of the 50 best universities in the US. A criterion for membership is the amount of Federal grants a university receives each year, and that depends on the quality of its faculty. One of nine colonial colleges, Rutgers, founded in 1766, in British times, is one of the top recipients. Its share of Federal grants amounts to about \$130 million per annum, Contractor informs. Its total annual budget runs into hundreds of millions of dollars, inclusive of funding from the corporate sector.

Approximately 55 percent of these grants go to the university; the rest to the concerned departments. Only a small fraction of it goes to the individual researcher. The income of professors — apart from their university salaries — depends upon their consultancy work for private industry.

Contractor's own forte is international management strategy which, he explains, is the strategy followed by multinational corporations (MNCs). The organization of the global firm involves cross-cultural negotiations and the deployment of human resources and other components of production like capital, raw materials, infrastructural facilities, etc on a worldwide basis. A balance between responsibility at the country level and centralized global outlook is very important, he says. The international headquarters cannot always understand the differences and nu-

ances at the country level.

"Should there be different models of a product for each country or one model for the whole world? One model may be cheaper but may not work well everywhere." This is especially true when it comes to marketing, he explains. When global companies try to have uniform advertising across many countries, the content of such advertising tends towards "the lowest common level, resulting in blandness" and declining sales. The classic example of this mistake is that of the Parker Pen Company, informs Contractor. Initially comprising 40 odd national companies linked by the name and its ownership, Parker became overly centralized. Lack of understanding of country level differences resulted in loss of morale and sales plummeted worldwide, recounts the professor. When the management realized the mistake (thanks to academic research and consultation) they reverted to a more balanced approach. This sort of research in American universities has increased the importance of the researcher/professor, he adds.

The new accent on globalization has led to an upsurge of collaborations between companies. The real value of such collaboration often lies in the uncoded, unpatented parts of the transfer of technology rather than in the blue prints or codified parts. "The key values often lie in the training policies, the secret procedures companies have, in their organizational charts and manufacturing routines." Assessing these in financial terms is a complicated affair that enthuses Contractor.

"No one tells me what subject to research," confides Contractor. For some



Photo: Varigessa W. Fernandez

time now he has been investigating how to put a money value on intellectual property such as patents, trademarks, etc. A fellow Zoroastrian at Rutgers is Dr Noshir Langrana who belongs to the engineering faculty.

Contractor wonders how effective will be the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's (BPP) new policy of promoting the third child in Parsi families. He feels that the family receiving such promises may be cynical because they may fear that the offer may be revoked, perhaps because the cost of the program may prove too high or the BPP's corpus may not keep up with inflation. "If the inflation rate rises faster than the rate of growth of the (BPP's) corpus, there'll be trouble. Given the administrative structure (of the BPP) it is not possible for the corpus to keep up with the inflation rate. The key issue is, how fast will it decline in comparison to the inflation rate?" speculates Contractor. In order to allay such fears the professor would advocate "a clear and unambiguous policy" like "a grant of a flat or 20 lakh rupees on the first birthday of the third child." Even so Contractor projects "not more than a few hundred additional births at the cost of several crores of rupees."

Bombay born Contractor, a Tata scholar, returned after an MS in industrial engineering and two years' experience — de-

WANTED COMPANION

Required by a respectable and well-to-do Parsi family, an educated and cultured lady, caring and sincere, in the age-group of 40 to 50 years, as a live-in companion to their daughter. Good all-found accommodation will be provided, with an attractive salary. Please reply with full details to:

**The Advertiser
Parsiana (Wanted)
GPO Box 892
Bombay 400001**

Minoo K. Bharucha

CATERERS

**For
Weddings - Navjotes
and Buffet Parties**

230, Ava Mansion
1st Floor
Next to Boyce Agiary
Tardeo Road
Bombay 400007
Tel: 4940355

**Wishing All Our Patrons
A Very Happy And Prosperous New Year**

M/s Framji Rustamji Choksey

Estd: 1850

(Partner Sorabji Edulji Cooper)

Goldsmith & Art Jewellers

(Approved Valuers by Govt of India for Jewellery)

**Shop: 253, Sheikh Memon Street, Bombay 400002
Phone: 3425422, 3442639**

**Residence: 585, Khan House, Chira Bazar, Bombay 400002
Phone: 2051118, 2063099**



Principal
DR RUSTOM S. DAVAR

and Staff of Davar's
College of Commerce
Management &
Computers

Wish the
Parsee Community

*A Happy
New Year*



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

***Firsts by the
Parsee
Community***

 Commerce Education
was started by Davar's
College in 1900 by
Late Prof Sohrab R. Davar.

 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 four of
his books for contribution
to management thinking)—
and several courses in
different fields of Management
such as Marketing, Personnel,
Administrative, have been
introduced.

 The first course in **Travel,
Transportation and Tourism**
was introduced by Davar's
College.

 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"**

signing assembly lines for Max Factor and working as a research fellow in international marketing at the University of Michigan — to join the Tata Administrative Service. While he was working on an

The income of professors depends upon their consultancy work for private industry

investment project of several crores for Tata Exports "some one asked, 'How do we know your figures are correct?' It set me thinking that I should get a business degree," recalls Contractor. More significantly, the Monopolies and Restrictive Trade Practices Commission (MRTP) kept the project in abeyance: "I became a lobbyist instead of a productive person," rues Contractor.

Since receiving his MBA and PhD in managerial science and applied economics from the University of Pennsylvania's

Wharton School, Contractor has been a professor at Rutgers University. He has also been a visiting lecturer at the Wharton School, a visiting scholar with the United Nations' Centre on Transnational Corporations and a Fulbright scholar. With six books/monographs on international finance, licensing, business cooperation, etc and umpteen articles and conference papers, a short list of Contractor's professional and scholarly activities, teaching and consultancy work covers four pages of his bio data. He nonetheless finds time for reading history and restoring antiques. Trekking, skiing, canoeing seem to have contributed to Contractor's lithe frame and chiselled physiognomy. Married to Ms Joan Forbes, a publishers' agent who writes articles and poetry and has published some of her own work, Contractor says they have "inculcated moral values but not done the navjote" of their three sons, Cyrus (14), Sahm (11) and Erach (six). "It is better if the children decide (for themselves) later in life," he reasons, adding, "You can talk all you want, but mainly it is the parents' example that children follow."

Though Contractor is sorry to view the community's numerical decline, he notes, "Ultimately ideas are more important than genes. Such thoughts assuage the sadness one feels. Ideas will survive and move on..."

A
Happy New
Year

From
An
Anonymous
Well-Wisher

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



Wishing our Parsi community
a Happy **New Year**



**CAFE
MONDEGAR**

For Early Risers and Light Eaters

NEAR REGAL CINEMA, COLABA CAUSEWAY PHONE: 2020591

GJA: 2696

MEHTA'S IRON GRIT

A grass roots community worker, Dinshaw Mehta was the uncontested candidate for trusteeship of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet

Gustasp Irani

In contrast to the surcharged atmosphere of the 1993 Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) trusteeship elections, when eight candidates fought it out for the two vacant seats, the 1994 election was an anti-climax.

The earlier contest had it all: poison letters, heated debates, numerous Anjuman Committee (AC) meetings -- with the Bombay serial bomb blasts thrown in for good measure (see "Trustees have to be dynamic" and "A firm yet gentle lady trustee," *Parsiana*, March 1993). This time round the elections were a non-event in which the AC did not even get to vote, as only one candidate remained in the contest on June 9, the final day for withdrawal of nominations. But as word spread around the community that the CER (Committee for Economic Revival) nominee Dinshaw Mehta had been elected unopposed, the news was received with an element of surprise.

Mehta is full of surprises, and knowing this his victory should have been anticipated. He has repeatedly shown a remarkable ability to pull one more rabbit out of his hat like when The Zoroastrian Cultural Welfare Association (ZCWA), led by Dr Syrus Irani, seemed assured of victory in the 1992 AC elections (as they were the only group to file a full slate of candidates), only to have Mehta step in in what seemed to be the last act to rewrite the script (see "CER comeback," *Parsiana*, September 1992). He used all the tricks in the book, many of them listed in fine print, to buy time and organize some sort of an opposition. He moved the courts with endless and



Mehta: "Classify me as moderate"

Photo: Gustasp Irani

often seemingly pointless persistence, galvanized the CER out of its inertia and forged alliances between diametrically opposing groups. The ZCWA managed to win only 15 of the 802 AC seats it contested.

"Someone had to do something or they would have hijacked the BPP," Mehta says with a smile. It's an infectious smile that sparkles with a hint of mischief. But don't be fooled by it: behind it lurks a fierce determination to fight for what he believes is right and the instincts of a street-fighter who does not mind

stepping on a few toes.

But Mehta harbors no malice or grudges. Though he was responsible for laying low Irani's ambitions for trusteeship, he sees no reason why the doctor cannot contribute to the welfare of the community. In fact, Mehta plans to actively seek Irani's help in matters relating to the towers of silence. "No one in the community knows the place and its problems better (Irani grew up on the premises where his late father Darvish Irani served as a manager for 40 years), and he can be of great help to the Punchayet," says Mehta.

And Irani's role is not the only one envisaged in Mehta's wider scheme of encouraging community participation in BPP affairs. "I don't see why the trustees cannot seek assistance and advice from experts in the community. We have Parsi architects, lawyers, chartered accountants, doctors, social workers..." Yes, we have heard the idea discussed before but Mehta is known to galvanize people, even those who do not see eye to eye, to unite for a common cause. Like when he engineered the orthodox, moderates and liberal factions of the community to fight the 1993 AC elections from a common platform.

Even during the countdown to the present trustee elections Mehta worked behind the scenes to thresh out a compromise that would spare the community the hysteria of the earlier elections. According to Mehta, Homi Ranina, whose term was coming to an end, agreed not to stand for reelection if a suitable compromise candidate could be found. Two persons who were acceptable to both Ranina and the CER declined the offer of trusteeship on a platter as they both felt they could not make the commitment of time and effort that the office required. Mehta's subtle diplomacy collapsed and the final date for filing nominations was upon them. Rather than lose out by default, the CER decided to file the names of CER president Dadi Engineer, senior partner of the law firm Crawford Bayley and Company, and Mehta himself and wait for the opposition's response. There was none. Engineer withdrew from the contest and Mehta suddenly



"Pay to use my own money?"

Mymoney

**The deposit you can draw on
without paying to use your own money.**

Mymoney is designed to give you high returns in interest plus the freedom to draw from your deposit.

How? The amount you save is held in deposit units of Rs. 1000 each. You can draw one or more of these units. The rest of your Mymoney deposit continues to earn the same rate of interest. The units withdrawn will be treated as partial withdrawals and interest thereon will be subject to RBI directives.

Find out all about Mymoney. Just walk into any ANZ Grindlays Bank branch convenient to you and meet our Customer Services Officer.

ANZ Grindlays Bank 

*Visit
Panchgani*

JERROZ HOTEL

Near Parsi Fire-temple
Pin 412805

Write: Dorrabji

STD 02168
Phone 40238

Happy New Year

Brillaanta®

- 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

(Export enquiries will be solicited)

found the mantle of trustee draped on his shoulders.

There is a hint of embarrassment in his smile as he seems a little uncertain about how to honor his new appointment. But Mehta is no stranger to the affairs of the BPP. He points out that it was largely through his efforts, that the property tax assessment of certain Parsi colonies in Bombay was pegged at its current low level.

Mehta also plans to bring greater urgency to BPP affairs. "To me, being a trustee means you have to administer the trusts and properties of the community as if they were your own property," says Mehta. Clarifying the concept, he observes: "If you had a problem at home, a leaking pipe or an electric short-circuit, you would get it fixed the very same day and not wait to discuss the problem a week later." Mehta plans to devote at least two hours of his time each day to BPP matters.

Not all of it, he clarifies, will be spent on housing matters. Though undoubtedly a major problem ("I would like the BPP to review its merit rating system which can be manipulated"), Mehta believes it is not the only one. There are other issues that must

With best compliments from

TIME WATCH MAKERS

Empress Mahal, Block-A
Khodadad Circle
Dadar TT
Bombay 400014

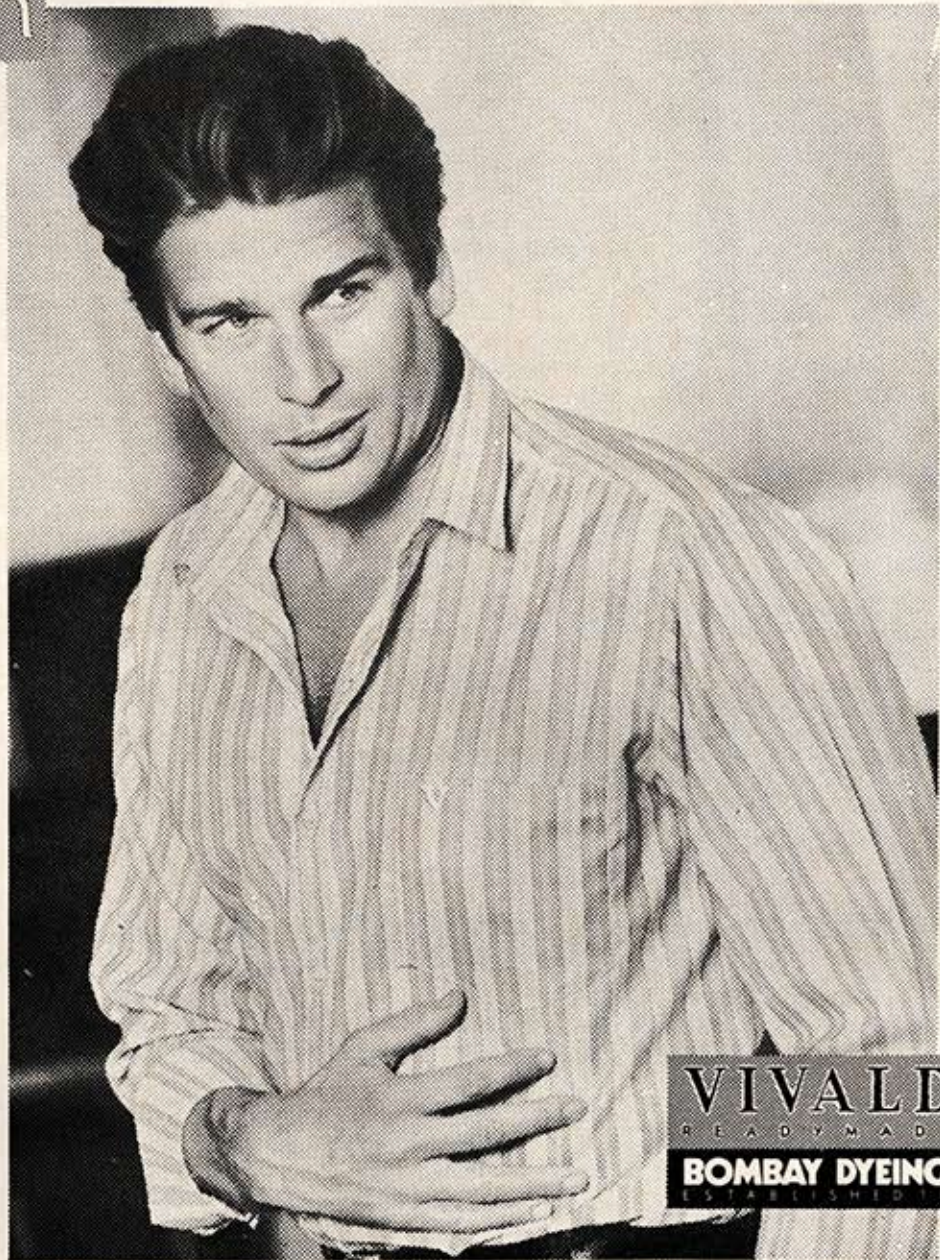
Tel: 4143898/4141610

MARCKS AND CO

97/103 Shetty House
Opp Bombay University
M. G. Road
Bombay 400023

Tel: 270999/276412

READYMADE PERFECTION FROM BOMBAY DYEING.



VIVALDI
READYMADES
BOMBAY DYEING 
ESTABLISHED 1974

SHIRTS, TROUSERS, KURTA-PYJAMAS,
NIGHT-SUITS, VESTS & BRIEFS AND MORE.

Atash Welfare Trust

The above Trust has been established by Zoroastrians and is registered with the Maharashtra Executor and Banking Co Ltd of the Bank of Maharashtra, Bombay.

One of the founder trustees is a professional social worker from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences.

The objectives of the Trust are:

1. To ameliorate needy and poor people
 2. To help students by sponsoring their education, including supply of books, school uniforms and medical help
 3. To aid economically backward people, specially in remote villages, to acquire skills for livelihood and medical expenses
 4. To perform the navjote ceremony of needy children
 5. To help destitute children of separated and/or single parents by making arrangements for their boarding, lodging and education
- An overwhelming demand from the ever increasing needy section of society necessitates the Trust to generate more funds. Donors desirous of contributing to this Trust may please issue their drafts in favour of:

"Atash Welfare Trust"

C/o Ms Roshni B. Bharucha
B 52 Twin Towers
Prabhadevi
Bombay 400025
Telephone: 91-22-4307201

All donations will be duly acknowledged by an official receipt from the Trust.

SPENTA TOURS...

Wonderfully affordable holidays that you deserve

Goa and Ganapatipule

Sep 8 to 14th '94 @ Rs 3,750/- in 3 star hotel with all meals.

Regular departures of
Shirdi Darshan

Also tours to:

*Lakshadweep, Periyar,
Trivandrum, Kanyakumari
*Himachal Pradesh
*Uttar Pradesh *Darjeeling,
Sikkim *Nepal *Hongkong,
Singapore, Bangkok.

We organize for Couples/ Families/Groups...

- # Inbound & Outbound Package
Tours in India & Abroad
 - # International/Domestic Air Tickets
 - # Hotel Bookings
 - # Surface transportation
by Rail/Road
- ... with Budget of Your Choice

Contact: **Hoshang Jalejar**
33, Hampton Court, Colaba Road
Bombay 400005 (India)
Phone: 468851, 2151567 Fax: 022-2834004

be tackled but Mehta is careful not to make any commitments until such time as he fully understands the constraints within which a trustee must work. One area he would particularly like to look into is caring for the aged members of the community.

"Religion has nothing to do with administering the BPP trust properties," he observes. To clarify his position, he adds: "I am neither orthodox nor liberal. You can classify me as moderate." And he is a family man; his wife Pansy, and three sons Viraf, Hormuz and Darayus are a very important part of his life.

One immediate issue that Mehta will have to address is the squabble over the chairmanship of the board of trustees. Here he is clear about where he stands: "The community elects the AC. The AC elects the trustees. It follows that the trustees should have the right to elect their own chairman." And yes, should the matter be put to the vote, his vote will be for the current chairperson Jamshed Guzder.

Mehta flashes his smile when reminded of the time he and other members of the CER sat outside the BPP office when the trustees first sat down to discuss the chair-

*With Best Compliments
From*

ZORO GARMENTS PVT LTD

(An Eligible Export House Recognised by the Govt. 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

Do a sunny deed
Switch off lights
You do not need

Save power for national productivity

TATA ELECTRIC COMPANIES

Bombay House
Homi Mody Street
Bombay 400001

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited for a Parsi male, aged 35, working in a reputed company, holding a responsible post, having own accommodation, from a domesticated and well-educated Parsi girl. Please respond with latest photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/49-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited for a 26-year-old, 5'3" tall, non-Mangalic lady of wheatish complexion residing in South Gujarat but willing to settle elsewhere.

A management graduate holding a respectable position in a private concern, she is inclined towards the fine arts and cooking. Please reply with full bio data and recent photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/50-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

*Navroze Mubarak
to All Our Patrons and
Well-Wishers From*

BySEL ESTATE

302 Devika Apt
2010 Jan Mmed Str
Pune 1, Tel 650757

(Before 10 am — after 8 pm)

**It pays to invest in
Flats, Row-Houses,
Bungalows or
Plots in fast
developing Pune**

person controversy, then proceeded to elect Guzder. Referring to the note the CER supporters sent into the meeting, he concedes, "I'll admit we made a mistake," but goes on to clarify that it was an innocent query about how much longer the meeting would take. "We were waiting to garland Guzder and we did not expect the meeting to last for over three hours." Of course, as of now Mehta sits in on the trustee meetings.

It all started for Mehta in 1980 when the CER launched its campaign for greater community participation in the BPP. Mehta defends the organization against accusations that it is now guilty of the very crime it sought to eradicate — captive and block voting. He points out that CER increased BPP membership from 5,000 to 18,000 plus, and that today there are over 800 members of the AC and an equal number of donor members who get to elect a trustee. "There is no way you can influence such a large number of educated people. They will vote for the person they think is best for the job."

And Mehta, who honed his campaigning skills in the rough and tumble of the Bombay Municipal Corporation where his father Rusi was a corporator for over

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

With Compliments Of

NOWROSJEE WADIA & SONS LIMITED

Registered Export House

Leading Exporters of Cotton Fabrics,
Piecegoods and Chemical Products

Neville House, Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038

MATRIMONIAL

A suitable match required for my daughter, aged 29 years, 5 ft 5 inches tall, postgraduate, working in a reputed company, from educated Parsi boys, well-settled in a job, based in Bombay or abroad, up to 35 years. Kindly apply with necessary details and photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

**Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/37-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001**

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

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited for a qualified, working Parsi girl, 34 years, 5'5" from decent Parsi boys. Write with full details to:

The Advertiser

**Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/42-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001**

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

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 (July-Aug/40-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001**

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

20 years [and presently his brother Noshir is a Bombay municipal corporator and the chairperson of its BEST (Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking) committee], knows how the system works. He is acutely aware that fighting for a just cause can bring harsh retribution as it did to his father who was shot dead by a bootlegger because the senior Mehta was instrumental in shutting down illicit liquor outlets in his constituency.

Mehta still takes his cues from his father's example. "If you believe strongly in something, you go and do it." He takes pride in the fact that he took over the responsibility of running the family foundry in the heart of Bombay, and other family business interests, so that his father could be free to devote his time and energies to his civic commitments.

A master of science in engineering, Mehta, who has been supervising the day-to-day operations of the foundry since 1966, takes us on a tour of the premises: past roaring smelters, molten iron molds and a copper works division. For years Mehta has been shaping metal. Now as a trustee of the BPP he is entrusted with the task of shaping the community's destiny.

Very Happy New Year to our Dear Parsi Community

"Please stop infighting in the community"

J. R. DASTUR & CO

(A Member of the Council for Fair Business Practices)

Winner of CFBP 1st Prize Jamnalal Bajaj Award in 1988

**EVEREST Building Products
TATA CHEM SHUDH CEMENT
ACC Cement
ACC Special Product
TOR Steel 40-50**

Arvind Colony, Near Police Commissioner's Office
Shahibaug Road, Ahmedabad 380004. Ph: (O) 332167 (R) 385310



*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.

"More Effective Outside"

A blow by blow account of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet trusteeship election strategy as viewed by outgoing trustee Homi Ranina

Arnavaz S. Mama



"The Parsi electorate is very sensitive. They have a sense of pride. They expect the (trusteeship) candidate to approach them personally."

Erstwhile Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) trustee Homi Ranina was explaining why he ultimately refrained from seeking reelection to the BPP board after he had categorically stated more than once that he would contend for a second term. In the process he depicted his version of the horsetrading behind the election scene -- presumably a normal electoral byproduct today from which the BPP is not immune.

The high profile tax consultant and advocate informed *Parsiana* at an interview on July 23 that an important legal matter concerning an Indian public sector company facing claims from a foreign party was slated for hearing in London

between June 7 and 28, 1994 and could not be postponed. "In India it is easy to ask judges to grant an adjournment. In England it is just not done... I couldn't take a chance by putting in my nomination. (In an) election scenario you have to be here," Ranina continued, recalling the massive effort he had had to make in 1984 when, according to him, the Anjuman Committee (AC) which elects trustees comprised only 550 effective voters. "Yet, for 1½ months from April 30, 1984, when I announced my candidature to June 22 (the date of the election) I did nothing but meet voters! Now the effective electorate is more than 1,200 (the AC comprises 802 elected and 802 donor members today)."

But Ranina claimed that a second and more weighty reason underscored his practical difficulties: "Today I feel, perhaps I

may be more effective outside the Punchayet than inside it. In the last two years things have changed. (Previously) trustees used to take each issue objectively and independently... Recently a group of people have taken charge... The chairman (Jamshed Guzder) has suddenly changed his style of management and administration, running the Punchayet like a personal kingdom, bypassing management in certain matters... postponing decisions... The new trustee (Dinshaw Mehta) is very much being looked forward to by the chairman. He (Guzder) may be expecting a lot of support. In the last few meetings there has been a clash of personalities... I suddenly find the changed attitude of one CER (Committee for Economic Revival) trustee... I wouldn't be surprised if two trustees Eruch Desai and Jamsheed

Kangaresign. Silloo Kavarana is a silent witness but a (Guzder) supporter. Even Minoo Shroff may start taking an independent view."

Noting that he and businessman Mehta, then a CER activist, had been talking about the impending election for three months prior to the date, Ranina quotes Mehta to



Below (from left): Engineer, Guzder and Taleyarkhan

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

the effect that the CER was satisfied that it was already in the majority on the board and would now want only "a good independent candidate, a man of repute." Ranina says he suggested the name of eminent jurist Nani Palkhivala. Though Mehta reportedly countered his suggestion by noting that Palkhivala wouldn't have time for the Panchayet, Ranina states that that is not true: "If Palkhivala accepts, he will find the time." However, Ranina says that Mehta proffered three other alternatives: Jamshed Setna, ex chairman of Ingersoll Rand and presently a director of Tata Sons, Pesi Jagus, director of ACC, and Iranian Anjuman vice president Zal Irani. "Fali Poncha (chairman of CER's managing committee) and Dinshaw Mehta were also hobnobbing with Homi Taleyarkhan (former member of the Government of India's Minorities Commission) giving him hope that he'd be the CER's choice of next trustee." Then, over the days and weeks Mehta had other names to suggest — noted lawyer Rusy Sethna, chartered accountant Kersi Limathwalla, Poncha, and CER president and well-known solicitor Dadi Engineer. "Till a week before filing the nomination (May 25) he never spoke of himself."

According to Ranina several meetings of the CER core committee were held at Poncha's house. "On May 22 (three days prior to the last date for filing nominations) I received a call from Dinshaw that the core committee had decided that Dadi Engineer will put in his nomination. In fact Dadi signed his nomination on the 21st and it was officially filed on the 23rd around

"Dinshaw Mehta wanted to get in unopposed. It was his game plan"

2.30-3 p.m. because I got a call from the Panchayet office that Dadi's nomination has come."

The CER, reportedly having told Taleyarkhan that they would invite him to the 21st meeting, informed him on the 21st evening that the core committee had decided on Dadi Engineer instead, said Ranina. According to Ranina, Guzder phoned Taleyarkhan, who was waiting for the last day to file his nomination, requesting him to desist from doing so.

"Just before closing time on May 25 (though a bank holiday, the Panchayet office had been kept open only because it was the last day for filing electoral nominations) Dinshaw Mehta puts in his nomination and rings me up from the Panchayet office to say he's put it in. I was shocked. When your own president (Dadi Engineer) has put in his nomination...!"

"On the 21st he said that the Committee has decided that Dadi will stand and therefore not even Taleyarkhan was allowed to file his nomination. On the 25th, after he puts in his nomination, he says the committee has still not decided (on the final candidate). From what Dadi told me the next

day, on the 28th he was acutely embarrassed at the core committee meeting because almost all the members — with the exception of solicitor Berjis Desai — asked him to withdraw his nomination (Silloo Kavarana remained neutral; it is not known whether Minoo Shroff was present; Jamsheed Kanga did not attend). Like promising a lollipop to Dadi, they said at the next election we'll definitely support you! According to Dadi he was put in a very embarrassing position and withdrew under pressure. He signed the withdrawal on the 28th on plain paper, not even on a letter-head!"

Ranina laughs at CER honorary secretary Nariman Mehta's letter in the press (see "The CER's vision") saying "we were ourselves surprised that no other group or individual filed any nomination at all" and also that Dadi withdrew because he would be away for five weeks in September. Has any trustee resigned so far because of absences? he queries, citing the most recent example of Kavarana being away for three months.

Ranina claims he was "originally under the good, comforting thought that we'd have a good independent candidate. Irani and Jim (Setna) said they were not interested. Dinshaw Mehta wanted to get in unopposed. It was his game plan. He used Dadi as a bait. Dadi had said categorically that he would spare adequate time (for Panchayet work). There were three calls from Guzder to Taleyarkhan to withdraw, on a single day, on the express ground that a good man like Dadi was coming in."

According to Ranina the Panchayet "administration is totally demoralized." He expects that the BPP chief executive Rustom Anklesaria "will be pushed out. He is one man who will fight both." Ranina's scenario anticipates that "Fali will continue to play a role behind the scene. Their objective will be to get a very weak man as chief executive." He hopes nonetheless that "Anklesaria continues, however difficult they make it for him. They will not renew his appointment but he has 1½ years (to go)." Ranina says he told the Panchayet staff when they gave him a farewell party, "You must work fearlessly and do what your conscience says and not buckle under any pressure from the chairman or the trustees and that you are welcome to see me."

"I am a great believer in one thing: that whatever happens, happens for the best. Ultimately the community will rise in revolt against the CER. Now I have the freedom to play a more aggressive role."

The CER's vision

Following the official announcement for holding the election of a trustee in the vacancy caused by the expiry of term of office of trustee Mr Homi P. Ranina, meetings of the core committee of the CER (Committee for Economic Revival) were convened to decide upon a suitable candidate/s.

It was decided that although at present there was only one vacancy to be filled, it would be desirable, out of abundant precaution, to shortlist at least two candidates.

Having regard to the long term requirements of the BPP (Bombay Parsi Panchayet) and the CER's overall vision for the community, the core committee shortlisted Mr Dadi Engineer and Mr Dinshaw Mehta.

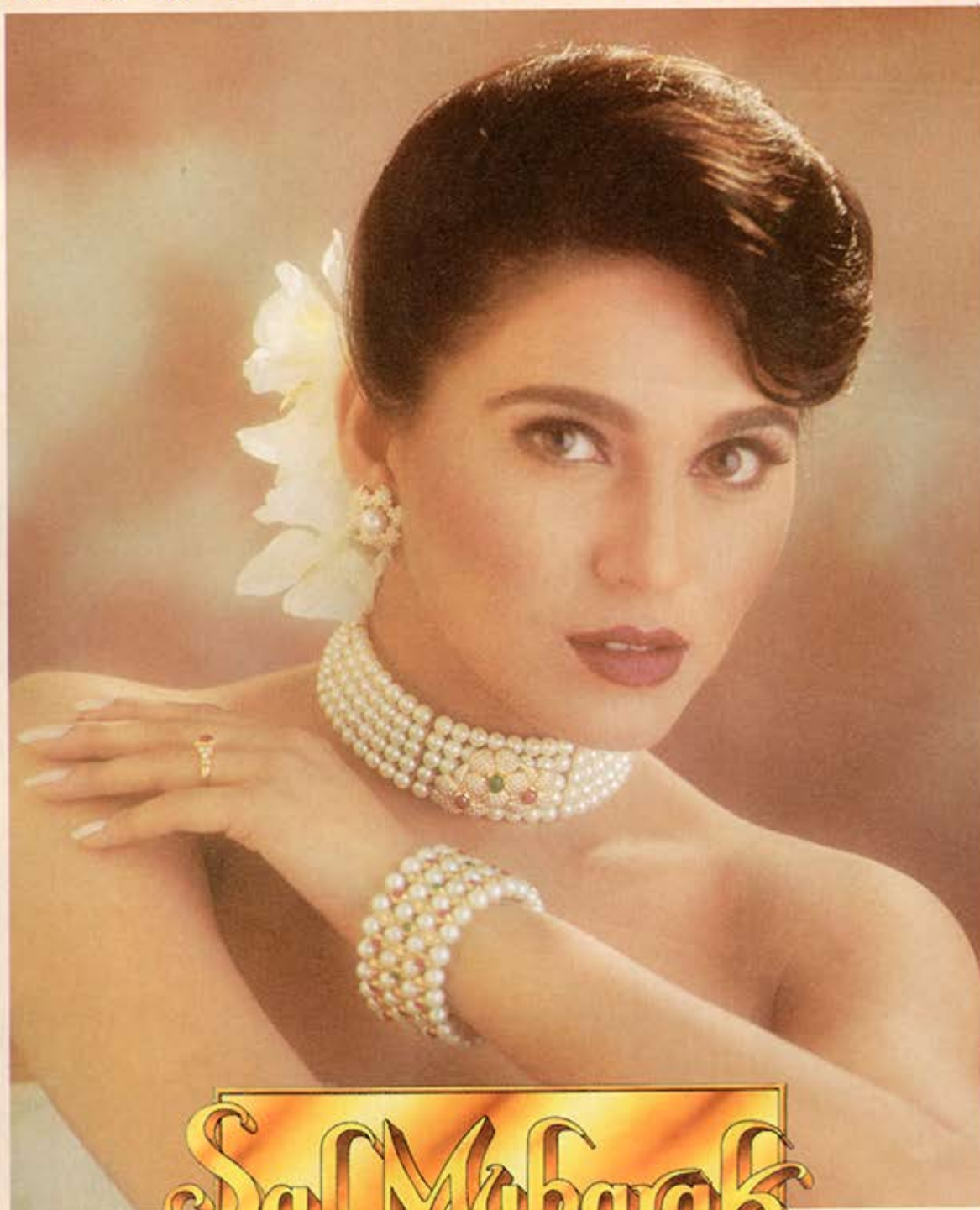
Frankly, we were ourselves surprised

when no other group or individual filed any nomination at all.

In view of the above situation, the core committee met again and assessed the preferences of both the candidates as to who would prefer to be advanced as a candidate first, whereupon Mr Dadi B. Engineer indicated that he had some pressing professional preoccupations in the next couple of months, including a professional engagement abroad and hence, he would prefer to be the candidate for a subsequent election.

Accordingly, Mr Engineer withdrew his candidature. Of course, it follows that Mr Dadi B. Engineer will be the CER's candidate in a subsequent trustee election.

Nariman E. Mehta
Hon Secretary, CER
June 1, 1994



Sa! Mabarak



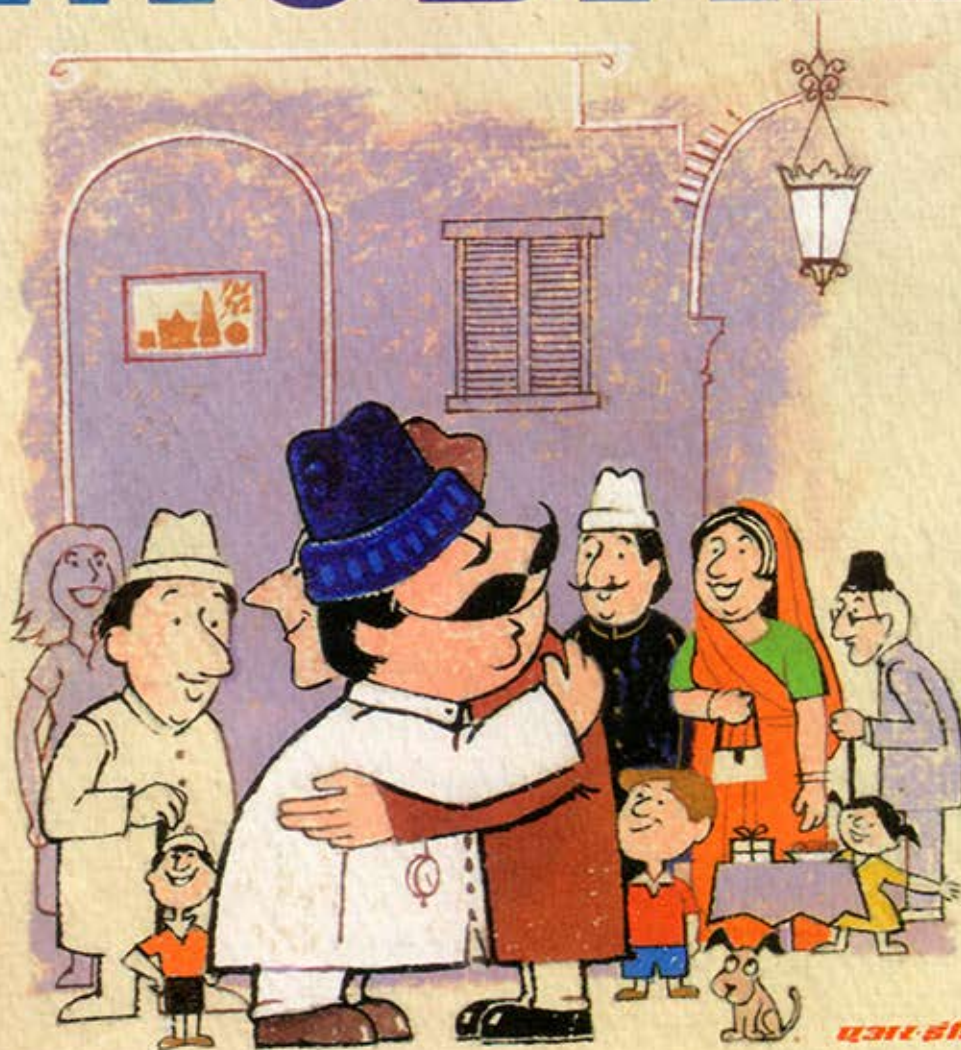
Tribhovandas Bhimji Zaveri
ZAVERI BAZAR

Bombay 400 002. Tel: 3425001, 3435001. Fax: 3435656.

Where trust is a tradition since 1864.

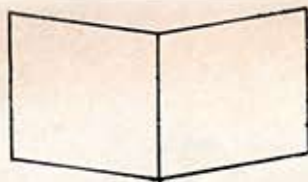
TBZ/141 PREM ASSOCIATES

NAVROZE MUBARAK



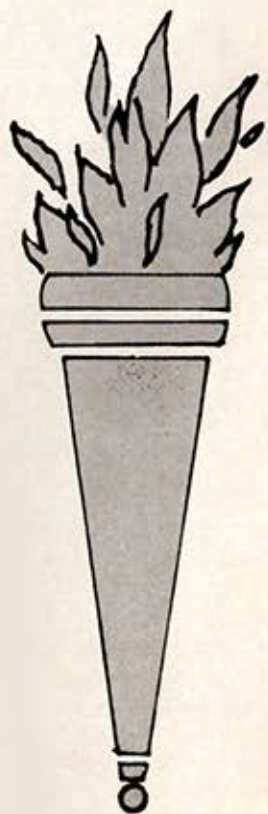
May
your
tribe
increase.

एअर इंडिया AIR-INDIA



Lucrative lessons

Homi Rogers



*The
40-year-old
Sir J. J. College
of Commerce
has been
stressing on the
professional
grooming of
students,
especially
women,
to meet the
challenges
of the next
century*

Walk into any office in the commercial capital of India, and you are sure to see at least two, if not more, products of Parsi enterprise. One is the ubiquitous typewriter, more often than not a Godrej, in one of its many avatars, ranging from the manual to the modern word-processor. And seated behind it is usually a smart, well-groomed woman trained in secretarial duties from the Sir J. J. College of Commerce (JJCC).

For over 40 years now, the JJCC, has been a breeding ground in Bombay for bright young hopefuls (especially girls) aspiring for a job in reputed business establishments, be it as a humble telephone operator or a high-powered executive assistant. Many of its alumni have, in fact, risen to executive echelons in a variety of fields like administration, personnel, purchase and public relations. And often enough the secretary holds a position respected by her colleagues and subordinates because of the changing perspectives ushered in and promoted by the JJCC,

through the combined efforts of its erstwhile honorary director Homi Mehta and current director Homai Mehta, his wife.

For an institution whose alumni have effected the way business is conducted, the JJCC has a surprisingly quaint background. It is in itself not a commercial organization, being set up by a trust and still being managed by a trust, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), a fact unknown even to many of its ex-students.

Yet another unknown fact is that while it is celebrating this year "40 years of its existence" as Homai Mehta, the member-secretary on the managing committee and current director of the JJCC puts it, it should actually be celebrating the sesquicentennial (150th) anniversary of its genesis. For it was in 1844 that Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy, First Baronet, envisioned the

At the College's 40th year celebrations (from left): Soli Davar, Homi Mehta, Eruch Desai, Jamshed Guzder, Coomi Desai and Silloo Kavarana



need for education for all, much before it was considered essential for the 'natives,' and created a trust for the purpose. Sir Jejeebhoy, after whom the College is named, offered Rs 3,00,000 together with 15 shares of his own and five of his wife Lady Avabai, of the Bank of Bengal, amounting to Rs 1,40,000 (at Rs 7,000 per share). Together with 35 shares of the same Bank pledged by the BPP for Rs 2,45,000, the Sir J. J. Parsi Benevolent (J.J.P.B.) Institution was formed with the express purpose of establishing a chain of institutions or temples of learning.

In 1914, in keeping with the trust's aims and objects, the trustees of the BPP who managed the fund (and who continue to manage the JJCC) constituted the Sir J.J.P.B. Institution Commercial Classes. Recalls Khurshedji Shroff, secretary of the Sir J.J.P.B. Institution, and the oldest lecturer at JJCC: "Sir Jamsetjee Jejeebhoy was for ongoing education, and wanted people to earn and learn," conceivably in the same way as he himself had learnt his uncle's business while in his teens, and proceeded on his path to prosperity. The commercial classes were held on a part-time basis, and only the three subjects of shorthand, typing and book-keeping were taught on the premises of the Sir J.J.P.B. Institution, which sprawls on the city's main artery of Dadabhai Naoroji Road.

For over 40 years, the commercial classes were conducted in the morning and provided, as Homai Mehta states, "ongo-

ing education" to the community youngsters. But, with the advent of Independence "and the emergence of an industrial society, the need for organized commercial education was felt in an increasing manner," to quote Ms Mehta. The trustees of



Mistry



Hansotia

the BPP rose to the occasion and, sensing the change in the business ethos and the need for a good business school, transformed the commercial classes into a commercial institution in 1953. Its operations were considerably augmented, and the institute offered courses leading to professional examinations held by the Indian Merchants' Chamber (IMC); the Indian Institute of Bankers (IIB); the London-affiliated Pitman's Institute; and the Corporation of Certified Secretaries, amongst others.

Thus the JJCC received its first great boost as a result of the enthusiasm and foresight of the BPP and, in particular, of Maneck Pheroze Mistry, the BPP trustee

who held the education portfolio in the Panchayet and was appointed by the trustees as chairman of the then advisory committee in charge of the institute. Mistry's interest in the institute had a snowballing effect: it was shifted to larger premises on Nanabhai Lane which were owned by the BPP (and where it continues to operate today). Shorthand and typing were taught full-time, and the added courses led the Government of Maharashtra to recognize the diplomas being offered. Thus the institution metamorphosed into the present Sir J. J. College of Commerce. It also flung its doors open to members of other communities.

A year later, in 1961, two young pupils joined the College who were to change its face and fortune in the coming years. Their names: Homi and Homai Mehta. Four years later, when Homai was studying for her BA while holding on to her secretarial job at Tatas, Homi decided to join the College as a part-time faculty member to teach the law and practice of banking. "My husband," recalls Homai, with a tinge of pride lacing her voice, "drew plans for the growth of the College, and presented them to Mistry and (BPP trustee) Prof P. C. Hansotia, then its honorary principal." The stalwarts backed Mehta's plan and in 1966 a full-fledged secretarial division was set up. In 1968 Homi was sent on a Lions International aided project to the USA and



Homai Mehta (right) presenting a memento to Nergish Gazi while another senior ex-student Zarine Amalsadwalla looks on

(Right) Faculty members Dhun Daruwalla (left) and Navaz Lentin at the new computer wing





Drape a saree designed by
Naju Daver
and watch those heads turn!

Select a sequinned
or hand-embroidered
Naju Daver Creation, and
make your special
moments memorable!
Sarees artistically executed
to suit individual
choice & budget

Contact
Naju Daver
Crown Mansion
2nd Floor
6-B, Forjett Cross Lane
Sai Baba's Mandir Lane
Bombay 400036
Tel 3866052, 3862640



Miss Mehr Jesia, Miss India 1986, wearing a 'Gara' made by Naju Daver

NEW

MOTI SANDAL SOAP



B/T/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

UK to study job-oriented patterns of business education. On his return Homi assumed charge as honorary director of the JJCC, and introduced courses incorporating ideas, practices and procedures gathered by him through assimilation and affiliations.

In 1971 Homai Mehta, who joined the College as a part-time lecturer in 1968, further cemented her relationship with JJCC by becoming the faculty and administrative co-ordinator. She and JJCC grew together, so much so that Jamshed Guzder (present chairman of the BPP and one of the four BPP trustees on the College's advisory board) remarked jocularly at the Allbless Baug celebrations of the 40th year of the College on February 18, 1994 that the two have become synonymous.

Under the guidance of the Mehtas, the College made rapid strides: a correspondence course division was established for the IIB exams, and accreditation obtained from the IMC for conducting their business management course (1975). New courses were introduced in telex operating (1983), data entry system (1985), word processing (1986), electronic telex operating (1989) and computer packaging (1991). In 1992, computer training was made an integral part of the secretarial course, keeping abreast of modern trends and requirements.

Homai Mehta also introduced a very active and alive Placement Bureau. Initially a service rendered to the alumni of the College, under Mehta it developed into a full-fledged division of its own, offering employment even to students trained elsewhere, provided they passed the Bureau's screening tests.

One of the prime achievements of the JJCC could be that it exploded early in the day the myth of the 'dumb' secretary. Homi Mehta, during his tenure as a director, introduced three clear-cut categories for students seeking admission in secretarial courses: the personal secretary course was offered to girls who had passed SSC; the private secretary course to those who had studied up to HSC; and the executive secretary course was open only to graduates. The distinctions were clear, as were the growth prospects. The courses at the JJCC gave importance to growing technologies, including computer operations; but they paid equal, if not more, attention to interpersonal skills and personality development, so important in our age of automation where a computer can handle routine chores but, to quote a Parsi secretary from Color Chem, "cannot smile."

Mehta herself attaches great importance

to interpersonal skills and lectures on it, as well as on secretarial procedures. It is this human aspect that makes a secretary irreplaceable, and is largely responsible for girls of the Zoroastrian community excelling in this field. "Besides, as Homai

Colleges have become so much of a lark that girls detest the strict discipline and diligence required

Mehta concedes, "Parsis, like Anglo-Indians and Catholics have a headstart in this sphere, having got into the profession before those from other communities." Mehta attributes this initiative to the community's progressive nature and inculcation of Western culture, which led to English education and good grooming.

This year (1993-94) for example, all the top three winners in the Bombay round of the National Institute of Professional Secretaries (NIPS) contest for the 'Secretary of the Year' were Parsi girls, the second and third runners-up being ex-JJites. What is tested here is the contestant's ability to handle various situations, besides skills in written communications and general knowledge. (A graduate degree and proficiency in shorthand are prerequisites for entry, of course.)

Both, the setting up of NIPS and the introduction of the popular Miss Secretary Contest in 1972, are contributions of the Mehtas and found their sustenance in the JJCC soil. During his 1968 tour of the US when Homi visited many business colleges and developed affiliations with them, he also called on the National Secretaries Association (NSA) and decided to open its chapter in India. When the NSA became Professional Secretaries International, the Indian affiliates also changed the abbreviation of 'P' from 'personal' to 'professional,' keeping abreast of world trends, by emphasizing not the personal but the professional aspect.

Homai, in her capacity as director, continues to stress the professional grooming of women to meet the challenges of the coming century. "Unfortunately," she observes, "the professional aspect is absent in the girls when they join us." Colleges,

according to Mehta, have become so much of a lark that girls detest the strict discipline and diligence required by a full-time post-graduate course at the JJCC, which calls for five gruelling hours at College and a minimum of three hours' homework thereafter. "Also," she adds, "while the standard of education among girls has gone up," a fact seconded by her colleague Shroff who has been lecturing at the JJCC for the past 34 years, "the best calibre of girls do not opt for secretarial courses, especially during the past five years or so."

Muses Mehta: "They are more enamored of careers in computers, journalism and travel." She adds with a laugh, "They come to us after experimenting in other fields, as the money is very good in this line." Today, the JJCC tutors more than 600 students annually (inclusive of short-term courses). Mehta is confident of the figure increasing, as she is currently making an all-out effort to attract students for careers in business by going round schools and colleges lecturing/conducting seminars on job opportunities in this field. "There is a very bright future ahead for secretaries," asserts Mehta, who does not envisage any competition from computers or office automation. "On the contrary," she counters, "a good secretary makes more efficient use of modern office equipment. After all, a computer has to be fed with inputs."

Earlier this year (in March), the JJCC inaugurated the Sorabji Byramji Bhabha Computer Wing funded by a one lakh rupee donation from the Bhabha Trust for purchase of computers. Mehta hopes to receive similar assistance for the JJCC which, "though self-sufficient in its operative resources, would now like to build up its own corpus for meeting its future expansion program."

The JJCC is, beyond doubt, rated as a feather in the cap of the BPP which, according to Shroff, "continues to subsidize it" while allowing it a fair amount of autonomy interwoven with control through a special management committee. And the JJCC continues to serve the community and the country in a way that has done the First Baronet proud: 65 percent of the girls in the secretarial course are Parsis, according to Mehta.

Ten years from now, when the College celebrates its golden jubilee, the secretarial scenario in India may be different. But, as its record of 40 years (or, should we say, 150 years) shows, the JJCC has the ability to change and keep abreast of the times.

Where pilgrims progress

Hotels in Udvada that offer modern amenities are popular with the Parsis

Gustasp Irani



Remember that as you emerged from the Udvada station you were accosted by representatives of the different hotels soliciting your clientele. Globe, Majestic, Kings... depending on the one you chose you were whisked off in the hotel's car — a large Dodge or Chevrolet — parked in the station compound. Alas, we never got to ride in one of them. Grandad preferred to drive into the sea town of Udvada in an autorickshaw or a horse drawn tonga. How we envied those who did get to ride in the large old cars which sped past us with passengers often perched on the sideboards, laughing and cheering as they went by.

You don't find those quaint old cars outside Udvada station any more (nor horse drawn tongas) but they linger on in memory of an era not so long ago. But there are other constants that have survived: *dudhna* puff (whipped milk) in the morning, fried *boi* fish in the afternoon, local hand-churned ice creams after meals, biscuits (*batasa* and *nankhattai*) for tea and vendors who seem to sniff you out the moment you arrive.

The hotels of Udvada are an integral part of the town's ethos and ambience. In many ways they have contributed to its development ever since the Globe Hotel first commenced operations in 1928. "We (Globe Hotel) were the first to introduce electricity in Udvada in 1935," says owner Homi K. Sidhwa. Every evening after sundown, the entire town, Parsis and non-Parsis, would descend on Globe Hotel to marvel at the wonder of it all. "And we



Above: Paradise Hotel
Right: Noshirwan Hotel (above)
and Globe Hotel

Photos: Gustasp Irani

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



Now take this simple test.

	Godrej Powder Hair Dye	Any other
* 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?	Rs. 28 for 10 gms.*	Rs. _____ for 6 gms.



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

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

were also the first to bring a radio to Udvada, later on in the same year, 1935," says Sidhwa. And now the entire town, Parsis and non-Parsis, would descend on the property to listen in fascination to voices that seemed to come from nowhere. Sadly, the petrol fuelled electric generator and the car battery powered radio with its large outdoor antenna, relics of what was then a brave new world, are no more in Sidhwa's possession.

Neither are those old cars that were attached to the various hotels. Majestic Hotel, which started unofficially in 1932 and officially in 1940, had nine vehicles (two Dodges, two Bedfords, two Opals, one Volkswagon, one Chevrolet and one Indian made Matador van); Globe had seven (Dodges, Chryslers, Chevrolets and an Indian made jeep); and the other three hotels, Sidhwa, Kings and Regal, had their own fleets of two to four vehicles. "Udvada never had so many cars and probably never will have so many again," says Ms Khorshed Patel, proprietress of Majestic Hotel, whose late husband Minoo "had a passion for collecting cars." Minoo died in 1977 and

by 1982 his wife had disposed of the last of his many cars. Globe and the other hotels got rid of their fleets too, at a time when their business was going through a lean period.

The first to down its shutters perma-

"Community members are less inclined to share common toilets or sleep in beds that don't have fresh linen"

nently was Sidhwa Hotel, the second in Udvada after Globe. Then Regal Hotel, which was established after Kings Hotel and Majestic Hotel, closed down. Kings Hotel limped through the 1980s, offering

accommodation only: meals for guests were brought in tiffins from Noshirwan Hotel. It was a stop-gap arrangement, at best, and by the early 1990s Kings closed permanently.

Globe, meanwhile, had disposed of its annexe. Majestic Hotel, too, was in trouble. During the last three years it was run by outside contractors and Ms Patel has been unhappy with the arrangement. According to her, the Hotel, closed for the monsoon months, will not reopen again.

No one seems to be able to explain the slump aside from ascribing it to labor problems. The gripe against labor is a constant refrain: employee loyalty and respect are things of the past.

The closure of old hotels, however, is not because of the decline in the number of Zoroastrians visiting Udvada. In *Adar mah*, which coincides with summer vacations, every available room in Udvada is booked well in advance. The pattern is the same during the Diwali holidays, long weekends, and weekends which coincide with the holy days of Hormuzd, Adar, Behram, etc.

So while old hotels, unable to adapt to

With best compliments from

DINSHAW & DINSHAW

ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS

390/286, Bootee Street
Camp, Poona 1



1916 to 1994

78 years of
quality and service

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Princess Street, Bombay 400002

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Tilak Bldg, Dadar, Bombay 400014

PARSI DAIRY FARM DAIRYLAND

Nariman Nagar, Talasari 401606

the changing times, collapsed, new ones sprang up. First came Noshirwan Hotel in the early 1980s when the Pestonji family converted an old bungalow behind the Atash Bahram into a hotel. Almost immediately it carved out a niche for itself with clientele who raved about its cleanliness (tiles, rather than granite slabs, were used in the attached bathrooms and common toilets), and the excellent meals served by the manager, Hector Engineer.

Then in 1992 Engineer married Farida and the couple decided to launch out on their own and build a new hotel in Udvada. It was an ambitious undertaking that ran into a snag right away. The Harshad Mehta stock exchange scam sent the price of their stock holding plummeting. Their financial resources seriously curtailed, the Engineers turned to well-known businessman Jamshed Guzder, currently chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), for

help. And help he did, with a Rs 3.5 lakh personal loan which the couple used to purchase land for their hotel project. "We have repaid the loan, but let me make it very clear: Guzder helped us when we needed help the most. We owe him a lot," says Farida.

In April 1993 Paradise Hotel was inaugurated and became immensely popular with the Zoroastrian community almost immediately. The secret of its success was that it offered modern hotel amenities while retaining a distinctly Parsi character in food and ambience. Today Paradise is the only hotel in Udvada where the management advises you to make advance reservations all the year round — even if you plan to visit the holy city during the monsoon months or week days.

One lady member of a Parsi family from Dubai staying at Paradise Hotel explains its success thus: "As members of our community travel around and experience the

luxury of modern hotels, they are less inclined to share common toilets or sleep in beds that don't have fresh linen."

The older Udvada hotels that have survived, recognize these demands of the community and have slowly been renovating their properties. All rooms in Globe Hotel have attached toilets and the deluxe rooms are fitted with geysers which provide hot water 24 hours. Similarly Noshirwan Hotel has attached toilets and geysers in its new deluxe rooms, and has undertaken their installation in its other rooms before the year is out.

In the Udvada dharamshalas, however, *continued on page 114*

**"The post was
a real headache.
The telephones
are a blessing"**

ACCOMMODATION IN UDVADA

For an overview of hotel
and dharamshala tariffs
and amenities
see chart on page 117.

ITS OUT

THE AUGUST ISSUE

**THE FIRST
EVER
COMPARATIVE
STUDY OF CAR
FINANCES
OFFERED BY
THE FINANCE
COMPANIES**

A SIMPLIFIED STUDY IN NO-NONSENSE TERMS FOR LAYMAN ON HOW TO IDENTIFY THE RIGHT SCHEME THAT SUITS HIS POCKET. THIS ARTICLE ALSO EXPLODES THE MYTH THAT IS "FLAT RATE".

SCOOP - TATA SUMO

: TATA'S NEW COMPETITOR TO THE M & M "ARMADA" FULLY DESCRIBED.
: TATA SIERRA - FOLD OUT POSTER - A - D.C. DESIGN OFFERING.
: HERO HONDA - SPLENDOR TESTED.
: FASTEST CAR IN INDIA - A RALLY PREPARED CONTESSA GIVEN THE WORKS.
: PEDAL POWER: HAMILTON - MTB & HERO ATHLETIC CYCLES TESTED.
: THE SOUTH INDIA RALLY.
: PLUS ALL THE REGULAR FEATURES.
SUBSCRIBE TODAY.

**CAR & BIKE
INTERNATIONAL**

SUBSCRIPTION COUPON

Yes: Start my subscription to Car & Bike International for a term of:

☐ One year (12 issues) for Rs 150/- only ☐ Two years (24 issues) for Rs 300/- only

My Cheque ☐ M. O. ☐ for Rs _____ drawn in favour of PREMIUM PUBLICATIONS PVT LTD is enclosed

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

MAIL THIS SUBSCRIPTION COUPON TO: 'CAR & BIKE INTERNATIONAL', Egalande School Bldg., 3rd Floor, Room No. 3/4-9, 160, D. N. Road, Fort, Bombay-400 001

Wishing all our Parsi Patrons
A Happy & Prosperous
Pateti & New Year



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, Marve Road
Malad (West)
Bombay 400064
Tel: 8619630

Site:

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

The 'Regal' Sidhwas

Homi Rogers



Cinema pioneer
Framji Sidhwa
created new
records in
the building of
the Regal
Theatre
60 years ago

The prima donna of Bombay cinema, Regal Theatre became 60 years old last October. Unlike its golden jubilee splash 10 years ago, Regal's diamond jubilee on October 14, 1993 was a muted affair. A management historically committed to social causes decided that jubilation was inappropriate in the aftermath of the devastating Latur quake and, instead, contributed the day's earnings of one show to the earthquake relief fund.

The Regal was the late Framji Sidhwa's chef d'oeuvre, the star among his Globe Theatres' many cinema houses in Bombay, Calcutta and Rangoon. "It was," as states Maneck Sidhwa, Framji's elder son who functions as joint managing director of Globe Theatres with his brother Dhanji, "the first fully air-conditioned cinema, not only in India, but in the whole of Asia."

Built at a cost of about Rs 12 lakhs on a plot of land near the Gateway of India that served as a saluting battery site for visiting potentates and viceroys, the Regal, as Framji appropriately named it, was to re-



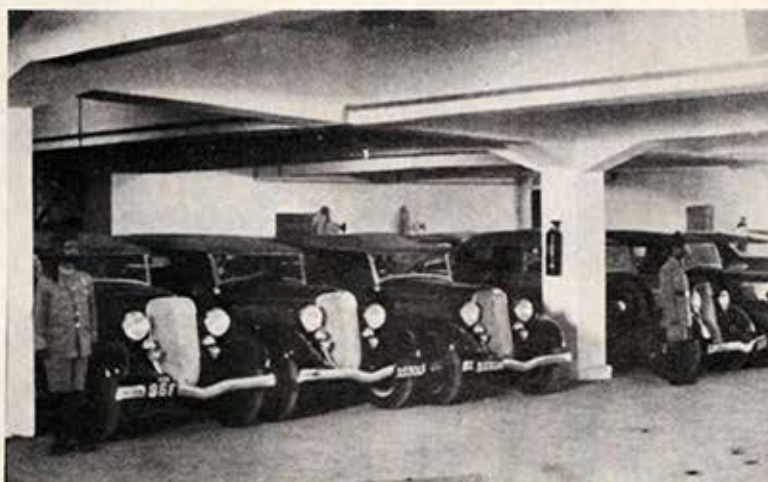
*Above: The cofounders of Globe Theatres -- F. Sidhwa (left) and K. Kooka
Right: An aerial view of the new Regal.
Note the uncluttered road and tram car!*



*Joint managing director
Maneck Sidhwa*

*Left: The Regal marquee
in the 1940s*

*The underground car-park, pre
World War II, with its uniformed
attendants*



define luxury in entertainment.

It was the first to provide an underground car park, the first to introduce neon signs, the first to employ smartly attired ticket sellers and, later, the first in the country to instal Cinemascope (when it screened *The Robe*). The Sidhwas treasure a letter from movie mogul Cecil B. deMille, producer of the super spectacular Biblical movies, complimenting Framji on the screening of *The Ten Commandments* for a record of 31 house full weeks.

When the Regal opened, not even the majestic Taj Mahal Hotel, which stood just a few furlongs away, had air-conditioned rooms. "It was not uncommon for hotel guests to come to the theater to enjoy a drink in the air-conditioned comfort of our plush soda fountain and bar," he says.

The history of Globe Theatres encompasses that of the film industry itself, not only in India but also abroad, and the Sidhwas can claim to be the first family of filmdom as well as the last of the early pioneers yet in the business. Like many other successful Zoroastrian enterprises, this venture too started from Udvada. "My *mamavaji* (mother's father), Mobed Bhikaji Dinyarji Unwala, an *athravan* from Udvada, went to Rangoon to start an agiary (see

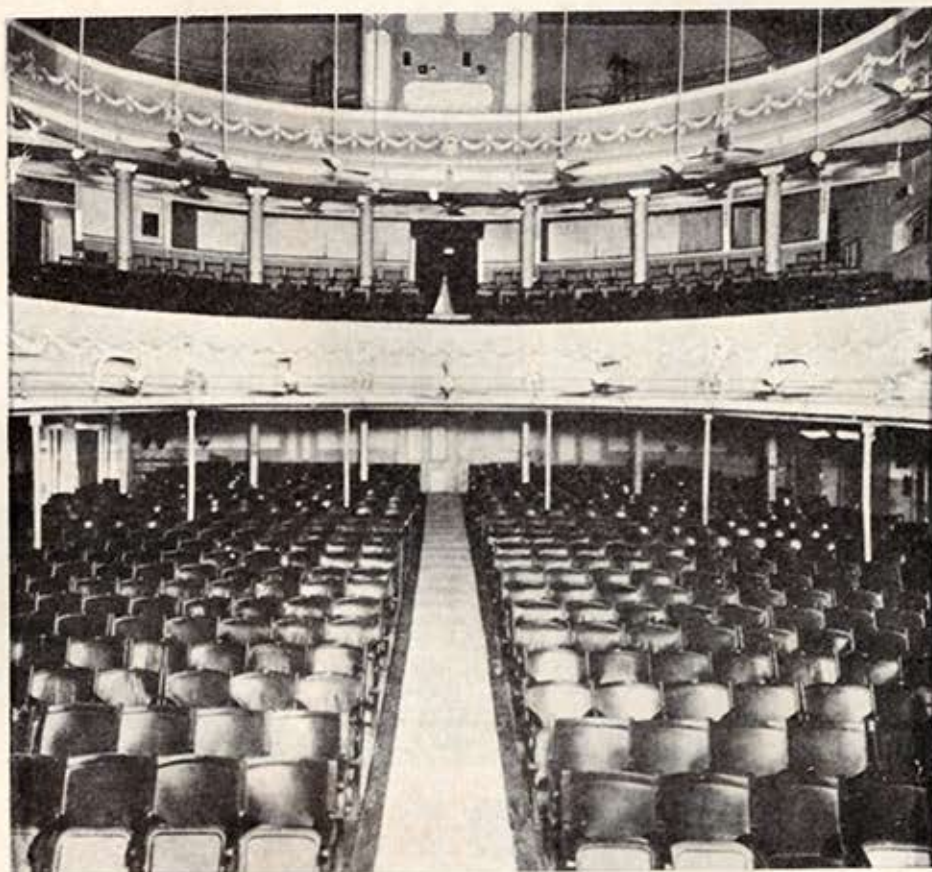
'The Rangoon Agiary,' pg 72)," narrates Maneck, a spry septuagenarian.

Bhikaji, according to Maneck, called Framji, his nephew and son-in-law (it was a cousin marriage between the offsprings of Bhikaji and his sister) to Rangoon, then a very prosperous place. For Framji, son of poor and pious parents from Tarapore, a coastal town south of Udvada, this was the opportunity he had long been waiting for. Having abandoned his studies after a year at St Xavier's College for lack of means, he was struggling to get a job in Bombay when Rangoon held out hopes for a new life.

A 23-year-old Framji sailed for Rangoon in 1903. After spending a decade working in Singer and Company and as canvasser at Oriental Life Insurance, he decided to plunge into the uncharted waters of a 'bioscope company' with his neighbor, a Muslim gentleman from Surat. Framji provided the entrepreneurial expertise to the Mohammedan's capital, and the theater they set up provided Rangoon with a new kind of entertainment cum watering place: films on two nights, a skating rink and attractions like dinner-dance, card games, etc. "Fortune," as Virgil has said, "favors the brave," and Framji earned his

Globe Theatre, Rangoon
(below), The Globe
Grand Opera House,
Calcutta (top right)
and Capitol, Bombay

"Capitol is older than the Bombay Municipal Corporation and Victoria Terminus"



stripes as a showman. The young orphan from Tarapore, who had studied at the Petit Parsi Orphanage at Parel, parented an industry that would grow immeasurably in the decades to come.

Two years later, when the partnership went sour, Framji, who had found his métier, did not have to look far to continue in the same business. Kaikhushroo Kooka, son of Ardeshir, who had a rice shop in the same building, offered to put up the capital (Rs 10,000), and entered into a 50-50 partnership in Kooka, Sidhwa and Company, opting to be a sleeping partner. The partnership has survived to date, and Kaikhushroo's son S. K. 'Bobby' Kooka (the creator of the Air India Maharajah) continues to be on the Globe board.

On April 3, 1915, the first Globe Theatre opened in a bicycle shop converted by the Parsi partners into a regular cinema house. In the flickering forerunners of the movies, Framji found the flicker of hope that was soon to dazzle the country and make him a pioneering name in the history of world cinema, lauded and toasted at home and abroad. Soon Globe Theatres were to dot the Burmese countryside: in Moulmein, Mandalay, Myingyen,



Times change
Traditions don't



Upholding a fine tradition of over 125 years.

TATA
PRESS
LIMITED

For the finest print jobs

414, Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Bombay 400 025.

Tel: 430 0941, Fax: 430 2707

The Rangoon Agiary

Founded by Captain Cavasji, a merchant mariner who later adopted the designation as his surname, the Rangoon Agiary, which opened in 1904 came to be known as the Captain Agiary, informs Maneck Sidhwa joint managing director of Globe Theatres. When Cavasji died, his nephew Nanabhoy Cavasji, a barrister whose phenomenal practice was then said to be worth Rs 20,000 per month, according to Sidhwa, became trustee. Nanabhoy's daughter Gool Cavasji was for many years the legal adviser to the Tatas, he adds. (The Agiary has a special place in Parsi history as the site of the legal battle that resulted in a Privy Council judgment regarding the religious rights of the child of a Parsi mother and a non-Zoroastrian father, known as the Bella Case.)

"My *mamavaji*, Bhikaji Unwala, was

the Captain Agiary's first panthaky. Thereafter his son and grandson continued there as panthakies...When the Japanese invaded, it was the third generation panthaky who came away.

"Now there are hardly four or five Parsis in Rangoon, generally married to Burmese women. They say the agiary still stands but the hall, where functions used to be held, has been taken over by the Burmese authorities and converted to other uses. The aramgah is still there. At one time there were about 500 Parsis in Rangoon, all very prosperous, all having their own business. (Noted legal counsel) Fali Nariman's father was also in Rangoon. I think Fali was born there...In those days (before 1930) Rangoon Parsis used to put guineas as *boi na paisa*..."

Maymyo. Within seven years, his vision reached out to India. On November 23, 1922 Lord Lytton, the then Governor of Bengal, opened the Globe at Calcutta, a renovated avatar of the Grand Opera House constructed in 1867.

Kooka stayed on in Calcutta to manage the theater, while Framji returned to Rangoon to look after the Burma circuit. In 1923 the partners converted Globe Cinema Company into a private limited enterprise, and obtained exhibition rights for the best

products of Pathe, Universal, First National and Metro Goldwyn Mayer, amongst other Hollywood and European cinema companies. The films were screened at the Globe cinemas, established by now in Bangalore (1927), Bombay (1928) and Madras (1930). The Company is now 79 years in existence.

Interestingly, their other Bombay property has many Parsi associations. Sited adjacent to Framji's alma mater, the Bharda High School from where he matriculated, the Gaiety Theatre, re-christened Capitol Cinema, was obtained on lease from the Parsi firm Edulji Dinshaw & Company of Karachi (Edulji's son, F. E. Dinshaw, was the founder of the Associated Cement Companies). The entertainment house had been built in 1879 by Kuverji Sohrabji Nazir.

"The building," beams Maneck, "is older than the Bombay Municipal Corporation and Victoria Terminus," which form part of the square of what is yet referred to as Bori Bunder, one of the city's busiest traffic centers. He and Dhanji (who said he "did not want any publicity, least of all in *Parsiana*") function from their first floor office in this heritage structure. The Sidhwas have retained it as it was 114 years ago. "Even the auditorium of the theater," then

*With all good wishes
from*

**NERGISH and SOLI
J. ARCEIVALA**

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

designed for European and local performances (which included, for instance, the Gujarati play *Savitri* staged by Parsi amateurs as mentioned in a recent 'One Hundred Years Ago' column of *The Times of India*) "is exactly the same, except for six boxes and the band pit which have been removed to facilitate the viewing of films," Maneck informs us.

Five years after the Capitol opened on January 20, 1928, Framji Sidhwa, who had set himself the maxim of "nothing but the best," presented Bombay with the Regal cinema.

The Regal was the first theater to be actually owned by the Company. The edifice is replete with memories for the Sidhwas, who stay in this magnificent art-deco building (it was the recipient of an Urban Heritage Award in 1991 from the Indian Heritage Society). Maneck, who came to Bombay when he was 10, talks of the time when his father stayed at the Majestic Hotel across the road (now converted into a MLA Hostel and Sahakari Bhandar) whenever he visited Bombay. Framji would gaze fondly at the plot, and dream of putting up a theater there. And Maneck recalls the people (President of Egypt Col Nasser, who attended a Filmfare

Award Nite held here, President Rajendra Prasad, Prime Minister Jawaharlal Nehru, etc) and the pictures (*The Sound of Music*, *Three Coins in a Fountain*, the James Bond movies which never failed to draw long queues) which came to the Regal. It was

***Framji had named
his company
Globe after
Shakespeare's
theater***

also the auditorium where His Holiness the Dalai Lama saw the first motion picture in his life: a wild Western titled *Great Day in the Morning*.

Enthused, Maneck proceeds to forage through a cupboard and digs out an old souvenir published on the inauguration of the cinema on October 14, 1933 by Sir Fredrick Sykes, Governor of Bombay. He shows us a photograph printed therein, an aerial view. Considering that aviation was then (1933) in its infancy, Maneck hazards

that it was probably taken by a photographer flown by J. R. D. Tata, "the only plane pilot in Bombay then," in his two-seater Puss Moth.

The Globe Rangoon, which had sustained a direct bomb hit during World War II, was rebuilt by the Sidhwas. But political conditions of the time did not permit the retrieval of their earnings in Rangoon and Framji prudently decided to pull out of Rangoon in 1952. Though the decision had been widely criticised at the time it enabled the Sidhwas to salvage some of their assets before the onslaught of communism from which Rangoon has not yet recovered.

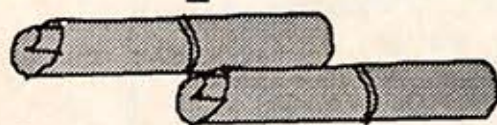
Framji trained his sons to manage the cinema with the same love that he bestowed on his ventures. "He was more a friend than a father," recalls Maneck, who like his brother learnt the ropes from the bottom rung.

"My father held virtue above wealth," declares Maneck. After joining the Company in 1942 and a tour in 1960 of the major studios of Europe and Hollywood, he took over the complete management and administration of the distribution network. Dhanji was trained to keep pace with the technological developments in motion

With Best Compliments From
ASPI IRANI
ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS

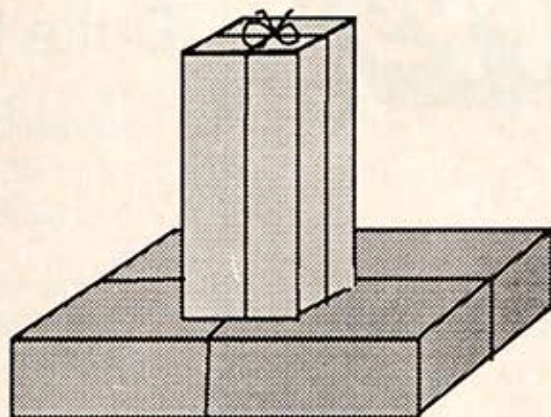
Irani Building, 1st Floor, 80, Janmabhoomi Lane
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel Nos: 2040094, 2040267

The Best Way to Express

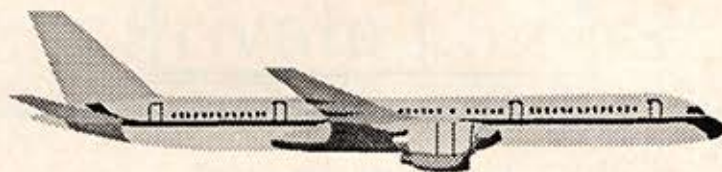


Your Documents,

Packages &



Freight



**When You Can't Express How
Important They Are**

* 237 Destinations In India

* 187 Countries & 324 Airports Worldwide



BLUE DART

Blue Dart Express Limited, Lumbini Palace, 4 Tejpal Road,
Vile Parle (East), Bombay 400 057

• Tel. No. : 8328030, 8328051 • Fax : 8377439

**music so
peppy
makes you
happy**



**amazing
two**
BILLY & ZAM
4 5 5 2 9 3

DANNY ADVTG

dh

**OLIAJIS'
Duke Hotel**

Devka Daman
Pin:- 396210
Tel:- 02636-2251

Proprietors:
Dosabhai N. Oliaji
Shapoor D. Oliaji

picture exhibition, and did a course in electronics, sound engineering and cinema design in the United States. The training was to stand him in good stead when the Regal was renovated in 1953. He converted the company's screens to Cinemascope and installed the gigantic Todd-AO projection first at the Regal and later at the Calcutta Globe for the screening of the blockbuster *Cleopatra* (for long the costliest film ever made).

When Framji died in 1962, on the eve of the golden jubilee year of the enterprise started by him, both Indian cinema and he had come a long way. But what had set him apart was not just his entrepreneurial skills but the courage of his convictions. Framji had named his company Globe after Shakespeare's theater of the same name. And he had lived his life according to the bard's philosophy in *Hamlet*: "To thine own self be true... thou canst not then be false to any man."

The same principle still governs the Sidhwa family. Despite their progressiveness, they continue to cling to old family traditions and values.

Maneck and his wife Khorshed (née Adenwalla) have two (unmarried) daughters — Daisy, who is into advertising and

The Members of

THE AGRA PARSI ANJUMAN

wish the Zoroastrian Community *A Very Happy New Year*

We welcome you to "RUSTOM BAGH" PARSI DHARAMSALA in the city of Taj Mahal. Agra is linked to Bharatpur, Jaipur and Nainital.

The only Parsi Dharamsala in India with facilities of: 1. Generator for uninterrupted electric supply 2. Wire meshed windows 3. Reasonable meals and special dishes on order 4. 24 hours running water 5. Air cooled rooms

Address: Pratap Pura, Ajmer Road
Agra 282001

Booking agent in Bombay **Mr Diniar D Mehta**
Diniar Tours & Travels (P) Ltd 9/A, Anand Nagar, Forjett Street
Opp Bhatia Hospital, Tardeo, Bombay 400036
Tel No (Off) 3860798, 3889755

President
Mr Hosang Debara
(0562) 367519

Secretary
Dr Rati Khambatta
(0562) 361476

Treasurer
Mr Dadi Sorabji
(0562) 363066

Best Wishes
To All Members of the Parsi Community
for A Happy and Prosperous New Year 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.

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



Flats on Udvada Beach

Elegant flats on the sea-shore at Udvada with commanding sea view, located just 2 minutes away from the Atash Behram.
Rs 2 to 4 lakhs.

Please phone Marfatia on 3884296/3860354 (Bombay) for details.



Jerestin, a lawyer practising in the Bombay High Court. "Parsi girls are cleverer and better than our boys," he adds with a wry face. "Yes, we are orthodox in our thinking," claims Maneck. "Our religion has survived for many years and will, I am confident, keep on going," he affirms, defying the prophets of doom.

Call it optimism, or blame it on the strong Udvada stock blood coursing through their veins, but the Sidhwas are equally confident that their theaters will go on much longer, never mind the onslaught of cable and video. "Luckily business has improved lately because of good movies. People are slowly moving away from the small (television) screen. This trend is also evident in America and other countries," affirms Maneck. Theaters like the Rex and Radio that closed down and were replaced by shopping malls or offices, preceded the Maharashtra Government's ruling which requires a cinema to remain a cinema, note the Sidhwas. They expect that the Roxy cinema which has been demolished, will be incorporated into the new building being constructed on the site. This regulation provides a formula according to which seating capacity may be reduced in a cinema house, but the expense of incorporat-

ing such a change, swathed as it is in red tape, is disproportionate to the benefits expected, they maintain.

But "the show must go on." And though Maneck is aware that were he to shut down his cinema halls the Sidhwas would still be able "to get by comfortably on the rent from them," his confidence in the Almighty to sort things out will not permit him to ring down the curtain...

Always remember



સ્તીલમાં TATA

બુટમાં BATA

કેટરરમાં KHAMBATA

Ketayun & Bomi

22/A, Wellington Terrace,
Wellington Street,
Bombay-400 002.
Tel. No. 2069636.

With Best Compliments

from

PENNZOIL INDIA LIMITED

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.

The changing forest

Shahriar Shahriari

How appropriate is it to worry about community survival when the earth itself needs to be saved?

Once upon a time, in a deep jungle there was a community of bears. They lived happily for a while, until the jungle began to get hotter and hotter. The global warming was having its effect.

A group of bears got together and decided to migrate to a cooler forest further north. So they decided on a date, packed their belongings and moved to the new forest. The forest was far from any human community, so there was no chance of any child wandering into their house and eating their porridge or sleeping in their beds.

A few years later, when the cubs had grown and become teenagers, they started doing their own thing. They started moving around in the forest and playing with other animals. They made friends with lion cubs and tigers and hyenas, and even with snakes and bees. They did things that worried their parents considerably.

Initially, the papa bears and mama bears kept quiet and accepted things, because they were worried that their teenage cubs would not listen to them and reject them altogether. However, after a while, at some of the parties and gatherings, papa bears and mama bears started sharing some of their concerns with each other. Also by this time the population of the bear community had grown substantially, because other bears from other jungles had migrated to this cooler forest and started to settle down with the original immigrants.

One day, some bears decided to form a society which they called the 'Bear Society' (BS for short). They

started to organize social gatherings and get-togethers. Sometimes their cubs would attend, other times they would just go off and do their own thing.

The members of the BS decided that to attract the interest of the cubs, they should organize special events just for them, and sincerely went about doing so. This was very good and many cubs attended. They met a lot of other bear cubs and made lots of friends. After a while the cubs decided to form their own club which they called 'Cub Club' (or CC for short).

Behram, who was a young cub, became an active member of the CC and helped a lot to get the cubs together and do things they all enjoyed. But he noticed that after a while, BS members who were very impressed with the success of the CC, decided to use it to educate the cubs about the bear way of life and bear beliefs.

Gradually, there was a shift in the activities of the CC and many of the cubs, including Behram, lost interest. The CC declined drastically, and the cubs separated into their own small groups. The BS members got very concerned that because of the decline of the CC, they would never be able to gather the cubs together, and the bear community as they knew it would die.

In the meantime, the cubs who had now become young adult bears, went about with lions and tigers and other friends they had made in the forest.

One day papa bear and mama bear were invited to a dinner party at a friend's house, and they asked Behram to join them. Behram who had been away from the bear community for some time, agreed. After dinner everyone began discussing the CC and cub problems. The discussions continued for nearly an hour, and everybody was commenting on the problems of

the cubs, what the solutions were, and why these solutions had failed in the past. Behram very patiently listened to all the discussions until they finally ended. He realized that although he was the youngest bear in that party, not one bear had asked him about what he thought his problems were, or if he had any solutions.

On the way back home, Behram was thinking to himself that this was exactly the problem with the BS: they never thought of asking the cubs to define their problems or come up with solutions. And if they were not willing to ask or listen, then how in the forest were they going to solve these problems?





Services offered

- * Individuals, Corporate Bodies and Institutions.
- * Non Government Provident Funds, Gratuity Funds and Superannuation Funds for their Investments.
- * Non-Banking Financial Companies (Reserve Bank) Directions 1977 -- accepting Fixed Deposits from Public for maintenance of Liquid Assets.

We Deal & Trade and Buy & Sell

- * Public Sector Bonds whether Taxable or Tax-Free of Public Financial Institutions like MTNL, IRFC & others which are presently available at discount by purchasing in the secondary market.
- * 9% Relief Bonds 1993 of Reserve Bank of India
- * Units of Unit Trust of India
- * Inter-Corporate Deposits
- * Negotiable Securities like IDBI, ICICI, IFCI & other Bonds which are fully and unconditionally guaranteed by the Central or State Government.
- * Government Securities of Central or State Government.

Delivery through our Subsidiary General Ledger Account with Reserve Bank of India, or by issuing Stock Certificates / Bonds.

Contact : Mehernoz Dangore

Tel. : 3866510 - 3884040

(Between 8.30 & 11.00 a.m./p.m.)

Regd. Off. : Farohar Investments & Trading Pvt. Ltd.

Husanali Building, 5, Jijibhai Dadabhai Lane, Fort, Bombay-400001

This thought consumed Behram until he decided it was time to take action. He called some of his old CC friends and got a small group together. They decided that they would attend the next bear seminar organized by BS and voice their opinions.

At the BS seminar all the elder bears were pleasantly surprised at this resurgence of cub interest, and were excited that this was going to be a good seminar.

After some formalities, somebody suggested that since so many cubs were present, they should discuss cub issues. In their excitement, all the bears unanimously agreed, and one of the bears suggested that they should ask the cubs what they thought. Behram said to himself, "At last they are asking questions, but are they also listening? And perhaps most importantly, can they trust us to solve our own problems?"

Behram got up and started to tell the bear assembly about some of his experiences. He said: "As I understand, many of you are concerned that the cubs are not living the way you used to in the old jungles. You are concerned why we are all drifting away from our community and making friends with our enemies the lions, the tigers and the cobras. You are concerned that we have become selfish and only think of ourselves, that we are apathetic and don't care any more. We understand your desire to rectify this situation.

"We also understand that your efforts at helping us are frustrated, that in spite of all your good intentions you are not getting anywhere. Perhaps things are even getting worse day by day.

"I remember the initial days of the CC and how successful it was. I remember how I met many of my friends who are here today, at those meetings. I remember all the fun that we had together. I also remember how things began to deteriorate, because you wanted us to live as you thought we should.

"Well, today I want to share some of my thoughts with you. You may or may not agree with them, but I am asking you to listen to them. I mean really listen to them.

"The forest that we live in today is not like the ones you used to live in. The old ways may or may not be applicable here. You want us to be cautious about our old enemies, the lions and the tigers. You want

"Many of the problems we see, you do not even understand"

us to go on picking berries, catching fish and destroying beehives for their honey. But I want to tell you that if there is one thing we can learn from history, it is that history does not repeat itself.

"What was right and normal when you were cubs is no longer the case. I want to tell you that I am not the only cub who thinks this way. There are many other cubs who share the same understanding with me. There are also lion cubs and tiger cubs and other animals who think similarly. Today we have learned how to live with the lions and the tigers.

"One day I even walked up to a beehive and started talking to one of the bees. He told me how frustrated they were because

along with the forest we live in.

"The cubs of all animals today have realized that the forest is different, and they have become friends. They realize that we are interdependent and the only way to live happily and prosperously is by cooperating with each other — even if this cooperation means dramatic changes from what we have historically been used to.

"The cubs also recognize that some of you mama bears and papa bears do not have the same perspective as we do. We are not asking you to change your ways or beliefs. All we ask is don't try to force-feed us with solutions to the problems that you see. Many of these problems are not any issue for us. And many of the things that we see, you do not even understand.

"All we ask is, please listen to the things we say, try to understand them, even if you don't agree with them, and then let us come up with our solutions and let us implement them. You see, you have no choice, because sooner or later we will be running the community and we will implement our solutions anyway.

"What we are asking you is to let us have a free hand and a head start, because every day that passes with us patiently waiting for the right time, we lose one day of action, and the problems get one day worse. The forest will be diminished by one more day, and another species will become extinct forever.

"Finally, please understand that we are not blaming you for the problems. It is man who is causing this devastation. I plead with you to understand us and have faith in us that we will do a good job of solving our problems. Maybe in the process, we the cubs, will be so united and active that your problems will also disappear."

One way, or another, to be continued in the years to come.



"WITH EACH DAY THAT PASSES WITHOUT ACTION... OUR PROBLEMS GROW... UNTIL ONE DAY THE FOREST WILL BE DIMINISHED AND ANOTHER SPECIES WILL BECOME EXTINCT FOREVER!"

every time they made a hive, a bear came along and destroyed it for its honey; that they were spending most of their time building hives, not making honey, which is what they really enjoy doing. So I made an agreement with him that I would protect their hive, and they would give me half of the honey they produced during the time they saved by not building new hives. Now they are all happy and peaceful, and I get more honey than I ever did using the old ways.

"You see, the forest is no longer the same old jungle. Our real enemies are not the lions or the cobras or the bees. Our real enemy is the pollution created by man, the global warming and all those other things that are destroying our forest with all the animals in it. If we don't recognize these realities, we are doomed to be destroyed

Reproduced, with permission, from *Youthfully Speaking*, the youth section of the *FEZANA Journal*, Spring 1994.

Iran born, UK and Canada educated Shahriar Shahriari is a qualified mechanical engineer from Vancouver. He has been associated with the Helping Hands Network of FEZANA and was the founder editor of the newsletter of the Zoroastrian Youth of North America, now amalgamated with the *FEZANA Journal*. Shahriari is currently involved in projects ranging from the development of microwave technology to the marketing of appropriate broadcasting technology for the developing countries.

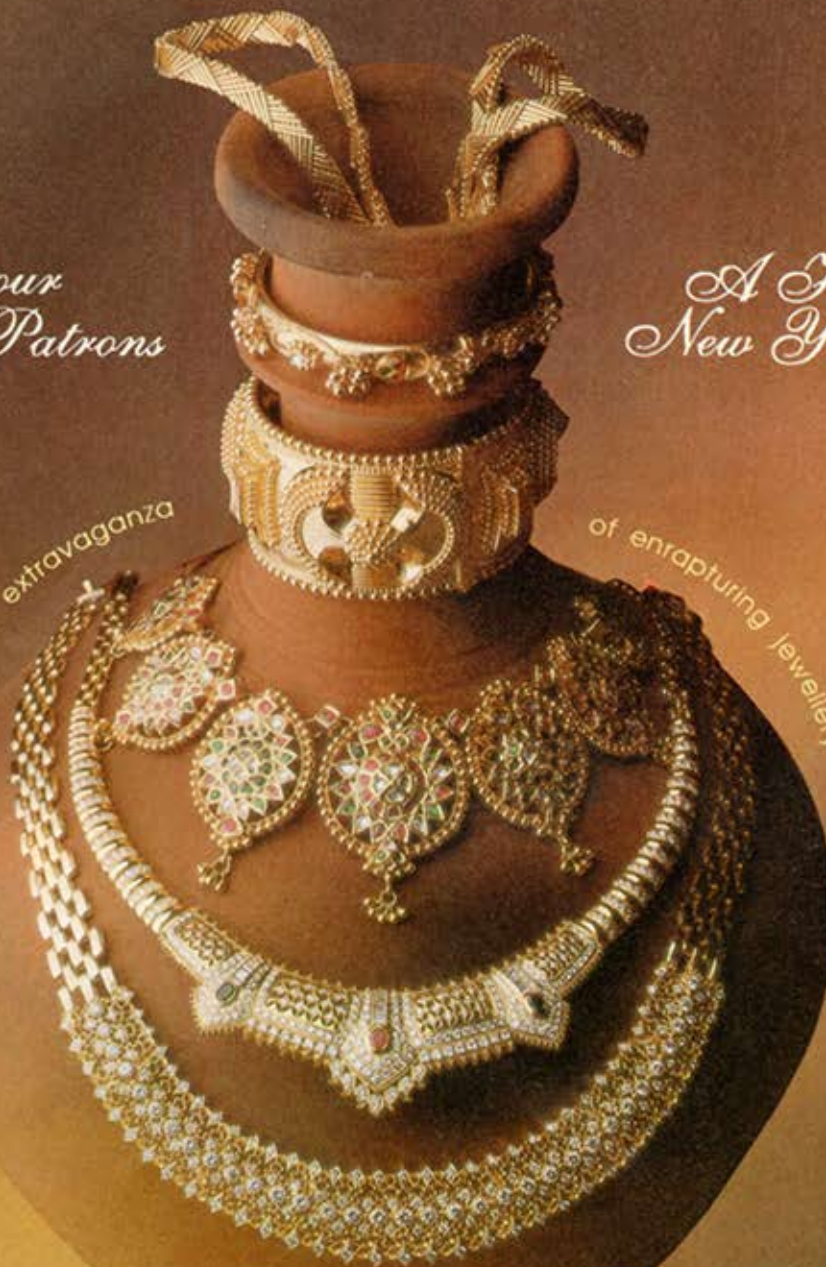
THE WIZARD OF ARTISTRY

*Wishing our
Parsi Patrons*

*A Happy
New Year*

Presents an extravaganza

of enrapturing Jewellery



L. SUNDERDAS ZAVERI

WHERE FAITH IS FOREVER

DHARAM PALACE, HUGHES ROAD, BOMBAY - 7. TEL: 3634831/32/33/34

Some TVs belong in exclusive places.



Like at the Taj Palace Inter.Continental, New Delhi and at your home.

CDTV
CLEAR DEFINITION TELEVISION

CLEAR PICTURE

CLEAR SOUND

CLEAR CHOICE



The company that was the first to introduce Picture-in-Picture, Flat Square Tube, Surround Sound, Spacewide Sound and Swivel-base TVs, brings you the latest in television technology: the all-new Clear Definition Television (CDTV). The clearest you can get in picture and sound.

QC

INTERNATIONAL QUALITY & DESIGN:

This new range of TVs is manufactured to stringent quality and reliability norms using sophisticated hi-precision equipment. A special rich stone grey cabinet with a velvet finish blends with any living room.

3 YEAR WARRANTY

LONG 3-YEAR WARRANTY: The

Videocon CDTV is exceptional. Engineered to world-class standards and reliability norms. Which is why we can confidently back it with a 3-year long warranty. Now that's guaranteed trouble-free entertainment.



TURN ON AN ORCHESTRA:

Experience the unforgettable power of "3-D Surround Sound" on our 63 cm and 71 cm CDTV models. The result of digital sound processing technology that adds a realism to each and every note.

PP

PERSONAL PREFERENCE: A unique

facility that allows you to store and recall your personal settings of colour, contrast, brightness, volume and balance on the 6301 R model. Exclusive features available on the 6301 R model:

- Auto Search Tuning ■ Cable Tuner
- Quick View of previous channel ■ Stereo Playback Facility ■ Extensive Programme Memory ■ PAL/SECAM Compatibility.

Clearly generations ahead in technology and style. And most naturally the clear choice. The all-new CDTV. From Videocon.

VIDEOCON
BRING HOME THE LEADER



RITUAL HONOR

By performing 160 nirangdins and nearly every other high liturgical ceremony, Ervad Jehangir Turel has demonstrated an exemplary level of professional dedication

Arnavaz S. Mama

It was a rare occasion for the late 20th century. The hall of the H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram in Bombay thronged with the Zoroastrians of India on June 4, 1994. The cynosure of the attention of the congregated athornans and behdins was a quiet mobed of medium build with an uncommon attainment to his credit. Ervad Jehangir Turel, the man who has set a high watermark by performing 160 nirangdin ceremonies, accepted an avalanche of praise with quiet dignity.

Sixty-nine-year-old Turel was honored "because he's the last of a dying breed," as noted Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal, High

Priest of the Wadia Atas Bahram. The archetypal ritualist is credited with having performed every high liturgical ceremony with the sole exception of consecrating a dokhma, according to an article in *Atashna Ajwala*, a souvenir in Gujarati released on the occasion by Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) chairman Jamshed Guzder. The nirangdin ceremonies Turel has performed, each of which takes two mobeds 18 days, are computed by Rusi Besania of Surat, the day's master of ceremonies, to have occupied 7½ years of

Listening to Kotwal's invocation at the start of the function (L to R): Dastur Hormazdiar Dastur, Homi Wadia, Turel, Guzder, Bhacca, Jamsetji Jejeebhoy, JamaspAsa, Dastur Noshirwan Dastur and Homi Taleyarkhan Left: JamaspAsa congratulating Turel as Guzder looks on

Turel's life, spent in the fire-temples in holy segregation from home and family.

Apart from these nirangdins Turel, the seniormost mobed at Surat's Sheth

Happy Pateti
and a Prosperous New Year
to all our Parsi Patrons

With the compliments of

SUN-N-SAND HOTEL

39 Juhu Beach, Bombay 400049

Tel: 620-1811/4821/4831

MINOO D. KATPITIA: GENERAL MANAGER

AND

JEWEL OF INDIA

AND

JADE GARDENS

Nehru Centre, Worli, Bombay 400018

Tel: 494-9204/9214/9217/9586

ZARIR P. KERA WALLA: GENERAL MANAGER

D. N. Modi Atash Behram, is said to have consecrated more than seven varasias (holy white bulls), performed innumerable vendidads, ijashnes and visperad ceremonies, supervised the repair of agiaries and atash behrams and reenthroned the holy fires shifted for the purpose. When the Dasturji Kookadaru Saheb Memorial Dard-e-Meher was consecrated in Sanjan and the new padshah enthroned in January 1990, it

The high priests made it a point to remind the community that the priests need help: "Today when behdins require and demand more ceremonies, our athravan community is dwindling," said Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa, High Priest of Bombay's Anjuman Atash Behram. He urged the BPP and SPP chairmen to help the athravans by providing housing and ensuring them a secure future so that young

that Bhacca provides machis at the Modi Atash Behram for almost 100 days in the year and charges a professional fee to his (moted) patients which is a fraction of the conveyance from Surat station to Bhacca's dispensary.

Another worthy of Surat whom Turel chose to compliment was Sorab Katpitia, the SPP's chief executive: "Anything that others can't do, he can; his attention is

*"When behdins
require
and
demand
more ceremonies,
our
athravan
community
is
dwindling"*



was again Turel who led the select group of priests who undertook the actual nitty-gritty of these arcane ceremonies. Hence it was with legitimate pride that Surat Parsi Panchayat (SPP) chairman and trustee of the Modi Atash Behram Dr Sam Bhacca referred to Turel as a diamond in Surat's crown.

Sandalwood caskets, etched with the Naqsh-e-Rustom monument on one side and the outline of the BPP and SPP buildings respectively on the other, were presented to Turel by his cohorts, the presidents of the BPP and the SPP. The caskets were accompanied by garlands of flowers, shawls to Turel and his wife Tehmina and *parikas* (monetary gift) from the respective punchayet boards as well as Guzder and Bhacca personally. Their lead was followed up by other organizations and individuals so that Turel estimated he had received nearly 100 shawls that day. From the pile of garlands to be seen, the florists must have made a tidy profit from the community's gratitude for Turel's exemplary sense of priestly duty!

mobeds can be attracted to pursue their calling. He thanked the boiwallas of the Anjuman Atash Behram who had continued to nurse the sacred fire for the last 40 to 50 years and wondered what the future holds, urging athornan families to encourage their young men to opt for the priestly calling.

Congratulating the trustees on holding such a function, Kotwal recalled that 100 years ago a mobed earned Rs 18 for a nirangdin ceremony in contrast to the present rate of Rs 5,000. "Mobeds worked to the age of 80 to 85 years but there was no appreciation of their toil." For example Ervad Hiraji Kanga had performed 175 nirangdins but his achievement had gone unsung, he said. Delhi Parsi Anjuman vice president Dadi Mistry pledged the support of the Delhi community: "We are always willing to do whatever we can for our 'dasturjis.'"

It was obvious that Turel and Bhacca had a special bond. Bhacca recalled how Turel had performed his wedding, made his son Sarosh a navar-martab. Turel noted

*A view of the audience in the Wadia
Atas Bahram hall*

simultaneously active at various levels; his accounting skills have helped several anjumans with income tax and other problems..."

Turel is said to have attracted lakhs of rupees to the Modi Atash Behram by way of kathi and maintenance funds and to have personally donated over a lakh of rupees. On the occasion of this felicitation the Bombay and Surat Panchayets, the Turel family, Shirin and Jamshed Guzder and other concerned individuals had contributed to the maintenance funds of the eight extant atash behrams of India so that each atash behram was gifted a cheque of Rs 40,000.

Turel's birthday according to the Shenhshahi calendar coincides with that of the Modi Atash Behram (*roj* Sarosh, *mah* Ardibehest) where his father, grandfather and great grandfather had served, making him the fourth generation to do so.

continued on page 104

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

Beseeching the Lady

What is it that leads Zoroastrians to join the throngs at Mahim's St Michael's Church every Wednesday?

Homi Rogers



For over 40 years it has been Bombay's mecca for miracles: a panacea shop for anyone who approaches it with a faith-laden heart. So come Wednesdays, and well over 60,000 people through rain or riots, shine or slush, converge on Mahim's St Michael's Church from early dawn to late night, seeking favors. They are all there: the priests, the prostitutes and the pick-pockets; the wealthy and the indigent; the governesses and even the governor! People are drawn here from all communities as well: Hindus, Muslims, Jews, Sikhs, and a fairly large sprinkling of Zoroastrians.

What attracts people across all barriers of caste, creed and vocation to this four-century-old church sited at the northern-

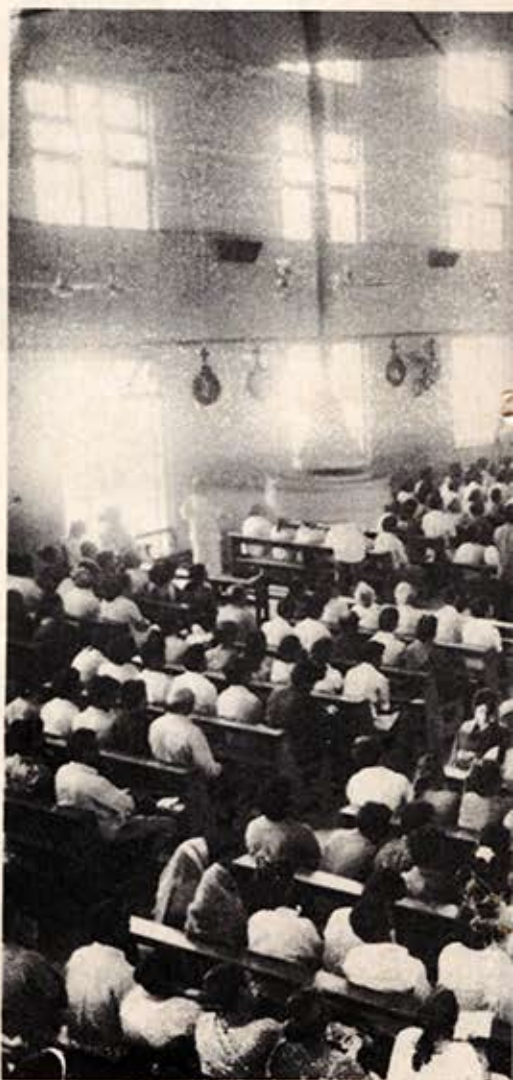
most tip of an island city? And what is it that makes them come for a minimum of nine consecutive Wednesdays to join in the 'novena' — a word that has by now assumed a generic connotation for any prayer recited regularly over nine consecutive periods?

The answers, curiously, are to be found in a framed picture in an alcove high above the altar, though its many reproductions line the walls of the church and are imprinted on the booklets and keychains freely sold at the stalls lining the entrance. The picture is that of the Lady of Perpetual Succour: a representation of Mother Mary with child Jesus in her arms, flanked by archangels Michael (after whom the Church is named) holding a spear and a sponge, and Gabriel holding the cross. This copy is said to have touched the original which lies in Rome. Brought to India by Father Edward Placidus Fernandes, the then vicar of the Church on his return from Europe in 1948, the reproduction was installed after a recitation of the novena on September 8, the birthday of the Lady, which that year fell on a Wednesday. Thus it came about that the mid-week day was earmarked for supplications, and word was spread by the Church fathers about the Byzantine-style icon's prowess at granting favors.

What started as a trickle soon grew into a flood as people of all ages and ailments began thronging the Church. The two initial Wednesday services of 1948 have grown to 14, starting from 7 a.m. and going on to 9.30 p.m., including two services in Marathi and one each in Konkani and Tamil. "Everyone needs succor," smiles Reverend Monseigneur Nelson Mascarenhas, the vicar and parish priest of the Church for the past six years, thus defining the reason why people of all faiths, including Zoroastrians, flock to the nove-

nas. As a Parsi devotee, his skull-cap tightly placed on head, observes: "When you are drowning, you cling to every straw."

At the Mahim Church tales abound of the miracles wrought by petitioning the Lady. Mascarenhas himself recounts how the Lady's grace saved his life after he was



involved in a road mishap. We are shown a woman whose son was weaned from drugs after she started attending novenas (a prayer which actually indicates, according to Mascarenhas, "a nine-day preparatory period prior to a fast" but is now interpreted as a prayer said for nine consecutive weeks). She prayed to the Mother and her boy was weaned from his vice. A tale is also told of a Maharashtrian couple who lost their child outside the Matunga railway station. After scouring the streets and filing a police case, they came to seek the Lady's divine intercession. Novena complete, they found their child waiting for them outside the Church beneath the statue of the Mother. Other devotees tell with hushed reverence of the time when a sick relation for whom the novena was offered recovered miraculously, or how domestic bliss was restored on beseeching the Lady.

Kersi Dubash, who has not missed a single novena in 15 years, even walking all the way from town to Mahim when Bombay

suddenly closed down on the Wednesday Rajiv Gandhi was assassinated, has an interesting tale to narrate of how the Lady was responsible for setting him up in his present enterprise. Dubash, who runs the eminently successful Himalayan Holidays, an agency specializing in adventure tours to Nepal was, by his own admission, at a loose end when he returned to India from Iran when trouble started there in 1978. "I wanted to be in the travel line, and for over eight months failed to get any job in a related activity. Then I attended the novena — my first, on August 22, 1979. By the time I finished my third or fourth novena, Homji Colah offered me a job in Pan Tours, the general sales agency for the US-based Panam airlines."

Dr Adi Dastur, obstetrician and gynaecologist, and another Wednesday regular, narrates a miracle which he guardedly attributes to the Lady. "One of my female patients could not conceive," he says. "It was a difficult case. I suggested she do the novena, and miraculously there-

after she did bear a child."

But not all Zoroastrian worshippers of the Lady are as forthcoming. Ms Roxanne Billimoria, who has been visiting the Church for around 30 years, since her childhood, "wouldn't really like to talk about it." Dara Masani speaks equally casually about his trips, stating that he goes when he has the time—even though he has been going for a very long time. An editor of a travel monthly did visit it for some time too, and the problem she was faced with then did iron itself out. But, as Ms Firozi Khan, an accountant with the merchant banking firm of Jardine Fleming Holdings Limited (Hong Kong) reasons, "If a miracle occurs when one is doing the novena, one automatically relates it to the efficacy of the novena." Herself a regular novena-goer, Khan does find that the service offers her extreme peace of mind, a view shared by most devotees and seconded even by the sceptics and newsreporter types like Ms Shernaz Engineer, now the editor of the Woman's Extraordinary Supplement of *The Afternoon Despatch and Courier*. "You can't help being moved when attending the service," she says. "It does make an impact on you."

One more reason why so many people from different faiths, and especially Zoroastrians, flock to the Church is the general air of piety and equanimity that a novena service radiates. "I can relate to the prayers being said, as against our Zoroastrian mumbo-jumbo," affirms Khan. Dubash, too, similarly rues the fact that "I say my kusti regularly, wear a sudreh, but don't understand the meaning of my prayers." But as they go through the hymns and witness the ceremony, a streak of religiosity seemingly courses through their veins: a spark that is fanned by understanding, comprehension. It translates into faith and works its own miracles.

Yet in these days when most devotees, particularly the Zoroastrians, flock to supplementary succor centres, it is difficult to say which miracle may be ascribed to which source. Minoo Vakil, who pays a flying visit to the Lady every Wednesday morning on his way to work, visits with equal regularity the Banaji Atash Behram on Monday nights, the neighboring Sai Baba temple on Thursdays, and Aslaji



*Facing page: The bust of Mother Mary carrying baby Jesus
Alongside: Crowds thronging the St Michael's Church for novena on Wednesdays* Photos: Varghese W. Fernandez

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**

Agiary on Fridays. Masani similarly claims to visit agiaries and atash behrams with just as much faith and frequency as the Church. And Dubash, whose cabin sports a pantheon of idols and icons of all faiths including Sai Baba, Ganesha and our own Prophet, states vehemently: "Why just novenas and agiaries? We can go elsewhere too, where



(Above) A statue of Jesus outside the hall of St Michael's Church in Mahim
(Below) St Michael's Church: a sanctuary for destitutes of all faiths

Photos: Varghese W. Fernandez

we have faith," with a sweep of his hand indicating his collection of idols. Perhaps their multi-religious approach activates their defence mechanism, the we-worship-at-all-shrines-but-are-nevertheless-true-Zoroastrians attitude. "If only people had faith in their own religions," smirks Cyrus Merchant, Engineer's colleague at *The Afternoon* and a staunch Zoroastrian (he broke the story of the community's difference over J. R. D. Tata's uthamna prayers). Merchant suggests that in this story we show our disapproval of those members of our community who also worship at other shrines.

Strangely enough, the worship of the Mother in her various forms (Mount Mary of Bandra; Lady of Health, Valankini; Lady of the Forsaken, Vadodara; the Blessed Virgin at Lourdes) has always attracted Zoroastrians. And the Church has publicized, among the miracles wrought by the Lady, at least one tale involving a Zoroastrian. On beseeching the Lady of the Mount, Lady Jamsetji Jejeebhoy was said to have been blessed with a daughter

"People who pray the novena only for themselves, could become bitter"

with a normal lifespan after she had lost many children in infancy. ["Preposterous!" thunders Ervad (Dr) Peshotan Peer, the erstwhile panthaky at Bandra's Tata Agiary, dispelling the tale as a canard.] In *Mary In My Life*, a booklet by Ramon Nubiola, SJ, the author recounts how "in December 1980, a Parsi young man, Mr Darayus... suffering from leukemia," recovered when the family "appealed to the Mother of the Forsaken with great faith."

While the worship of the Mother in her various forms attracts Zoroastrians because it gives results, or because it inspires greater faith than even the chanting of our 'nirangs,' there's another reason that makes a visit to the Mahim Church obligatory for some members of the community. A few devotees mentioned that the universality of religion as preached — and practised — by the Church appeals to them, particularly when Zoroastrian fire-temples are barred to members of other communities. "The church is a cosmopolitan place," asserts Mascarenhas, who informs us that over 75 percent of the devotees who attend novena are non-Christians. "We believe all people are equal in the eyes of God," he says, quoting from a recently-delivered sermon wherein the Damania Airways' decision

not to have distinct classes on its planes was lauded, while drawing a parallel to the original classless society given to mankind by God.

The cosmopolitan nature of attendance at the Church has turned it into a sanctuary for destitutes of all faiths. "During the 1993 Bombay riots," recalls Mascarenhas, "all families irrespective of their religion stayed in harmony and without fear behind the Church walls." The Lady provided succor to the helpless, and when the Wednesday sermons requested help for the riot-afflicted, the coffers overflowed with human kindness. St Michael's Church, Mascarenhas informs us, made a donation of rupees one lakh to the chief minister's relief fund, besides expending an equal amount on asbestos sheeting of hutment roofs on the neighboring Mori Road.

"We now run a day-care center for children, and have started a Balwadi in the slums." Such are the expressions of the Church's social concerns. "Today we do not stress the miracles so much," Mascarenhas adds. "People who pray the novena only to get something for themselves, could become bitter."

Yet hope lies eternal in man's breast and there is another service on, and another group of people is enveloped in the Mother's warmth. The candles burn bright and luminous, and in these flickering moments when despair and devotion merge and the congregation cries, "Mary, help us!" a verse from Blake miraculously comes to mind:

"Mock on, mock on, Voltaire, Rousseau,
Mock on, mock on; 'tis all in vain;
You throw the sand against the wind
And the wind blows it back again."





The best thing that ever happened to our customers – their association with us.

Ecoplast - a leader with the vision to predict the needs of the flexible packaging industry. For over a decade the Company is consistently setting standards on Quality. The name - Ecoplast - is synonymous with innovation in multi-layer film structures, providing versatile properties critical to pack, preserve and display a wide range of products. The Company's professional excellence goes a step beyond meeting the

customer's quality requirements. Ecoplast has set a unique trend of providing technical advice and services to make its customers' products successful in the market place. A team of talented and experienced professionals are dedicated to provide quality and service, which has earned for the Company an imposing list of satisfied, nay, delighted customers. Are you one of them?



Ecoplast Private Limited

Sona Udyog, Bldg. No. 4, Parsi Panchayat Road, Andheri (East), Bombay 400 069.
Tel: 832 5837/832 5364. Fax: (91-22) 836 6384.

The wide open gates with specially hired security guarding the property on Walkeshwar Road draws the attention of a passerby who may wonder what lies yonder. Actually the "estate is the property of The Sorabji Thoothi Agiary Trust" proclaims a notice warning trespassers of prosecution. There are other notices too, prominently displayed, that indicate that the Trust is involved in legal proceedings. While the sedate, unobtrusive building of the 178-year-old Agiary looks on benignly

at the proceedings, lurking behind is the 28-storeyed Om Vikas Towers whose ownership and possession is under dispute.

"We have to struggle for our survival on our own land," laments managing trustee of the Thoothi Agiary Trust, Capt Burjor Vachha. Embroiled as the Trust is in four costly legal suits pertaining to this property, "we are in dire financial straits," Vachha speaks on behalf of his co-trustees. The development of their land which they had originally envisaged would yield an

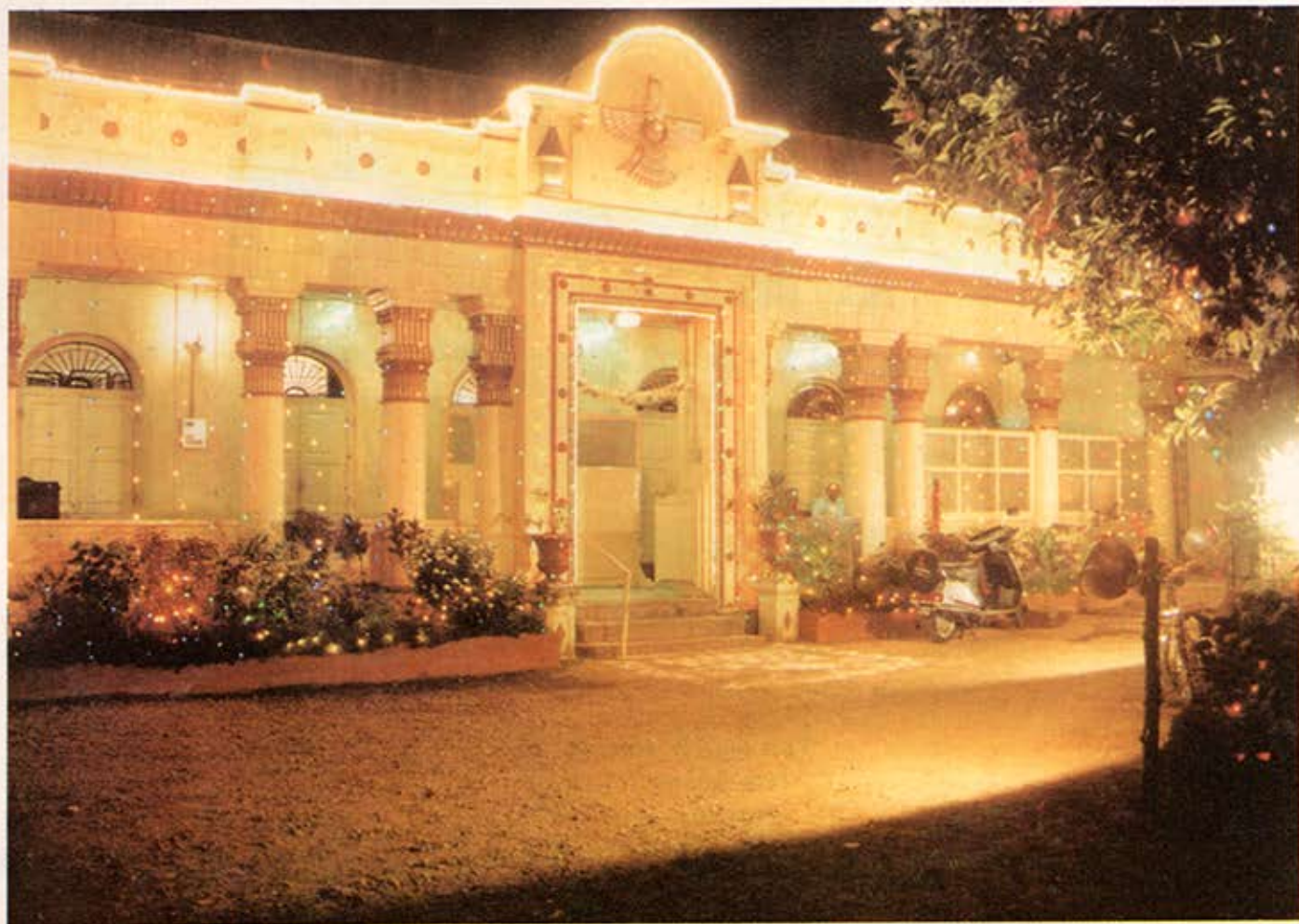
income for the Trust, has now become their bugbear. Their struggle may be against moneyed people in a corrupt environment but the trustees are determined to see justice meted out to them, and would welcome guidance from experienced people.

To clarify the mistaken impression in the minds of the Parsi community that the trustees have sold or leased the property, Vachha notes, "The land belongs to us. In fact, not even has a lease been executed." A power of attorney had however been

The legality of the 28-storeyed Om Vikas Towers on the premises of the Thoothi Agiary Trust is being contested by the trustees and the authorities

The sacred Agiary and the sordid affair

Parinaz Gandhi

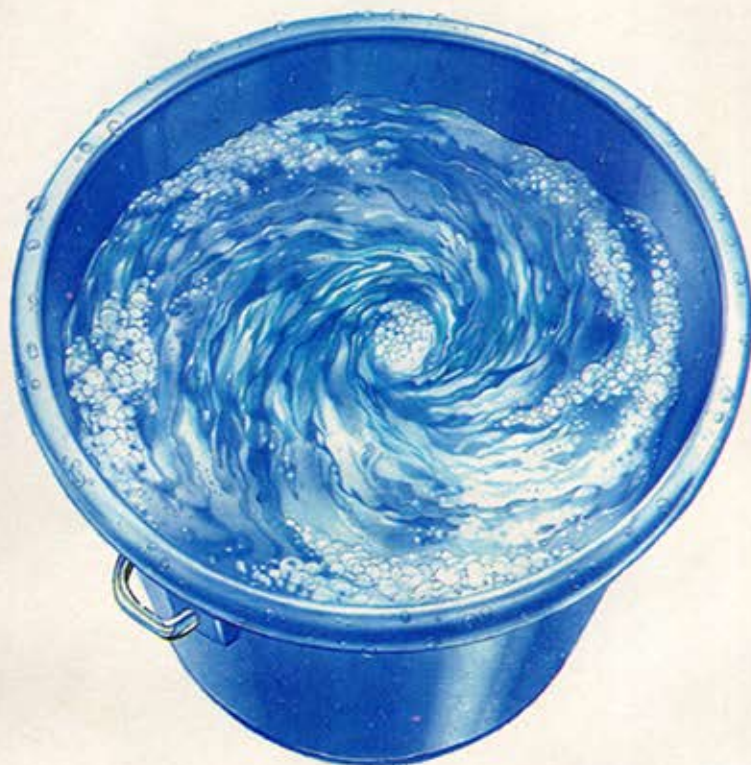


PROBLEM



**Too much scrubbing?
Too much rinsing?
Too much effort?**

SOLUTION



The new EasyWash solution.

At last here is a solution that tackles all your washing problems as effectively as it tackles tough stains. New Surf EasyWash. **Low lather formulation.** The latest detergent technology. Which means much less lather to wash out, saving you effort in rinsing. And you will use less water too. And if you thought lather is necessary for better cleaning, you are in for a surprise. Because lather has nothing to do with cleaning.



And Surf EasyWash is the proof. **Powerful solution.** The Surf EasyWash solution powers out even the toughest stains. You can actually see the dirt flow away in the solution. So you don't have to break your back scrubbing. And all this by using the same amount of powder as that of Surf. New Surf EasyWash. It not only takes the stains off from your clothes, it takes the sweat out from the washing as well.

New Surf EasyWash. Washes cleanest ... with less scrubbing, less rinsing.



The offer, you can't resist *Dinshaw's*
ICE CREAM

GITTIKHADAN, GOREWADA ROAD, NAGPUR-440 013.
PHONE : 532052, 532541, 521708 TELEX : 0715-253 DFF IN

made in favor of Om Prakash Navani, a builder who had been entrusted the responsibility of developing the land subject to certain conditions laid down in the agreement signed with the then trustees in the late '70s, briefs Vachha. But since Navani was not able to comply with the terms of the agreement, the present trustees finally decided to terminate the agreement in 1991. Navani, reportedly, has not contested the revocation of the power of attorney.

Monetary and moral reasons made the trustees sever their connections with the builder. The original understanding was that the builder or his agent could construct a building in keeping with law, sell the flats and make profit. In return he was supposed to give a lumpsum consideration to the Trust. Over the years only a part of the principal amount was paid and consequently a large interest payment was in arrears too, alleges Vachha. By then, all the trustees who had entered into the original agreement had died. Those trustees were, according to the will of the founder Ms Koombaimai Thoothi, lineal descendants of the Thoothi family. Being gentlemen themselves, they carried out the transaction in good faith, placing implicit trust in the builder and his verbal assurances, and never suspecting foul play, says Vachha.

Certain FSI (floor space index) irregularities undertaken by the builder and his agent are said to have earned them a stop work notice in the early '80s. Subsequently the Anti Corruption Bureau initiated enquiries and later filed a case against the builders in 1990. Though the outer structure of the 28-storey building (this building has all duplex flats barring one penthouse and three-level

basement parking) had been ready since '82, for several years it remained unoccupied. By then, Navani had inducted his agent—Vikas Premises—as the sub-developer. Thereafter, a housing society was formed by the flat purchasers who were getting impatient to move into their premises.

As per the agreement the builder was permitted to transfer his power of attorney to his agent. So the bringing in of Vikas Premises was valid. But the society's claims that the agent has transferred his rights to them, the Trust refuses to recognize, dismissing them as trespassers. Vachha understands that this must be a harrowing experience for the purchasers who after investing considerable amounts are placed in such a predicament. But he pleads helplessness. Further, since the agreement with the builder has already been terminated, and since the building has yet not received its completion/occupation certificate, the trustees believe it is illegal occupation on the part of those who have moved into their new premises. What was even more surprising was the builder's declaration, even prior to the Trust terminating the agreement with the builder, that he and the sub-developer had dissociated themselves. Builder Navani was earlier implicated in the Om Chambers FSI scandal where the Bombay High Court and the Supreme Court upheld the demolition of the two top storeys of the prestigious building at Kemps Corner, and passed grave strictures against the builders.

In their attempts to expedite entry into their flats, the members of the society filed two suits against the Trust which are pending in the city civil court. Seeking to prevent

their occupation, the trustees countered with two other suits: Seeing the society members' desperation and their attempts to complete the construction of the building, the trustees discontinued their water supply and shut the main gates. This provoked four society members to file the first suit that they are being prevented from ingress and egress. The Trust demanded in their counter suit that these four members should be evicted and other members should be prevented from taking possession of their respective flats.

Ad interim relief in connection with the first two suits was sought from the High Court during vacation time when the judge ruled that those who are already in possession of the flats may continue, but that no new member could move in pending the final judgement. A notice at the entrance, prominently displayed, sums up the position: "By order dated 24/5/94 in High Court AO 688/94 Messrs Vardhan Estates Pvt Ltd, Ashok Babulal Vardhan and other flats purchasers who have not entered into occupation are restrained from entering into use/occupation in Om Vikas Towers until use/occupation permission is issued by the Bombay Municipal Corporation in accordance with law. Illegal occupation will be prevented/dealt with in accordance with law."

To ensure that the court's orders were not flouted, the main gates were kept shut and a special security agency hired to guard the place. Trouble broke out on the premises on the morning of June 7, 1994 when one of the building residents reportedly tried to obstruct the closure of the gates by halting his car in the middle of the gate. The provoked security guards retaliated and in the commotion that ensued some people were injured and property damaged. In the volley of stick and stone throwing, one of the worshippers at the Agiary found her car damaged while another devotee who tried to get his vehicle away from the scene of action was hurt, we are informed.

Since Vachha was held accountable for this turmoil, he approached the court again, explaining that it was impossible to enforce the court order. Thereafter, perforce, the gate has been left open. But shortly, the trustees will exercise the option of shutting their gate. This was permissible if the second gate (that also opens onto the main Walkeshwar Road) was left open and an access pathway (levelled though not tarred) was provided to the residents already in possession, the court ruled.

Made helpless observers while the society sought to give the finishing touches to the building, the Agiary trustees brought

The sanctity of the well

One of the legends that is faithfully narrated to each successive generation of the Thoothi family, and which is narrated to us by Capt Burjor Vachha, managing trustee of the Thoothi Agiary Trust, concerns the well when it was first dug up. Close to the seafront, it initially spewed salty water which the people then considered "*dalindar* (inauspicious)."

Undeterred, Ms Koombaimai Thoothi, the founder asked to be lowered into the well on a wooden platform. After praying there for three hours she was lifted out. As per her instructions no one could touch the well until she gave the clearance. The next morning she is supposed to have prayed there again before sunrise and thereafter the water is believed to have turned sweet, serving the Agiary needs for several de-

cades until it fell into disuse.

For nearly a century the well was neglected until a German scholar, Prof Siegfried Hermerding conveyed to them around five years ago, through Dr (Ms) Meher Master-Moos that the spirits guarding the well were unhappy with the decrepit condition of the well. In Bombay to study Zoroastrian institutions, Hermerding had not had an occasion to visit the Thoothi Agiary. On the eve of his departure, he reported that he was receiving vibrations from across the sea (he had put up at the Sea Green Hotel on Marine Drive). This prompted Master-Moos to bring him to the Thoothi premises where he indicated that the source of the vibrations was the well. Soon thereafter the trustees decided to get the well renovated at considerable effort.

MATRIMONIAL

A 34-year-old Zoroastrian graduate in Business Computer Information System, height 5'5", weight 130 lbs invites matrimonial alliance from pleasant-tempered Zoroastrian girl, willing to settle in USA. Please respond with latest photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/45-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

up another case (the third) in court seeking to restrain them. This led the society to file the fourth suit praying that they should be allowed to complete the building. The court's ruling on all four suits, heard together, is due in end August.

The Bombay Municipal Corporation refuses the trustees an inspection "of the development plans on our own property," laments Vachha. The BEST (Bombay Electric Supply and Transport Undertaking) has granted the society members electricity connections despite there being "no consent from the owners," he adds. The trustees have to fight "moneyed" people, they realize. They also feel that the FSI scam on this property may be larger than the much publicized Pratibha building episode (the skyscraper at Breach Candy where the Supreme Court decreed the demolition of the top eight storeys). The excess FSI which the builders had utilized on the Thoothi land they are now allegedly trying to set off. Presently there are a couple of tenants who run small shops on the periphery of the property that falls on the main road. To induce them to shift their location by a few feet, the builders have constructed another structure for them just

behind their present tenements, at a little distance to the front of the Agiary. Besides, the builders are reportedly attempting to deprive the trustees of other vacant land around the Agiary.

Taking advantage of the largesse of the erstwhile trustees, the builders in 1982 had allegedly cut off a corner portion of the Agiary building on the pretext of building a car park. The trustees however, seeing the deception, insisted on the demolished section being rebuilt. This section now accommodates their office, informs Vachha. Another bone of contention is the awning covering the pathway that connects the rear side of the Agiary to the well. While the builders maintain that this awning was not as per the original land layout, the trustees insist that it has always existed and in any case could in no way prevent the builders from adhering to the permissible FSI as the well has been standing there for nearly two centuries.

Connected with this well are certain unusual stories (see "The sanctity of the well," page 97) that make the current trustees feel obliged to preserve the sanctity of the place. There was a time, admits Vachha, when the well was in such a sad state of

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

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.

OZART



Makers of exclusive carved, period & colonial wooden & lacquered brass furniture of your choice & design as per your order & specifications.

We at Ozart believe that furniture is not just an object of use but a total reflection of your choice, taste & a lot more.

For information, please contact:
Sameer Oza, Ozart, Oza House,
B-3, D N Nagar, Versova Road, Andheri (W),
Bombay 400058. Tel: 6232796, 6234729

disrepair that the Municipality issued them a notice to get the well filled up. By then the trustees had decided to restore the well.

The first two contractors who were summoned expressed their inability to undertake the job. The next contractor had finished replastering the 85-foot deep well when suddenly a foul smell was emitted from sewage water that had seeped into the well from damaged drains nearby. After that fault was rectified the water is now supposed to be potable though it has not been chemically tested.

Vachha sees all this as an act of providence. He also sees the same hand of God in the affairs of the second well on the premises. Ever since the society started to draw on it when the owners discontinued their water supply the well remains dry through the major part of the year. The society members now depend on tankers for their supply.

Many devotees have considerable faith in the sacred Agiary well while worshippers new to the place may not even realize its existence. In fact, those not familiar with this Agiary's workings have to be told that when the Agiary seems deserted, a bell may be rung to summon the priest on the premises who will then guide the Zoroas-

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, 79456 Fax: (22) 8363253

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

With best compliments of

**JMM ASSOCIATES
and
JMM IMPEX**

Sole Buying Agents & Exporters of
Readymade Garments in India for

MODE-IMPORT VAN CLEEF B.V., HOLLAND
GEBR.WINKLER, WEST GERMANY
GEBR.WINKLER (WIHONG) LTD, HONG KONG

Empire House, 3rd Floor
414, S. B. Marg
Lower Parel
Bombay 400013

Phone: 4929835, 4928911, 4950308
Fax: (91) 22-4937153 Telex: 011-75499 JMMA IN
Cable: ROOFTOP, BOMBAY

N Davar & Co

Painting Contractors
Interior Decorators

2, Commerce Centre
Tardeo, Bombay 400034
Tel: 4944856, 4943210

trian to the sanctum sanctorum. The attendance at this Agiary swells during the muktad days and on its anniversary (*roj Ardibehst mah* Ava). While on an average 20-30 muktad tables are laid out each year with 80-100 vases, according to the estimate of the panthaky of the Agiary Ervad Kersasp Gonda, this year will see a decline, for the Agiary is being renovated and the columns in the front portico are being restructured. The area set aside for the muktad prayers and other ceremonies is the hall adjoining the sanctum where through the portraits hung on the wall one can get an introduction to the founder who had named the Agiary after her late husband Sorabji, and her descendants.

Since Koombaimai had no children surviving her, she had bequeathed her assets to her sister's daughters Avanbai and Kookiai. The latter, married to Pestonji Kanga, had no issue. Avanbai had married Edulji Vachha and so the line of descent comes via the Vachhas, we get a glimpse into the family tree.

The property that the present trustees are left to handle is but a fraction of the original Thoothi land holding which extended over a sizable expanse of

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

With Best Compliments From



SEALOL HINDUSTAN LTD

(An associate of EG & G SEALOL INC. USA)
Manufacturers of MECHANICAL SEALS
& STERN TUBE SEALS



**INTERVALVE (INDIA)
Private Limited**

(In collaboration with INTERVALVE B.V. OF HOLLAND)
Manufacturers of BUTTERFLY & CHECK VALVES

**EL-O-MATIC[®] (India)
Private Limited**

(In collaboration with EL-O-MATIC B.V. OF HOLLAND)
Manufacturers of PNEUMATIC ACTUATORS

Registered office & Factory

Survey No 212/2, Poona Sholapur Road, Hadapsar, Pune 411028

Marketing Headquarters

Noble Chambers, 5th Floor, S. A. Brelvi Road, Bombay 400001

Branches at:

Baroda, Bangalore, Calcutta, New Delhi, Hyderabad,
Madras, Surat, Visakhapatnam and New Panvel



Sale of Bungalow at Sanjan

- Built up area of 10,000 sq ft (approximately)
- With 4½ acres of land
- One storeyed structure with terrace
- Six bedrooms with attached toilets
- Chikoo and date trees around the bungalow
- A well on the plot, exclusively for the occupants
- Situated on the main road
- Next to the famous Parsi Pillar
- 3½ hours drive from Bombay

For further details contact:

PRARON, 25, Unique House, 1st floor, S. A. Brelvi Road, Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel no: (022) - 2661196, 2662449

Walkeshwar Road and included the estate which is presently the Raj Bhavan property, the official residence of the Governor of Maharashtra. These lands were sold in the 1800s at a very nominal rate of ½ paise per yard to the British in appreciation of which Queen Victoria sent the Thoothi family a letter of thanks, a document preserved by the family to this day. Gradually other portions of the surrounding land overlooking the sea were also sold.

Devotees of yore may remember the picturesque setting of the Thoothi Agiary in earlier times, directly overlooking the sea. Today one has to strain to catch a glimpse of the sea through the swaying branches of a tree. The rest of the sea view is blocked by Om Vikas Towers. As if that is not bad enough, the builders are now said to be coveting the vacant land around the Agiary too. Vachha however hopes that the land could be used for festivities and celebrations by community members. Determined to see this unfortunate episode "carried to its logical conclusion," Vachha is even willing to go up to the Supreme Court if necessary. He is convinced: "Eventually truth will dawn and the builders' illegalities surface... The Agiary will continue to stand. What can come down is only the building."

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

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 Vallabhadas 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



*With best
compliments
from*

NARIMAN NALLASETH Pvt Ltd

PLUMBING
ENGINEERS
&
CONSULTANTS

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



RITUAL HONOR

continued from page 86

Born in Secunderabad where his father had been appointed panthaky of the Vicaji Meherji Daremeher, Turel lost his father at the age of two and his mother when he was eight. His education at the M. F. Cama Madressa in Andheri equipped him for a lifetime of service as a mobed that began when he was but 16. Married to his cousin Tehmina Turel (of the Turel branch that has served Surat's Goti Adarian for generations — see "A midnight tryst with divinity," *Parsiana*, August 1985), they have three daughters: Farida Tehemton Mistry in Washington DC, Dhun Noshir Anklesaria in Ahmedabad and Yasmin Kerfegar Cooper in Surat. (Unlike Jehangir, his brother Edul, chairman of the Bombay

Mercantile Co-operative Bank, chose a secular calling, as did Edul's four sons: neurosurgeon Keki, engineer Viraf, chartered accountant Sam and garments exporter Aspi.)

The higher liturgy has thus come naturally to Turel who says he's been very fond of prayers since his youth. This fondness he is now trying to inculcate in the younger mobeds of today and says he has inducted seven boys into the intricacies of the nirangdin ceremony (see "The nirangdin ceremony," page 106). In Udvada a nirangdin ceremony was performed recently after 10 years, according to Turel. In Navsari it has not been performed since the past 12 years, he notes during an interview with *Parsiana* on June 16, 1994.

Despite the preoccupation with cer-

Appreciative drapery

The shawl combined with *chanchia joras* (peaked slippers) was a sign of the upper gentry in the old days, informs Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal, High Priest of the H. B. Wadia Atash Bahram. Hence, to bestow a shawl was a signal honor. The Hindu pandits and musicians were generally presented a *shaal* (or *shaala*) as a measure of the community's respect. Hence it was one of the customs that the Zoroastrians probably adopted from the Hindus.

How far back the custom dates cannot exactly be placed but it is known that shawls were presented at the time of the installation of the Navsari Atash Bahram nearly 230 years ago and, as Kotwal reminds us, the worthies whose portraits adorn its walls are depicted with shawls draped around them.

The earliest known style of wearing the shawl seemed to have been over one shoulder only, says Kotwal. Thereafter the Poona dasturs and the forebears of Dastur Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa, High Priest of the Anjuman Atash Bahram, were known to wear it on one shoulder with the ends gathered diagonally across under the other arm — a style perhaps later emulated in the uniform of the colonial court staff. Currently all the High Priests drape it over both shoulders, the ends flowing down their full skirted white *jamo* (robe) — like the Christian bishops — after the shawl has been cut to measure and tailored to sit snugly on the individual shoulder.

What becomes of the innumerable shawls presented on special occasions? Ervad Jehangir Turel, a panthaky at Surat's Sheth D. N. Modi Atash Behram, who

received nearly 100 when he was felicitated for performing 160 nirangdin ceremonies and had received a fair number on earlier occasions, says he gifts most of them away. Kotwal as a High Priest on the other hand needs about seven to eight shawls a year to wear whenever he is dressed for ceremonial occasions and chooses to inaugurate a new one each Navroze though he too gifts away some, especially when he needs to honor any of his hosts overseas.

The best shawls are handwoven, woollen and Kashmiri in origin, according to Kotwal. The price range may extend from Rs 200 to 2,000 or more. D. N. Mulla and Sons, near the Wadia fire-temple, stock shawls as do the Kalbadevi traders where shopping for shawls is preferable if one is in the market for six or more, advises Kotwal. And, of course, there is the Kashmir Arts Emporium for finer pieces.

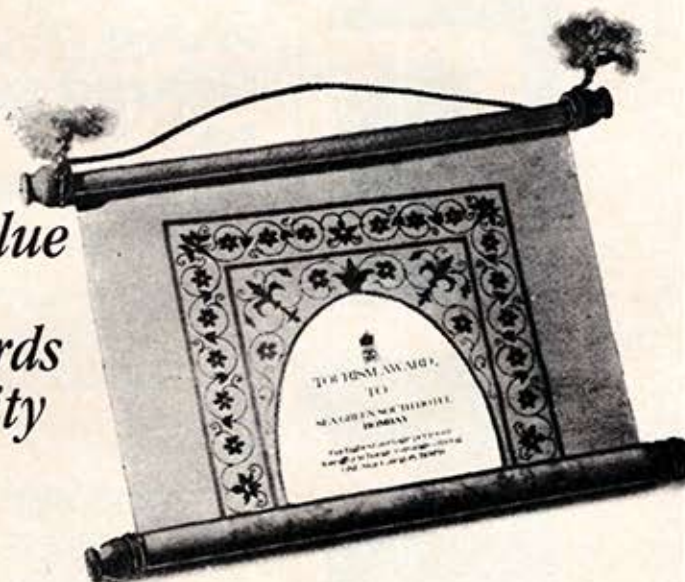
The high priests generally wear the off-white shawls with borders and end motifs though Turel was presented an occasional red shawl. Turel's wife Tehmina was also presented shawls by the Bombay and Surat punchayets and some others, but the presentation of shawls to women is uncommon — perhaps a bow to women's lib.

In Navsari, it is still the custom to present a shawl to the son of the deceased Dastur on the latter's uthamna, informs Kotwal. On the dawn of the next day, he is presented a *pichory* (sash). These signify the continuity of the Dastur's lineage and are presented on behalf of the community by the head of the Desai family.



SEA GREEN SOUTH HOTEL

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



Contact:
145 A Marine Drive, Bombay 400 020 INDIA Tel.: 221613 (4 lines)

emonies and rituals, Turel espouses the "need to be broadminded." Many a dadgah fire has been transported to Surat from the mofussil areas where the dwindling or defunct community was unable to maintain it. It is best that old fires find new homes where the community has resettled, he believes, ruing the "jar buddhi (thick headedness)" of certain people who have sought to stall plans which would have benefitted the community at large. All arrangements had been made to shift the fire from the Pestonji Aslaji Doongaji Agiary at Bharuch to the new agiary being constructed at Godrej Baug in Bombay when certain members of the Bharuch community obtained a stay order from the charity commissioner of Gujarat. It had been stated that hardly four or five devotees frequent the Bharuch agiary. There are four agiaries in Bharuch where the population was estimated at barely 250 individuals six years ago.

Essentially a conservative who is pained at intercommunity marriages, Turel notes that a Zoroastrian man whose wife belongs to another faith does frequent the Modi Atash Behram while a Parsi lady married to a non-Zoroastrian used to come with the permission of the trustees but has since

stopped due to community pressure. Recently there was a "big tofan (storm) in Surat" over SPP trustee and president of the Modi Atash Behram Davar Kavasji Modi's daughter coming to the Atash

*It is best that
old fires find new
homes where the
community has
resettled*

Behram after her marriage to a non-Zoroastrian. Some of the Modi Atash Behram mobeds were said to have initially joined the signature campaign against her coming and it is believed that Turel played a quiet role in getting them to withdraw their support, though Turel himself declined to be quoted on the subject.

Turel, who had been honored by the SPP when he completed 100 nirangdins in 1988, has performed ceremonies in most towns of India and been honored by the local anjumans as well as those abroad, notably in Chicago. A high point of Turel's

life was a trip to Iran when he was able to perform a jashan at the foot of Mount Demavand.

Life, according to him, has its ups and downs for the community no less than the individual. His faith decrees that a *rainidar* (savior) will come and the community will reverse its current decline in India. He is also "100 percent confident" that Zoroastrianism will continue to grow in the West...

The nirangdin ceremony

The nirangdin ceremony, extending to 18 days of prayer and ritual purity, is a conglomerate of several shorter ceremonies. The elaborate ritual consecrates the taro or bulls' urine whose use is mandatory in other Zoroastrian ceremonies.

The nirangdin is normally commissioned in honor of a deceased family member. It is said that a living Zoroastrian has it performed on his own behalf only if he is doubtful of his successors doing so after his death.

The ceremony begins with two mobeds performing an *ijashne* [or *yasna*, a long ceremony which involves the recitation of 72 *has* (chapters) of the *Yasna* accompanied by rituals involving much symbolization] and giving two other mobeds the *baresnum* (the most elaborate of the



We're Geared-up to serve you.

Manufacturers of:

- 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.



CPEC LIMITED

1, Industrial Estate,
Lalbaug, Bombay-400 012.
Telephones: 4137353, 4137431,
4130349, 4128387, 4121591
Telefax: 91-22-4130937
Telex: 11-76050 CPEC IN

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



*Navroze Mubarak
and Best Wishes
From*

**RAYOMAND F.
WORKINGBOXWALLA**

Buying and Selling
Old Chinese Garas
Zari Borders,
Swiss Borders,
Chinese Porcelain
and All Antique
Items

Contact:
**Rayomand F.
Workingboxwalla**
6, P. C. Shroff Bldg
Gamadia Clny
Ground Floor
Tardeo
Bombay 400007

Tel: 4950936



purificatory rites, necessary before the performance of all higher liturgy. It is administered in a desolate place or in a specific ritual precinct which is walled-in but open to the sky), informs Ervad Jehangir Turel, panthaky of Surat's, Sheth D. N. Modi Atash Behram. Unlike ordinary bareshnums, these mobeds must pass the entire nine nights in "vigil, watch and prayer (because) if they have any nocturnal pollution during any of these nights, they have to repeat the bareshnum," writes J. J. Modi in *The Religious Ceremonies and Customs of the Parsees*.

"On the 11th day one of the two priests takes an early bath and puts on a new set of clothes," continues Modi. "Then, performing his padyab-kusti (short prayer, washing of exposed parts of the body followed by kusti proper), he says his morning prayers. Then he performs the khub ceremony (the recital of the whole *Yasna* accompanied by its ritual). On the second day, i.e. on the 12th day from the beginning, the second priest performs the khub ceremony. His colleague, who has performed the khub ceremony on the first day, gets him through that ceremony. Then, both the priests perform the gewra ceremony (the reciting of the *Yasna* with its ritual for six consecutive days). During

- * Sawn Timber
- * Doors & Windows
- * Kiln Seasoning
- * Chemical Preservative Treatment
- * Packing Cases & Pallets
- * Furniture Components

B. F. Wadia & Sons

142, Reay Road
Bombay 400010
Tel: 3721934, 3720235
Fax: 3758873
Tlx: 11-74571 BFW IN

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

**GAZDAR
Private Limited**

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

When you want to reach
the right target audience
rely on experience



50 years in outdoor publicity have earned us an enviable reputation in the field with maximum number of hoarding sites in the country. What ever be your product, what ever the audience, we can plan and execute a successful outdoor campaign.

Whether you want hoardings, klosks, neon signs, balloons and exhibition jobs, we can ensure superb production as realistic as your original design. Come, give a touch of professionalism to your outdoor advertising.

For further details contact

SELVEL

ADVERTISING PVT. LTD.

710, Meghdoot, 94, Nehru Place, New Delhi - 110019
Phone : 643-1853, 643-1369. Telex : 031-71308.
Gram : 'SYNSEL'. Fax : 91-011-6463776

Regd. Office : "SELVEL HOUSE" 101B, Diamond
Harbour Road, Calcutta - 700 027
Phone : 79-7075, 79-9492 79-6795,
79-9734. Telex : 021-8107.
Fax : 033-795365.

Branches : Jalandhar City, Lucknow, Kanpur,
Jaipur, Guwahati, Patna, Cuttack

Associated Offices at Bombay, Madras, Bangalore



Mrs Khushnuma Perseus Banaji (née Khushnuma Fali Makhania of Ahmedabad) M.A., has been



awarded a PhD by the Gujarat University for her thesis on "A comparative study of the adjustment and achievement level of the physically handicapped and normal adolescents."

Advertisement

MATRIMONIAL

Parsi boy, 28 years, Design Engineer (Marlager), well-settled in California, USA invites correspondence from well-groomed, intelligent Parsi girls. Write with recent photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/38-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Parents invite alliance from smart, good-natured, educated girls for their 33-year-old son, intelligent, broad-minded, earning well. Please write with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/43-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

CHOCOPHILE

*For the
chocolate addict in you.
Fine liqueur chocolates
Tempting truffles
with foreign liqueurs
rum or nuts.
Great for gifts*

Call
3637981, 3646120

these six days, the priest whose turn it is to keep the gewra, has to pass the night in vigil, as said above. Again, he is to take his meals after reciting the great baj and not the ordinary baj, or prayer of grace. On the completion of the sixth gewra, both the priests perform the baj ceremony and each partakes of the *darun* (flat, unleavened round bread made of wheat flour and clarified butter) consecrated by his colleague. This intercommunion, or partaking of the sacred bread consecrated by one another, is spoken of as 'being *hamkalam*' i.e. 'being one or united (*ham*) in their words (*kalam*) of prayer.' Then they purify the utensils to collect the urine of the bulls for consecration. They make *pav*, i.e. ceremonially pure, two large water pots — one larger than the other — two small water pots, and a cup that would cover the large water pot. All these pots are metallic.

"By this time, a white bull known as the *varasio* is brought into the temple where the ceremony is to be performed. The *Vendidad* refers to an uncastrated bull but does not speak of its being a white one...

"The two priests after being *hamkalam* as said above, and after making the utensils *pav* or religiously pure, go with one of the small metallic pots before the sacred bull

With Best Compliments From

NAOZER B. BALDAWALA

BUILDTECH INDIA

Structural and Civil Repairs, Restoration, Renovation,
Rehabilitation, Waterproofing, Guniting, Plastering and
Painting Engineers and Contractors

Phone: 242684, 3642073, 3622631, 3612224



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.

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited for a Parsi solicitor, aged 37, working in a reputed solicitor's firm, having own accommodation, drawing handsome remuneration from a well-educated and domesticated Parsi girl. Please respond with latest photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/48-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

SITUATIONS VACANT

Sales and servicing executives/trainees required for printing press in Fort area. Write to:

The Advertiser (Sales)
GPO Box 892
Bombay 400001

MATRIMONIAL

Well established, well-to-do Parsi parents of only daughter, 23 years, 5'6" tall, slim, fair, good-looking, intelligent, intellectual, well-educated, sophisticated, loving, hardworking, with a good sense of humour, invite correspondence from boys up to 30 years, from a similar background and with similar qualities. Apply with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/44-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

and collect his urine in the pot. Even a few drops of his urine are necessary to begin the collection. Having collected his urine, they collect the urine from a number of other ordinary uncastrated bulls. The work of collecting the urine must be finished sometime before sunset. When it is so finished, one of the priests performs the paragna ceremony (which consecrates items to be offered in the yasna and other higher liturgical ceremonies) in the Uziran gah i.e. in the afternoon period of the day. Then the vendidad ceremony is performed at midnight, commencing at a little after 12 o'clock."

During the ceremony the priests keep opening and watching the contents of the two vessels of water and nirang and 100 Ashems and 200 Yathas are recited, informs Turel. During the last nine yathas nine flintstones are thrown in. Along with the liquids, the bottles, cloth to cover their mouths, *sutur* (string) to tie the cloth — everything that is necessary for the preservation of the nirang is consecrated at the same time, says Turel.

The ceremony today costs Rs 30,000 to perform, according to a 28-page booklet titled *The Nirangdin* recently published by Marzban Giara (available from him at Dhunmai Building, 667 Lady Jehangir

FIRDOS & S. CAMBATT A 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



We help Nature keep her true colours.

As reputed manufacturers of vital chemical products, we've been in the forefront of promoting safety and environment protection.

Our commitment to preserve the environment, improve safety and enhance the health and welfare of our employees and the surrounding community manifests itself in every facet of our operations - right from our choice of technology to process selection and engineering design.

Effluent treatment plants at both our factories render liquid wastes harmless. Sophisticated pollution abatement equipment keep emissions within tolerance limits.

Our R&D wing develops products that are environment friendly,

searches for ways to recycle waste and constantly evaluates the effectiveness of our own pollution prevention and control efforts.

We've designed education programmes to inform, train and encourage our employees to actively participate in achieving safety and environmental protection goals; safety inspections and safety audits to assure continuous control; and, onsite and offsite disaster control plans to aid effective response to a wide range of emergencies.

It's all part of our integrated effort to keep our operations safe and harmless.

And to ensure that we help Nature keep her true colours.

Colour-Chem

A Subsidiary of Hoechst AG

Hoechst

HTA 2886

Jumble Quiz

This Jumble quiz has been reprinted from the April 1993 newsletter of the Borivli and Suburban Zoroastrian Association.

Hidden in the maze are the names of 15 Parsi girls. One name has been indicated. Can you find the rest? You may look horizontally or diagonally, upward or downward, forward or backward.

Locate the names of Benaifer, Dhun, Dilnaaz, Dilshad, Farida, Firuzee, Havovi, Jasmine, Khushnam, Lily, Monaz, Navaz, Rashna and Shireen.

A	T	B	E	H	R	O	Z	E	A	T	H
T	O	E	Z	A	A	N	L	I	D	O	A
I	N	N	J	U	R	U	I	T	A	E	V
L	Y	A	P	A	A	H	L	R	S	U	O
L	F	I	T	O	S	D	Y	O	H	E	V
R	I	F	T	A	H	M	E	D	I	E	I
A	R	E	P	Z	N	O	I	I	R	Z	K
T	U	R	F	I	A	L	E	N	E	R	Z
C	Z	A	Q	P	S	A	L	L	E	O	A
D	E	R	U	H	Z	A	V	A	N	N	N
R	E	M	A	N	H	S	U	H	K	N	O
P	A	D	I	R	A	F	S	O	N	Y	M

Road, Dadar, Bombay 400014). The late Dastur Khurshed Dabu considered the bull's urine as but the conductor of the energy that the priests endow it with through their manthravani or prayer recitation. "If electricity passes through a wire, the wire is not called electricity. Just as the wire is a conductor or medium, so also the *taro-abe-zar* (bull's urine) is only a medium. The strength or force put in it by the Zoroastrian religious ceremony is called nirang," noted Dabu in "The meaning of nirang," a lecture he gave in 1944 that has been reproduced in *The Nirangdin*. "Why use taro in nirangdin and why not use milk or oil? One can pose another question to the question: Why use only a copper wire to conduct electricity and why not gold?" further notes Dabu.

Giara, who has reprinted excerpts from J. J. Modi as well as Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal and James Boyd's *A Guide to the Zoroastrian Religion*, has also included a report from Dastur (Dr) Sohrab Kutar of London originally published in *Parsiana* (May 1969). Kutar had had two samples of nirang examined by a British pathologist in London. It was stated that the samples — six months and six years old respectively — bred no microorganisms of any kind in contrast to the control sample of ordinary urine.

With Best Compliments From

**Mrs Dina Dara Sukhia
and family**

And

Victory Theatre

2429 Gen Thimayya Road
Camp, Pune 411001

SHARE OUR CONCERN

The Concern India Foundation is a non-profit, public charitable trust. We support development-oriented organisations that work with disadvantaged populations — children, women, rural adolescents and youth, the disabled...

The organisations Concern India supports bring about change in the areas of education, health, prevention of disability, community development and the environment.

Concern India raises and distributes funds to these organisations. We also assist in securing material resources and provide technical expertise in fund raising, training, communications, financial management and government relations.

Our philosophy is simple: we believe that people have the power to change their own lives. Our goal is to enable the disadvantaged to recognise their problems and find solutions. We seek to make non-profit organisations independent and, ultimately, individuals self-reliant.

If you'd like to support us and share our concerns, contact us at:

Concern India Foundation

Ador House,

6, K. Dubash Marg

Bombay 400001

Tel: 2855487, 2029707, 2029708

Pizza Parlays

Sherree Desai

Pizza outlets introduced by cousins
Rashid and Navroze Bilimoria have proved
a favorite with Bombayites

Machinery, equipment and power, chefs and kitchen staff, scooters and delivery people, telephones and people to answer them, flour and dough, tomatoes, cheeses and of course licences... These were just some of the elements juggled around through the summer in Bombay last year, one facet coming under control only to have another getting out of hand, then some taking better shape and form and finally all falling into place, having come slowly but surely together as Smokin' Joe's Dial-a-Pizza.

Things have gone well since, and within just one year of operation, the second Smokin' Joe's outlet has opened in Bombay (the first is at Carmichael Road, the second in Colaba) with a third, this time in Bandra, slated to open later this year. Soon, Smokin' Joe's will make its advent in Pune, setting up shop not far from the Blue Diamond.

And taking this success very much in their stride are the two young men who started it all, second cousins Rashid and Navroze Bilimoria. Just sitting back quite relaxed and being able to talk fairly dispassionately about the tartness of tomatoes and the price of mushrooms must be quite a luxury for the Bilimorias, given that just about a year ago, it was "crisis, chaos and panic" that seemed to rule their lives. In the last stages before the trial run in July 1993, "we worked at least 18 hours every day," the memories are joint and vivid. While fine-tuning their product, setting and maintaining their quality standards, plus putting the logistics in place (never the easiest proposition in India), Navroze and Rashid

were also very clear that they were going to get the marketing angle right as well. There was press advertising, banners, FM radio spots and of course the well-remembered trial run. The marketing strategy also necessitated the selection of an unusual name for their enterprise -- Smokin' Joe's -- which they decided was the best among the options offered by their advertising agency Clarion Advertising Private Limited.

The trial run was by way of an opening

people who ordered that first time, continue to order on a regular basis."

And so do very many other people, not only on the phone at that. Eager pizza consumers soon arrived at the Carmichael Road outlet to pick up their 8- and 12-inchers. They could be living in the area, but also may well reside in the suburbs, as Rashid and Navroze have both found out in the course of conversation with their customers. This meant that seating at Smokin' Joe's would make business sense, and the Bilimorias were quick to recognize and respond to this fact the best they could. The Colaba outlet has seating for 12, and "we have a queue on weekends." In Pune, where space is not at the premium it is in Bombay, the Smokin' Joe's outlet will seat 30 people, and offer "related items, such as garlic bread, salads and desserts," says Rashid.

The demand for vegetarian pizzas at Carmichael Road is "about two-thirds," reckons Navroze, whereas at Colaba, "it's more like 50-50." Colaba also has far more lunch orders from offices, with some companies like Citibank and Lintas featuring regularly on the delivery list. There are a few regular office orders at Carmichael Road as well, plus a standing order from the American School every Thursday; the majority of the demand coming from individuals and families.

Asked about the most popular item in the Smokin' Joe's pizza selection, Rashid is unequivocal. "For the non-vegetarians, it's the Barbecued Chicken (priced at Rs 120 for a 12-incher), for vegetarians, the



Bilimoria cousins: Navroze (left) with Rashid at their Colaba outlet

offer of a free pizza to people who were invited to order on a particular day, and that was the day that everything seemed to go wrong at Smokin' Joe's. The phone rang itself off the hook, orders poured in, pizzas did not emerge from the ovens fast enough, the delivery people all seemed to have vanished... Yet even that stressful day worked out well, for as Rashid points out, "We did a survey somewhere along the line and found that as many as 70 percent of the

**SOMETIMES, A REVOLUTION
TAKES ONLY 1/20TH OF A SECOND.**



A unique fusion of technology and style: Rs. 5750. (Inclusive of all levies.)

Introducing the Titan Chronograph.

Titan presents India's first quartz analog chronograph. A never-before fusion of style and technology in a watch that's accurate down to the last 1/20th of a second. So you can measure, for example, the precise time an individual driver takes to finish each lap in a grand prix. Or exactly how long it takes him to complete the entire circuit.

This precision is achieved through an amazing mechanism that boasts of 2 independent movements and 23 moving parts. Twice as many as in an ordinary watch. Technology which is sealed in a stainless steel body and a toughened mineral glass shield. The Titan Chronograph. A miracle of design you will most definitely appreciate. In 1/20th of a second. Flat.

THE
TITAN
CHRONOGRAPH

Get fresh with me

NEW

Promise
TOOTHPASTE

Mixed Veg (costing Rs95 for a 12-incher)," he states, adding that his personal favorite in case we want to know is All American (Rs 160 for a 12-incher), which comes with pepperoni, capsicum and extra cheese.

Pizzas at Smokin' Joe's come in several varieties. Among the 12-inchers, the eight vegetarian options include California (sundried tomatoes, walnuts, capers and spring onions) for Rs 120 and Woodcutter's Pizza with spinach, onions, mushrooms and basil for Rs 100. In the non-vegetarian selection (nine choices) are Meat Feast (sausage, salami and ham) for Rs 100, Mixed Seafood (prawn, squid and tuna, with basil) for Rs 140 and Hot 'n' Spicy Bolognese (mutton mince, onion, capsicum, green chillies and sesame seeds) for Rs 120, to name a few.

The research done on this front too has been good for, besides the standard pizza options available, there is also infinite scope for the creation of custom-made combinations and permutations, thanks to a separate list of toppings available. The basic Margherita, for example, that comes in its original vegetarian form with basil and tomatoes (and cheese of course) can be developed along with more vegetarian toppings, say capsicums, mushrooms and olives, or transformed into a non-vegetarian pizza with the addition of bacon or Thai-style beef, for example.

"Everything, the dough, the sauce, the toppings, are put together in-house," stresses Rashid, sitting back in his chair, "all from scratch, and with fresh ingredients that come in every day..." Quality is obviously all-important to him.

Among their most valued ingredients is cheese which was sourced with determination, melted and mixed, and tasted and examined till a mozzarella manufactured in the north was settled on. "Now there are new cheese suppliers coming to us every day," says Navroze with a laugh, "and the vegetable man rings every night for the order, though actually he knows what our requirements are." The "requirements" at Smokin' Joe's run to 50-75 kgs of tomatoes per day per outlet (more on Fridays and Saturdays, since larger quantities of sauce need to bubble away on the weekends), 20 kgs of capsicums and about 10 kgs of onions.

Like so many good ideas, Smokin' Joe's was born around a dining table. "I was back in Bombay (in December 1992)," Rashid recalls, "wondering whether it was time to start something of my own..." Then one afternoon, sitting around at home with friends, with nothing particularly interesting available for lunch, talk turned to food, take-outs and home deliveries.

Pizza obviously topped the discussion list after all those years of living in the West, and the beginnings of an idea took root, making the most of an available business opportunity. Serious thought and some preliminary research over the next couple of months developed into a feasibility study, and Rashid was soon thinking in terms of "a partner and a place." Navroze, cousin and



Popular pizzas from Smokin' Joe's awaiting delivery to customer Photos: Varghese Fernandez

old friend, and also "wanting to do something on my own" was sounded out. His simple response, "Give me a week," turned out to be just that, for on April 1 ("And this was no joke," interjects Rashid) Navroze was in, Bilimoria Foods and Beverages Private Limited started to take form and the search was on for an appropriate base from which to operate a home-delivery pizza business.

Here the Bilimoria cousins gave up on the conventional route "ads and brokers" in just two days. "We just took the car and drove around looking for likely locations... walked in and asked... made our offer." This roll-up-the-sleeves approach to the space hunt worked (and worked once again with the Colaba outlet) and with a place

finalized, and necessary finance borrowed from their respective families, the work really began.

Both 29 years old, Rashid and Navroze were at the same school, St Mary's in Bombay. Then came college and a parting of ways. Rashid went to the US, where he took a degree in philosophy, moving to the UK for training in accountancy. Navroze stayed closer home, going to college in Bombay, and getting familiar with the family business, first in "production and sales at Bharat Tiles" and then in "marketing at Grindwell Norton."

On the family front, Rashid and Navroze's paternal grandfathers (who were brothers) were in the army and police respectively. Things were rather different where their maternal grandfathers were concerned. In Rashid's case, this grandfather started Dorabjee's, the well-known Pune store as well as set up Racold, the home appliances' manufacturer. Navroze remembers his mother's father as "a true entrepreneur," establishing and expanding Bharat Tiles and Grindwell Norton.

Looking back, the Bilimorias reflect on what it means to be Zoroastrians when setting up a business. "One has the initial advantage," Rashid points out, "of Parsis having a reputation for being straight in their dealings... Of course one has to live up to this." He goes on to illustrate how young, would-be entrepreneurs in the community can build effectively on this basic plus, and also underlines the fact that networking among Parsi professionals, for legal advice for example, is simply done. "Parsis do help Parsis," the Bilimorias maintain, acknowledging among other things the advice and finance they have received from the Zoroastrian Bank, for instance. However, when it comes to the purchase of raw material or hiring of staff in their own case, the Bilimorias are professional rather than parochial, adopting a strictly "all things being equal" approach.

Today Rashid and Navroze's pizza business is geared to meet the demand of 250-300 pizzas per day per outlet, over the weekend is also taken well in stride. A team of about 20 people per outlet: a chef and 10 kitchen staff come together to fashion pizza bases, stir sauces, chop ingredients for toppings and of course grate cheese; six delivery staff (and scooters) whizz around balancing boxes and locating addresses; and four "order takers" answer calls, remember customer favorites, note addresses complete with landmarks... And so the pizzas keep coming and going, at Smokin' Joe's.



Parsi
boarding
houses
are an integral part
of the town's
ethos and
ambience



WHERE PILGRIMS PROGRESS *continued from page 66f*

the old order of common toilets still prevails. The meals here are substantial enough, but do not expect to be served fried *boi* fish every day, if at all. "You've got to realize our charges are almost half the regular hotel charges, so you cannot expect the same kind of facilities," says Jehangir Irani, manager of the Sodawaterwala Dharamshala. Pervaz Unwalla, manager of Dastur Baug, adds that the dharamshalas are frequented by budget conscious Parsis who can be as demanding as the Parsis who stay in the 'fancy' hotels, if not more.

Dastur Baug, located at the far end of the road that leads to the Iranshah, is housed in a building that was earlier a school. When the trustees realized that there were no more Parsi children in Udvada to fill its classrooms, they decided to convert it into a dharamshala

in 1987, so that it would still be of service to the community.

Indeed, dharamshalas have been serving the community long before the first hotel came to Udvada. The oldest is the N. M. Wadia Dharamshala, near the station, which was built by the Wadia family—they also built the building that now houses the Iranshah—about 100 years ago. About 25 years later the Sir J. J. Dharamshala was built. The Sodawaterwala Dharamshala goes back only about 30 years. Within the last 10 to 12 years all the three dharamshalas have had major face-lifts.

Today one of the big boons for Udvada hotels and dharamshalas is the STD telephone facility by which guests can confirm bookings. The earlier system through the post needed at least seven days lead time. Of course, there were those who wrote one day before their planned visit, reached

Above: Dastur Baug (left) and Wadia Dharamshala

Below: Majestic Hotel (left) and Sodawaterwala Dharamshala

Photos: Gustasp Irani

before their post cards did and fought with the managers if there was no room for them. "The post was a real headache. The telephones are a blessing," says one much harried hotel manager.

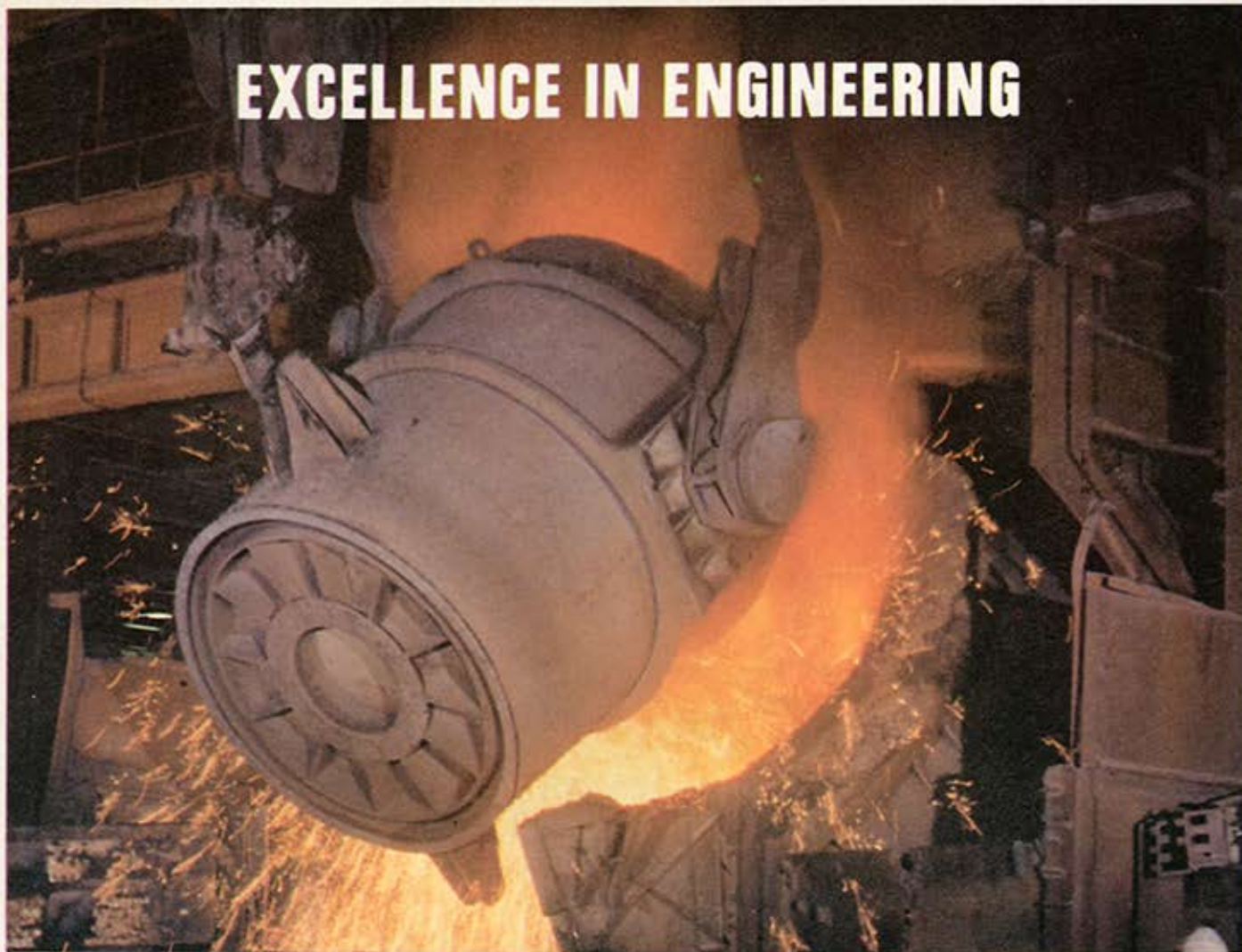
Yes, the old order gives way to the new. With it a few of the services that the hotels offered, like booking *maachi* ceremonies for their regular clients, are nudged into oblivion. But there is one thing that remains constant: as long as the holy fire burns in Udvada, there will be Zoroastrian pilgrims who will keep visiting it. And as long as they keep coming, they will need hotels and dharamshalas to stay in.

Garden*

VARELI
■ EURO-GEORGETTE ■

"You speak without words, you listen to my silence ... you fascinate me!"

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

Hotels at a Glance

Key to symbols ☆ Facility available ○ 24 hours running hot water

Hotel Name & Address	Tel Nos STD code 026-387	No of Rooms	Tariffs: per head per day (All meals, taxes and service charges included)		Breakfast only	Lunch only	Dinner only	Morning Tea	Room service	Hot water ○	Bathroom/Toilet facilities	Sheets	Towels	T V (in Room)	Laundry	Rickshaw hire	Conference facilities	Generator	Safe deposit locker	Pets acceptable
			Adults Rates	Children Rates																
Globe Hotel Udvada 396180	2087	12 Ordinary	Rs 200	3 - 7 years 50%	Rs 40	Rs 60	Rs 60	7 am	☆	9 - 11 am & 3.30 - 4.30 pm	both attached	pre-laid	on request	common		☆	up to 40	☆		☆
Noshwan Hotel Iranshah Road Udvada 396180	2165	10 Deluxe	Rs 230	-do-					☆	○ geyser	-do-	pre-laid	on request	common				☆		
		12 Ordinary	Rs 200	5 years - Navroze 50%	available	available	available	4 am		full day by bucket	bath attached	pre-laid	on request	common	ironing only	☆				
Paradise Hotel Udvada Beach Udvada 396180	2234	5 Deluxe	Rs 225	-do-						○ geyser	both attached	pre-laid	on request	common	ironing only					
		14	Rs 200	3 - 7 years 50%	Rs 35	Rs 65	Rs 135 (includes overnight stay)	3.30 am	☆	○ geyser	both attached	laid in front of guest	☆	Star TV & DD	24 hrs service	☆	up to 40		on request	☆
N M Wadia Dharamsala J Wadia Road Udvada Rly Sin Udvada 396185	2057	2 Ordinary	Rs 100 + Rs 10 lodging/lan	full rate	Rs 8 to 15	Rs 45	Rs 40	7.30 am		morning only Rs 4 per bucket	both common	pre-laid			ironing only					
		4 Special	-do-	-do-						-do-	bath attached	pre-laid								
Sir J J Dharamsala Udvada 396180	2196	3	Rs 100 + Rs 4 lodging/lan	3 - 10 years 50%	Rs 20	Rs 40	Rs 40	7 am		full day by bucket	bath attached	pre-laid		common	ironing only	☆				
		2	-do-	-do-							both common									
Sodawaterwala Dharamsala Udvada 396180	none	9	Rs 115	3 - 7 years Rs 10 less	Rs 35	Rs 55	Rs 55	7 am		7 - 10 am 3.30 - 4.30 pm	bath attached	laid in front of guest		common						
		10	Rs 125	full rate	available	available	available	7 am	☆	7 - 11 am & 3 - 4.30 pm	bath attached	pre-laid				☆				small dogs only
Dastur Baug Iranshah Road Udvada 396180	2205																			

"Life is so precious..."

Obstetrician, gynecologist, surgeon, Dr Nargesh Motashaw's international standing was highlighted as the first woman to host the World Congress of Gynecological Endoscopy

Arnavaz S. Mama

A large, old, plant-crowned vat in the crook of the passage indicates the direction to Dr (Ms) Nargesh Motashaw's consulting rooms at Delstar on Bombay's Hughes Road. The normally overcrowded waiting room is an extension of the doctor's personality: the muted lighting, tartan and teak decor, carved tables, porcelain and cut glass echo the lady's elegant, confident presence.

"Surgery is not like going to your hairdresser. There is morbidity and mortality to contend with. Our aim is to reduce these," notes the founder president of the International Federation of Gynecological Endoscopists who has been at its apex for the past nine years. In that capacity the obstetrician, who has presided over innumerable births in Bombay and introduced laparoscopy to India, hosted the World Congress of Gynecological Endoscopy in Bombay last December, the first woman to do so.

"In the last 20 years, in all disciplines of medicine and surgery (dealing with) joints, stomach, intestines, etc there have been attempts to perform procedures through minimally invasive surgery. It began with laparoscopic sterilization... and it revolutionized the diagnosis and treatment of all reproductive organ pathology. It started

with gynecology but it was not restricted to gynecology alone."

The lady who has been in charge of organizing training in endoscopic tech-

(FIGO) where she is to be presented a special certificate by the host organization. A fellow Indian who will receive a similar honor is Dr Roy Chowdhury of Calcutta, she informs us.

Motashaw's contributions to the propagation of endoscopic techniques in gynecology includes chapters on endoscopy, gynecology, female sterilization, etc in well over a dozen books plus articles in national and international journals. Until she retired as professor of obstetrics and gynecology at the King Edward Memorial (KEM) Hospital, she conducted week-long courses in laparoscopy twice a year when physicians from India, West Asia and Australia participated, as notes her paper "Organizing of training in developing countries," published by Parthenon (UK).

At the Bombay Congress last December nearly 700 surgeons from around the world congregated at the Taj Mahal Hotel to discuss the techniques, applications and ethics of laparoscopic surgery. The Congress included pre and post plenary workshops to enable local doctors to learn select skills from the experts attending the Congress.

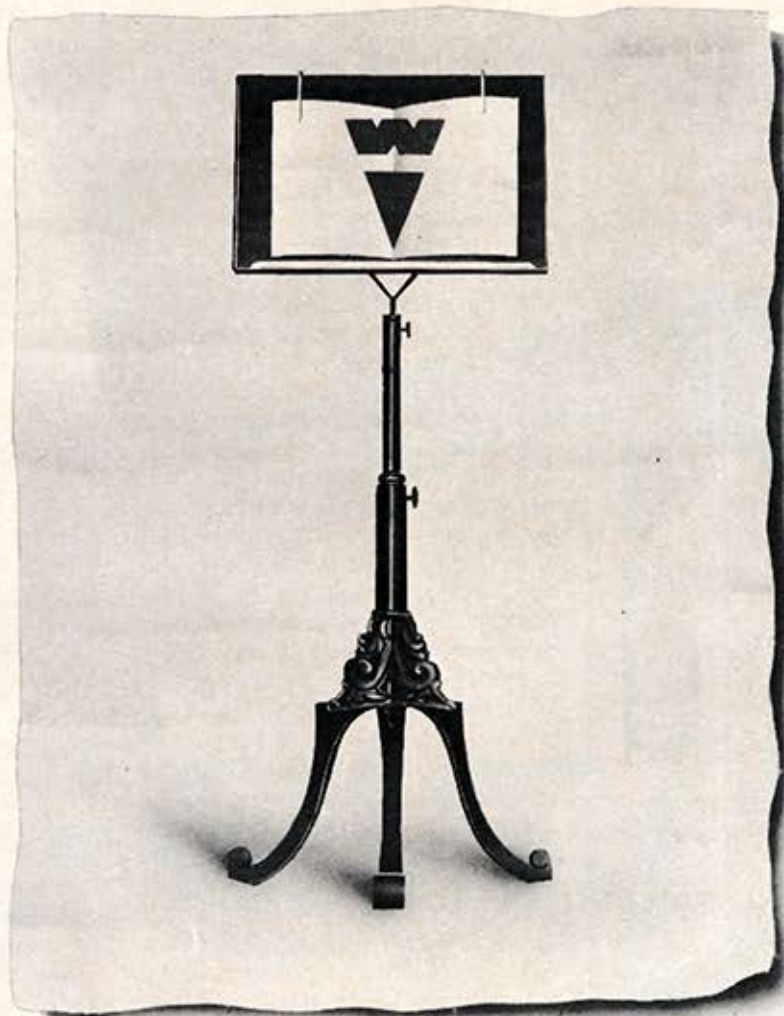
A frequent speaker at international con-



Nargesh (left) and Gool Motashaw: complementary activities

niques in developing countries will be presenting a paper on the subject at the XIV World Congress of Gynecology and Obstetrics being convened in Montreal in September 1994 by the Federation of International Gynecologists and Obstetricians

Wockhardt - A Symphony of Values



Wockhardt spells music to many a ear. Because its constant pursuit of excellence delivers increased value to one and all. To physicians and patients it presents pioneering solutions and world-class medicines. To Wockhardians it offers a work culture and atmosphere that stimulates them to realise their fullest potential. In plants whose assets are constantly enhanced by the latest technologies. And to shareowners, its bottom-line performance multiplies the value of their holdings. No wonder then, they all place Wockhardt centrestage. Encore. Encore.

WOCKHARDT
A diversified pharmaceutical group.



A Picture of Health

gresses, Motashaw has been sponsored by international agencies to attend meetings in Tunis, Seoul, Berlin, Mexico, Chicago, Florence, Sao Paulo, Rio de Janeiro, etc. She has lectured at the University of Leiden on female sterilization and been invited by China to operate, lecture and teach in five cities. Her video films on endoscopy are a part of the teaching material used in Paris and the Netherlands. Conzema, a distributor of hi-tech video films in Germany, distributes some of her films.

Her years of experience as consulting obstetrician and gynecologist at Bombay's most prestigious hospitals including the



Motashaw with a local surgeon and (below, center) with international colleagues in China

A layman's guide to modern surgery

"The word 'endoscopy' means visualization of the internal organs and structures," Dr Nargesh Motashaw explains the esoteric terms of modern medicine. "Visualization can be done per abdomen when the procedure is known as laparoscopy, coelioscopy, peritoneoscopy, pelviscopy, etc. If the procedure is done by the vaginal route, the term used is culdoscopy. When the cavity of the uterus is visualized, the term hysteroscopy is used. When the amniotic sac and the foetus are visualized, the terms amnioscopy and foetoscopy are used."

Laparoscopy entails the introduction of a slim, rod-like instrument — the endoscope — into the abdomen through a small hole. The endoscope is made of special glass prisms which transmit light. Light is conveyed through a sheath of glass fibres called the cable. There is no bulb, so that the abdominal contents don't get heated. This cold light permits the surgeon to view the cavities of the body. This was the first phase or diagnostic endoscopy. By the drilling of one or two additional holes and the use of special instruments, many surgical procedures such as sterilizations, the removal of ovarian cysts and other tumors, diseased appendix, gall bladder, etc are effected. The state of the art surgery includes a TV camera and monitor so that the goings-on are reflected, enabling all members of the surgical team including the assistant, the anesthesiologist and the nursing staff to participate. The procedure is videotaped for the benefit of students. And to ensure that the equipment functions as it should, a biotechnologist is a part of

the surgeon's entourage.

This concept of "minimally invasive surgery" is less painful and enables the patient to recover faster, informs Motashaw. The level of pain can be judged by the phenomenon of the patients being more conscious of the pain in their arm due to the administration of intravenous fluids and the discomfort in the throat due to the placing of the endotracheal tube than the sensations at the site of the surgery, as notes Motashaw. This results in a shorter hospital stay, often as a day patient, and consequent savings. Additionally, the quicker turn around, and therefore better utilization of facilities, proves more economical for the public health system as a whole.

"Though we say that morbidity and mortality from endoscopic procedures is low, there are still reported and anecdotal complications," concedes the surgeon, noting apologetically for the profession that there are "few surgeons honest enough to report on these complications in scientific journals." She further notes that the operator needs to be a good surgeon in traditional terms before he or she can be proficient in endoscopic surgery because "the complications are the same. He/she must be competent to deal with them." Ideally learning is best done in the laboratory and not the operation theater.

Among the outstanding endoscopic surgeons practising in Bombay Motashaw names Dr Tehemton Udawadia, Dr Adi Nazir and Dr Kayomal Balsara (general surgery), Dr Fardoon Soonavala (urology) and Dr Rusy Soonavala (gynecology).

Breach Candy and Hinduja hospitals apart from the B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital, has given Motashaw an insight into community characteristics and problems. She ascribes the depleting numbers of the Parsi community to late marriages, poverty and the housing shortage. The doctor is impatient with the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's new policy seeking to provide sustenance for the third child: "Let the Parsis have a first child!" she notes with some asperity, adding, "Each time I deliver a Parsi baby I plead for a second. But

they (the parents) say it is impossible!"

Motashaw says that over the course of the past 20 years she's been noticing two types of Parsis and the differentiation is not economic. Though both types may belong to the middle class, one is "intelligent, well-informed, clean; the other is extremely lazy, totally laissez-faire regarding family, children, surroundings..." And of course, a large number belong to the "grey zone" where motivation, education, environment make a difference...

"Our educational standards must be

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

JMM ENTERPRISES
JMME AGENCIES & EXPORTS
Private Limited

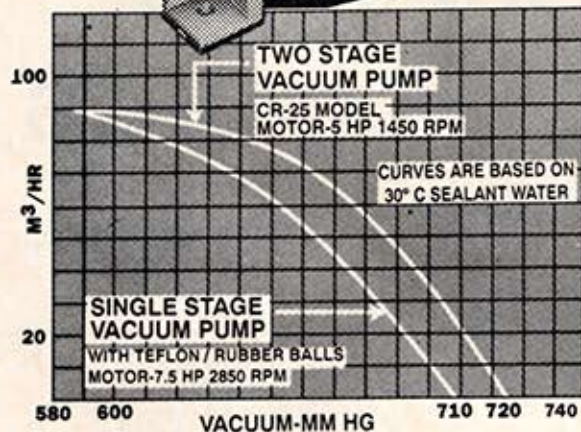
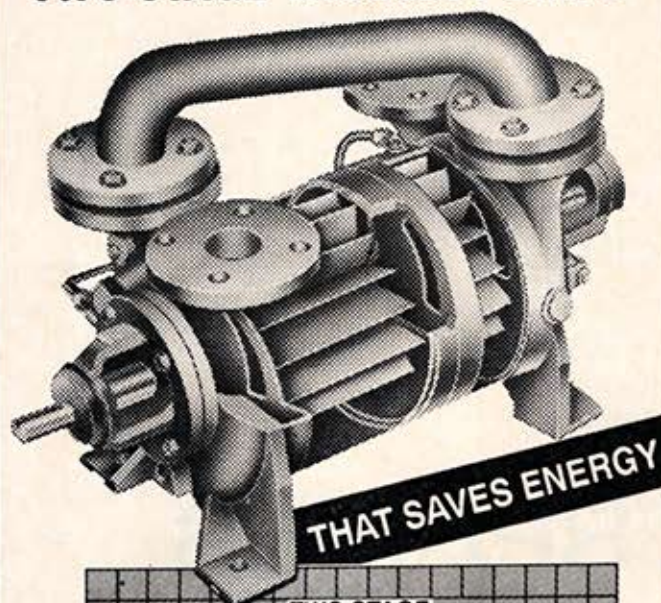
(Buyers Representatives
for all types of processed seafoods)

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

CROLL-REYNOLDS

TWO-STAGE VACUUM PUMPS



HIGHER VACUUM & CAPACITY
AT REDUCED POWER CONSUMPTION & RPM

Over 75 years of depth and Experience
Technically the most advanced of its type on the market

■ EFFICIENCIES THAT PAY OFF IN SAVINGS OF THOUSANDS OF RUPEES PER PUMP PER YEAR-

CR Pumps offer the first real improvements in Vacuum Pump technology in nearly 75 years. They have dramatically improved operating efficiencies and offer long-term savings of tens of thousands of Rupees in power costs. You not only save electricity to run the Pump, you can often downsize the motor to gain additional savings.



Patel Chambers, Near H.K. House,
Ashram Road, Ahmedabad-380 009, India.
Tele. No. : 408967, 408014, 408654
Fax : 0272-427394 Telex : 0121-6620

improved. Doctors' children and lawyers' children do well because of the opportunities available to them. Tuitions cost an unbelievable amount." Hence Motashaw suggests that the community institutions try and pick out bright kids at the sixth or seventh standard level, inculcate in them the advantages of knowledge. "We should subsidize tuition fees. In this world/country/city the competition is just ferocious. Let us hope that the opening up of the economy will generate more employment," she adds, fearful of what a rising unemployment rate in the country means in terms of antisocial activities.

Though the doctor describes herself as "conservative in mind, heart, and soul" she is in favor of accepting the children of Zoroastrian women married outside the community. "We should get out of our old, strangling practices. If the father has no objection to his children being (Zoroastrians, acceptance) will help; it will keep our community alive. But I am not sure how many will accept (the Zoroastrian faith)."

According to Motashaw, "Adoption is great," but Parsis want to adopt Parsi babies when there are no Parsi babies! "If the Germans can adopt Indian babies and the Swedes can adopt Indian babies, why can't the Parsis adopt them?" she asks. Though she admits that "as with many things in life, a couple may be unlucky," it is Motashaw's contention that the adoption of a child takes the pressure to conceive off the woman and may lead to conception. After all, in the old days, prior to the modern aids to fertility, adoption had been known to work that way, she notes. However, Motashaw advises adopting parents to have the infant put through basic tests including blood tests and a checkup by a pediatrician before finalizing the adoption.

With modern medicine being able to cure more diseases and even stop cancer if detected earlier, longevity is increasing, notes Motashaw. But "the younger generation is (by and large) a very selfish generation... They do not show the love and affection for parents as we did... Today families often stay together only because the eldest is holding the pursestrings. As soon as he dies, the family disintegrates." She recalls cases where the only child has been educated and nurtured to reach high career goals but has no room for the lonely parent in his own life. She believes that more and more old age homes will be needed where single old people can find physical nourishment and companionship because the old person left alone is loath to cook and look after himself or herself and deteriorates physically and mentally.

Motashaw and her sister Gool live together, with Gool keeping house for the busy doctor, doubling as secretary and, later in the evening, as receptionist. They had lost their mother to cancer while they were schooling at St Teresa's Convent in Santa Cruz where they lived. When they matriculated, their father Darashaw, an employee of the BB&CI Railway and "a very well-read man," took the girls to the principal of St Xavier's College, Bombay, for vocational guidance. The educationist merely suggested that one go into the arts stream and the other into science. Accordingly, Nergish completed her inter science and decided to follow her two elder brothers into medicine, while Gool graduated in arts. Russi, a general practitioner who settled in the UK, has now retired but works as a locum (substitute) for vacationing doctors in his area. Their brother Murzban a cardiologist, had succumbed to kidney failure at the age of 52, plunging the family in grief. Sam, settled in Germany, does consultancy work in pharmaceutical management. Gool's flair for interior designing, had ensured her a long tenure as a retainer of Goodlass Nerolac: large buyers of their paint received the benefit of her advice in color schemes, etc. "We all owe a great deal to the untiring efforts of our father,"

With Best Compliments From

UNIPHARMA GLASS PRIVATE LIMITED

AMPOULES  **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



With Best
Compliments
From

PENOSH

94-A, M. G. Road
Pune 411001

Tel: 645162-65

Fax: 645166

Telex: 145-7418



Nargesh Motashaw recalls with honest affection and a hint of nostalgia. "He was both mother and father to us. He educated us and set us on our way..."

"Life is so precious... You can never replace life in terms of money," says Motashaw who is anti euthanasia, anti abortion and anti capital punishment. Would she honor a "living will" made by a patient to decline medical treatment? "If there is brain death, yes. Not otherwise," she states flatly, citing a case she has read of a patient diagnosed with terminal malignancy of the ovary who outlived the doctor. She says she had personally witnessed a similar case when she was a very young gynecologist: operating on a poor Goan woman she had found an advanced malignancy. Her senior, Dr Kaikhasru Masani, opined that the woman would barely survive a few days. The incision was closed up and she was sent home but she survived and gradually recovered: immune bodies in the human system can fight the disease, notes Motashaw.

Neither does Motashaw advocate abortion as a family planning measure even though Japan and China have taken this route to successfully curtail their runaway populations. US presidents Ronald Reagan and George Bush were also anti abortion

and had cut off the US federal grants to the International Planned Parenthood Federation which permitted abortion, she recalls. When abortion became legal in India in 1972 "it was a very good act because there were lots of surreptitious abortions being performed by illtrained people (leading to) complications and death," she concedes. Now abortion, if performed within 20 weeks of conception, is authorized. After that it must be justified on medical grounds, she informs. The act helped many unmarried mothers and those with low economic conditions but "I was very reluctant to do abortions," confesses Motashaw. She says she shied away from the job until her senior doctor convinced her of the overall necessity to do so in the combined interest of the patient and the country. "You take quite a while to get used to it," she notes unhappily and seeks God's forgiveness each time she performs one. "The method of mid trimester abortion followed in the early 1970s was to remove a volume of the amniotic fluid and replace it with a chemical agent (even normal saline). Now we use injections to induce miniature labor upto five months."

The physical normalcy of the foetus can be established by ultrasound at a good center. "A good sonologist can detect many

**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



DUKE'S LEMONADE DUKE'S LEMONADE DUKE'S LEMONADE DUKE'S LEMONADE

TRADE

3 0 0 3 1

MATRIMONIAL

Bombay-based parents of a pretty, fair, good-natured, cheerful and educated girl, 25 years, at present studying in USA, invite correspondence from an educated, good-natured Parsi boy, around 28 years, well-settled preferably in USA. Please write in detail with photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/51-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

Training Camp in Athletics

The first ever Training Camp in Athletics is to be held in Khandala from October 23 to November 6, 1994. Planned by the organizing committee of the All Parsis Annual Athletic and Cycling Meet, the emphasis during the Camp will be on physical fitness and the basics of athletics.

Application forms will be available between September 4 to 30 from:

The Manager
Cusrow Baug Pavilion, Cusrow Baug
S. B. Road, Bombay 400005

Aspl P. Ustad
273, Agiary Chawl, Dr S. S. Rao Road
Lalbaug, Bombay 400012

physical defects in the spine, abdomen, kidney, bladder and heart," says Motashaw, the emphasis being on good as opposed to the run-of-the-mill. Amniocentesis — the tapping and testing of the amniotic fluid which surrounds the embryo (baby) in the womb which has been largely misused for determining the sex of the foetus — on the other hand was formulated to determine mental abnormalities like the Down's syndrome. If the mother is expecting her first child at the age of 35 or more then there is a one in 60 chance of a mongol child, says Motashaw, adding, "even the elderly male may be responsible for mongolism."

"Indian patients want their pound of flesh," insisting on the gynecologist's presence even for small discomforts, notes the gynec wryly. "There are times when we are much worse off than our patients, but we cannot cancel an operation because we have a bad backache!" she exclaims, though she is quick to exonerate her Parsi patients. "Whatever little you do for the Parsi patient she is very happy and always says, 'Thank you for coming.'" Community members are also prompt in payment, inevitably coming over to ask, "Doctor, *tamaru* bill *hajun nathi aayun* (we have not yet received your bill)." Many others have



(AMM)

Wishing You A Happy New Year

Federal

PROTECTION & INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Security/Manpower Consultants * Armed/Personal Body Guards * Cash/Cargo Escorts (with vehicle) * Kennel squad

Ahura Autos
Federal Trade Agencies

Spot payment offered for Indian/Imported cars

H. P. A. Enterprises

Enquire for booking of flats under construction at Udvada (Near Iranshah)

Cont:- *A & D. P. Hataria*

B. P. Consultancy Services

Main Street, Pune 411001, Tel No: 61996

250, 1/1 Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Bombay 400001, Tel No: 2611926, 2621281, 2617331

FOR EVERYTHING IN HOMOEOPATHY

Contact

THE ZOROASTRIAN HOMOEOPATHIC PHARMACY

600, Jagannath Shankerseth Road
Ground Floor, Bombay 400002

Time: 8.30 a.m. to 8.30 p.m. Hallo: 2013226
(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

Wanted Surgeon

Wanted for a large mission hospital in Trichur, Kerala, a versatile general surgeon to fill a vacancy in the very busy general surgical department. The candidate should be capable of handling either Paediatric, Transurethral, Thoracic or Microvascular Surgery besides General Surgery.

Apply to: The Head
Department of General Surgery
Jubilee Mission Hospital
Trichur 680005, Kerala

MATRIMONIAL

Correspondence invited for Parsi lady, 33 years, 5'6" tall, well-built, of Mediterranean complexion and wearing spectacles, from tall, well-built, qualified, well-placed businessmen/professionals, from cultured family background, up to around 39 years of age, from India and abroad. Please reply with detailed bio data, phone number and photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

to receive multiple reminders before they pay up," notes Motashaw though she qualifies "the Gujarati patient (as) a good paymaster."

"The surgeon is the chief of the team and therefore responsible for all activities in the operation theater. If the nurse leaves a swab behind, we're responsible." So Motashaw says she punctiliously goes through the litany of all instruments and swabs being counted before and after surgery. "Nonetheless, tragedies occur, most without your fault," she notes, relating a recent incident when the anesthetist realized that the patient was undergoing a heart attack on the table (and was whisked off for treatment in the hospital's intensive care unit) while Motashaw was washing up before starting the operation. "I was lucky," she notes fervently.

Characterizing the surgeon's vocation as "high tension work," Motashaw notes, "When any complication occurs, most surgeons and obstetricians are the greatest sufferers next to the patient's family. If you have a conscience, you can never get used to it. There is tremendous psychological suffering... Though we do compartmentalize our work, it does not mean that we do not feel. Patients think we have lost all feelings, but that is not true..."

Get good value for your money
Visit

RAILWAY HOTEL

Charni Road, Grant Road Junction, Bombay 400004

Telephone: 3821028

Home comforts, Moderate rates
A/C s Non-A/C rooms, Deluxe A/C rooms
Beer parlour

Centrally situated



With the compliments of

RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

Ralli House
21, D. S. Marg, Bombay 400001



Exotic Eggs

The Parsis' fondness for eggs will make them better appreciate the egg recipes suggested by the 19th century French novelist Alexandre Dumas

Bhicoo Manekshaw

I am the proud possessor of a copy of Alexandre Dumas' *Dictionary of Cuisine*, edited, abridged and translated by Louis Colman. The editor's introduction starts with these words, "Under the portrait of Alexandre Dumas in Katherine Bitting's great *Gastronomic Bibliography*, the caption reads: 'A noted author and gourmand who wrote novels and stories because he needed the revenue but produced his masterpiece, *Le Grand Dictionnaire de Cuisine*, because he loved the work.'"

"Elizabeth Robins Pennell, herself neither hermit nor ascetic, said of the *Grand Dictionnaire* that it was 'more exciting and thrilling than *The Count of Monte Cristo* or *The Three Musketeers*. The anchorite in the desert could not dip into it without hailing the first camel, abandoning his dates and dry bread, and making straight for the nearest town in search of the materials for the master's dishes.'"

Bibliophile Jacob Paul Lacroix (a con-

temporary of Dumas) commented knowledgeably: "Assuredly it is a great accomplishment to be a novelist, but it is no mediocre glory to be a cook. Novelist or cook, Dumas is a master, and the two vocations appear to go hand in hand or, rather, to be joined in one."

In the chapter on 'A Few Words to the Reader' Dumas says, "From birth man is instructed by his stomach to eat at least three times a day, to renew the strength he spends in labor or, as happens more often, in idleness. Eating is the great preoccupation of both primitive and civilized man. But the savage eats from need, the civilized man from desire."

Dumas goes on describing different types of appetites and gluttony. Then he describes the manner of eating by the Romans and Greeks (most of it borrowed from the Persians, I think!): "St Peter Damian relates with horror that the sister of Romain Archile, who had married one of the sons of Pietro Orseolo, Doge of Venice (Venice was definitely influenced by Persia), instead of eating with fingers used golden forks and spoons to lift food to her mouth — which he regards as an effect of insatiable luxury that must call down divine wrath upon her head and her husband's head. Both in fact died of the plague."

In the chapter, 'A Letter to Jules Janin,' Dumas talks about the outstanding French statesman Charles-Maurice Talleyrand and his great cuisinier, M Bouche-sèche. On the use of leftovers he quotes the great chef Careme: "Leftovers must be employed only with caution, ability and above all, silence!" But his best story is about Louis XVIII's dinners. "It was said that at Louis XVIII's dinners, even when he dined tête-

a-tête with M d'Avray, the king exhausted the mysteries of the most recherché luxury. Chops were not merely grilled. They were grilled between two other chops. The diner himself opened this marvellous censer, which poured forth its juices and most delicate perfumes. Ortolans stuffed with truffles were cooked in the stomachs of partridges, so that His Majesty sometimes hesitated for moments between the delicate bird and the perfumed vegetable."

"There was a tasting jury for the fruits that were to be served at the royal table, and M Petit-Radel, librarian of the institute, was peach taster. One day a gardener from Montreuil, having by artful grafts obtained the most beautiful variety of peaches, wished to offer them in homage to Louis XVIII. But first he had to pass the tasting jury. He presented himself, therefore, at the library of the institute, bearing a plate with four magnificent peaches, and asked for M Petit-Radel."

"He had some difficulty getting in. The librarian was engaged in some pressing work. The gardener insisted, asking only that he may be permitted to pass the plate, the peaches and his forearm through the door."

"At the sound of this operation, M Petit-Radel reopened his eyes which had closed beatifically over a Gothic manuscript. At the sight of the peaches, which seemed to advance on him of their own volition, he uttered a cry of joy, and cried out twice: 'Come in! Come in!'"

"The gardener announced the purpose of his visit, and the jubilation of a gastronome spread itself over the savant's face. Lounging in his armchair with legs crossed and hands joined, he prepared himself with a gentle adjustment, a sensual movement of the shoulders, for the important judgement required of him."

"The gardener asked for a silver knife. He picked up one of the peaches and cut it in quarters, put one on the point of the knife and gaily presented it to M Petit-Radel, saying, 'Taste the juice.'"

"Eyes closed, forehead impassive, full of the importance of his function, M Petit-Radel silently tasted the juice. Anxiety was already appearing in the gardener's eyes when, after two to three minutes, the judge's half opened. 'Good! Very good, my friend,' were the only words he could say. Immediately the second slice was offered, but





Traditional
Parsee Patra
Service



Grand
Banquet
Service



Conference
& Company
Parties



Picnics &
Social
Gatherings



Parties
Made to
Order



Punjabi &
Continental
Cuisine



Ice Carving
Fruit &
Flower
Display

Special Jain
Gujarati
Thali &
Seating
Service



Exclusive
Boat
Cruises



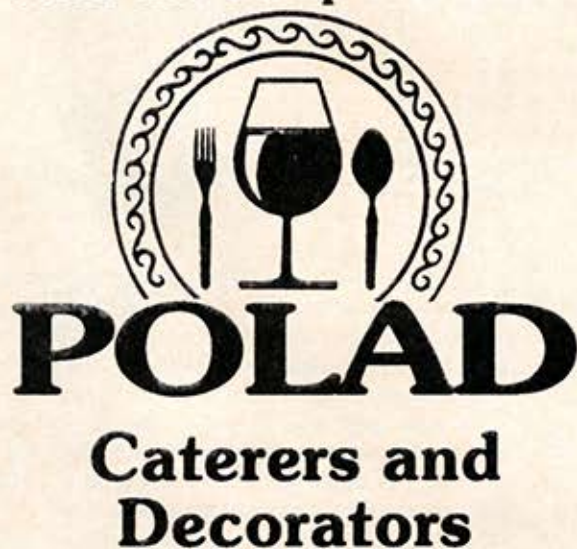
Grand
Buffet
Service



Grand
Wedding &
Thread
Ceremony
Feast

**Happy Pateti and Prosperous
New Year
to all our Parsi Patrons**

With the compliments of



Address

170/A, Maharukh Mansion, Grant Rd, Bombay 400007

or

K-4/23, M. Cama Park, Andheri (W), Bombay 400058

Phones: 6284171/6244254

**Arrangements for weddings, navjotes, parties and social
gatherings for clients in India and abroad**

the gardener said, with slightly more assurance: 'Taste the flesh!'

"Same silence, same serious mien of the learned gourmand. But this time the movements of his mouth were more evident, for he was chewing. Finally he nodded. 'Ah! Very good! Very good!' he said.

"Perhaps you think the superiority of the peach was established and everything was said? No. 'Taste the aroma!' said the gardener. The aroma was found worthy of the flesh and juice. Then the gardener, who had progressed little by little from a supplicant to a triumphant attitude, presented the last piece and with pride and satisfaction that he did not seek to hide, said: 'Now taste the whole!'

"It is superfluous to say that this last slice had the same success as its predecessors. M. Petit-Radel, his eyes moist with emotion, a smile on his lips, took the gardener's hands in his own as effusively as he would an artist's. 'Ah, my friend,' he said, 'it is perfect. Allow me to express my sincere compliments. Beginning tomorrow, your peaches will be served at the king's table.'"

When I read this story for the first time, I rushed to my husband and repeated it to him with moist eyes. When I finished he asked, "What is the point of the story?"

Will the editor of *Parsiana* forgive me for not writing on *bharkas* and *chapats* (common Parsi snacks)? Although an excellent light *bharko* made with *tari* (toddy) can stand up to any good brioche — and a *chapat*, a crepe? Perhaps not, but it has its own particular merit. But, after rereading this book, after many years, I am not in the mood to write on Parsi snacks. However, as we Parsis are fond of eggs in any form, here are some of Alexandre Dumas' recipes for cooking eggs with my suggestion for the quantities of some of the ingredients.

EGGS BECHAMEL

Bechamel sauce (4-5 tbsp or more)

Eggs (15 — hard boiled)

Butter

Nutmeg

Salt (to taste)

Croutons

Heat the bechamel sauce. Slice eggs into it. Do not boil but heat thoroughly. Finish with butter and nutmeg. Arrange on a platter and surround with croutons.

Bechamel Sauce

Milk (310 ml)

Black peppercorns (4-5)

Bay leaf (tej putta -- 1)

Onion (½ — peeled and sliced)

Mace (javantri — a blade)

Cream (1-2 tbsp)

Butter (30 g)

Flour (25 g)

Salt (to taste)

Pepper



Put peppercorns, bay leaf, onion and mace in a pan with milk and put on a slow fire and infuse for about 7-8 minutes. Cover, and keep aside. Melt butter in a pan, draw away from heat and add flour. Mix well, reheat and cook for a minute. Remove from heat and add 1/3 of milk. Mix well with a wooden spoon and add rest of milk. Put back on fire and bring to a boil, stirring all the while. Lower heat and simmer for 2-3 minutes. Adjust seasoning and use.

Note: This is a cordon bleu recipe taught in the days of Ms Rosemary Hume. I add a few slices (about 3-4) of carrots and a stalk of chopped celery to the milk, to give extra flavor. And a few mushroom stems whenever available.

I don't think that any Parsi is shocked with 15 eggs in the recipe. I was visiting my daughter Sherna and her husband Keki Wadia in Dar es Salaam. One evening I was told that we would be having a 'light' meal of soup and akoori. The akoori was made of nine eggs for the three of us! And that was not all — we had sausages and potatoes as well! What's more, we went through it without blinking an eyelid.

EGGS OVER EGGS

Eggs (10)

Capers (4-6)

Anchovies (2)

Scallions (spring onions)

Parsley

Butter

Pepper (coarse)

Nutmeg

Salt (to taste)

Take four eggs. Separate and set whites aside. Chop capers, anchovies, parsley and scallions and mix with yolks. Brush your

serving platter well with melted butter. Break six other eggs on it. Beat four egg whites. Add egg yolk mixture mixed with capers and anchovies and beat again, adding salt, pepper and nutmeg. Pour this over the eggs in the platter. Put in a very hot oven. The eggs should not harden. It takes only a few minutes to cook them.

Note: Use sardines instead of anchovies in India and chopped gherkins or pickled nastasium seeds for capers.

EGGS A LA PAYSANNE

Heavy cream (310 ml)

Eggs (8)

Pepper (coarse)

Salt (to taste)

Bring cream to a boil in a platter, break eggs into it, and season with salt and pepper. As they begin to cook, put under the broiler. Take care the yolks do not harden and serve immediately.

Note: I think it would be difficult to heat cream in a platter, so heat it in a pan and then pour it in a platter. If the cream is not pasteurized, add a pinch of bicarbonate of soda to prevent curdling.

EGGS WITH LIVER

Eggs (12)

Cream (1 tbsp)

Chicken liver (6-8 or duck liver 3-4)

Butter (60 g)

Scallions (spring onions, chopped — 1 tbsp)

Parsley (chopped — 1 tbsp)

Mushrooms (½ kg — sliced)

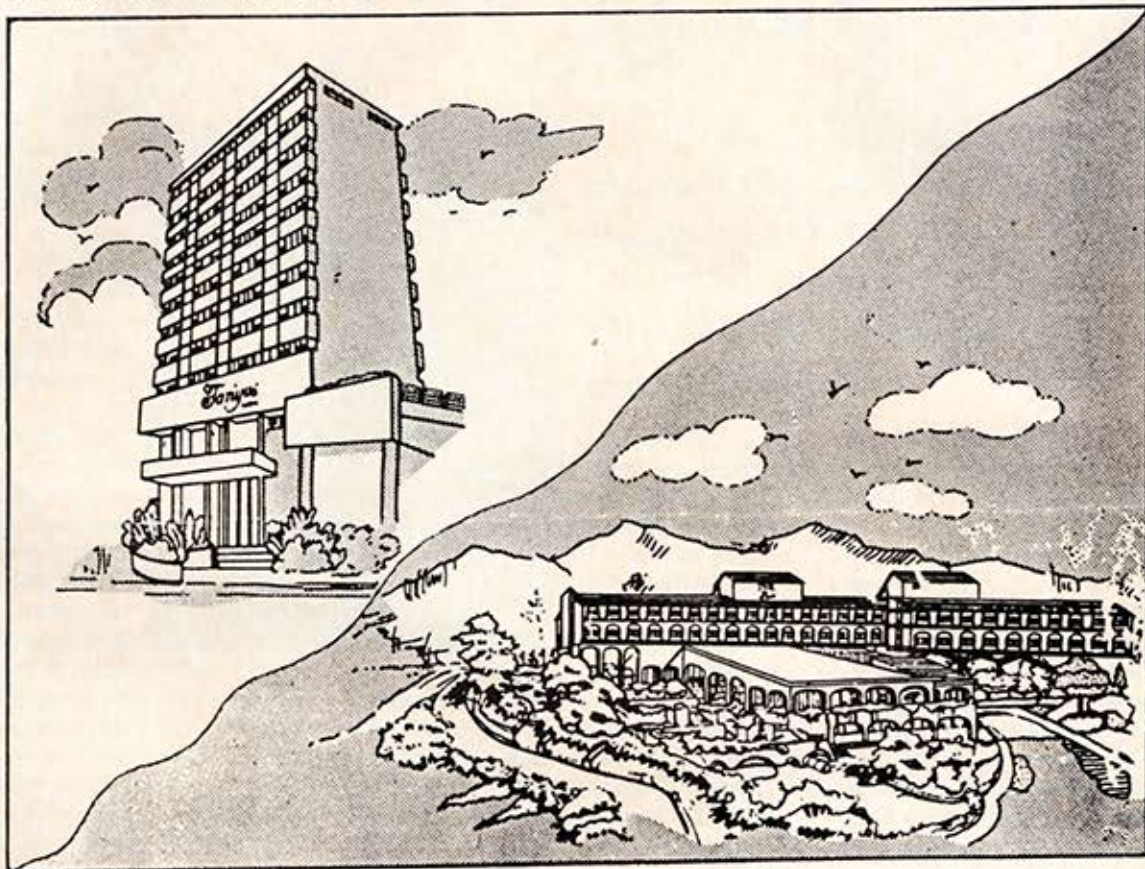
Fine spices (a combination of 10 parts white pepper, 6 parts pimento, 2 parts mace, 1 part each of nutmeg, cinnamon, cloves, bay leaves, sage, rosemary and marjoram)

Salt (to taste)

Wash and chop liver. Saute lightly in butter with parsley, scallions and mushrooms. Mix with eggs seasoned with salt, fine spices and cream and make an omelet from the mixture.

continued on page 176

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) 02114.

73852-5.

Fax: 72080.

PUNE:

Tel: 55716.

Fax: C/o 331504.

An instrument of change

As editor of The Bombay Samachar, Jehan Daruvala propagates religious liberalism and social accountability

Arnavaz S. Mama

"Anyone who wants to be a good journalist must be ready to grasp the nettle, no matter how difficult it is or what criticism it (attracts to oneself)," says *The Bombay Samachar* editor Jehan Daruvala.

"The Parsis are a magnificent stock. They excel in so many things. But there is double-think on certain subjects. A good journalist should have the courage to point it out and tear it to shreds, though he may be unpopular in his own lifetime," Daruvala has not only spelt out his credo in terms of the community, he has practised his professional philosophy with enough vehemence to have earned himself an anathematized niche from the zealously orthodox lobby.

To the Gujarati speaking world at large, however, Daruvala is editor extraordinary. Gujarat's Patrakar Foundation organized a euphoric felicitation function at the Taj Mahal Hotel in June 1993 to honor Daruvala's "32 years of service to the Gujarati community." Among those who gathered to honor the octogenarian editor were Gujarat cabinet minister Arun Gujarati, Nana Chudasama, Bombay Sheriff F. T. Khorakiwala and legal doyen Nani Palkhivala. Speakers praised his forthrightness, honesty and fearlessness. When he received an award from the World Zoroastrian Organization in 1991 the citation noted "Be it social reforms, fund raising or just creating awareness, *The Bombay Samachar* has been an instrument of social change."

"I was pitchforked as a retired insurance man into this thing," smiles Daruvala, referring to his winning innings as editor of *The*

Bombay Samachar. Retiring after 30 years in the LIC (Life Insurance Corporation), Daruvala says he had been on the lookout for a way "to remain mentally occupied." During his LIC tenure he had also freelanced for the *Jame-e-Jamshed*. Ms Jerbai Dhondy of *Jame* informed him ("call it fate?") that *The Samachar*'s editor Minoo Desai was critically ill. Mancherji Cama, who interviewed Daruvala, asked him what he thought of their Parsi columns — Parsi Prakash and Parsi Tari Arsi, then published in Gujarati. Daruvala says he told Cama that they would be more effective if they were more strongly worded. Daruvala sought "the freedom to write against weaknesses in the community set up" and declared that one of the two Parsi columns should be in English to cater to the Parsis' increasing interest in the language. Cama "readily agreed to those conditions," recalls Daruvala, and thus began "a free hand with three generations of the Camas." Herationalizes the lucky streak: "Perhaps because we're on the same wavelength. Regarding major problems of the Parsi community their views and my views coincide."

Describing *The Samachar* as an old monolith combined with new technology, Daruvala says that the most important thing about the oldest newspaper in Asia is not its age, but its resilience and readiness to accept new ideas and techniques. He estimates a considerable Parsi readership

in view of it being the only paper with news of community affairs on a daily basis. And because of its English columns there is foreign readership also, resulting, he says, in a regular feedback. Daruvala believes that the English section needs to be further developed so that "Zoroastrians in India and outside it can have some contact, some understanding."

Soft-spoken to a fault, Daruvala says,

"What I've done and said can be written on a revenue stamp." It is the achievements of *The Samachar* of which he is proud. "I can modestly claim that if the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) has come to India, *The Bombay Samachar* has played a considerable role in it. We've been supporting WZO activities. When there are counter movements, we express our views."

Expressing his vision of the Zoroastrian diaspora, Daruvala says, "Zoroastrian society in the West may be drifting away." What is

required is a harmonious understanding of the situation, the ability to learn anew and accept change. This is the view that *The Samachar* propagates and, "because of it we may not be popular with the orthodox section," notes Daruvala resignedly.

It was this very perception that led to *The Samachar*'s vociferous year-long crusade for the rights of Parsi women married to men of other communities. The controversy began when the Panchayat refused to consign the body of Ms Roxan Shah (née Nazir) to the dokhma because of her marriage to a Hindu businessman. Roxan, 25, who died in a highway accident, was said to have maintained her Zoroastrian faith despite her marriage under the Special Marriage Act. "We maintained that the laws of man and God demand that she should not be deprived of the religion of her birth," says Daruvala. All that forced the Bombay Parsi Panchayat (BPP) to pass a resolution enabling such cases to be accepted at the doongerwadi in future. Unfortunately, the sanction is hemmed in by certain provisions: It is operative only if the next of kin of the deceased files an affidavit to the effect that the dead lady remained a Zoroastrian to the end; it places the onus of arranging for the prayers on the

continued on page 140



Photo: Gustasp Iran

TATA HOUSING...

OUR BUILDING MATERIALS ARE
HONESTY, CARE & QUALITY

In keeping with their spirit of innovation and its continual pursuit of excellence TATA HOUSING has evolved a whole new concept in property development.



Proposed highrise residential building at Cumballa Hill, Bombay.



Luxurious villas at Nagaon, Near Alibag, Bombay.

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 & a group housing scheme at New Delhi.

In various stages of implementation are some key residential projects at Prabhadevi, Matunga, Mahim and a multi-storeyed residential tower at Cumballa Hill in Bombay and a large residential complex in Pune. Under consideration is a bungalow scheme in the scenic hills at Lonavla near Bombay.

Also underway is a luxurious villa scheme at Nagaon, near Alibag, Bombay.



Tata Housing Development Co. Ltd.

Eruchshaw Bldg., 249 D.N. Road, Bombay 400 001.
Tel: 2616761, 2616154 Fax: 2616155

A trainee journalist turned news analyst turned editor, Bachi Karkaria has proved herself to be an outstanding communicator



Bachi Karkaria: A-way with words

Roxanne Kavarana

"I had proved that I could write. So, I thought that maybe I should start proving that I could do something else, as well." Ms Bachi Karkaria, known for her distinctly lively and witty style of writing, cites one of the important reasons that led her to recently assume the editorship of *The Independent* and *The Metropolis on Saturday* from *The Times of India* (The TOI) stable. "Especially in a paper like *The Times*, you are not taken seriously if you are not handling a department," she continues.

At 48, the editorship has not come a day too soon. She has had a long innings in journalism — from a casual writer for Calcutta's *Junior Statesman* to the mega-stories under none other than the inimitable Khushwant Singh for *The Illustrated Weekly of India* to being the first woman assistant editor of the hidebound *The Statesman*, Calcutta, to steadily climbing the ladder in *The Times of India*, Bombay, to be where she is now.

It was a giant step for Karkaria when, not so long ago, she agreed to edit *The TOI's* Sunday Review. All these long years, she had determinedly pursued her first love — writing. "I had decided to continue writing and was not going to be lured by the designation of an editor," she says.

She was also influenced by Singh's experience as editor of *The Illustrated Weekly of India* in the magazine's heyday. "His writing skills were put too much into the background because of administrative reasons. In his case, there were people like Fatma Zakaria to take on administrative responsibility, whereas that sort of luxury was not going to be available for anyone else." So what brought about the change in Karkaria's mindset? The realization that after she had reached a certain stage in her profession, she had to start thinking in terms of taking on wider responsibility.

Karkaria was part of *The TOI's* training scheme in Bombay in 1969 and was quickly lapped up by *The Illustrated Weekly of India* where she went on to work as a sub-editor for 11 long years, writing cover stories on the changing social mores. It was an experience to cherish.

Reminisces Karkaria about her association with the man who took the *Weekly* to its greatest heights, Khushwant Singh: "For whatever was said about him being just a

'dirty old man,' I don't think any subsequent editor has given me the kind of training he did. He really was the one who taught me how to write, to shed cant and cliché, and also to do a lot of legwork."

This legwork stood her in great stead when Karkaria returned to her native Calcutta because of her husband's transfer (working with Godrej and Boyce, Jehangir was sent from Bombay to head the Calcutta branch), and joined *The Statesman* as its first woman assistant editor. From the easy familiarity of the *Weekly* to a place steeped in tradition and hierarchy needed "great temperamental adjustment" on Karkaria's part.

Slowly but surely, her writing brought forth "grudging respect," she now says. It was here that she carved a different niche for herself by writing on the civic problems of Calcutta, a place given up for dead by its own people. She was always willing to walk that extra mile for one more quote, unlike most assistant editors then who "believed that their designated place was

With best compliments of

**ADI B. SAGAR
& COMPANY**

ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS
ENGINEERS
AND CONTRACTORS

BOMBAY

in ivory towers and not out in the field."

She also developed interest in the city's metro railway. "It got to the point," laughs Karkaria, "where I was a sort of resident expert on the metro!" *The Statesman* was also the place where she started writing editorials and found that she had a knack for the humorous third edit. It was here that Karkaria's now-famous "puns" were born. Today, more than ever before, she is known for her wit and humor, with some even calling her the 'resident wit of *TOI*, Bombay.'

Not quite happy with her humor being branded as "punning," she quotes Sunanda Datta-Ray, former *Statesman* editor with whom she worked, who had this to say about her style: "It's not a play on words. It's an intelligent association of ideas."

Humor comes naturally to Karkaria. Sometimes, too naturally. As she writes in the introduction to *Your Flip Is Showing*, the recent collection of her articles published by UBS Publishers' Distributors Limited, "...once you've developed that kinky bent of mind, you might find the take-offs rising unbidden even as you plod through the backgrounders. Too often, unintended puns sneak into sentences meant to be absolutely straight. It's unnerving."

Her sense of humor directed at her own Parsi community has brought her a virtual fan club, especially in Dadar's Mancherji Joshi Parsi Colony where she now resides. For a time when she regularly wrote middles in *The Times of India*, the goings-on in the lives of Pesu Paowala and the Panchgani Panzer assumed real-life proportions.

Unfortunately, a change in the column configurations changed all that and "poor Pesu Paowala became extinct." As did the 'Just Parsis' column which she introduced when she became the consulting editor of *The Metropolis on Saturday*. "It was a column meant for Parsis because the paper's management felt that the community was being pushed into the background. This was free networking space for a people who had made this metropolis," explains Karkaria. She laments that "Parsis, who bend over backwards to show themselves as cosmopolitan, didn't respond to something they perceived as communal."

Late last year she received brickbats from her own community in the wake of J. R. D. Tata's funeral. Her interview with Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal, High Priest of the H. B. Wadia Atas Bahram, etc on JRD's status as a Zoroastrian led her to being bashed by the orthodox, a reaction which "quite amazed" her, especially since

it was just one more assignment at the request of the editor. "I don't see myself as a great rabble-rousing or cheering or flag-waving reformist. Or even a liberal for that matter. I was only doing my job," observes Karkaria about being needlessly dragged into the controversy.

Actually, few know that she toned down her whole copy, including Kotwal's quotes "because I knew I was writing for *The TOI*." Admits Karkaria, "I have a great deal of respect for Dasturji Kotwal but I was amazed by the virulence of his statements and remarks. I have always admired him as an extremely erudite person, as a scholar, and was quite astonished to see the extent of his prejudice."

After all this, who is Bachi Karkaria? If you thought she writes to live and lives to write, you've got it right. She has seen it all, literally from the cradle onwards. She is a third-generation journalist. Her grandfather Edulji Kanga started *Navroz*, a Gujarati paper way back in 1917, and her parents Jaloo and Naval Kanga "put it to bed with greater regularity than they did their three daughters." Karkaria writes in *Your Flip Is Showing*: "Our rambling house doubled as newsroom, editor's office and printing press; as children we ran up and down the wooden staircase with the galley-proofs."

In these hi-tech times, Karkaria need not worry about her son having to do this. Mother of two boys, Urvaksh (20) and Rishad (16), she admits that she is not too happy with Urvaksh's freelance forays into journalism. No, it is not a case of familiarity breeding contempt, just that there are so many options in creative careers. In Karkaria's words, "Three generations in journalism is enough; a fourth shows a striking lack of originality." For the moment, at least, Urvaksh is not listening. For herself, Karkaria says that if she'd had any real choice, she may have opted for teaching.

She has been approached by "more than one publisher" to write books on two topics close to her heart: the Parsis, and the Acquired Immuno-Deficiency Syndrome (AIDS) — about which she has already written extensively. The demands of journalism notwithstanding, Karkaria is already the author of *Dare To Dream*, a biography of the legendary hotelier M. S. Oberoi, besides *Your Flip Is Showing*, a sprinkling of pieces that she has published over the years in several newspapers and magazines. She has also co-authored a book on Mother Teresa and scripted a

musical revue, *Tribute to Busybee*.

For a long time Karkaria had to reconcile herself to people coming up to her and saying, "I am a Parsi and I don't work in Central Bank," because she happened to open her first piece which made an impact in the *Weekly* with: "There are two types of Parsis in Bombay. Those who work in Central Bank. And those who don't." Since then, Karkaria's potshots at the community are as familiar as every Sunday afternoon's dhansak.

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for a Manglik, 39-year-old Parsi boy. He is an automobile technician working in a well-known company and has his own accommodation. Overall income Rs 8,000. Horoscope required. Please write to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/33-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Zoroastrian parents invite matrimonial correspondence for daughter born in Iran in 1965, now settled in USA, from qualified boys willing to settle abroad. Apply giving personal details, family background and recent photographs to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/34-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for 1967 born, 175 cms tall Parsi boy, a Captain in the Army. Kindly write giving full particulars and photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/35-94)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

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 3739313

AN INSTRUMENT OF CHANGE

continued from page 134

bereaved family; and it demarcates a special dokhma for such use. The resolution was thus nullified to a large extent, "but the very fact that the resolution was passed shows that people, even the orthodox apex body, realised its necessity. The obnoxious provisions were brought in as they did not have the courage to face the orthodox..."

"Every Parsi sheds crocodile tears at the prospect of the depleting community" but avoids what needs to be done, says Daruvala. "Our leaders lack the courage to spell out the real thing. The doors of our universal religion can never be closed on any human being. A great religion, a universal religion, must be universally accepted and open out... Historic reasons had come in the way of accepting people. We can be selective about it. First begin by accepting the children of Parsi girls married to non-Parsis."

Another problem which the community faces is that "matters which are not religious are made to look religious," says Daruvala, citing as an example the disposal of the dead.

Recalling the community scene in 1975 when he took over the editorship of *The*

Samachar, Daruvala says, "People either didn't care about the BPP or accepted it." The awakening came thereafter when the community began to feel that they had a right to know what was happening. He

*The Federation
"should coordinate,
improve upon
the working
of punchayets
and anjumans"*

refers to the letters and articles of noted solicitor Rustom Gagrati pointing out that BPP accounts were in arrears by 10 years whereas the Surat Parsi Panchayat (SPP) had yearly audits. "We also went on hammering. (Eventually it) was accepted and things have improved." Similarly, about the allotment of flats, "Economic compulsions, shortage of housing, have driven people to realize that the fourth estate is the court of appeal. We began to expose the

treatment meted out to people by the functionaries of the Punchayet. The latest in the series is that (BPP president Jamshed) Guzder had to admit in his white paper that there is room for improvement. It is a sad commentary that an institution which has been working for 300 years now realizes the need for public relations..."

Sanatoria, old peoples' homes, the educational system, maternity homes have all come under *The Samachar's* scrutiny. Daruvala refers to a time when the Punchayet under president B. K. Bomanbehram was all set to dispose of the last "at a throwaway price. A timely exposure by us led to uproar and awakening and prevented it."

The religious awakening in the community, that has been particularly obvious in the past few years, Daruvala places in the context of the global phenomenon. In its positive aspects it leads to enlightenment and more people taking an interest in the religion. On the obverse, it leads to an increase in fanaticism as can be seen worldwide. Daruvala's value system places man's own volition at the apex: "You do good because it is your nature to do good; not for reward or punishment."

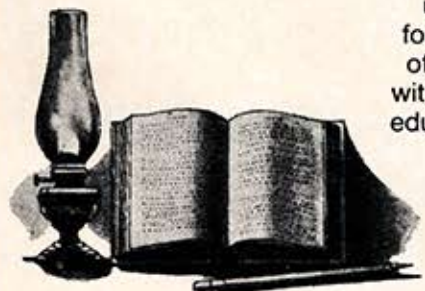
Daruvala considers the Federation of

WOMEN'S EDUCATION AND UPLIFTMENT

India's population - 860 million and still growing....

Education is the key to family planning - particularly female education which results in fewer children.
Fewer children means a better life for the coming generation.

Tatas' dedication to the cause of women's upliftment, development and self-fulfilment has found yet another expression in the establishment of The J.R.D. and Thelma J. Tata Trust - a Trust with the primary objectives of promoting the health, education, rehabilitation and upliftment of women in India and of children under their care.



TATA
ENTERPRISES

With the compliments of

**N. S. Guzder
& Co. Ltd.**

Neville House
Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038

**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**

Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India "more decorative than functional." He feels it "should coordinate, improve upon the working of punchayets and anjumans and guide them. But they have crippled themselves with the clause that they will not interfere in the internal affairs of members. If you don't put your legal, moral pressure, what good is it?... The real man was Shiavax Nargolwala — bold, forthright, honest. He didn't mince words. If we had five or six such persons, the community would have seen better days!"

One of a family of three sons and three daughters, Daruvala remembers his parents as simple people plying the liquor trade in Ahmedabad. He had witnessed Mahatma Gandhi's campaign against liquor, had seen with his own eyes what liquor did to families, and abjured drinking — and the trade — from the age of 33.

After his matriculation in Ahmedabad, Daruvala joined the St Xavier's College in Bombay, acquiring first class honors degrees in Persian and English at the graduation and master's levels. He had completed one term of law when his father died. It marked the end of his student years. His ambition had been to carve out

an academic career in Persian, but no suitable vacancies were forthcoming and Daruvala applied to the New India Assurance for a job. In 1943 he got an opportunity to go to Persia and during the three years there he joined the Kaikhosrovi College in Yazd, being present there for the inauguration of the new Atash Bahram by Arbab Guiv in 1944. "The Atash Bahram had been built three to four years ago but the orthodox believed that if the fire was shifted, there would be a calamity. After all, the first victims of all political crises in Iran are the Zoroastrians," Daruvala explains their misgivings.

Married to the daughter of an athonan family, Daruvala complimented his wife Hilla on being "more progressive than myself." Sadly, Hilla succumbed to her illness, and was cremated some time after this interview with *Parsiana*. Their only son, Rusi, is on the editorial board on an investors' magazine and their daughter, Dinaz, is an officer in the Gujarat Investment Corporation.

Recalling the high noon of Parsi journalism, Daruvala refers to Furdoonji Marzban, the founder of *The Samachar*, the Hirjibehdins of *Kaiser-e-Hind* and the

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 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: 711-471216, 471217, 471219

Factory: D1/2 MIDC Lote Parshuram, Tal. Khed, Pin 415 728, Dist. Ratnagiri Tel: (02356) 72018, 72252, 72254 (Lote), Tlx: 0190-7207 GCL IN

**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

STD Code: 02624
Phone: 3447

*Your satisfaction
is our motto*

**B. Jamshedji
Jivanji**

**Goldsmiths &
Manufacturing
Jewellers**

Estd 1901

**Opp Mumbadevi
Zaveri Bazar
Bombay 400002**

Phone: 3427464

Murzans of *Jam-e-Jamshed*—editors who were also proprietors. Earlier on there had been Behram Malbari. Sir Pheroza Shah Mehta used to write articles as did Sir Rustam Masani, Dinshaw Vatcha and, closer to our own time, Rustom Gagrati. Is there anyone in the wings being groomed to take over *The Samachar*'s editorship from the doughy but aging Daruvala?

"The mantle must descend on some Parsi editor... It is a very good, challenging job. I impress upon the youth to take to (journalism) but there are no new candidates... It is absolutely necessary that there's a second line everywhere but Parsi editors are difficult to find because it is a Gujarati paper; whoever comes must be conversant with Gujarati, be able to write and edit Gujarati articles. We have not been able to get that. However, we believe that time will throw up the right man for the job... this newspaper has a tryst with destiny, though that doesn't mean we have to leave everything to fate.

"The other difficulty is that Parsis by and large belong to the orthodox camp. Fatality overtakes the Parsi paper that doesn't keep up with changing times. You can't move ahead while looking back..."

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.**

ENTOUR

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



cosmos

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

OVER 100 TRAVEL OPTIONS JUST ONE CHOICE



Travel Corporation (India) Ltd.

Bombay: Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Bombay 400 021. Tel: 2021881/2027120. Fax: 2029424/2022179. Chembur: Tel: 5529634/5. Fax: 5520337. Pune: Tel: 628871/623539. Fax: 622050. 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

Cinematic compilation

Burjor K. Karanjia

Towards an Ideal Parsi Film Library 1933-1993 (Dedicated to James Darmesteter) Compiled by Eric Phalippou. Published in 1993 under the aegis of the Office of the Counsellor for Cultural, Scientific and Technical Co-operation, Embassy of France in India. Pp: 100. Price: not mentioned.

Parsis have been fortunate in that the religion they practise has roused the enlightened interest of several foreign scholars quite apart from several Parsis themselves. One of the most noteworthy was the late James Darmesteter of France. A great lover of India and its people, Darmesteter (1850-1895) has won just renown for several books on Zoroastrianism and related subjects. His major contribution, recognized as such, was the translation of the *Avesta* into both English and French.

Not content to be just a desk-bound scholar, Darmesteter travelled to the places where Zoroastrianism flourished and continued to be practised. He looked beyond a scholarly interpretation of the sacred texts for a primeval meaning, "a genuine folk tradition, in its origin and character." His equally significant contribution, as a result of his comparative method, was to have shown the importance of India in the genesis of Mazdaism, the ancient Iranian religion.

His passion for original research led Darmesteter to investigations in comparative religion. This, in turn, has inspired another French scholar, Eric Phalippou to pursue, through the medium of cinema, an original and thought-provoking investigation, dedicated to his mentor, and titled *Towards an Ideal Parsi Film Library, 1933-1993*. The period covered is from early cinema to present-day talkies, "without any pretension of being exhaustive."

Actually, Phalippou's survey is as exhaustive as it could possibly be, including early film pioneers like J. B. H. Wadia (*Lal-e Yaman*, 1933), Sohrab Modi (*Sikandar*, 1941), Aspi Irani (*Return of Toofan Mail*, 1942) as well as recent filmmakers like Vishram Bedekar (*Rustom Sohrab*, 1963), Jean Perrot's *Archeological Discoveries at Susa* (In *The Chronicles of France Series*, 1970), Hossayn Torabi (*Ferdowsi*, 1977), Ms Vijaya Mehta (*Pestonjee*, 1988), Pervaz Merwanji (*Percy*, 1989), Homi Sethna (*Happiness Unto Others*, 1983) and *The Voice of Zarathushtra*, 1992), Cyrus Bharucha and Sam Ormstein (*On Wings of Fire*, 1986).

Cinema provided the ideal medium to translate the endearing mythology surrounding Zoroastrianism into enchanting

pictures. In the process was formulated a law of equivalence between scientific intuition and creative imagination. As Phalippou puts it, "This law is that just like a camera, man is endowed with a spontaneous memory, called 'memory-habitus' which, going back to the light of conscienceness (sic) is projected in different languages, science as well as fiction. The distinction between styles was not there in the beginning. James Darmesteter, he who combined poetry and rigor, sensed it."

Phalippou was inspired by the historic coincidence of the earliest experimentation in motion picture making in Paris and in Bombay. On July 7, 1896, but a year after Darmesteter's death, Maurice Sestier, an assistant of the famous Lumiere brothers of Paris, showed in Bombay a film entitled *Arrival of Train at the Station of Ciotat*, winning the applause of the citizens. In the same year a well-known Parsi theater company, Elphinstone Company, exhibited a film called *A Grand Masonic Procession*, a procession of Parsis who



Sohrab Modi in *Sikandar*

Photo: Firoze Rangoonwalla

(Left) A scene from *On Wings of Fire*

Photo: Noshir Desai

were Freemasons. Thus, concludes Phalippou, "from the beginning of the cinematograph the looks crossed each other, Parsis (were) attracted by Paris and Paris attracted by Parsis."

No doubt the medium posed problems for early filmmakers, particularly Wadia and Modi. A clause in the then prevailing



**Vitta Mazda Limited
wish you a happy Navroze
and a share
in unlimited prosperity.**

(That's a firm commitment, as you'll soon find out.)



VITTA MAZDA
LIMITED

Administrative Office:
2, Girdhar Niwas, 15-17, S.B. Road,
Colaba, Bombay 400 005.
Tel: 235269/234948

Registered Office:
Park View, Lunsui Kui, Navsari 396 445.

everest/88/VML/2 R



(From left) Anupam Kher, Naseeruddin Shah and Shabana Azmi in *Pestonji*



code of the Bombay board of film censors laid down that reference to controversial politics should be avoided. But Wadia shooting *Manthan* at a time when communal riots were taking place in Bombay, believed that it was the high purpose of cinema to provide a soothing balm to communal passions. The film he was working on depicted an episode in the life of Vikram, which was also topical because the Vikram era was then being celebrated. But the Hindu Sabha took a contrary view that the release of the film at this particular time was sheer provocation. They argued that the presentation in the film of the king's "flighty side" would cause riots. Actually, they were wrong. *Manthan* and other Wadia films which touched upon communal and social problems (though in the nature of stunts), were welcomed by both Hindus and Muslims.

Modi who followed with *Sikandar* had to be doubly careful. If to Parsis, Sikandar was the hated conqueror who consigned the Avestan sacred texts to the flames at Persepolis, to Muslims he was the one crowned with the tiara of the God of Amman (331 BC), and who had retained the title of glory, *dhul-qarnayn* (bearer of the two horns), power and wisdom.

Modi met the challenge by compromising his own vision with the beliefs of his viewers, the Muslims, who largely outnumbered his own community. Phalippou traces in considerable detail how in spite of this constraint Modi provides "a subtle dose of Zoroastrian message" (presenting

the insignia of Fravashi in filigree fashion, referring to the conqueror as Alexander rather than Sikandar which would have disturbed the Muslims, and through the personality of the beautiful Roxana with whom Alexander falls in love) in a film which by definition is a Muslim social.

The Muslim influence on Parsi cinema was obvious enough. The shareholders of Wadia Movietone, for example, were all Parsis, but the company had a contract with a group from Lahore, the Empire Talkies distributors, who were responsible for showing their films in the northern provinces. The themes were aimed primarily at a Muslim clientele. The very first subject selected was the love story of Perviz and Parizad from the *Arabian Tales*. The hymns of virtue sung by Nadir and Fakir for the irascible king dominate the sound-track. The audience could not possibly have missed the implied master-disciple bond that united the young Firoze Dastur and Master Karim Khan in playback.



Kurush Deboo plays the title role in *Percy*

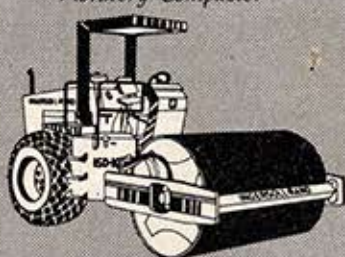
Pestonjee presents the two extreme tendencies of the old dominant Parsi class: the liberal bourgeoisie portrayed by the stereotype Pestonjee, who adopts a modern way of life, and the conservative bourgeoisie seen through the personage of his alter-ego, Pirojsha Pithawala. *Percy*, on the other hand, underlines through the personality of its hero certain characteristics of the Parsi commu-

nity that inspire praise or provoke criticism.

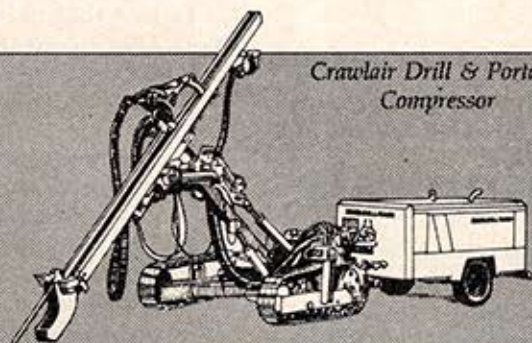
Regretting on one occasion that the songs of pagan Persia are lost to us, Darmesteter said, "There remains for us only the debris without any great charm, the famous *Gathas* of *Zend Avesta*, rhythmic sermons that are filled with irreproachable models and which offer all the poetic charm of a catechism." Phalippou shows how the images in the *Gathas* were translated into cinematographic language by Sethna in his *The Voice of Zarathushtra*. The two key characters of the *Gathas* are arthavan and drugvant, the one who assures justice and the one who is evil. Sethna drives home the point by a suggestive photo montage of Mother Teresa opposite Hitler. While over-simplistic, this does lead us directly to Zoroastrian ethics or, to put it more correctly, to the practical metaphysics of Zoroastrianism.

In pursuing Darmesteter's researches, Phalippou throws a brilliant new light on the films mentioned, which have become part of the legend of the cinema in India. From the pamphlet format and the fact that no price is indicated, one deduces that *Towards an Ideal Parsi Film Library, 1933-1993* is meant for private circulation only. This is a pity because the illuminating findings of Phalippou's research revive nostalgic memories of the early film pioneers, suggest new avenues of research, and should be of considerable interest to a

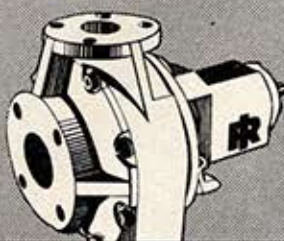
Vibratory Compactor



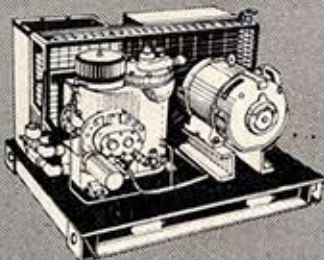
Crawler Drill & Portable Compressor



Chemical Process Pump



Rotary Air Compressor



Air and Gas Compressors

Chemical Process Pumps

Construction, Mining &
Waterwell Drilling Equipment

Aircraft Ground Support
Equipment



INGERSOLL-RAND

Ingersoll-Rand (India) Limited, Rhone-Poulenc House, S K Ahire Marg, P O Box No. 9138, Bombay 400 025. Tel: 4936765. Tlx: 011-71395. Fax: 022-4950516.

CONTRACT IR.132.94.



For Pure Diamonds

K. WADIA
JEWELLERS

324, Grant Road, Bombay 400007. Telephone 3099648 Fax 3073483
APPOINTED VALUERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

wider audience, students of Zoroastrianism as well as of cinema.

Deftly spinning tales

Burjor Karanjia

Miss Menon Did Not Believe in Magic And Other Stories by Dina Mehta. Published in 1994 by Rupa and Company, 7/16 Ansari Rd, Daryaganj, New Delhi 110002. Pp: 185. Price: Rs 60.

Fortunately, Ms Dina Mehta, unlike Miss Menon, does believe in magic. As her latest book proves, she is a competent practitioner of modern short story writing, whose magic often lies in that while a lot takes place below the surface, little actually happens. No more than a slice is offered, tantalizing the reader's appetite for the whole cake. And when, occasionally, Mehta surrenders to the writer's temptation to offer more, as she does in the story *Eye Witness* in the present collection, sadly she gives away less.

In an encounter that takes place in the story *The Fastidious Housewife* between the sprightly Shanti who writes in her spare time, and her rather obtuse publisher, Mehta herself gives away the secret of good short story writing:

"He was regarding her curiously. 'You haven't exploited all the dramatic possibilities latent in the story, have you? Why not?'"

"'Because,' said Shanti stiffly, 'in life they are not always exploited, they are only embedded in it.'"

"Come again?"

"What I mean is, it's a dramatic possibility that a young married man has a love affair with his pretty secretary, yes. But more likely than not, in most of the cases, it just does not happen.'"

Unlike the women who throng *Miss Menon Did Not Believe in Magic*, representing an interesting cross-section of type and class, the men tend to be somewhat heavy-footed and ham-handed, mouthing asides that are often irreverent and, worse, irrelevant. The women come alive, however, with their desires and aspirations, their concerns and cares which, happily, have little to do with fashionable feminism and even less, thank God, with sex.

Unlike in much hard-selling modern fiction, Mehta's women do not display a propensity to shed their clothes at the

slightest provocation, fulfilling the sexual fantasies of their chauvinistic male creators. They are women of flesh and blood, even with their clothes on. Normal women, though often caught up in abnormal situations.

Crafted with elegance and understanding, the stories display a felicity of expression ranging from the cold "her face closed neatly, like the door of a vault" to the outlandish, as when a socialite is described as appearing at functions "with so many jewels aglitter on her vast, untidy circumference that she looked like an airplane view of a city at night."

The stories appeal to a variety of tastes and moods. In *Marriages Are Made in Heaven*, the reluctant Malini, dead set against marriage, is nonetheless

swept off her feet by a most unusual young man who does not take her at her word. In *The Fastidious Housewife* Shanti does not allow the kitchen, her place of suffering, to subdue her creative urge. In *And No Birds Sing* silence epitomizes the heartbreak of 'the other woman,' with no boundary to her loneliness. And *The New Broom* fails to sweep the women's hostel clean, its twigs having gone awry.

Initiation Rites, coming closest to being a story about sex, is about a modern, educated and intelligent girl who, taking courage in both hands, surmounts "the dreadful infirmity" of being a prude. On the other hand, *The Christmas Party* is about Myrtle, jilted by a man for another woman, who goes to the couple's party to find that the marriage has not been a success. By a strange irony it is the couple's daughter who is in the position to redeem, not the marriage, but the friend who had been betrayed years ago.

That is the book's charm. You read one story and you are tempted to read the next one.

In spite of this reviewer's earlier statement regarding the pronounced pallor of men compared to the vital women populating the book, his favorite is *Men of Three Generations*. A sad, bitter-sweet story, feelingly penned, about a comely rustic girl who is used, in turn, by the grandfather, father and son of the same family that had adopted her. What sets this

piece of fiction apart from many stories similar in theme, is the treatment which gives the reader the feeling of treading on sacred ground.

Take the way this story ends. The son enters a dilapidated building he had seen his father visiting again and again. He mounts the creaking stairs, he opens the door that is not locked — and there sits the long coveted object of his secret desire on a cot. No longer young, but still voluptuous. Only the eyes have changed and become terribly knowledgeable. They narrow in recognition, there is tacit assent in

them as she cries: "So, the third generation of the family. Welcome!"

"She had kept the score and was facing me with my own effrontery. She could not know that I

was full of unmastered intimations, of judgements I had made in an enchanted boyhood world as I stared at her. Her skin and breasts were still marvellous despite the distortions of age, of indigence, and the bruises of her profession.

"I was not proud of myself, I was already crucified in spirit, but I knew exactly what I wanted as I took my first untutored steps towards her."



Mehta: gives the secret of good short story writing

Divine directives

Hormazdyar S. Dalal

Guru Prasad by Noshir Dabu. Published in 1994 by Band-e-Khuda, Secunderabad (Author's address: Parsi Sanatorium, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009). Pp: 6 + 117. Price: Rs 20 plus postage.

Noshir Dabu is known to Gujarati readers chiefly through his articles in the *Jam-e-Jamshed Weekly*. As the title suggests, the present publication is dedicated to the great master, Zarathushtra Spitman. The publisher wishes to remain behind the curtain. His identity has been kept secret under the assumed name of Band-e-Khuda, servant of God.



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

Sight is God's most precious gift to mankind and, like all precious things, needs constant care and protection. Let us at Baliwalla & Homi endeavour to give you the clearest possible vision with great care, professional skill and unmatched expertise. Baliwalla & Homi render a professional eye care service.

Baliwalla & Homi
Private Limited
OPTOMETRISTS
A Total involvement in eye care!

**God created it to see...
We see that it sees well!**

365, Dr. Dadabhai Naorji Road, Bombay-1. Tel.: 287 4916. • 614, J.S. Sheth Marg, Dholi Talao, Bombay-2 Tel.: 201 4906. • J.Mervanji St., Parel, Bombay-12. Tel.: 412 6051.

The book is divided into three sections: *Dharma-Dhara* deals with religious trends in 10 articles; *Parsi-ni-Arsi* (mirror of the Parsis) consists of seven articles reflecting present trends in the community; and in *Filsufina Fuvara* (fountains of philosophy) we are treated to his philosophy in the last five articles.

The book opens with a dissertation on the *Gathas*, the message of Zarathushtra and a description of the Prophet's era. Gujarati readers who wish to know the hidden meaning of the *Gathas* will surely be rewarded.

Dabu has attempted to explain the concept of Spenta Mainyu, leader of the good mind, and his lieutenants — the ameshaspentas and yazatas — and their place in God's creation. They are the brave soldiers who work unitedly round the clock to protect the devotees from Angre Mainyu, whose sole aim is to create chaos in the universe. Dabu has also explained the significance and importance of each of the 30 days of the Zoroastrian calendar.

The author deals with present day controversies between the reformist and the orthodox groups. He has explained the place of *adar* (fire) and *avan* (water) in a Zarthosti's life, the importance of the *sudreh* and *kusti*, the *athravans*, the noble custom of *dokhmenashini*, the scientific construction of *dokhmas* and the dignity of the religious ceremonies performed at the time of marriage, etc.

Zoroastrian worship of the five elements of nature, the significance of the fire-temples, and the prayers and ceremonies for the dead, have been discussed.

Ahunavar, Ashem Vohu and Yenghehatam are the three most potent prayers recommended to be said daily. They bring peace and *ashoi* in life, they provide strength to the devotees to face the daily stress and strain.

The thinker Dabu has aired his views on some Parsi habits, especially their love of laughter. But when to laugh? And at whose cost? The present trend of disrespectful behavior towards elders occupies his mind, along with questions of unemployment in the community, lack of unity, etc. Referring to the Zarthostis who were once industrious, adventurous, honest and bold, he regrets the absence of that spirit today.

Dabu gives tips for a happy married life and then expresses his views on mixed marriages and conversion, but in the end he desires his readers to think over them and act wisely. His method is to ask questions, then leave the readers to ponder over them dispassionately.

Self-reliance and self-help are essential

With Compliments
From

**GLOBE
THEATRES
Pvt Ltd**

Established
April 3, 1915

Pioneers of Show
Business in India for
the last 79 years

We rededicate
ourselves to the ideals
we have cherished and
practised all along --
namely to show
**NOTHING BUT
THE BEST**
to our ever increasing
number of Patrons

Controlling:

**REGAL
BOMBAY**

*
**CAPITOL
BOMBAY**

*
**GLOBE
CALCUTTA**

IN MEMORIAM



MR SORAB K. NICHOLSON
FOUNDER OF SELVEL
PIONEER IN OUTDOOR
ADVERTISING IN INDIA



OUR LATE DIRECTOR
PADMA BHUSHAN
GAURAV PURASKAR
AIR MARSHAL **MINOO M. ENGINEER**
PVSM, MVC, DFC



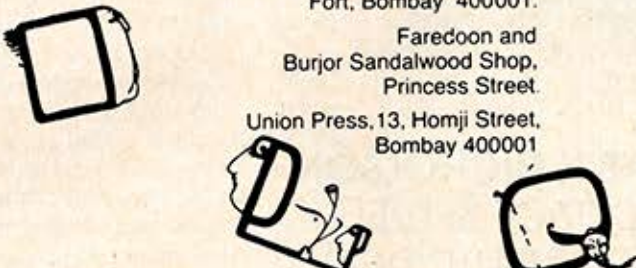
THE PARSIANA BOOK OF IRANIAN NAMES

The Iranian names of boys and girls along with their meanings which originally appeared in Parsiana have now been reprinted in an attractive 24-page booklet. The book, which is priced at Rs 25, is available on sale at :

Kaiser-E-Hind, 300 Perin Nariman Street, Behind Reserve Bank of India, Fort, Bombay 400001.

Fareedoon and Burjor Sandalwood Shop, Princess Street.

Union Press, 13, Homji Street, Bombay 400001



virtues, especially when the values of life are eroding. Those who doubt the holy scriptures lose their own confidence. In support of his statements, Dabu quotes the poet saint Kabir, and concludes that on this thorny journey of life, man has to walk alone with full confidence in the creator, despite the evil forces surrounding him.

Dabu firmly believes in the voice of one's conscience: it correctly indicates the right direction. He regrets that in the present circumstances of life, men have to suppress that voice. They act against it. Therefore, they cannot find the right direction and work against the interests of their fellow beings.

In the same philosophical vein, Dabu thinks of Bhagwan Ram, Ram Rajya, Ayodhya and Ram Mandir, and laments over the meaningless bloodshed in the name of religion. To avoid this in the future, Dabu suggests the construction of a Sarva Dharma Smarak, a common religious center where all men, irrespective of caste and creed, could pray. Dabu believes that one day, science and religion will unite to fulfil his dream.

We may or may not agree with Dabu's humane concept of such a center of universal brotherhood in the country. But we wish him well in his ideal.

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

*Wishing all Zoroastrians
Pateti and New Year Mubarak*

COOPER DESIGNERS

**INTERIOR DECORATORS AND
FURNITURE MANUFACTURERS**

Bombay 4150139

Pune 621817

Fine anthology

Homi Rogers

The Raymond Gentleman Collection of Short Stories 1994. Published in 1994 by Maneck Davar for Sterling Newspapers Ltd, 920 Tulsiani Chambers, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021. Pp 179. Price Rs 100.

With four of the 12 Indian authors in the first annual collection of short stories brought out by *Gentleman* being Parsis, the community's significant contribution to modern Indian fiction is there for all to see.

Short Stories 1994 is an anthology of English fiction written by a dozen Indian writers, all published by prestigious houses in the past two years. The authors were shortlisted by *Gentleman* and invited to send their original non-published works for the book. Much to the credit of the community, a third of the book presents some interesting work by Firdaus Kanga, Rohinton Mistry, Boman Desai and Ms Dina Mehta. Interestingly, barring the last, who is a senior editor at *Parsiana* and *Voyage*, the other three are expatriate males (with Kanga enjoying the best of two worlds as he flits between Bombay and London).

A truly representative collection of Indian writing, *Short Stories 1994* has a well-argued introduction by the book's editor, Ms Anuradha Mahindra. She puts forth the case that writing by Indians need not explain the history and culture of India, but "should offer readers an opportunity to enlarge their possibilities by watching human experience distilled in words." To this end, all the four works by Zoroastrian authors provide the reader with a new vision, and dazzle by the different approach and varied treatment of a range of experiences.

There is, for instance, an Indianness in Mehta's work. She writes feelingly of the anguish suffered by a woman who strays from her marriage and orthodox mores, to come to grips with reality in a chilling denouement set against the backdrop of our current history. On the other hand Mistry's *The Scream* is set in no historical period, or even place.

The paranoia of old age as tackled by Mistry is universal, and his technique of giving the protagonist no name or nationality is hence appropriate. The tale could be set anywhere, though the syntax and sing-song style in which the old man fulminates "in that caliginous room, verging on the hypogean" betray the fact that the author

has not yet got over the Parsi hangover of his Firozsha Baag days.

If Mistry tells his tale with wry humor, Desai, an architecture student turned creative writer, constructs a delightful tale laced with wit and guile. The story is woven around the hilarious episodes of Gottschalk (his namesake uncle), an American of British descent, who sets out to woo his beloved in the foothills of the Himalayas with the help of a tarantula (spider) and tarantella (a dance composition in rapid 6/8 time). It's a tale well told with a lot of word-play... and horse-play, as well.

Kanga's piece, a short six-page story, is a trifle disappointing, because of the predictability of its plot. *What I Found* is a thinly-disguised slice of Dickens' *Great Expectations*, with Kanga's aunt Dina (a mirror-image of Miss Havisham) denying herself the love of her Persian teacher and leaving behind in a locked room all the vestiges of the cultural life she would have led had she divorced herself from her Auden and Wedgewood cups.

It is obvious that all four writers have a fascination for words. Desai's *Uncle*

Gottschalk's Legacy is a rumbustious narrative about being "stung by a tarantula, and then by a woman with whom I was smitten." Mistry exhibits his mastery over the Oxford English Dictionary, and forces us to read his tale with one beside us. Kanga scornfully derides his college mate Smita for her frightful pronunciation of Shakespeare's *Hamlet* as 'omlette,' while the *deus ex machina* is that he learns not just to speak in Marathi but also to translate it. And Mehta surprises us with the reticence with which she uses words in our growingly prurient world, by her reluctance (or is it in the interests of style?) even to call a homosexual relationship by its name; or to describe sexual activity explicitly, with the now mandatory seaminess.

Of the eight other tales in the volume, Ms Nisha da Cunha's *Mama's Boy* could be of particular interest to Parsi readers. The central figure is a Goan lad, whose relationship with a Portuguese girl is doomed even after his mother's death, as her image continues to haunt him. (Do some of our community girls find the tale ringing an especially familiar bell?)



Authors Mistry (left), Desai and Kanga (below)



Other tales include works by Anurag Mathur (a touch of sci-fi), Ms Sunetra Gupta (great style), Ms Subhadra Sen Gupta (anyone for a Hindi movie script?), Shashi Tharoor and Amit Chaudhari. But the anthology definitely belongs to Rukun Advani, a young copy editor at Oxford University Press, who captures the effervescence of a small town in *Murder in May*, and to Mehta. Her story, *The Woman Taken in Adultery* along with Shashi Deshpande's *Travel Plans*, take one right into the realm of a woman's heart and mind without undue sentimentality.

Short Stories 1994, possibly the forerunner of an annual collection, is published by Sterling Newspapers Limited. Its editor has credited publisher-editor Maneck Davar not only with the idea for the anthology, but also for the opportunity to implement it.

The perfect wardrobe for your bathroom.



 **JOHNSON
PEDDER**
SANITARYWARE

MILESTONES

This issue of *Parsiana* presents Milestones data for the months of May and June 1994.

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 19 and 35 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 24 and 40 years, averaging at 29 years.

As per the data available to *Parsiana* there were 42 births as compared to 180 Zoroastrians who were consigned to the Towers of Silence in Bombay for the two month period of May and June. Forty-seven deaths were ascribed to the major killer — heart disease — 20 of the victims being 80 years and above. The other major killers were pneumonia and lung disease (31), cancer (22) and brain disease (10). Old age and general debility took a toll of eight lives, hypertension, seven and kidney failure, six. Septicemia claimed five patients, bronchitis, four whereas three each succumbed to diabetes, liver disease, anemia and tuberculosis. Two victims each

fell prey to fracture, cerebral malaria, gastro-intestinal bleeding and Parkinson's disease. There were 18 isolated cases registered for the two-month period. They were: hiatus hernia (an abnormal protrusion through the diaphragm), haemorrhage, circulatory failure, arteriosclerosis (degenerative arterial change associated with advancing age), gastro-enteritis, hypoglycemia, haematemesis (vomiting of blood), head injury, dehydration, malaria, neonatal seizures, hepatitis B, bronchial congestion, hypotension (low blood pressure), urinary tract infection, peritonitis (inflammation of the delicate serous membrane which lines the abdominal and pelvic cavities), high blood pressure and asthma. In the case of one death, the coroner's report was still pending. Three youths, aged 23, 25 and 28, succumbed to various diseases. A stillborn baby boy as well as a nine-day-old baby were also lost to the community. The oldest to breathe her last was a 102-year-old lady.

The data on births, marriages

and deaths has been compiled from information supplied by various newsletters and anjumans in India and abroad, courts and hospitals. We are unable to carry data from areas where the anjumans do not furnish the particulars. 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. There may be an inadvertent repetition of names in the marriage list when a civil marriage precedes a religious ceremony. 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.

Karai; June 27
A boy to Dilnaz and Homi Billimoria; June 28
A boy to Kerbanoo and Cyrus Solaina; June 28
A boy to Shehernaz and Adil Patuck; June 30

MARRIED

Zeena Noshir Sanjana and Mehernoz Keki Pervez; February 5
Shirin Jimmy Totty and Sohrab Khodabux Elabadi (Irani); April 25
Jasmine Minoo Meher Shahi and Rumi Jamshed Wadia; April 28
Havovi Dinshaw Sanjana and Shahzad Phiroze Madon; May 1
Shernaz Keki Italia and Jimmy Noshir Todiwalla; May 1
Armaiti Adi Lacka and Adil Darabshaw Adajania; May 2
Susan Parvez Nalladaru and Percy Eruch Poonegar; May 2
Jasmine Noshir Batliwalla of Jabalpur and Jal Nader Engineer of Lonavala; May 3
Persis Darab Contractor and Kersi Homi Karadia; May 3
Tanaj Goody Patel and Rohinton Darra Contractor; May 5
Kernaaz Jal Vakil and Adi Dara Shroff; May 12
Tanaz Tehmurasp Tampal and Minocher Sorab Siganporia; May 13
Roshni Bahadur Kavina and Mehernosh Ady Amroliwala; May 15
Shirin Jehangir Bulsara of Nasik and Nozar Minoo Bamboat; May 15
Khursid Boman Bastani and Kersi Homi Taraporewala of Dahanu; May 15
Monaz Phirozshaw Kodia of Dahanu Rd and Erick Eruch Zaiwalla of Dahanu Rd; May 15
Anahita Kersasp Rabadi and Farrokh Peshotan Taraporewala; May 17
Homai Rustom Irani and Cyrus Rashid Irani; May 19
Pinky Keki Irani and Minocher Dinshaw Irani; May 20
Behnaaz Khurshed Broacha and Rustom Keki Khavarian of Texas, USA; May 20
Zenobia Keki Italia and Dinyar Noshir Nadirshaw; May 20
Shehnaz Murzban Dantra and

ALLAHABAD

BORN

A boy, Farzan, to Pallavi and Rohinton Deshmukh on May 1, 1994

DIED

Piroja Burjorji Framjee (75); June 1

BOMBAY

BORN

A girl, Farishte, to Meher and Tehmasp Parekh; March 6
A girl, Jean, to Behroze and Mehernosh Billimoria, sister to Yohan; May 2
A girl to Arti and Bahram Vakil; May 4
A girl to Zia and Nosher Cama; May 5
A girl to Shirin and Tehmtan Patel; May 9
A boy to Gulzar and Rohinton Dastur, brother to Amy; May 10
A girl to Farida and Rustom Hirananeck; May 10
A girl to Promi and Farokh

Timberwalla; May 10

A girl to Thrity and Jehangir Bacha; May 12

A girl to Havovi and Kurus Presswalla; May 12

A girl to Anahita and Neville Mody; May 13

A boy to Armin and Cyrus Wadia; May 14

A boy to Katayun and Kyamas Palia; May 15

A boy to Yasmin and Hoshedar Carnac; May 16

A girl to Yasmin and Adil Patel; May 19

A girl to Binaifer and Burzin Edibam; May 23

Twins (boys) to Huafresh and Farokh Irani; May 23

A boy to Tayuzaz and Saleem Merchant; May 28

A boy to Kamal and Rustom Titina; June 1

A boy to Phiroze and Anosh Irani; June 2

A boy to Daisy and Hazir Kermani; June 6

A boy, Urzaan, to Carmelle and Malcolm Patel; June 7

A boy to Niloufer and Viraf

Aga; June 14

A girl to Hufiz and Pharoah Basta; June 14

A boy to Pervin and Daraius Dadachanji; June 14

A boy to Rashna and Reuben Alphonso; June 15

A girl to Jasmine and Pervaz Daruwalla; June 15

A girl to Persis and Danesh Irani; June 15

A boy to Ruby and Iqbal Kapasi; June 16

A boy to Meherzin and Dady Kerawalla; June 18

A boy to Hutoxi and Phiroze Vandrewala; June 18

A boy to Hufresh and Sheriar Raisi; June 19

A girl to Farida and Pankaj Udhas; June 20

A boy to Farida and Dadabhoy Unwala; June 20

A girl to Prochie and Adil Dorabjee; June 22

A boy, Jeraz, to Jennifer and Hirji Gorimar; June 25

Twins (girls) to Lily and Rustom

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

Daraius Behram Sanjana; May 20
Perin Ratan Cooper of Poona and *Homiyar Tehumaras* Sukhia; May 20
Khorshed Soli Doctor and *Mehernosh Homi Dastur*; May 21
Armin Dara Panthaki and *Kaizad Soli Pithawalla*; May 22
Armin Farokh Doctor and *Maneck Naval Toddywala*; May 22
Dilnavaz Dinshaw Asha and *Yadgar Maneksha Daruwalla* of Secunderabad; May 24
Ferzana Feroze Gundevia and *Eric Hoshang Rana*; May 26
Binaifer Adi Kharoliwala and *Phiroz Sapal Amaria*; May 27
Tanaz Noshir Irani of Kalyan and *Rustom Gew Irani* of Warangal, Andhra Pradesh; May 27
Minnie Rusi Rustomji of Mira Rd, Thane and *Zarir Tehmurasp Rao*; May 27
Behroze Burjor Medhora and *Hoshang Homi Engineer*; May 30
Jesmin Ratan Daruwalla of Pune and *Jehangir Ardeshir*

Karanjia; May 31
Jasmine Shavak Italia and *Yazdi Bhikhaji Mistry*; June 3
Rashna Jehangir Marolia of Jalna and *Shahrukh Dara Sholapurwala*; June 3
Maharukh Jehangir Irani of Poona and *Jamsheed Marazban Edibam*; June 4
Percis Perviz Antia and *Adil Minoo Ghiara*; June 4
Arnavaz Rustom Doctor and *Naoshad Yazdi Eduljee* of New Delhi; June 6
Khursheed Adi Sethna and *Farsak Faredoon Raja*; June 10
Mahin Ardeshir Afshari (Aliabad) of Ahwaaz, Iran and *Gashtasb Rashid Rostami* of North Hollywood, California; June 26
Farzana Keki Elavia and *Kayomarz Yezdi Sidhwa* of Florida, USA; June 27

DIED
Hoshi Sorabji Behramfaram (57), residing at Indra Bhawan, Gamdevi, 400007; May 1
Pesi Hormasji Bhangara (75), Shroff Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; May 2

Manekbai Manchershah Daruwalla (86), F/49, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; May 2
Roda Phiroze Mistry (66), 6/8, Colaba Land Co-op Hsg Soc, Sohrab Bharucha Rd, Colaba, 400005; May 2
Kaikhosroo Eruchsha Patel (82), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 2
Kashmira Behram Amroliwala (25), 12/92, Govind Ngr, Sodawala Lane, Borivli (W), 400092; May 3
Shiavax (Shiavaksha) Sorabji Chaina (84), 14/6, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; May 4
Sheheriar Naoroji Jadashapurna (80), Lentin Hse, 147, Alibhai Premji Marg, 400007; May 4
Dhumbai Rustomji Kerawalla (87), 5/7, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; May 4
Jal Limjibhai Pagdiwala (90), C/21, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; May 4
Gulistan Namdar Irani (76), Purshottam Bldg, Near New

Roshan Talkies, Playhouse, 400004; May 5
Eruch Sorabji Kanga (93), C/o Silloo Katrak, 123, Aderbad, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 5
Navroji Pirojsha Kasad (88), 3/12, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; May 5
Hilla Khurshed Machliwala (80), 613, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; May 5
Gool Hom Avasia (74), 16, Papa Bldg, Mori Rd, Mahim, 400016; May 6
Nariman Sorabji Thanawala (70), 285/17, Mogal Bldg, S. Bhagat Singh Rd, Fort, 400001; May 6
Jaloo Homi Cooper (77), 22/14, Gilder Lane, Lamington Rd, 400008; May 7
Goolan Meherji Behramkamdin (78), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 8
Minocher Ratansha Bilimoria (82), 3/2, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; May 8
Kekushru Munchersha Fitter (80), C/o N. M. Petit Agiary, 44, New Marine Lines, 400020;

Manizé

Estd: 1959

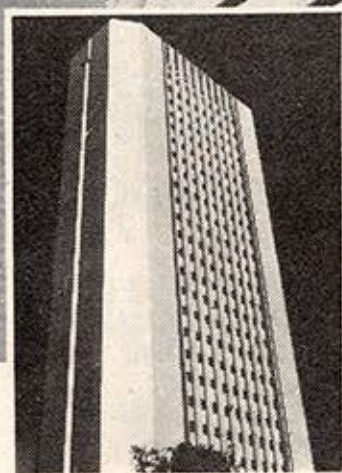
Ladies Department Store
JEUNESSE: Total beauty care and hair dressing

Cumballa Hill - Flyover, Bombay 400036
 Telephones: Shop: 3877833, 3869855. Resi: 2151900

Spin Weave Textiles Philco Industries

H.O: Piramal Mansion, 235, D. N. Road, Bombay 400001
 Telephone: 2616781. Fax: 2611744

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.

May 8
Keki Jamshed Irani (Namver) (81), A/7, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Byculla, 400027;
 May 8
Rustam Dinshaw Irani (85), 25, Anand Niwas, A Rd, Churchgate, 400020; May 8
Erach Dinsha Sutaria (87), 176, Suleman Manzil, Near Dadar Post Office, Dadar, 400014;
 May 8
Rusi Dhanjisha Wadia (64), 268, Contractor Bldg, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Parcel, 400012;
 May 8
Bhikhamai Sorabji Awari (84), Q/11, S. Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
 May 9
Jamshed Bejanji Daver (69), L, Dalal Est, Lamington Rd, Bombay Central, 400008;
 May 9
Nergish Rustomji Digaria (46), 666, Orient Hse, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; May 9
Hoshang Kaikashroo Nariman (81), 6-C, Silver Oak, 60-B, Chimbai Rd, Bandra, 400050;
 May 9

Firoze Rustomji Cooper (59), Railway Hotel, Grant Rd, 400007; May 10
Bamanshah Ratanshaw Davar (60), 84, Sarang Tower, 3rd Cross Rd, Samarth Ngr, Andheri (W), 400058; May 10
Nergish Darabshaw Tarapourwala (56), Durlabh Bhavan, Jalbhai St, Charni Rd, 400004; May 10
Sohli Framroze Vakil (84), 122-B, Sai Rd, Pali Hill, Bandra, 400050; May 10
Goolbai Ardeskar Mithaiwalla (90), Mohanlal Mehta Market, Off Novelty Cinema, Grant Rd, 400007; May 11
Rustomji Dadabhoy Motiwala (87), B/8, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; May 11
Sherbanoo Earuchshaw Shroff (92), Kavarana Bldg, Kittridge Rd, Colaba, 400005; May 11
Jehangir Jalejar Daver (79), Batliwalla Bldg, Chikalwadi, Zoroastrian Clny, Tardeo Rd, 400007; May 12
Mehroo Phiroz Malegamwala (57), Sar Avsar, Marazban

Clny, Gilder Lane, 400008;
 May 12
Jerbai Framji Bharucha (86), 9, Old Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 13
Rustomji Kaikhushru Pavri (93), 631, Dinoo Villa, M. Joshi Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; May 13
Dina Jamshedji Poonawalla (97), 14/B/31, Takshila, Mahakali Rd, Andheri (E), 400093; May 13
Homai Rustom Shelangi (75), B-57/A, 003, Goregaon (E), 400063; May 13
Coomy Dossabhoy Kalyaniwala (56), 9, Kashinath Bldg, Kashinath St, Tardeo, 400034; May 14
Mehroo Jal Mistry (59), 13/10, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; May 14
Dawlat Pheroze Sadri (68), 153/A, Sealord, Cuffe Parade, 400005; May 14
Jal Manchershah Bharucha (73), 6/9, Khan Est, Chottani Rd, Mahim, 400016; May 15
Khodaram Behram Golabi (87), Pundole Bldg, Jehangir Daji

Cross Lane, Sleater Rd, 400007; May 15
Manek Pirojsha Mistry (84), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 15
Rustom Minocher Sethna (23), 358, BMC Kinara, 20, K. A. G. Khan Rd, Worli, 400018; May 15
Rustomji Ardeskar Engineer (86), A, The Reward, 220, Javji Dadaji Rd, Tardeo, 400007; May 16
Tehmina Jal Paymaster (83), 121, Brij Kutir, 68/A, Rungta Lane, Jagmohandas Marg, 400006; May 16
Arnavaz Hoshang Lafa (79), Shaaref (Zakaria Hse), 97, Prof Almeida Rd, Bandra, 400050; May 17
Rusi Jalejar Canteenwalla (56), 36/A/23, Manish Ngr, Versova Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; May 18
Mani Cooverji Lam (80), B, Rustom Palace, 222/E, Tardeo Rd, 400007; May 18
Adi Jamshedji Vachha (72), C, Banoo Mans, Cumballa Hill Rd, 400036; May 18

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, Medows Street, Fort, Bombay 400023
 Telephone: 273287

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

MAZDAYASNIE RESEARCH CENTRE LIBRARY AT SANJAN



Construction work of PHASE A of the Zoroastrian College Building/Library Research Residential Centre which commenced in October 1997 is now nearing completion. By March 1999 the R.C. framework from foundation plinth to terrace slab construction was completed at a cost of over Rs 3 lacs; thanks to generous YADGARI Donations from MASDASNANS OF GERMANY; Dr. SIEGFRIED HERMERDING; Herr. KOLB; the ZOROASTRIANS OF U.K.; Pakistan; W.Z.O.; India. Between July 1991 to December 1993 the finishing work of doors; carpentry work of library bookshelves; electrical supply; window glasses; chhajas; waterproofing was completed at a cost of over 5 lacs; thanks to further generous donations from ZARTHOSTY BROS; MASDASNANS OF GERMANY; TATA TRUSTS; Dr. JEHANGIR MEDORA OF Canada; and Donors from India & abroad; and Bank loans. Since January 1994 the interior finishing of library bookshelves; construction of outside kitchen; painting; floor polishing is being done. For completion of this construction work a TARGET of Rs 2.5 lacs is needed.

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT IS REQUESTED All Donations are Tax exempt under Sec.80G of I.T. Act. YADGARI DONATIONS of Rs 10,001/- to Rs one lac entitle the DONOR to have his/her name and also of any dear departed persons whose memory is to be honoured to have the names inscribed on the ROLL OF HONOUR in the main College Building. The Form below may be used; SEMINAR Courses have already commenced to be held at the College building; thanks to the good local support of Mr & Mrs Rohinton & Bapsy Davierwalla; & Mr. Rusi Mulla. PERSONS WANTING TO DO SERIOUS RESEARCH AND STAY AT THE COLLEGE BUILDING MAY ENQUIRE AT THE MUSTAFA BLDG. OFFICE ADDRESS ABOVE.

College Building Construction Then and Now 1988-1994

AVESTA & SCRIPTURAL STUDIES DEPT

Three Years Diploma Course in Avesta language; Grammar & Zoroastrian Religion Scriptural Studies of Texts & Significance of Ceremonies was started in 1987 with Ervad RAMIYAR KARANJIA in charge of teaching Avesta Grammar. Since 1991/92 PROF SAM DOCTOR is in charge of this DIPLOMA COURSE. Certificates are issued to all successful Course participants at the end of each year's study. Fresh batch of students may enroll in July/August 1994 for commencing their first year of Diploma Studies. The Course is held once a week in Churchgate/Fort area on weekdays; and also in Andheri for Suburbs residents on Sundays. It is open to any person seriously wanting to learn to read/write/translate Avesta/Zoroastrian religious prayers/texts. This graded course also includes lectures on Iranian History Significance of Zoroastrian Religious Ceremonies of Baj/ Yasna/(Eejashine) Vendidad; After Death Ceremonies etc by prof. Dr. Meher Master - Moos with Ilim e Khshnoom content. MONTHLY LECTURES are also open to any interested persons. MR RUSTOM CHOTHIA is Professor in charge of GATHAS series of lectures with scholarly reference to works of over 12 scholars. The pioneering work of Dr. PURVIZ KOLSAWALA is also used in this Course. PROF SAM DOCTOR is in charge of PAZEND & PAHLAVI TEXTS series; including DINKARD and other post 9th Century texts. ERVAD NOSHIRWAN KANGA Panthaky Sahab of Maneckji Seth Agiary is in charge of Series of Lectures of practical use to persons attending Agiaries. PROF MEHER MASTER MOOS President Z.C. is in charge of the Lectures Series of Yashts & Religious Texts in honour of Ameshaspends and Yazads.

TOUR OF IRAN TO VISIT PLACES OF HISTORICAL INTEREST including Persepolis Takht-e Rostom; Pasargade; the Pir Sahebs; Demavand Kuh Elburz Mountains; Yazd; Kerman; Isfahan; Shiraz; Behistun; Tehran; and Southern USSR Republics of Azerbaijan; the firetemple of Baku; Georgia; Tajikistan; etc is being arranged for MAY 1995. Persons attending the Avesta Diploma Course/Monthly lectures will have first priority to join this Special Educational/

historical tour. Those interested should register and join the Course commencing August/September 1994. For further information about Diploma Courses please contact Prof Sam Doctor Tel: 6283154 Cama Institute Andheri or Mustafa Bldg office; for general information. TAJIKISTAN GOVT. has invited DELEGATION in SEPT. 1994 for FIRDAUST SHAHNAHMAH 1000 YEARS CONFERENCE. Those interested may contact Office.

HOLISTIC HEALTH ALTERNATIVE MEDICINE DEPT

Are you interested in maintaining YOUR & YOUR Family members GOOD HEALTH using Natural Methods and cutting

the costs of medical bills? If so, JOIN THE NATURAL HEALTH COURSES arranged by ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE on a variety of subjects including Acupuncture; Acupressure; Massage; Homoeopathy; Bio-chemicals; Dr. Bachs Flower Remedies; Magnet Therapy; Dr. Dinshaw Ghadia's COLOUR THERAPY SPECTROCHROMOMETRY as of Dr Dara R Hakim' Gems and Crystals therapy. Dr. FRED FOX's Method; Raj Yoga; Breathing Exercises; Mind Control; Dr. A.K. BHATTACHARYA's Radiesthesia and other Methods. Dr. Mrs Shyamala Chandran's Nari Vaid 6 tastes System; Food & Nutrition Dr. Leo Rebello's Yoga & Nature Cure; Swedish Flyborg Therapy; Sound/Music Therapy; Basic principles of Ayurveda and Herbal medicines Avesta Mantras Divine/Spiritual Healing/Kirlian Aura Photography/Japanese Reiki; and other methods of preventive health care and Natural Methods of Treatment are taught by specialists in each subject. DIPLOMA COURSES offered. Also facility of doing research Degrees by Thesis upto Ph.D level COURSES Commencing September 1994 Fresh batch. Persons interested may contact Mustafa Bldg office. BOOKS ON HEALTH & ZOROASTRIAN RELIGION AND LECTURE COURSES, AUDIO CASSETTES ALSO AVAILABLE IN ENGLISH.

I wish to give a YADGARI DONATION FOR COLLEGE BUILDING CONSTRUCTION, in pious memory of..... Please find enclosed cash/cheque/bank draft in favour of SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY of Rs \$/£/.....

I am interested to join Avesta Courses; Holistic Health Courses.

Please send me information.

My name.....

My address.....

Tel No.....

I wish to do research at Zoroastrian College Building. I wish to contribute a Scholarship to help those students who wish to stay at Zoroastrian College for their studies.

I wish to join the TOUR TO IRAN/DELEGATION to TAJIKISTAN.

ADVERTISEMENT

Manek Bomanshaw Vatchha (80), 22, Wadia Bldg, Marazban Clny, Lamington Rd, 400008; May 18

Homai Cawasji Kanga (82), 12, Patel Bldg, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; May 19

Azzat Khodabux Kohinoori (52), 14, School Bldg, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; May 19

Rati Dorabji Master (75), 811/65, Jame Jamshed Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; May 19

Goolbai Navroji Patel (75), Empress Bldg, N. Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007; May 19

Savak Sorabji Pavri (66), T/2, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; May 19

Kersi Hormusji Wadia (81), C/3, Crystal Clny, Soonawala Ajiary Rd, Mahim, 400016; May 19

Framroze Pestonji Panthaki (89), 2B/30, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012; May 20

Firoze Behramsha Sukhadwalla (78), 607, J.S.S. Rd, 400002; May 20

Maki Kaikhushroo Bhogwagar (82), A/203, Kailash, J. Boman Behram Marg, 400008; May 21

Noshir Jehangirji Damania (44), B-10, Mistry Bldg, Dr Shirodkar Rd, Parel, 400012; May 21

Dara Rustom Pavri (69), 4, Firpos, 47/A, B. Desai Rd, 400026; May 21

Minoo Ratnaji Bhesadia (76), Dossibai and J.R.D. Charity Trust Home, Behind Masina Hospital, Victoria Rd, Byculia, 400027; May 22

Freny Ratanshaw Engineer (84), 13, Jer Mans, 70/B, Gowalia Tank Rd, 400036; May 22

Yasna Tehmu Marolia (28), 16, Kanga Bldg, 224, Dr Baba Sahib Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; May 22

Dina Nariman Panthaky (64), Old F. Cama Bldg, Zoroastrian Clny, Chikalwadi, 400007; May 22

Dolly Nadirshaw Bamboat (63), 2, Banaji Chawl, Forjett St, Gowalia Tank, 400036; May 23

Nadirshaw Hormusji

Malegamwala (75), Golwala Wadi, Pali Khadi, Post Dehri, Via Umbergaon, Dist Bulsar, 396001 and C/o H/2, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; May 23

Motamai Munchershaw Mehta (76), 213/215, Raju Ter, Lamington Rd, 400007; May 23

Shera Nariman Jahina (83), 678, Noor-Mhl, Katrak Rd, Wadala, 400031; May 24

Dinshaw Hormusji Mahuwalla (73), Old Chinoy Bldg, Chikalwadi, Tardeo Rd, 400007; May 24

Freny Bomi Madon (65), 102, Mani Bhuvan, Kader Pada, Dahisar, 400068; May 25

Godrej Meherji Bhathena (54), 23/4, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parcel Tank Rd, 400033; May 26

Jehangir Rustomji Lashkari (63), 1, Shirin Manzil, Dinbai Petit St, Balaram St, 400007; May 26

Veera Dhanjisha Mohta (64), B-4/604, Greenlands Apts, J. B. Rd, Andheri (E), 400059; May 26

Pirojbaai Nusservanji Panthaki (98), 651/52, Athorman Boar-

ding Madressa, Firdosi Rd, Dadar, 400014; May 26

Ratanbai Merwanji Doongaji (96), Tardeo Chmbs, Kashinath St, 400034; May 27

Nergish Rustomji Marfatia (81), 2/88, Panday Hse, Thakurdwar, 400002; May 27

Rustom Nowrozjee Nekoo (86), H/11, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; May 27

Faramroz Hormasji Variava (78), 10/4, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculia, 400027; May 28

Dhanmai Rattanshaw Bagwadia (93), Chandrabala Est, T.P.S. III, 30th Rd, Bandra, 400050; May 29

Gool Kersasp Bamji (88), 9, Batliwala Bldg, Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 29

Sorab Navrojee Tavaria (80), Sheri Hse, Gunbow St, Fort, 400001; May 29

Kaikhushru Eduljee Damkevala (82), Engineer Bldg, 259, Princess St, 400002; May 30

Russ Pirojsha Ghadiali (72), 2, Tata Clny, Tardeo, 400034;



Customer is always Light

When he entrusts his Household Packing, Shipping, Removal, Storage.... all his problems to B.C. Buhariwala & Sons.

Make the right Move, Call:

B.C. Buhariwala & Sons

5 J. N. Heredia Marg, Ballard Estate, Bombay-400 038.

Tel.: 2615451/3, 2613137 Tlx.: 011-75139 BCB IN. Fax: 22-2620785

BRANCH OFFICE:

1310, Pragati Towers, Rajendra Place, New Delhi-110 008.

Tel. Nos.: 5711876, 5713540.

Tlx.: 031-61928 BCB IN

Represented throughout the World by more than 600 offices



Door to door Service

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**

May 30
Jamshedji Tehmuras Kutar (89), 1, Steel Hse, 92/A, Marine Drive, 400002; May 30
Jamshed Ardeshir Mistry (78), F/22, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; May 30
Nargish Boman Irani (79), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; May 31
Tehmina Sorabji Mukadam (87), 647, Gai Bldg, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; May 31
Bhika Jehangirji Shroff (76), B/7, Tata Blocks, Tardeo, 400034, May 31
Burjor Jamshedji Dastur (85), 503, Silver Cascade, Mount Mary Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 1
Jer Pirojshah Dordi (82), Banu Mans, Forjett St, 400036; June 1
Baby boy of Huafrish Farokh Irani (9 days), 15/B, Palm Lands, Pali Naka, Bandra, 400050; June 1
Sorabji Rustomji Pavri (78), A-2/11, Mazdalease, Bhilad Rd, Sanjan, Gujarat, 396150; June 2
Pilloo Jamshedji Bulsara (80),

D/403, Guru-Darshan, Swami Samarth Ngr, Off Four Bglws, Andheri (W), 400058; June 3
Gool Ardeshir Ghadiali (89), E/20, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 3
Dinshaw Maneckji Khan (86), 1/2, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 3
Tehmina Ardeshir Panthaky (83), 133/11, Old Mody St, Fort, 400001; June 3
Kaikhushroo Aderji Buhariwalla (94), West View, Uranwalla St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 4
Dolly Sohrabji Mukadam (66), 647, Gai Bldg, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 4
Jal Jehangir Ollia (81), Cumballa Chmbs, Subhadra Nivas, Cumballa Hill Rd, 400036; June 5
Gool Tehmuras Sethna (82), C/o M. T. Sethna, L2/53, Merwanjee Cama Park, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; June 5
Meherbai Kaikobad Cooper (80), 2/13, Sir C. J. Clny, Sir Ratan Tata Rd, Tardeo, 400034;

June 6
Aspi Manecksha Damania (57), 13/11, Mody Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; June 6
Minocher (Minoo) Dinshawji MinocherHomjee (85), Aimai Manzil, 808, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 6
Jehangir Bomanji Wadia (83), Nepean Hse, Nepean Sea Rd, 400006; June 6
Baby of Binaifer Darayas Dadachanji (stillborn), A/301, Manish Mhl, Vecra Desai Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; June 7
Piroza Sheriar Irani (92), New Mistry Bldg, Baram St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 7
Rusi Hiraji Mahuvewalla (50), 302/C-46, Star Co-op Soc, Yogi Ngr, Borivli (W), 400092; June 7
Bahadurji Naoroji Mehta (90), Albless Widows' Chawl, Marazban Clny, Gilder Lane, Lamington Rd, 400008; June 7
Jer Parviz Mehta (81), C/3, Fariyas, Cumballa Hill Rd, 400036; June 7
Pervez Faramroze Siganporia (74), Gool Mans, Dinbai Petit

Lane, Baram St, 400007; June 7
Dinshawji Sorabji Suraliwalla (81), 9, Engineer Bldg, Sleater Rd, 400007; June 7
Dhunmai Kaikhushru Taila (82), A, Aidun Bldg, Dhobi Talao, 400002; June 7
Merwan Jamshed Aref (86), 21, Tulips, Nepean Sea Rd, 400006; June 8
Jamshed Hormusji Makhania (83), U-4/3, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; June 8
Erach Dinshaw Mehta (85), A, Rustom Palace, 222, Tardeo Rd, 400007; June 8
Amy Farokh Mistry (61), W. Z. 28, Harishan Park, New Multan Ngr, New Delhi, 110056; June 8
Piloo Minoo Seth (84), 62, Rajat Apts, Mount Pleasant Rd, Malabar Hill, 400006; June 8
Hilla Pheroze Dordi (79), 16/7, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 9
Ernie Homi Pesina (74), 62, The West Minister, Duncan Causeway, Sion, 400022; June 9
Sohrab Jahangir Bhote (72), Adi Ratan Villa, 88, J. P. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; June 10

WITH
 BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

SOFT-HEARTED 'WIBS' BREAD

WESTERN INDIA BAKERS' PRIVATE LIMITED

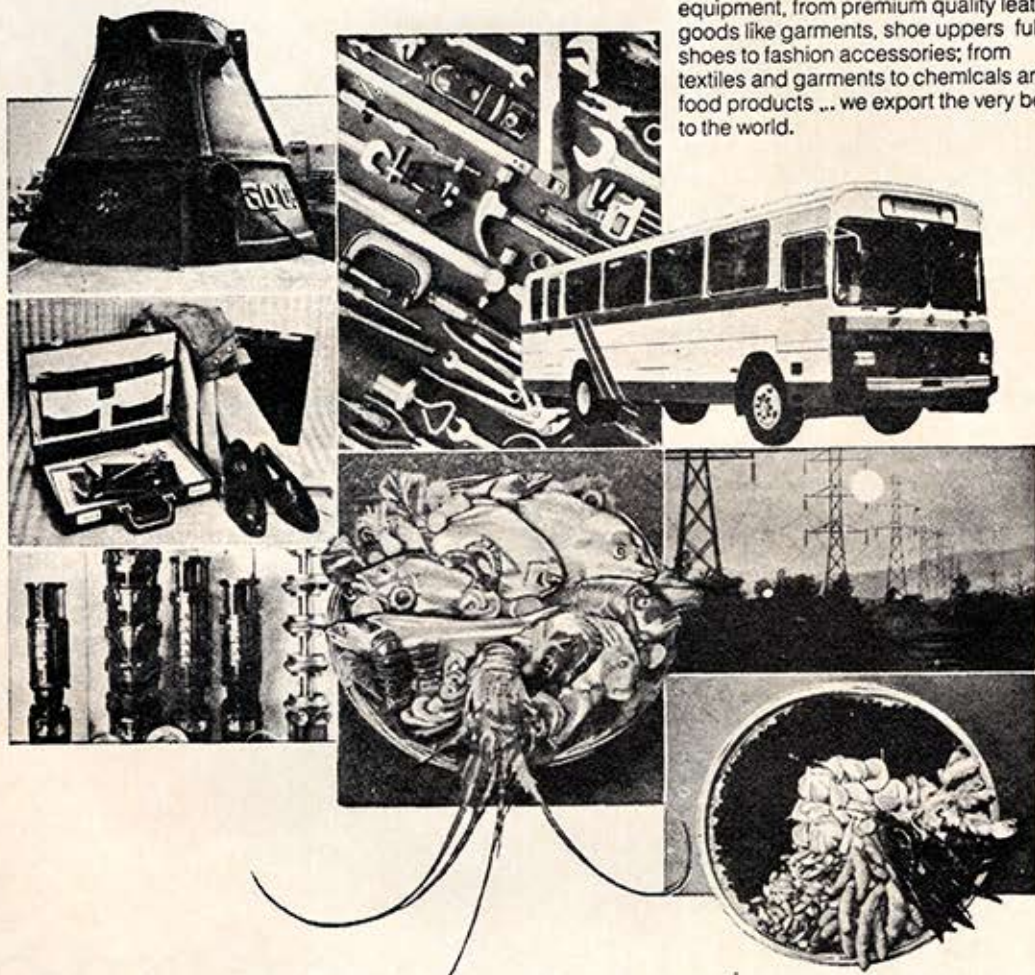
KHODADAD BUILDING, 100 D'LIMA STREET
 DOCKYARD ROAD, BOMBAY 400010

*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

Sheroo Hormusji Irani (66), 8, Shanker Sheth Rd, Pune, 411042; June 10

Freny Eruch Mistry (68), 13, Shivnery Bldg, Old Bombay-Agra Rd, Thane, 400602, June 10

Goolbai Pirojshaw Mistry (88), C/1, Guru Nanak Market, Opp Novelty Cinema, Grant Rd, 400007; June 10

Dady Burjorji Morena (58), 28, Raghunath Dadaji St, Fort, 400001; June 10

Tehmina Merwanji Virjee (78), C/o Shirinbai Dinsha Mody Hostel, 83-A, Annie Besant Rd, Worli, 400018; June 10

Manekshaw Ratanji Bhesania (53), D-28/6, Hill Side, Pirojsha Ngr, Vikhroli (W), 400079; June 11

Fali Phirojshaw Kanga (69), 21, Mansaff Bldg, Captain Clny, Haji Ali, 400034; June 11

Hiraji Behramji Wadia (72), Shiraz Ter, 127, Tardeo Rd, 400034; June 11

Savak Phirozeshaw Daruwalla (78), 670, Zaverbanu Ter, Parsi

Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 12
Mondegar Namdar Irani (74), 23, Mishra Bhuvan, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; June 12

Rustom Jehangir Desai (85), Kismet Bldg, 3rd Pasta Lane, Colaba, 400005; June 13

Nergish (Nancy) Eruch Karva (79), 801, Coover Villa, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 14

Jer Keki Katrak (80), 104, Galactica, Samarth Ngr, 3rd Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; June 14

Daisy Pesi Shroff (61), Villa Manijeh, 85, Tardeo Rd, 400034; June 14

Fareedoon Munchershah Madon (78), Pushpa Nivas, Uranwalla St, Grant Rd, 400007; June 15

Goolamai Darabshaw Singpurwalla (83), 10, Florencia, 299, Off Turner Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 15

Bhikhoo Phiroze Chacha (71), 5, Yog Milan, Forjett Hill Rd, 400036; June 16

Silla Adi Marzban (87), 6, Chapsy Ter, Altamount Rd, 400026; June 16

Zarbanoo Jamshed Jamshedien (79), 14, Churchill Chmbs, Mereweather Rd, Colaba, 400039; June 17

Dina Aspi Wadia (81), Mistry Bldg, Widows' Chawl, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 17
Sohrab Rustom Irani (72), Petit Sanatorium, Cumballa Hill, 400036; June 19

Khuresed Shapoorji Jamshedji (71), 5, Methodist Church, Centenary Bldg, 368, Grant Rd, 400007; June 19

Bapaimai Kaikhushro Kapadia (91), G/14, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; June 19

Khorshed Darab Daver (87), 52, Forjett St, 400036; June 20
Dinoo Kali Governor (79), 635, Muncherji Joshi Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; June 20

Alamai Pestonji Randeria (84), A-31/32, Meherzin, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; June 20

Alamai Ardeser Engineer (78), 705, Shangrila, Sat Bangla, Andheri (W), 400061; June 21

Rustomji Bomanji Ghandhi (79), B/1, Cusrow Baug, S. B.

Rd, 400039; June 22
Khorshed Jal Master (78), 14, Nishith, Ushma Ngr, Mith Chowk, Malad (W), 400064; June 22

Minocher Kaekobad Tata (63), Sea Side, Bhulabhai Desai Rd, 400036; June 22

Jaloo Dali Battiwalla (71), Jeevanji Mistry Hse, 162, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; June 23

Rusi Hoshang Dastur (77), C-1, Breach Candy Apts, B. Desai Rd, 400026; June 23

Banoo Marzban Gorimar (61), Marine Mans, 114, Marine St, Marine Lines, 400002; June 23

Tehmina Dossabhoy Kapadia (90), Soona Est, Hill Rd, Bandra, 400050; June 23

Rustom Jehangir Patel (77), 704, Cumballa Crest, 42, Peddar Rd, 400026; June 23

Sarosh Hormusji Solai (62), K Villa, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; June 23

Eruch Fredun Devitre (78), 20, St Martins Rd, Bandra, 400050;

Best Wishes From

RUSY & PURVIZ SHROFF



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"

June 24
Dinshah Pirosha Madon (73),
 21, Goolistan, 34, Bhulabhai
 Desai Rd, 400026; June 24
Dhunmai Jamshedji Malesaria
 (93), 9/3, Tata Clny, Tardeo,
 400034; June 24
Eruch Beramshaw Medhora
 (71), Soonaji Mans, K-66, A. K.
 Marg, 400036; June 24
Dhunmai Hormusji Saher (79),
 R/29, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S.
 V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
 June 24
Noshir Framroze Kaikobad
 (76), 54, Acharya Ngr, W. T.
 Patil Marg, Govandi, 400088;
 June 25
Noshir Jamshedji Tata (78),
 G/16, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug,
 400012; June 25
Katy Erach Choksi (51), 18,
 Dalal Est, Lamington Rd,
 400008; June 26
Jivanji Rustomji Elavia (76),
 691, Albless Bldg, Dr Dinsha
 Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar,
 400014; June 26
Dina Ardeshir Engineer (88), 3,
 Jehangir Mans, 1st Marine St,
 400020; June 26
Dhanmai Hormusji Rabadi (76),

11/D/4, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S.
 V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
 June 26
Najamai Pirojsha Bhathena
 (102), Todywalla Bldg, 28,
 Sunmill Rd, Lower Parel,
 400012; June 27
Pallonji Meherwanji Bhagalia
 (90), Yadel, 83, Malcolm Baug,
 Jogeshwari (W), 400102;
 June 28
Baji Bomi Mistry (40),
 17A/10, Rustom Baug, Victoria
 Rd, Byculla, 400027; June 28
Naval Cowasji Mistry (86),
 Ketty Ter, Sleater Rd, 400007;
 June 28
Bachoo Ruttonshaw Nanabhoy
 (70), Jer Mans, Gowalia Tank,
 400036; June 28
Jamshedji Rustomji Mistry (83),
 Villa Tehmina, 49, Malcolm
 Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102;
 June 29
Vispi Meherwanji Daruwala
 (49), 613, Dinshaw Bldg,
 Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny,
 Dadar, 400014; June 30

CALCUTTA
 BORN
 A boy, *Jahan*, to *Bakhtawar*

and *Boman Parakh*; May 27

MARRIED
Shernaz Jamshed Bilimoria and
Yazdi Khambatta; May 29

DIED
Roda Navroz Patel, mother of
 Burjor and Zenobia Maneck
 Deboo; May 22
Banoo Minoo Avari, mother of
 Roshan and Aspi; May 25

JABALPUR
 BORN
 A boy, *Arshan*, to *Farahnaz*
 and *Cyrus Soonawalla*;
 June 16

KATNI
 DIED
Maneck Nusserwanji Dubash,
 husband of Khorshed and father
 of Faroukh and Khushroo;
 June 4

MADRAS
 BORN
 A girl, *Delshad*, to *Zavera* and
Mahiar Shroff; May 7
 A girl, *Natasha*, to *Kashmira*
 and *Fersos Daruwala*;

June 22

DIED
Boman Nadirshaw Antia (64),
 husband of Gool and father of
 Sharon Dilip Joshi; May 29
Shera Gustaad Ghai (78),
 June 3

POONA
 MARRIED
Ferhiz Cooper and *Darius*
Phil Lawyer of Madras;
 January 21
Perin N. Nanavatti and
Jehangir Postwalla, son of Nina
 and Noshir; June 10

SECUNDERABAD
 BORN
 A boy, *Meherashad*, to *Parika*
 and *Pervez Rahnamoon*;
 December 16, 1993
 A boy, *Daanesh*, to *Mehernavaz*
 and *Kerfegar Aria*; December 21

MARRIED
Gulmohar B. Illoo and *Cersi J.*
Elavia; November 5
Jasmine Rustom Daver and
Pervez Rustom Irani;
 November 21



WILL SHE WEAR A COLLAR OR AN ELECTRIC NOOSE?

Every year thousands of stray dogs are killed by the authorities. Yet the stray dog population is actually growing.

We at The Welfare of Stray Dogs believe that there is a more humane, effective way to control the dog population: sterilisation. So far over 2,300 dogs have been sterilised, vaccinated against rabies and tattooed for identification in Bombay and New Bombay.

Help us. Call 3085116 (Bombay) between 10 a.m. and 4 p.m. Or mark your cheques/ demand drafts to: "The Welfare of Stray Dogs" and send them to Regal Theatre Building, 2nd floor, 41/F Apollo Pier Road, Bombay 400039.

The welfare of stray dogs



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**

Lainaz Peshotan Mehta and
Nazar Naval Eduljee;
January 24, 1994

DIED

Tehmina D. Mody (84);
November 7, 1993
Ratanshaw R. Motiwalla (85);
January 3, 1994
Minu B. Patell (83); February 3
Keki J. Tarapore (69);
February 23
Gocibanu D. Khambatta (91);
February 28
Hoshang N. Munshi (73),
March 15
Bomanshaw J. Pochkhanawalla
(82); April 20
Khorshed B. Vakil (63); May 4
Katy S. Engineer (71); May 14
Bhikoo Dhunjishaw Moos (84);
May 20
Seherbanoo S. Bhathena (84);
May 29

SURAT

DIED

Jarbanoo Hormasji Dustur (85),
Popat St, Nanpura, 395001;
May 3
Maneckbai Mancherji Bhathena
(90), Bibinivadi, Saiyedpura,
395003; May 9
Ami Firoz Katpitia (58),
Singapuri Mans, Station Rd,
395003; May 9
Homi Jamshedji Dotiwala (83),
Dangor St, Nanpura, 395001;
May 20
Khorshad Shapurji Beharamji
(80), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
May 22
Dhanmai Palanji Patel (85),
Parsiwad, Village Olpad, Dist
Surat, 394540; May 22
Meherbai Pirojshaw Ghadiyali
(76), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
May 29
Banoo Firoz Patel (77), Cooper
Mans, Muglisara, 395003;
May 29
Ratunai Maneckshaw Patel
(77), Serdiwala Block,
Shahpore, 395003; May 30
Nariman Eruchsha Sumariwala
(80), Adagra St, Nanpura,
395001; June 4
Khurshad Navroji Kavaran
(73), Unwala Bldg, Nanpura,
395001; June 6
Ardeshir Hormusji Variava
(58), Sodgam, Walia Dist,
Bharuch, 392001; June 7
Dhanjisha Pirojsha Elavia (59),
Wadia St, Maachlipith, 395003;
June 10

Hoshung Behramji Daruwala
(56), Nariman Home and
Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003;
June 11
(Dinky) *Hoshedar Rohinton*
Bhojwala (26), Dhatigara St,
Nanpura, 395001; June 14
Khorshedbanoo Dadiba Pardi-
wala (72), Killa Pardi; June 19
Ketymai Bahadursha Wadia
(68), Malesar St, Rustompura,
395002; June 23
Dolat K. Driver (64),
Muglisara, 395003; June 26
Jamshedji Dhanjisha Patel (85),
Village Mora, Via Bhatha, Dist
Surat, 389110; June 27
Maharwanji Faramji Digaria
(84), Maachlipith, Shahpore,
395003; June 28

...

AUSTRALIA

New South Wales

DIED

Jal Sidhwa, husband of Piloo;
May 8

CANADA

Burnaby

BORN

A boy, *Amon David*, to Armin
and *Michael Kale*; February 26

Richmond

MARRIED

Dilnaz Shroff, daughter of

Sanobar and Rohinton and
Cyrus Choksi, son of Gulu and
Fali; May 21

Vancouver

BORN

A boy, *Arash*, to *Mahdokht* and
Shahriar Shahriari; March 20
A boy, *Sam*, to *Mahyar* and
Minoo Sharvini; April 29

DIED

Keki Jal Kaikobad (63),
husband of Banoo and father of
Akhtar and Farida; March 25

GERMANY

Hamburg

MARRIED

Mojgan Kajee, daughter of
Manijeh and Khodabakhsh, and
Ramin Zohrabi, son of Pari and
Jamshid; March 21

IRAN

Tehran

DIED

Kharman Guiv (97), mother of
Keikhosrow, Homayoon Farin
and Jamshid; May 18

PAKISTAN

Karachi

DIED

Dinshaw Charna (71); April 1
Aloo Jamshedji Kapadi (84);

April 7

Peruza Dara Dalal (61);

April 24

Homi Fakirji Behrana (64);

April 28

Eruch Kaikobad Pavri (78);

April 28

UK

London

BORN

A boy, *Darius*, to *Vera*
and *Farroakh Parekh*;
May 24

USA

California

DIED

Parvin Kadkhoda (54),
wife of Rostam and
mother of Mehrbanoo
and Kikhosrow;
March 15
Firouz Kermani (77),
husband of Parvin and
father of Guity, Farideh
and Roxana; April 10

Concord

DIED

Rusi Vasanias, husband of
Dolly and father of Adil
and Anita; December 27, 1993

Compiled by Roxana A. Driver

TOTALS FOR 1993 AND 1994

	Bombay			India			World		
	A	B	C	A	B	C	A	B	C
BORN									
Boys	23	137	56	5	9	5	4	39	11
Girls	19	135	57	2	4	3	--	43	6
MARRIED									
Parsi	41	324	176	6	14	7	2	19	2
Intercommunal	--	79	24*	--	4	2	--	6	2
DIED									
CONSIGNED									
Males	95	563	241	16	99	30	7	53	25*
Females	85	524	229	21	77	31	4	39	14*
CREMATED									
Males	--	2	5	--	1	--	--	--	--
Females	--	6	1	--	--	--	--	--	--

A: Total numbers in this issue

B: Running totals for 1993 (February 1993-July-August 1994 issues)

C: Running totals for 1994 (February-March 1994-July-August 1994 issues)

* Males married out -- 13
Females married out -- 11

* Overseas deaths are listed in the consigned column as *Parsiana* does not have any breakup of those cremated.

These figures pertain to information provided or collected by *Parsiana*. They do not represent the total number of births, marriages and deaths in the Zoroastrian community in India or abroad.



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

BLAZING BUSINESSWOMAN



Died: Ms Freni Meherji Variava, 77, founder partner of Blaze Advertising Private Limited which had helped pioneer the screening of advertisement films in Indian cinema houses, on February 16, 1994 in Bombay following kidney failure.

For the last several years an inoperable heart condition had hampered Variava's movements considerably, yet she continued to retain her interest in the business she had nurtured and whose diversification she had witnessed through the battery of telephones that were kept within reach. Her secretaries would frequently be operating from her residence and when she was in hospital alternately camping there too with her.

Her intimidating front notwithstanding, her peers and juniors continued to regard her with utmost respect. Mentions Ravi Gupta, managing director of Trikaya Grey Advertising India Limited, "When I was wearing short pants in advertising she was one of the seniormost members. And yet, in spite of this difference in our professional standing if I had any problem I could always go up to her. Many people thought she was a very tough person. To me she was the epitome of understanding and kindness."

Also lauding Variava's maturity was Bobby Sista, chairman and managing di-

rector of Sista's Private Limited, who had known her since he was a junior executive in the mid '50s. He particularly remembers her disappointment when he had passed on some business to one of Blaze's competitors then and her graciousness to accord him affection and courtesy despite that. "She kept her dignity and our relationship was never affected by that. Anyway Blaze was too much of a giant to be afraid of competition," acknowledged Sista who also admired her "qualities of leadership to win the loyalty of her employees over the years."

Many subordinates whom she had employed on humanitarian grounds were sanguine that they could always depend on her goodwill, while many of her managers often feared to approach her unless convinced by her secretary that she was in a good mood. Her secretary L. M. Dias who had worked with her for 38 years remembers her for being "very methodical and systematic, not tolerating anything slipshod. She was a perfectionist who believed in punctuality." There is no limit to the number of times she must have impressed her associates with "To be successful you must be punctual."

Another senior executive to admire Variava was Sorab Commissariat, manager of Blaze Preview Theatre, who de-

scribes her as a "crack saleswoman in the sense that she was mainly responsible for bringing in all the clientele as well as obtaining sole agency rights of prestigious cinemas throughout India." According to Commissariat she "has left an indelible imprint on the annals of cinema advertising. A versatile woman, she came up from a humble start and became a dynamic, moving force behind a gigantic business empire."

Since its beginning in 1947, Blaze has experimented with different enterprises: a magazine, film publicity, screening of advertisement films in cinema houses, producing feature films, Blaze Travels and Tours, Blaze Enterprises, Fulcrum advertising agency, Blaze Publishers and Distributors, Blaze Flash Couriers... The founding partners, Variava and Mohan Bijlani, had first come together with a capital of Rs 1,500 each to launch Blaze magazine. Neither was this venture successful nor their subsequent effort as publicists for Sohrab Modi's *Jhansi Ki Rani*. A major breakthrough for them came when Sohrab's brother Keki Modi, who owned 42 theaters in India, permitted the duo to screen advertisement slides in his cinema houses. Gradually gaining a hold on many more theaters Blaze enjoyed a near monopoly, frequently buying out small competitors.

Thrice a month she would be out of Bombay in connection with her business responsibilities. Unmarried, she would put in long hours of work on a regular basis, remembers her sister-in-law Ms Silloo Variava. There would be days when she would come home so tired, she would get up in the middle of the night after she had had a couple of hours of sleep to accommodate her daily prayer ritual. This excessive exertion had taken its toll on her health. Following the death of her partner in 1976, the death of her younger brother a year later, and mounting anxiety with TV making inroads into cinema advertising, she developed a heart problem in 1982 which required open heart surgery in 1984 and a pacemaker to be fitted for her in 1988.

Ankur, which was the first feature film directed by Shyam Benegal, was also the first film produced by Blaze. *Nishant*, *Bhumika*, *Mandi*, *Trikaal* were the other films financed by Blaze. In his condolence letter to the family Benegal writes: "Ms Variava was a brave and extraordinary lady with a strong will and generous temperament. I was always impressed by her straightforwardness in her dealings and the warmth of her spirit... She had very caring

"Goodness, I left the tap on!"



 **KRUPP INDUSTRIES INDIA LTD.**

formerly BUCKAU WOLF INDIA 

Nexus/BW/66

ways about her and a delightful sense of humor."

Also admiring her personality, particularly her determination "to persevere in general with her goals," was Sylvester daCunha, chairman of daCunha Associates Private Limited. He further commented, "Her generosity was well known as was her ability to make friends."

She had a gift of livening up a conversation and could strike an instant rapport with children. After the death of her brother, she substituted as the head of the family and was particularly devoted to her niece Felicia and nephew Jamshed to whom she has bequeathed her wealth, recalls Silloo. The tall and elegant Freni would often be asked where she had acquired her social graces, remembers Silloo. And, to the surprise of the interrogator expecting to hear the name of a finishing school in Switzerland she would give a forthright response: "Doing *jhadu-katka* (sweeping and swabbing)."

With the death of her father when she was yet a teenager, it fell to Freni's lot to divide her time between college education, helping her younger brother Fali with studies, looking after an ailing mother, and doing the household chores. The house was then supposedly run on a daily budget of four annas. After completing her MA, during the World War II days she took up a job. Freni reportedly never forgot the obligation she owed to Sir Dinshaw Petit for his timely assistance of Rs 1,500 and years later returned it, with interest amounting to nearly Rs 18,000, to a surprised Petit.

Another impression she had carried with her over time was the sight of people gathered in Keki Modi's office to receive donations from him. She too had then vowed that if she did well financially she would undertake social work. Thus was born Seth Fali Meherji Variava Charitable Trust which is a cosmopolitan trust helping widows, orphans and sick people. The inmates of different widows' chawls and dharamshalas are treated to free meals and rations regularly; on birthdays and other anniversaries 1,000 poor beggars on the road are fed; many others receive monthly doles. "Her philanthropic attitude helped several souls to survive and gave support to many to maintain their houses," acknowledges Subhash Sampat, deputy secretary of the Indian Merchants' Chamber. Variava's multi-faceted personality can be aptly summed up in the words of Commissariat: "She was a giant of a woman with the heart of a lamb."

Parinaz Gandhi

EXOTIC EGGS

continued from page 132

OMELET WITH FINE HERBS

Eggs (4-6)

Tarragon

Chives

Parsely

Chervil

(all or any —
chopped)

Cream (60 g)

Butter (45 g)

Salt (to taste)

Beat your eggs thoroughly with chopped parsley, tarragon, chives and chervil. Add

**"Leftovers
must be employed
only with caution,
ability and
above all, silence"**

cream and beat again. Pour into hot butter in a skillet. Constantly bring the egg to the centre allowing the liquid to flow to sides to cook, but take care the omelet is of even thickness and on the semi liquid side. Remove to a buttered platter sprinkled with fresh fine herbs. Serve drooling. (Excuse the expression. Each art has its own language, which is essential for communication amongst practitioners.)

Note: Chives, scallions (spring onions) and leeks belong to the onion family. Chives are thin long leaves resembling the green leaves of spring onions. Scallions are another word for spring onions. Leeks look like very large spring onions. They are coarser than spring onions and are usually cooked and not eaten raw.

KIRSCH OMELET

Eggs (6)

Sugar (3 tbsp)

Kirsch (1 plus ½ tbsp)

Apricot jam (3 tbsp)

Salt (to taste)

Beat eggs in a bowl with salt, sugar and 1 tbsp of kirsch. Make an omelet of this. Roll. Set on a long platter. Sprinkle with powdered sugar. Make whatever pattern your fancy dictates on the omelet with a hot poker. Heat rest of kirsch, mix with apricot jam and pour into the platter around the omelet.

Bon appetit!

Do you have a G6PD enzyme deficiency?

The G6PD enzyme deficiency, common among the Parsis, makes them highly susceptible to certain drugs.* The deficiency may cause jaundice in the newborn and severe hemolytic crisis (destruction of red blood cells) in adults.

Ask your family doctor to arrange for a blood test to detect whether you have G6PD enzyme deficiency. If you happen to be a G6PD-D patient, it is essential that you carry your card at all times so that in any emergency you would receive appropriate treatment.

*Analgesics: Acetanilid, Acetylsalicylic acid, Aspirin, Acetophenetidin (Phenacetin), Antipyrine, Pyramidone.

Sulfonamides and Sulfones:
Sulfanilamide, Sulfapyridine, N2
Acetylsulfanilamide, Sulfacetamide,
Sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin),
Thiazolsulfone,
Salicylazosulfapyridine (Azulfadine),
Sulfoxone, Sulfamethoxypyridine
(Kynex).

Antimalarials: Primaquine,
Pamaquine, Pentaquine,
Quinacrine (Atabrine).
Nonsulfonamide antibacterial
agents: Furazolidone, Nitrofurantoin
(Furadantin), Chloramphenicol,
Para-aminosalicylic acid.
Miscellaneous: Naphthalene, Vitamin
K (Water soluble analogues),
Prodenecid, Trinitrotoluene,
Methylene blue, Dimercaprol (BAL),
Phenylhydrazine, Quinine and
Quinidine; Sulpha containing
compounds including Septran, DDS
and Daraprim; Nitrofurantoin,
Nalidixic acid including all
derivatives of this group, Antistine,
Diphenylhydramine, Pronestyl,
Nitrites; Large doses of
Chloroquine, Chloromycetin, Vit. C
and Vit. K.

Published in the public interest
by Parsiana



Rasna introduces Spread Maker.

The delicious new alternative.



**Rs. 11.75
Per Pack**



Rasna Spread. **It's delicious:** It tastes jammy. It looks jammy. It even smells jammy. Kids gobble it with bread and biscuits. Grown-ups love it on parathas and puris. **It's easy to make:** You can make it in just a few minutes. And even choose from 3 delicious fruity flavours: Mixed fruit, Pineapple and Orange. **Its economical too:** One pack of Rasna Spread Maker costs only Rs. 11.75. And makes 500 gms. of Spread. Rasna Spread. **The taste of jam at just half the price!**

HOW TO MAKE RASNA SPREAD:



Take 1 full Rasna Spread Maker cup of water, heat it and add Rasna Spread Maker **POWDER**.



Then add 2 full Rasna Spread Maker cups of sugar and keep stirring.



Boil for a few more minutes and remove from fire.



Add Rasna Spread Maker **LIQUID** and stir.



Pour mixture into a clean, wide-mouthed bottle. Allow to set for 4 hours.

SPECTRA VISION
VIDEO • PHOTO • MUSIC **LABS**



*Excellence
has
its
rewards*

NAZNEEN VAJIFDAR

R.N. 947464
MHBY/S-01

M-15 CUSROW BAUG S.B. ROAD BOMBAY 400 039 • ☎ 2025285 241459