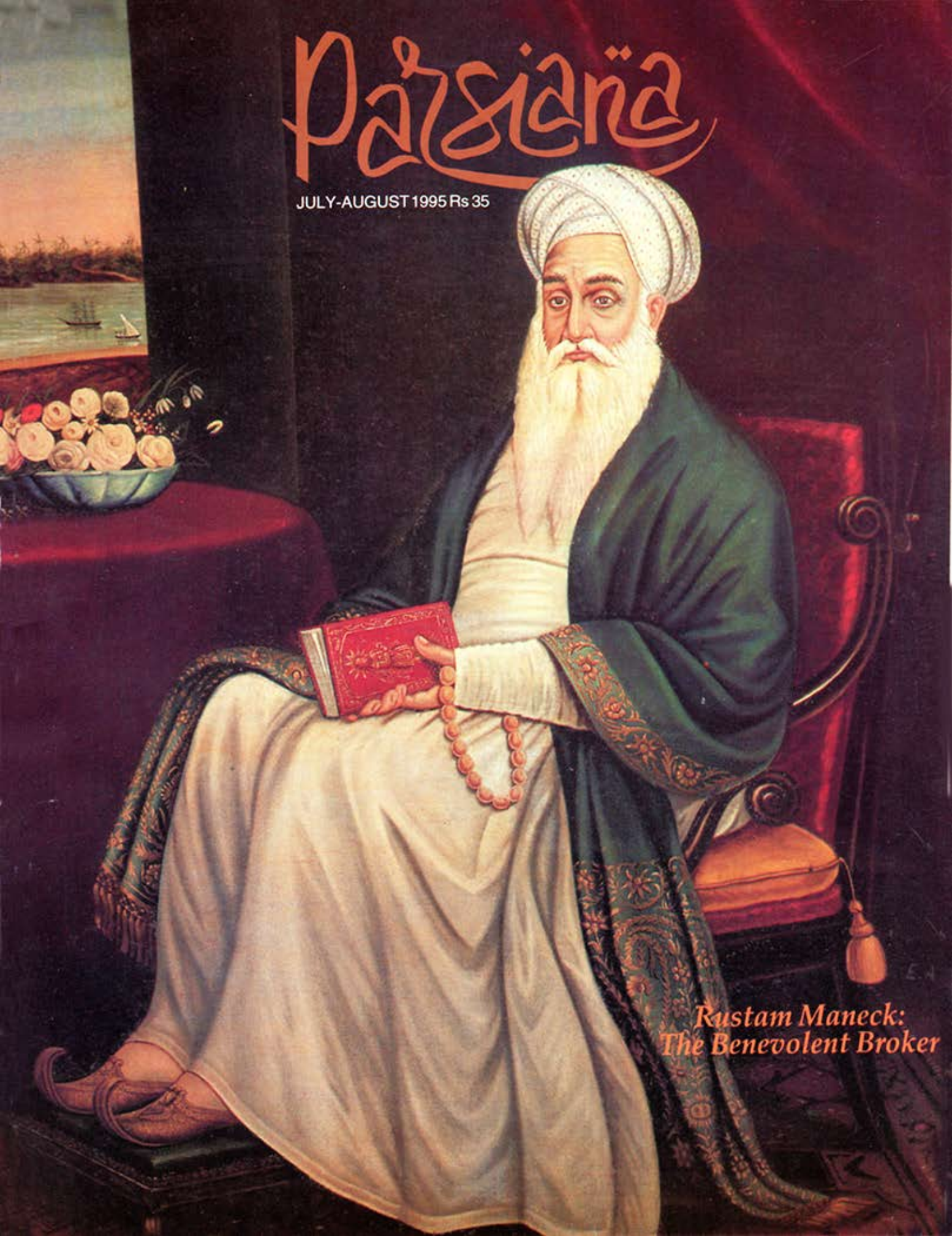


Parzianā

JULY-AUGUST 1995 Rs 35



*Rustam Maneck:
The Benevolent Broker*

AIRFREIGHT

L I M I T E D

AIRFREIGHT
LIMITED
AIR & OCEAN
FORWARDING



Meets All Your
Transportation
Needs

From Door
To Door

INDIRAVELS
TRAVEL & TOURS



Across
the
world



ACE
DOMESTIC EXPRESS
CARGO



DHL
WORLDWIDE EXPRESS
EXPRESS DIVISION OF
AIRFREIGHT LIMITED



An enterprise
serving
194 locations
in India,

AIRFREIGHT
LIMITED

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

Regd. Office: Neville House, Currimbhoy Road,
Ballard Estate, Bombay 400038.

Parsiana

July-August 1995
Volume 18 Number 1

EDITOR Jehangir R. Patel

MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz S. Mama

EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz M. Gandhi

SENIOR EDITOR Dina K. Mehta

ASSOCIATE EDITOR Roxana A. Driver

DESIGN Kranti M. Shilotri,
Varghese W. Fernandez, Jayshree R. Ghosh

MARKETING DIRECTOR Veera Patel

ADVERTISING MANAGER Zarin Mistry

ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES
Niloufer Panthaky, Susan Hadvaid

FINANCE B. L. Arora

EDP Rohinton E. Daroga

ADMINISTRATION R. S. Pingle

MANAGEMENT Jasmine Driver

DTP Bakhtavar R. Battliwalla, K. P. Ravi

SUBSCRIPTION/CIRCULATION
Khurshid Panthaki, Bindu Pillai

ACCOUNTS Anagha Korde

OFFICE Swarupa Kamat, Varsha Ashar,
Indu Pillai

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 200; for two years (20 issues)
Rs 375. Foreign subscription rates: Seemal for
one year Rs 375/US \$ 14/UK £ 9; for two
years Rs 700/US \$ 23/UK £ 15 (please allow
six months or more for delivery from the time
of publication). Airmail for one year
Rs 700/US \$ 23/UK £ 15 (for Pakistan,
Indian Rs 500); for two years, Rs 1,300/US \$ 43/
UK £ 27 (for Pakistan, Indian Rs 950).
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

22 Events and Personalities

28 Zoroastrians Abroad

34 Interview with BPP chairman Eruch Desai by Arnavaz Mama

46 Dadi Engineer: "A practical stand"

50 New home for Mhow fire by Gp Capt D. M. Marker

54 Nagpur's legacy of faith by Dilnavaz Bhagwagar

58 Fed Awards: Accolades for achievers

68 Federation dialogue: The mating game

76 Praying together, staying together

81 Chikoos: An American native in India by Z. M. Zend

88 Dr Jehangir Irani: The pulse of his patients

90 Rustam Maneck-1: The largehearted fixer by Dr Homi Eduljee

98 Ecoplast: In Pursuit of Plastics

104 Rutt-Deen: hospitable and viable by Jerroo Irani

108 Things go better with Mistry by Homi Rogers

114 Marfatia: Molding and Minding by Parinaz Gandhi

124 Pervez Modi: The promising pianist

128 The Billimorias: Musicians in the making

136 Parsiana questionnaire: Into the future

146 Recipes: High tea with a Parsi by Bhicoo Manekshaw

153 Books

160 Milestones

176 In Memoriam

Cover: Portrait of Rustam Maneck hanging in Bombay's Maneckjee Sett
Agiary Photo: Homyar Mistry, Homz Prints



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.

A sacrilege at Surat?

Seth Dadabhai N. Modi, after whom the Seth Dadabhai Naoshirvanji Modi Atash Behram, Surat, is named, was very religious, a *deen* parast and a philanthropist. During his lifetime, he donated generously to various charities. He died at the age of 50 years.

Overwhelmed by her son's noble deeds, the mother, Navajbai, wanted to establish an atash behram at Surat, in his pious memory. Before her death, Navajbai confided her desire to her daughter-in-law, Jaiji, the widow of Dadabhai.

Jaiji, with the help of her brother, Hormusji Wadia (of Bombay's H. B. Wadia Atash Behram) completed all the work and formalities and the Atash Behram was consecrated on *roj* Sarosh mah Ardibehst YZ 1193 (Wednesday, November 19, 1823).

Apart from the Parsis of Surat, about 20,000 Zarthostis from places such as

Mumbai, Poona, Valsad, Navsari, Udaipur, Thane, etc congregated at Surat. Among them were dasturs, mobeds, yozdathregars, behdins, sethias... Government offices, courts, etc were closed, whilst factories using fire and owned by sister communities, such as those of goldsmiths, blacksmiths, earthenware makers, smelters, had downed their shutters so that on this auspicious day there would be no *jaffa* (burden) on any of the fires in the city.

What happens after a long passage of about 171 years since that memorable day?

We have come to know that the present chairman of the board of trustees of the Modi Atash Behram admits in a letter written to the Surat Parsi Panchayat that his daughter has married a juddin with full consent of her parents.

He compounds this by allowing the said daughter, on March 10, 1995, with the connivance of other trustees, to enter the holy precincts of the Atash Behram. The chief boiwala is a witness to the visit but he is pressurized to keep his mouth shut.

Though the atash padshah is insulted, the holy fire will continue to shine and bless the devotees who come to worship it and seek its guidance.

On the other hand, the perpetrator of the sacrilege, the said juddin daughter and the two prime abettors, her father and the chief boiwala, would be answerable before Dadar Ahura Mazda's *darbar*.

It is not too late for the chief boiwala, who was publicly felicitated by the Parsi community and showered with shawls and pelf and praised for his performing outstanding *nirangdin* rituals, to tender his resignation and, thereby, set a fine example. Will he act or will he continue to cling to his post?

Will the chairman ever show any remorse? Will he ever repent? Will he ever offer a public apology to the Parsi community?

BHIKHAJI M. ADENWALLA

Davar Kavasji T. Modi, chairman of the

Modi Atash Behram, Surat, replies

The history of the Seth Dadabhai Naoshirvanji Modi Atash Behram is substantially correct but I would like to bring the following facts to the notice of your readers.

The importance of this particular fire-temple cannot be over emphasized for when it was consecrated on November 19, 1823 it was the very first fire-temple in Surat and that day has gone down in history for three very important records. For on that day 20,000 Parsis including dasturs and mobeds came from all over the country to attend the opening religious ceremonies. This was a record attendance for any fire-temple. Another record was that for the first time in history all government offices, factories and small industries were declared closed and the occasion was celebrated by all. Even Bombay celebrated the great occasion by arranging religious ceremonies and feasts. The third record was that the then head of the Parsis, Davar Khurshedji Dossabhoy Modi, was carried in a palanquin from his residence to the fire-temple. He was carried in a procession

consisting of persons of all communities including the staff of the Sadar Adalat, Jilla Adalat, the military garrison, men of the collector, Bakshi of Surat and the military and other bands (*Parsi Prakash* Vol. I). These were indeed unique honors.

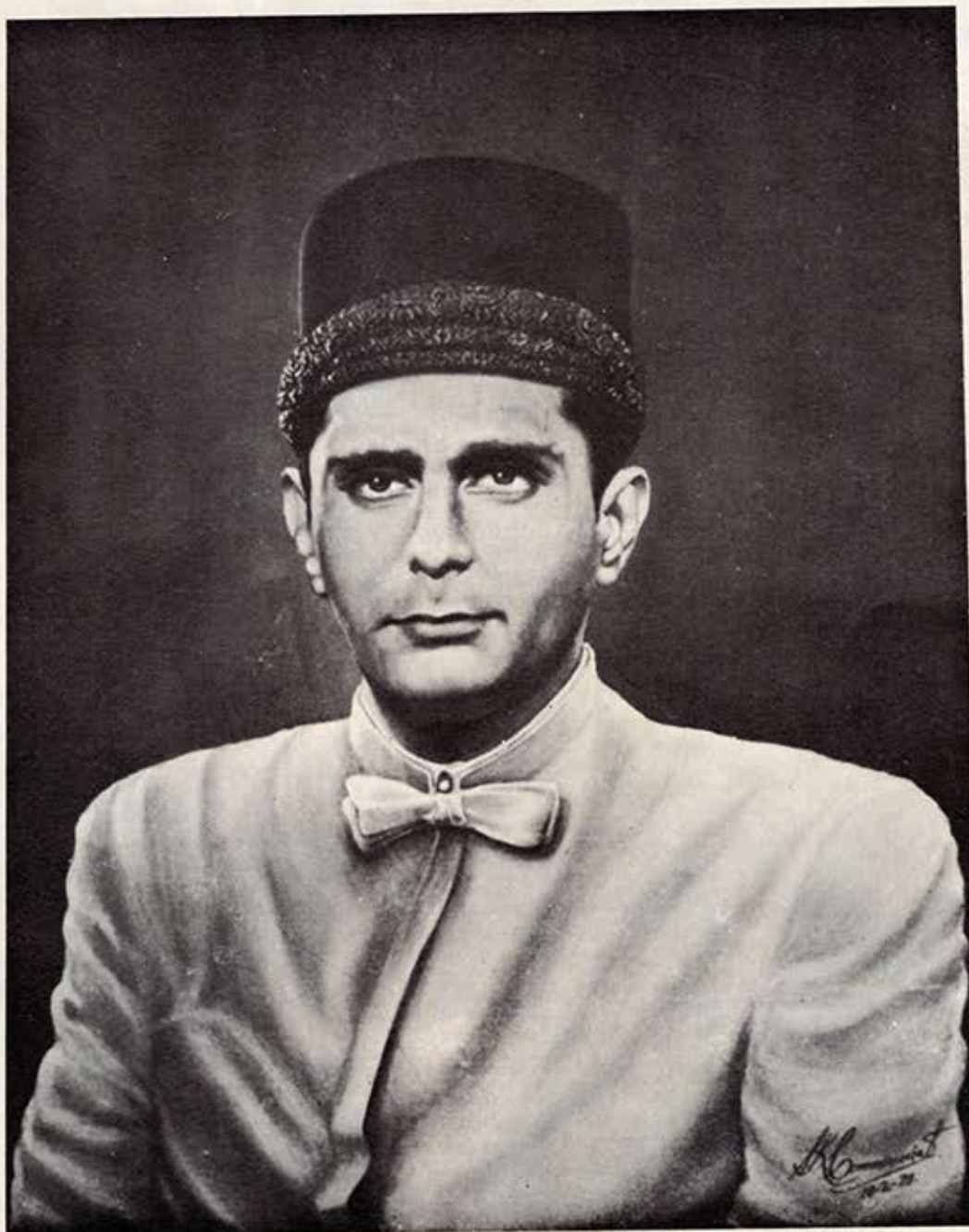
Mr Adenwalla goes on to attack the present chairman of the Atash Behram without verifying the facts. I must state with all the emphasis at my command that I have not written any letter to the Surat Parsi Panchayat of which I am a senior

trustee nor have I written to any one else as stated by Mr Adenwalla. Some mischief makers, it appears, have circulated a bogus letter which is on plain paper and not my letter paper.

The facts are that my daughter has married a non-Parsi under the Special Marriage Act and has never renounced her



The winged bulls guard the entry to the Modi Atash Behram



In Memoriam
Mr Fali Meherji Variava
Ex-Director

BLAZE TOURS & TRAVELS PVT LTD

Indian Merchants Chamber Bldg, Opp Churchgate Station, Bombay 400020
Tel Nos: 2044439, 2020233, 2840026, 2843901, 2843910, 2029406, 2835140 Fax: (022) 2048037

religion. She is born of Parsi Zoroastrian parents, her navjote was duly performed when she was nine years old in Surat. The trustees of the Atash Behram have considered her case and the affidavits and opinions of dasturs and others and also considered the legal position and have unanimously resolved that she still remains a Parsi Zoroastrian and hence has the right to attend all Parsi religious places of worship, marriages, navjotes, funerals and all ceremonies relating to the same, jashans and all other religious ceremonies.

There is no question of the chief boiwala being pressurized to keep his mouth shut for at a meeting with the trustees all boiwala mobeds of the Atash Behram had agreed that my daughter had a right to attend the Atash Behram and worship there. Hence no sacrilege has been committed by anyone.

It is truly unfortunate that fundamentalism has entered our great, noble and glorious religion. These so-called orthodox persons are dividing our great community and, if these unwarranted outbursts continue, there is no future for our rapidly dwindling community. Let them look around and see what fundamentalism has done throughout the world. It has caused divisions, bloodshed, suffering and brought misery to millions of people. Do they also want to speed up the extinction of our

community? I end with a prayer that the voice of reason, sanity and wisdom may prevail and may Ahura Mazda bless our community and unite it so that we can regain some of our past glory.

Navjote in Surat

It is really shocking and disheartening to note that a navjote has actually been performed of one Mr Mukesh Ramesh-chandra Rathod of Dubra parentage. What was thought of as a rumor, has since been confirmed.

The mobed who performed the navjote, Eruchsha M. Jijina who claims not to know the wrong he has done, should be excommunicated from the community and should be debarred for life from performing any Zoroastrian ceremony in future. He should have known or at least made an effort to check his identity and parentage. I am sure a Dubra can easily be distinguished from a boy of Parsi parents. Besides how can a mobed perform the navjote ceremony of a man of 28 years, when it is clearly mentioned that no navjote is to be performed after the age of 15 years.

Mr Neville Wadia got his navjote performed at the ripe age of 81+ years and got away with it as he has the backing of five out of seven learned high priests.

I fail to understand what steps the learned

members of the community have taken or intend to take, to stop this irreligious trend.

ASFANDIAR SOHRAB GOTLA

Dr Sam Bhacca, president of the Surat Parsi Panchayat, replies

We badly require kamdars (i.e. khadhias and nassessalars) for our ruvan khata. We have advertised in papers, written to various anjumans and punchayets to help us in this direction, but we have not been able to add even one member to our ruvan khata staff. It is not always possible to get outside help when necessity arises. We have a population of about 3,000 Parsis. We have an infirmary for the disabled and decrepit. There are about 100 deaths in a year. Parsis in this fast expanding city are now residing in scattered areas and it is not possible to run the ruvan khata efficiently thinking that volunteers will come forward to assist. Even during the controversy, nobody has offered to be available to help when necessity arises.

So when one Mahernosh (who is called Mukesh by his non-Parsi mother), came to us asking for a job in the ruvan khata where his father Ratan and his brother Kersi (called Kishor by his mother) are also working, we were happy to be able to add one member to the ruvan khata staff and with this idea, his navjote was performed.

In Service of the Suffering

MAZDA MEDICAL ELECTRONICS

BURJIS N. KHURSHEDI & CO

104 Amit Industrial Estate, 61 Dr S. S. Rao Road
Parel, Bombay 400012
Tel: 4135468, Fax: 91-22-4130148

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

Before any work was assigned to him, we came to learn that there was some commotion in the community. We immediately announced in public that we are making inquiries and till we gather authentic information, he will not be allowed to undertake any activity in the ruvan khata.

Spite of this assurance which was published in the press and a copy whereof was sent to one of the three persons who had convened the meeting, the meeting was held and speeches made, mostly by Bombay-based persons, and several resolutions were passed about which there was no reference in the leaflet convening the meeting. A legal notice was also served on us by a Bombay advocate in the light of the said resolution. As far as our information goes, threats were made against the said Mahernosh or Mukesh and some illegal actions were taken about which we would not like to comment.

We would like to inform you that the said Mahernosh Ratan Ichhaporia has made an affidavit dated August 7, 1995 wherein he has said that as his navjote has created a controversy in the community, he declares that he is no more a Zarthosti, that the sudreh and kusti were removed from his person and he would not claim any right in future on the ground that he was a Parsi.

As such, the matter has ended as far as we are concerned and there is no reason for the community to continue the agitation in this direction. We have full faith in the age-old system of dokhmenashini and what we did was with good intention.

"Women's rights?"

Mr F. F. Vakil ("Women's rights?" Readers' Forum, *Parsiana* April 1995) has completely misunderstood my letter. The one and only point I had made in my letter (*Parsiana*, May and December 1994) was that bigamy was a better solution for our dwindling community than resorting to intermarriages. Unfortunately, Mr Vakil has used his imagination to impute that I had suggested that Parsis and non-Parsis with identical surnames would be appropriate candidates for intermarriages, which is ridiculous.

His further argument that if Parsis can have Forbes and Marshall, why can't they also have Fernandez as a surname is a hypothetical question. There was a Forbes and Marshall because of a special close rapport between the British and the Parsis. It does not follow that Parsis can also freely take on Chinese, Japanese, African or European surnames. If this were to happen (God forbid), the whole identity of the community would be lost.

Some people have a penchant for extending their logic to absurd limits (reductio ad absurdum).

Dr P. D. SUNAVALA

"An accordion operation"

With reference to the caption ("An accordion operation," *Parsiana*, April 1995) I am very sorry that due to an error on my part the project was referred to as Power Rangers and not *Johnny Lightning*. We request you to carry the correction to avoid any legal complications.

Ms SHERAZ BHESANIA

Vancouver, Canada

"A Zoroastrian again"

The letter by Ervad Nadirshah P. Unwalla, head priest, Bangalore Parsee Zoroastrian Anjuman ("A Zoroastrian again," *Parsiana*, February-March 1995), makes sad reading. Priests like him are the cause of the decline of the Zoroastrian religion.

His view considering a Parsi woman married to a non-Parsi as not a Zoroastrian shows the man's narrow-mindedness. To the best of my knowledge nowhere is it said in the Zoroastrian religion that a Zoroastrian woman married to a non-Zoroastrian cannot retain her Zoroastrian religion and practice it and that she cannot be allowed inside a fire-temple or be consigned to our towers of silence. It is

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: 2871058

DEECO GROUP

representing International companies for Industrial Marketing, Ongoing Technical Support Services, Project Promotion, would be happy to meet professionals for the following positions

Projects Manager: Must have experience of working on projects either in industry or in consulting. Should have confidence to make project presentations to Indian industry. Work could also include planning of marketing strategies for imported Industrial products. This is a full time position — but we are flexible to consider also part time professional attachment if you so desire.

Position reports to the Managing Director.

Sales Manager: To be independently responsible for promoting the sales of specialised components — mechanical, electronic, etc — of International makers to the engineering and auto industries. Position requires direct contacts with Indian companies and immediate feedback/communications with foreign Principals. Experience of about 10 years in industrial sales would be preferred. Must have ongoing desire to learn and acquire the required technical sales knowledge for a variety of products.

Position reports to the Managing Director.

Sales Officers: For promoting sales of imported machinery, equipment and products — to the textile, polymer fibre, engineering industries. Academic qualifications could be in textile or polymer technology, engineering, electronics or commerce. Must be strongly motivated to learn all about hi tech imported products and to make presentations to customers. Some previous work experience would be an advantage — although not essential.

Positions report to the Sales Manager.

Technical Services Engineers: Assignment includes the erection, commissioning and ongoing technical support services for imported industrial and textile machinery at customers sites. Suitable training would be imparted both in India and abroad.

Must have a desire for excellence in technical matters — because customers would call for emergencies and regular advice and you would train technical staff of customers too. Some previous industrial or textile mill experience would be an advantage. Academic qualifications should be in textile or polymer technology, engineering or electronics.

Positions report to Technical Service Manager.

Please apply with Bio-Data and Photograph, stating the positions of interest to:

The Managing Director
DEECO Industrial Supplies Pvt Ltd
GPO Box 509, Bombay 400001

IL Palazzo Hotel



Shirinbai Davierwalla Marg
Panchgani 412 805, Dist. Satara
Tel: 02168-40226, 40266

A king amongst hotels, on the queen of the hills

Newly renovated
rooms

24 hours hot &
cold water

6 channel STAR &
Cable TV

Garden Restaurant

Children's playground
Delicious vegetarian and
non-vegetarian meals

Fully equipped

Gymnasium
and slimming centre

Tennis court,

Table Tennis,

Badminton, Darts,
Carrom and Chess

Located a mere
stone's throw from
the market

IL Palazzo is
one of Panchgani's
oldest and finest
hotels which combines
old world charm with
the most modern
amenities
and conveniences.

also absurd to say that children of a Parsi woman married to a non-Parsi cannot have their navjote done and be treated as Zoroastrians if they so wish.

How did Parsis become Zoroastrians in the first place if they were not converted originally by Zoroaster. And who gives these priests the right to decide on religious matters according to their whims and fancies?

K. R. SETHNA

Aldur, Karnataka

"Advertising is a..."

I find some factual errors in "Advertising is a terrific profession" by Homi Rogers (*Parsiana*, February-March 1995):

- The agency's capitalized billing is Rs 188 crore this year representing a 55 percent increase.

- My father came from the Pancholwala family

- The committee that was formed was not to evaluate sponsored programs, but to introduce sponsored programs on TV

- The committee had nothing to do with convincing Doordarshan to abandon the policy of rationing time to advertisers.

Ms RODA MEHTA

Homi Rogers replies

We regret the mistakes and tender our apologies to Ms Mehta.

"Of legend and history"

It is with grating disbelief that we encounter a "review" of Arthur Christensen's *The Kayanians* (translated by F. N. Tumboowalla) by Adi Doctor ("Of legend and history," *Parsiana*, February-March 1995). One cannot even begin to speculate on whatever might have possessed *Parsiana* to seek out such a reviewer.

The outrage is quite plain for all to sense: Adi Doctor has a pathological dislike of anyone, deceased, living, or to be born, who will not subscribe to his views on our religion and its pious practitioners.

Your esteemed internationally-read journal could have easily asked any of its half dozen well-coordinated reviewers to properly scan what is a long overdue monograph. Christensen was amongst the finest scholars of Iranian history and pre-history who carefully perused all the available literature and commentaries, ancient and modern, to arrive at supremely objective results. He did not have to consult pseudo-orthodox dregvant-s.

One shudders to think how the likes of Doctor and his theosophist colleagues — long may they keep aloof from the sacred religion of Zarathushtra! — would greet

*

M. NUSSERWANJI & COMPANY

Transport Contractors

94, Mahatma Gandhi Road
Pune 411001

PUNE—BOMBAY
MADRAS—BANGALORE

*



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

With the compliments

of

TATA CHEMICALS LIMITED

(The company that cares)

an English translation of Christensen's classic *L'Iran sous les Sassanides* when it does appear in print. Its Farsi translation has been very warmly welcomed by both Zardushti and Muslim Iranians.

Surely *Parsiana* can see through this "review" to discover sordid attacks against scholarship and its Bombay focus, the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute, and its well-intentioned late president? Or is this to be the new norm for book appraisals? As for pathetic attempts at advancing Chiniwalla over Christensen, the best that can be said is that we would rather be karapan-s than dregvant-s.

A last word — the *Ohrmazd Yasht* is indeed a colorlessly composite piece, literally speaking. It does not in any way imply that Arthur Christensen was ridiculing its use as a pious prayer among Parsis. Doctor's prejudice should be exposed for what it is and not the good memories of Christensen, Tumboowalla, Shroff and the eminent Institute which has rightly seen fit to publish the work. Hope *Parsiana* will soon feel better despite its lapse over choice of reviewer!

FARROKH VAJIFDAR
London, U.K.

"The bitter-sweet lure..."

We read "The bitter-sweet lure of Chocolate" (*Parsiana*, December 1994) in the UK and were happy to see featured Meher Pinto and Meher Gandevia.

We had earlier written to *Parsiana* to feature the young entrepreneur and apologise for wrongly accusing *Parsiana* in that letter of not featuring certain people.

Anyway we would like your readers to know that we tried Meher Gandevia's Chocophile chocolates in Bombay and when we did, we not only liked her chocolates but also her sincerity. When we asked her if she made marzipan (which she does not), she gave us the number of Meher Pinto and referred Meher Pinto to us. We were touched by her sincerity and so we asked *Parsiana* to feature her. We must add that both Meher's chocolates are excellent, both Meher's have done the Parsi community proud! The Youth Association of UK must invite Meher Gandevia. We and our UK acquaintances liked her thoughts on religion and humanity in the article.

Our best wishes to all the chocolate makers you wrote about. RUSTOM WADIA
Bangalore

"To think anew"

The November issue of *Parsiana* marks a milestone, with the journal completing 30 years of effort at reforming the Parsi community. It has been an admirable effort, realizing the conservative nature of our leaders. Reforming any community is an uphill task.

Your effort "To think anew" is well conceived, especially through canvassing the opinion of your readers on the future of the community, 30 years hence. But, you must go beyond publishing opinions. What is needed is a preparation of a plan of action on the lines of the earlier Bombay Plan which some of the industrialists and the planners had prepared many years ago for the consideration of the government. Although the plan was not included in the national Five-Year Plan, it made its impact in many ways on national life. Similarly if one prepares a Plan of action for the community with the help of thinkers and social scientists, it may have an impact.

I would like to share with you some reflections on areas of consideration for the plan:

The most primary attention requires to be given to the dwindling

With Best Compliments From

THE WHITE CLOUD PAPER MILLS

412, Gultekdi Road
Poona 411037

**Pioneer Manufacturers
of Best Quality Base Filter Papers in India**

**Imitated by many
Equaled by none**

Gram: WHITECLOUD Phones: 441078, 432236

population of the community. Various measures need to be examined such as encouraging families with adequate economic and social standard of living to have more than one child. At present the average seems to be 1.5 child per family. We should aim at three, as two will only maintain the zero growth of population.

This cannot be achieved by encouraging poor families to have more children through educational and other grants as visualized by the Parsi Punchayet. Childbearing reflects social attitudes and values. Besides, having more children requires more than just educational or even financial aid. It calls for readiness of parents to care for the growth and development of the offspring and giving them the cultural and social outlook to grow as good citizens while getting ready to face the challenges of life in the field of employment and commerce.

Nearly 30 percent of our women do not get married or have late marriages. They need to be encouraged to have partners in life with the desire to have children. This will call for freedom to select partners both from within and without the community and allowing their children to embrace the Zoroastrian religion. At present our girls are more educated than our boys and earn higher income on an average. They do not find our boys challenging and suitable for marriage.

On the religious front, Zoroastrianism, although most liberal, has acquired the religiosity of conservatism and even fundamentalism especially among many of the priests, thereby keeping the community tied down to rituals rather than aiding its development. Instead of inspiring its followers with high ideals and ideas initiated by Lord Zarathushtra, religion has become the greatest hindrance to progress.

There has hardly been a study made of the extent of poverty among the Parsis during the last quarter of a century. The late Prof P. A. Wadia had maintained in the 1950s and 1960s some figures on the extent of poverty prevailing in the community. Early efforts at providing cheaper and safe housing in Parsi colonies, although a useful measure at that time, has left a backlash in the form of poverty of ideas and values among them. Poverty as a phenomenon is distinct for the Parsi community as compared to the rest of the people of India.

The Liaison Committee, initiated by Prof Wadia, Rustam Masani, Jehangir Cama and P. P. Mistry to coordinate Parsi charities and to provide a generation of self-respecting citizens, has acquired a routine character, not effective to meet the emerging challenges of life.

The program initiated by the late Dr Behram Mehta through the activities of the

Zarthosti Unnati Dwara (ZUD) in the 1950s and 1960s requires to be examined and re-initiated with necessary modification. It was a program involving employment of the unemployables, accompanied by recreation and cultural activities through community welfare centers' leadership training of the youth and bringing the youth closer to the youth of other communities.

In addition, day-care centers for the children of working mothers and day-care centers for the elderly near their place of residence in the colonies are required to be developed. This effort at rejuvenating the Parsi community, especially its youth, has to be undertaken with the cooperation of existing anjumans in India and abroad, especially in the UK, USA and Canada. Although they may not have the same problems as ours, they are similar. Besides India's negative attitude spills over in their life as very close contact is maintained with the mother community by those who have migrated abroad.

The younger generation has to be actively associated with this effort as the existing elders and akabars of punchayets and anjumans have failed to meet the challenge that the community will have to face in the coming 30 years.

MEHER C. NANAVATTY
New Delhi

APPOINTED
VALUERS OF JEWELLERY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

GAZDAR
PRIVATE LIMITED

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

Friendly – Helpful – Efficient

We arrange every detail carefully, to make your stay just the way you want it. All this within a few minutes walk from the sights and sounds of downtown Bombay.

For the business traveller, a most refreshing change of pace. The warmth and attention is so much a part of our hospitality that our customers are happy to visit us again.

Service is a long standing tradition at SG.

Sea Green is located, amidst the commercial, business, shopping & entertainment centres of Bombay. All our rooms are air-conditioned and have STAR + CABLE TV for your viewing pleasure. All this surrounded by the breath-taking panoramic view of the sea.



*Friendly
Helpful
Efficient*

SEA GREEN HOTEL

145, Marine Drive, Bombay 400 020 Tel: 2822294, 2822235, 2822364

*Happy
New Year*

LORD'S CENTRAL HOTEL

Enjoy the
mountains,
monkeys and
our hospitality



Matheran 410102

Telephones

Matheran 021483-0228
Bombay 3867776

Winter Relief Fund

Your generous contributions to the Zoroastrian Winter Relief Fund (ZWRP) have helped to brighten the lives of the underprivileged and the underfed of our community.

Last year, the major part of your contributions were utilized in helping Zoroastrians in Gujarat who were badly hit by natural calamities. Although our Fund was set up in 1983 to extend winter relief, help in various other ways like giving medical and educational aid, performing navjotes, gifting necessities of life to newlywed couples, helping expectant mothers, giving sudrehs and kustus to the poor sections of our community, has been undertaken from time to time. This year our target is to help senior citizens in their winter of life.

We once again call upon you to extend generous donations and publicize our efforts to your family and friends so that we could carry on this work.

Your donations may kindly be sent by crossed cheques or money orders in favor of "Zoroastrian Winter Relief Fund" and forwarded to: Ms Kumi J. Daroovala, 16/1 Rustom Baug, Sant Savta Marg, Bombay 400027, tel 3724492 or Ms Shirin N. Manekshana and Dr (Ms) Amy Gustadji, Abhishek S. No. 74/7 and 8, Plot No. 4, Fatima Nagar, Vanosi, Pune 411040.

Necessary relief work will continue in Gujarat despite the change of address of Ms Manekshana and Dr Gustadji and will be handled by other committee members.

Ms KUMI J. DAROOVALA, Ms SHIRIN N. MANEKSHANA, Dr (Ms) AMY GUSTADJI

Live to give

As one of the founder members of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) in 1980 (by virtue of my being then on the committee of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe), I have been its ardent supporter and donor and am justifiably delighted at the success of the task of amelioration that the present team of selfless workers have achieved in the last four years. To successfully meet their extensive program a constant flow of funds by way of donations is as essential as it is imperative.

With this thought in mind, I had set together a few lines in verse:

In this world every minute a child is
born
Whether it is evening, night or early
morn;
Always a little angel with no care in
the world
Like a little boat in the bay with its
sail unfurled;

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

NEAR SILVER SANDY NARGOL BEACH

LORDS'
Sea & Sand

• APARTMENTS •

*SOPHISTICATED RESIDENTIAL COMPLEX 1 / 2 / 3 RK APARTMENTS
& PENTHOUSES WITH OPEN TERRACE.*



**CONSTRUCTION AND BOOKING STARTED FOR
PHASE II - BUILDINGS EF & G**

✠ A-GRADE R.C.C CONSTRUCTION ✠ COMPOUND WALL ✠
✠ TARRED ROADS ✠ STREET LIGHTS ✠ LANDSCAPED GARDENS ✠
✠ CLUBHOUSE WITH INDOOR GAMES ✠ DISC ANTENNA ✠

✱ REASONABLY PRICED ✱ LOAN FACILITY ✱
✱ INSTALMENT PAYMENTS ✱

**CONTACT : KHORSHED BURJOR LORD, LORDS' 46, T.P.S.IV, ROAD NO. 6,
OPP. PROF. ALMEIDA PARK, BANDRA (WEST), BOMBAY - 400 050.
TEL. : (022) 640 8416 - 642 5667**

SITE & OFFICE :
NEXT TO NAVSARJAN HIGH SCHOOL, NARGOL - 395 135. TEL.: (026354) 7241.

An innocent little dear unaware of rags
and riches
On growing up will it wear tattered
jeans or posh breeches?

Till one day due to poverty he can't be
sent to school
Although he is quite clever and is
nobody's fool.
Every morning there is just a cup of tea
for his breakfast,
Of an evening, if he is lucky, he has
stale bread for his repast;
He has never known the taste of rich jam
or sweet honey —
Why? — because he is born to parents
with no money.
You say you have troubles with which
you can't cope,
Try living his life — without a glimmer
of hope.

You and I are lucky to be brought on
this earth
Where of money, joy and knowledge
there is no dearth;
We may not be millionaires and live like
rich kings
But we have seldom been too short of
life's good things.
They say you can't eat the cake and
have it too

But you can — the blessings of the
unfortunate few.

The WZO has done wonders with its
amelioration work
They have gone all out to help — they
never shirk.
When we depart we leave our possessions
behind —
That's the story of our lives, so true though
unkind;
So why not give whatever you still can
And put a smile on the face of a poor
destitute man!
SOLI P. MASTER,
Norbury, London, UK

Persian class

I wish to offer my services as an honorary
teacher of the Persian language.

I have passed MA examination with
first class in Persian through St Xavier's
College, Bombay. I have taught Persian in
five local schools for over 16 years, besides
coaching college students privately. I
travelled all over Persia in the year 1960
and had met great scholars like Prof Pour
Davoud, Prof Abdul Hussain Spenta and
Prof Ali Sami.

Lately, I have retired from the Union
Bank of India after serving for 26 years.

I am quite confident of teaching the

Persian language from the very beginning
— reading, writing and speaking — with
my own unique method, free of charge to
a group of minimum 10 students once or
twice a week for a couple of hours. I expect
that conveyance charges, viz taxi fare from
my residence to the place of teaching
would be reimbursed to me.

Interested readers may contact the
undersigned at 34, Owners Court, Near
Strand Cinema, Colaba, Bombay 400005
(Tel 2834857).

B. R. BASTAWALA

YOU's golden jubilee

It is a miracle that the Youths' Own Union
(YOU) has survived for 50 years. Some
Parsi institutions do not last for long.

YOU held a session every Monday, and
even now a meeting is held once a week. It
carried on many activities — debates, elo-
cution competitions, speeches, symposia.
Additionally, there were cricket tourna-
ments, jashans, religious classes held by
Dr and Ms Peer. Every year it organized a
colorful parade half the proceeds of which
were devoted to the Poor Students Fund,
from which annual scholarships were
awarded to students in Parsi schools.

A unique feature was the Music Circle
founded by Vistaspa Balsara who also
taught music to interested youths. Even
now YOU arranges occasional per-

With Best Compliments From

ASPI IRANI ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS

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

Travel has never been easier

TRAVELPACK, straight out of the West, with eight offices in the UK and a strong presence 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

Your master plan for travel !!!

formances by musicians.

To Jal Hirjibehdin goes the credit of establishing the YOU and conducting it as its president for over eight years. Truly he was the soul of the YOU and his paper the *Kaiser-E-Hind* was at the disposal of the YOU, giving publicity and publishing articles from its members. He was an impartial, active, conscientious president, attending the meetings every Monday.

After he retired as the president, his work was ably carried on by Homi Tavadia and Hilla and Nadar Nariman. They saw to it that all the activities continued regularly. Tavadia contributed to the plays of the YOU on Parade and trained many YOU members in dramatics. He also directed the youths in variety entertainment which formed an attractive part of the YOU on Parade. Homi was a courageous person. He introduced ball-room dancing in the YOU, which was resented by some Parsis at that time.

After Tavadia's premature demise, Jal Tata has ably carried on some activities of the YOU, notably games evenings and talks by eminent speakers, despite his strenuous office work. Thanks to him the YOU survives.

I enjoyed participating in debates and symposia. One young lady had remarked, "There can never be a debate in YOU

without Hoshang Doongaji." I was elected vice-president and later, president. I invited many eminent speakers like S. K. Patil, Minoo Masani, Principal Dawood of the Ismail Beg Mohd. High School and others. I introduced book reviews, and enlightened the YOUite on many interesting topics. I also assisted Mr V. Balsara in establishing the Music Circle. I owe a debt of gratitude to the YOU for, from its platform I made many speeches which contributed to my modest proficiency in public speaking.

Every institution has a rise and decline. Today the YOU has declined though fortunately it still survives. The decline is partly due to the enormous transport difficulties in reaching home after office in overcrowded trains and buses. Hardly a dozen people attend the meetings at present, though once the Cama Library Hall used to be packed to capacity and persons stood in the wings, particularly during debates.

The main reason for this decline is that, unlike in the earlier years, the youths are not taking sufficient interest in the organization. Students in colleges and schools should be induced to participate in the activities of the YOU by posting notices to those institutions. The K. B. Irani Elocution Competition should be reintroduced among college and high school students.

By the Grace of Ahura Mazda the YOU still survives and I would appeal to its current president and office bearers not only to keep it going but also to train younger people to manage its affairs and activities, to resurrect even a part of its previous glory.

HOSHANG DOONGAJI

Disposal of corpses

My roots are in Bombay; I was born, bred and educated there after which I migrated to Karachi in 1950.

My mother, who will be 100 years old this October, my brother, two sisters all reside in Bombay and for this reason I visit Bombay at least twice a year.

Unfortunately, each time I am in Bombay, I have occasion to witness at least one funeral ceremony.

Surrounding our towers of silence in Bombay are various high-rise buildings within a radius of perhaps less than one kilometer. With the aid of binoculars, one can now view the interior of the towers from the upper floors of any of the nearby sky-scrapers.

Moreover, the surrounding sky-scrapers have caused migration of vultures, kites, etc away from Cumballa/Malabar Hills. Our towers of silence, in time to come, will become not only environmentally unfriendly, they will become towers of horror.

E. A. Chindhy

INDUSTRIAL & DECORATIVE PAINTERS

4, East Street, Camp, Pune 411001
Phone: 662974, Res: 636027, Fax: 660012

With Best Wishes For The New Year

COOPER DESIGNERS

**INTERIOR DESIGNERS AND
MANUFACTURERS OF CUSTOM
MADE FURNITURE**

Phone: Bombay 4150139

Phone: Pune 621817

50
YEARS
selvel

TRIBUTE TO LATE
SOLI NICHOLSON



**IT'S NOT A JOKE.... COMPLETING
50 YEARS OF EFFECTIVE
SERVICES TO CLIENTS AND
THE PROFESSION**

HEAD OFFICE:
RAVINDRAMANSION ANNEXE
194, DINSHAW VATCHA ROAD, BOMBAY 400020

BRANCHES:
AHMEDABAD, BANGALORE, BHOPAL, COIMBATORE, GOA,
HYDERABAD, INDORE, MADRAS, NAGPUR, POONA, VISAKHAPATNAM

It is therefore proposed that the system of disposal of the corpses be modernized, keeping in view the sanctity of the *Gathas*. There are two ways in which the bodies could be disposed of: (i) cremation or (ii) donating the body to the hospitals of Bombay to which teaching institutions are attached.

Cremation could be done either at the government owned crematoriums or the punchayet could create one at its own cost at doongerwadi. The ashes may then be disposed of in accordance with the wishes of the kith and kin of the deceased.

There is nothing wrong in donating the corpse to teaching hospitals as we already donate eyes; in time to come, we might even donate the heart, lungs, kidneys of the dead to needy human beings.

The decision whether the corpse has to be cremated or donated rests with the kith and kin of the deceased who may also ask the Punchayet to sell the corpse to a medical teaching institution and use the funds realized for the community.

The price of each corpse may be fixed in the region of Rs 1,000.

All corpses must continue to be consigned to the Towers of Silence where they will remain till further action. For this purpose, a small mortuary (cold storage) should be installed if found necessary. The body may then be donated or cremated as desired, after the required rituals have been held. In this way, the towers of silence will preserve their sanctity permanently.

As for the funeral ceremonies, we have already made omissions and additions to past procedures. We should make further amendments to enable the witnessing of the funeral ceremony (paidust) by non-

Parsis.

What is so secret about our funeral rites? There is no moral, religious or other reason when non-Parsis are allowed to witness the navjote and wedding ceremonies. There is no reason whatsoever why non-Parsis should be treated differently from the Parsis who come to attend funeral ceremonies.

In Delhi, our funeral ceremonies in toto are attended by Parsis and non-Parsis; there is no reason why the same corollary should not be applied to Bombay. The film, *On Wings of Fire*, which exhibited the entire funeral ceremony has been seen by several non-Parsis.

There is no question of hurting anyone's feelings. We need to modernize. As in Delhi, so in Bombay, we need to review religion in the light of prevailing conditions and the review should remain a continuous process.

ADI BOMANSHAW MADON

Karachi, Pakistan

Whither, Parsiana?

Parsiana made a laughing stock of itself when it printed Jamshedi Navroze greetings from its advertisers which reached its readers in June/July.

The question is, when will the Pateti-Navroze greetings by its advertisers reach the readers?

The March and April editions added color to the reading matter by giving articles which covered BPP working. We would like to know more about BPP agenda and actual working and progress on various fronts. All in all *Parsiana* makes a good community magazine. Good luck.

JIMMY KHAN

Edited by Arnavaz S. Mama

For Investment in Property Pune is the best city

Most of the flats and penthouse in Eastern Court sold out in record time

We now accept bookings for an exclusive Bungalow-Scheme
SAIKAMAL

near Pashan Lake, close but not too close to the Bombay-Bangalore highway and 6 km from Pune University. It is a tastefully landscaped small township consisting of:

- 14 Independent Bungalows — approx Rs 38 lakhs
- 8 Twin Bungalows — approx Rs 16 to 39 lakhs
- 18 Rowhouses — approx Rs 17 to 39 lakhs

(Payments by cheque)

Saikamal is situated amidst sylvan surroundings and away from the concrete jungle of the city. It is promoted by a group of builders who believe in keeping high the quality rather than the quantity of their projects, and assure you that your investment is safe not only today but even in the future.

Your Investment Includes:

Internal tar roads with lighting. Club house, swimming pool, health club, shop for your daily requirements. Servant room in each bungalow. Well guarded security gate, having intercom facility and closed circuit T.V. A generator for emergency lighting. The colony has its own filtration and garbage disposal system. In short, care is taken to give you maximum facilities at the most reasonable cost. Possession by end of December '95. It is a rare opportunity. Book in time to avoid disappointment. For further details, and if you wish to visit the site, contact:

Minoo Bhatena BySel Estate

302 Devika Apt
2010 Janmohamed Str
Pune 411001
Tel: 650757



MAHENDRA
Jewellers

Gold and silver Lord Zoroaster and
Asho Farohar medals available

Gold, silver and diamond exclusive showroom

594, Chira Bazar, Girgaum Road, Bombay 400002. Tel: 2065137

We accept Dinners, BOB card, American Express,
Taj Premium, Visa & Master Cards.

Events and Personalities

Sixth World Congress

The Sixth World Zoroastrian Congress will be held in Tehran from June 20 to 23, 1996, informs a circular letter dated August 23, 1995 from Dr M. Goodarz Mehr, president of the Anjuman Zartoshtian Tehran. Those interested in participating in the Congress should fill out the prescribed bilingual (English and Persian) registration form and send it along with other relevant documents and photographs to the organizers by January 1996. "In this regard, we can make arrangements for them to travel to Iran," states the circular.

Though there is reference to "a suitable admission fee payable by the delegates (which) will be required in appropriate time," no other details are forthcoming.

Among the subjects that they propose to broach at the Congress are: improving cooperation among Zoroastrian associations throughout the world in order to support the religious and cultural heritage; developing and promoting living conditions for Zoroastrians; educating the priests; promoting religious studies among the youth; identifying assets for future use.

Welcoming participation in their deliberations, the president enjoins those wishing to speak at the Congress to send the text of their presentation to the organizers as soon as possible. For further details the Anjuman can be contacted at Ave Mirza Koochak Khan, Koocha Zartoshtian No 8 Tehran 11, Iran (Tel: 674369 or 677740; Fax: 6458127).

Calling Parsi orthodox

"Beacon of religious knowledge. Searchlight on the activities of the faithless." This is how *Parsi Pukar*, the new bilingual monthly that launched its first issue in July 1995, chooses to describe itself. Addressing itself to the orthodox readership, the Parsi Pukar Committee promises to "bring to you the materials from modern sciences as also from the ancient mysticisms."

Included in the 16 pages of the publication in English are explanations of certain Zoroastrian concepts and prayers. The Children's Corner by Keki Kaku narrates how Zarathushtra laughed at birth and the story of Zohak and Faridoon. Their news section is titled "Withering Times" mainly because "in today's world everything that is human or moral or righteous or religious is withering away," as notes an explanation from the editor. The identity of the editor is not revealed in the publication though.

The four-page Gujarati section summarizes the views and news carried in the English section and also introduces some new topics. "Aa Parsi Pukar, é balvano

Those wishing to subscribe to *Parsi Pukar* may send their cheque or money order for Rs 50 for 12 issues or Rs 75 for 18 issues to Parsi Pukar Committee, C/o K. N. Dastoor, 4B Dhun Apartments, 66 Worli Hill, Bombay 400018.

The Classic choice

Director-in-charge of the financial services division of ITC (India Tobacco Company) Calcutta-based Feroze Rustom Vevaina is credited with having transformed this operation into a money-spinner that would contribute more than Rs 60 crores to the company's profits, according to a report in *The Economic Times* of March 24, 1995.

Deputy chairman of ITC, Vevaina, as per the news report, "has contributed substantially to ITC's success." He was deeply involved in the setting up of ITC Agro-Tech and subsequently with the group's Classic Financial Services, now renamed ITC Classic. The group's first overseas foray, ITC Global Pte was also spearheaded by him. This large outfit, though now allegedly making losses, recently took over a large coffee plantation in Brazil and bid for a five-star hotel in Romania, it is reported.

The affable executive, it is believed, was the choice of BAT plc, ITC's UK principals to take over the chairmanship of the Indian conglomerate that was proposing to enter the power sector with the shareholders' approval.

On the right track

Chief controller of Central Railway Minoo Maneckji was presented the Railway Minister's Award in April 1995 for his outstanding services, according to the citation. He was also the recipient of the General Manager's reward for the year 1995. Maneckji, who joined the railways as a guard in 1965 and has subsequently worked as area controller, section controller, deputy controller and chief controller



pukar ché! komna dindarono pukar ché! (It is courage calling, it is the religious zealots calling through *Parsi Pukar*!) states the Gujarati section.

The printer's devil surfaces occasionally in the magazine as for instance where divine guidance is sought "so that we may lead those who have gone astray to the right path. We prey for your help and guidance."

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. 28.50 for 10 gms.*	Rs. _____ for 6 gms.



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

* Max. retail price as on 1st April, 1995 (inclusive of all taxes)

RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

Manufacturers

**Fine Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals,
Pesticides, Fertiliser Mixtures**

Distributors

**Fertilisers, Pharmaceuticals,
Chemicals, Household Pesticides, Tanning
Materials, Garments and
Marine Products**

**A Government Recognised
Trading House**

Group Headquarters

21, D. Sukhadvala Marg, Bombay 400001



Left: Dedicated to the railways
Dick (top) and Manekji
Above: Unvala greeting Sharma

has won awards in the past too, notes a press release.

Another railwayman from Jhansi to receive two awards for the current year is Ronny Dick whose "excellent work" earned him the chief electrical engineer's cash award with the commendation certificate hoping that he would "continue to work with the same dedication, spirit and zeal." The Divisional Railway Manager of Jhansi too conferred an award on Dick, an A-grade driver of express trains, commending him for being vigilant and dedicated, and working with care and caution.

Blessing the President

Among the 80 eminent scholars who served on the editorial counselling team for the first volume of *India 2001* was Ervad Nadirshah Unvala of Bangalore. In May last, he was among the delegation that called on the President of India, Dr Shankar Dayal Sharma, to present him with a copy of the publication. Unvala also availed of the opportunity to discuss Zoroastrianism with Sharma and invoke benedictions in Avestan and Sanskrit, notes a press release. Among the dignitaries present on the occasion were Dr Karan Singh, Dr Mulk Raj Anand and Khushwant Singh, it is reported.

India 2001, a reference encyclopedia that serves as "a complete guide to over 5,000 years of Indian history and culture, its human and natural resources, and the India of the 21st century" was launched this year at Delhi's Nehru Memorial Auditorium.

With Hanna Myer serving as general editor, the book which is a joint imprint of Indmark Publishing and Mermaid Center has been acclaimed as a "veritable storehouse of information." Its amazing feat is the presentation of data: "an enormous mass of information about India in a form which is extraordinarily concise and readily usable for reference."

Comfort for the grieving

"Isn't it strange, even though we know that death is round the corner, we keep on hoping that we will not be touched by it! Death that gives the soul rest, vacation and opportunity of progress is disliked by us and we try to shrug off the harsh and

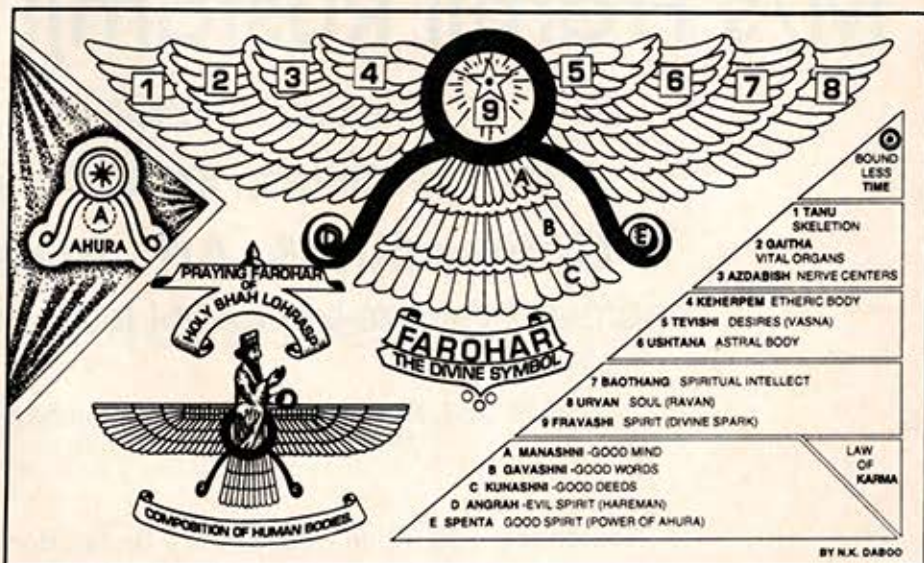
unpleasant thought and revel in an illusory world." *Bliss Beyond*, a 45-page book of comfort for the grieving, authored by Noshir K. Daboo, provides some insight into the phenomenon of death and attempts to offer consolation to the bereaved.

Grief is natural, says the author. "It has its stages; the initial numbness, the subsequent pining, then depression and thereafter the start of recovery." The eight steps to tackle grief, as recommended by Daboo, can be summarized as: the conviction that death has not destroyed our dear ones but only transfigured them; performance of religious ceremonies and rituals that "create a bridge of love between our dear ones and ourselves;" prayer; faith; courage; endurance; belief in time, the great healer; and the ability to count our blessings and live in the service of others. This entire message is contained in the first chapter of the book that is entitled "An open letter to my grieving friends."

There is one other chapter that outlines the religious rites for the departed; and yet another that explains the initial four-day rituals following the death of a Zoroastrian. Some of it may be familiar fare to Zoroastrians, and some may not. Similarly the philosophy of Zoroastrianism as enshrined in the section. "The Bliss Beyond" may be known but what makes it interesting is the way it is presented, recommending the tenets to be practised in daily life in preparation for the soul's celestial journey.

A detailed illustration of the farohar is the other highlight of the book published in

Analytical description of the farohar in *Bliss Beyond*



1994 by Bande-Khuda. Priced at Rs 15 (not inclusive of postage) the book can be sent for from the author at Gandhi Block, Parsi Sanatorium, Ashram Road, Ahmedabad 380009.

Cancer relief

Deserving Parsi cancer patients will be offered treatment at concessional rates or free of cost at the Masina Hospital Cancer Clinic, informs a press release issued by Dr Tehemtan Bhathena, honorary oncologist in charge of the Clinic. This support for the community will be possible thanks to a donation of one lakh rupees received from Russie Dinshaw of Karachi in memory of his late brother Eddie Dinshaw, mentions the release.

The Clinic that serves members of all communities was founded by Balsara Hygiene Products Limited 11 years ago.

Visionary surgery

Are you intolerant to spectacles or medically unsuited to use contact lenses when you have defective vision? Hope for those suffering from myopia (near-sightedness) has come in the form of excimer laser, a device used to perform a procedure called Photorefractive Keratectomy (PRK), according to literature issued by Phiroze M. Dastoor and Company.

Through this surgery, also known as corneal sculpting, the shape of the cornea is altered by gentle removal or ablation of tissue whereby the cornea is flattened and the image focussed on the retina. The 10-minute procedure is conducted on an out-patient basis under local anesthesia. Unlike other lasers which generate heat, the excimer laser is cool and causes virtually no damage to the surrounding cells. First the surgeon inputs the required refractive correction into the laser's computer system, then gently removes the thin outer layer of the cornea called epithelium and thereafter activates the laser system for the sculpting procedure that takes about 15-40 seconds.

While no pain is caused when the laser beam strikes the cornea, it can be quite severe in the first 48 hours, patients are forewarned. Hazy vision, double vision (as only one eye can be treated at a time), glare, foreign body sensation and light sensitivity are the common complaints in the first two to four weeks. "Thereafter there will be substantial improvement in your vision with full stabilization in three to six months," promises the information leaflet. Prescribed medication and regular follow-up examinations are a must too.

Not all who are willing to bear the expenses, in the region of Rs 10,000 to

15,000, can opt for this solution. The candidate has to meet certain other requirements too: must be over 20 years of age, of sound health, with no previous history of eye surgery or eye diseases; and must be mildly to moderately myopic having rejected other refractive surgery procedures.

Those interested in further information may contact Phiroze M. Dastoor and Company at 379, D. N. Road, Fort, Bombay 400001, Tel: 2045668 or 2048271, Fax: 2047041.

Compiled by Parinaz Gandhi

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for Parsi boy, 32 years, 5'10" tall, slim, good-looking, post-graduate, working in a reputed company, salary 5000+, independent accommodation in Bombay, staying alone. Reply with full details and photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/26-95)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

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

A room with a View



Sea Green South's panoramic view leaves a lasting impression on the traveller.

A pleasant setting, just a few minutes from downtown Bombay.

Our guest Rooms and Suites command a stunning view, overlooking the blue waters of the vast Arabian Sea and the soaring City skyline.

Experience a relaxing stay with us.



Sea Green South Hotel

145/A, Marine Drive, Bombay 400 020 Tel: 2821662/2821787/2821613 Grams: "Hotel South"

Pakistan census

As of April 1995 there were 2,831 Zoroastrians in Pakistan, 2,647 being quartered in Karachi, reveals the *Zarathushtrian Census of Pakistan* published by the Karachi Zarthosti Banu Mandal (KZBM). The rest of the community is spread between Lahore (94), Quetta (45), Islamabad (30), Multan (eight) and Peshawar (seven). The figure for Peshawar was received late and not included in the various analyses.

The 25-60 year age-group totally comprises less than 40 percent of the population, 35 percent being aged over 60 years and youths below 24 years accounting for nearly 23 percent. Although about 660 members of the 60+ age-group continue to be contributing members of the society, the burden on those in the middle group is evident, even here, which is one of the more affluent Zoroastrian settlements.

As many as 573 Pakistani Zoroastrians have been born outside the country, the majority in India (474) and a significant number, 74, in Iran.

Overall, females outnumber males by 174, 66 of them being in the 60 plus segment. The male population is somewhat higher in the age-groups five-nine, 30-34, 40-44 and 70-74.

Matriculates account for over 28 percent of the population; graduates make up over 21 percent. Professionals like accountants, architects, doctors, account for nearly 10 percent of the population, a further 15 individuals holding higher qualifications like PhD, FRCS, etc. Currently 158 boys and 164 girls are studying at various levels. The community has only one illiterate man.

Most individuals (490 males and 411 females) accounting for 32 percent of the population are in service. Among the 11 percent who are self-employed, there are 260 men and 53 women. Students account for 17 percent and housewives 20 percent of the population. Of the 14 unemployed, eight are men; 19 percent belong to the not working/no response category. Among the various professions there are 18 caterers, 10 journalists/writers/editors, nine social workers, nine officers in the armed forces and seven mobeds. Teachers/academicians account for 168; judges/advocates for 11.

The maximum number of households (317) comprises of a single member, followed by two-member households (313). There are 210 households of three members, 181 comprising four, 77 of five, 11 of

six, four of seven and one of nine. But in the great majority of households (nearly 39 percent), there is only one earning member and in 29 percent, two earners. Only four households boast of four earning members and one of five. On the obverse, there are 285 households without an earning member.

A cross-tabulation by age, gender and marital status reveals that in the 40 plus age-group there are 115 unmarried males and 130 unmarried females. In the same age-group 60 men and 231 women were widowed or divorced.

Twenty-three percent of the population belongs to the O positive blood group; 22 percent to the B positive. "It is unbelievable that 29 percent of the community which is labelled enlightened, are not aware of their blood group," notes the report.

Conference cancelled

The first Asian Zoroastrian Youth Conference which had been scheduled for October 23 to 25, 1995 — and failing this, over the Xmas holidays (see Zoroastrians Abroad, *Parsiana*, May 1995) — has been cancelled for lack of response, informs chairperson Ms Toxy Cowasjee.

In her letter dated September 4, 1995 Cowasjee notes, "Everything is ready except for the Souvenir which was to go into print last month... I don't know whether it is because of the situation in Karachi or just not wanting to spend money to come to our city."

"We are returning all the amounts collected both by donation and by advertisement and the money we collected ourselves by various fund raisers, I have suggested that if anyone decides to build a Senior Citizens Home, which is badly required, we will give this amount there. Failing which, to WZO's projects. Both suggestions have been accepted unanimously."

Only 20 percent of the community are willing to donate blood. Many, who are willing, are precluded, being over 55 years old; a large number are fairly reluctant. Revealingly, almost 39 percent of the community passed over the question whether

they would be willing to donate blood.

More than 71 percent of the population is unaware of their G6PD status. Among those who do, only three percent belong to the deficient category. According to the report the data in hand "reveals beyond any doubt that G6PD deficiency is found in both males and females. This shatters the myth that G6PD is a male dominated deficiency."

Nearly 62 percent of Pakistani Zoroastrians who are studying abroad are doing so in the US. The second preferred country is the UK. The same priority has been accorded by those emigrating abroad (47 percent and 17 percent respectively). Surprisingly, more Pakistani Zoroastrians have settled in Germany, the Netherlands, Canada and India (in that order) than in Australia. Those who've emigrated, leaving their parents in Pakistan, number 1,114 including 856 categorized as missing but excluding those who have emigrated as whole families. The majority of Pakistani Zoroastrian emigrants chose to move away between 1978 and 1995.

Between three and 39 percent of the respondents have withheld information on a variety of issues including educational qualifications, professional status and year of birth.

The 28-page, graphically illustrated census report is a labor of love on the part of 60 individuals in Karachi and one each in Multan, Lahore, Rawalpindi/Islamabad, Quetta and Peshawar, notes the introduction by Ms Toxy Cowasjee, president of the KZBM who took on a job which was discussed and prioritized on an international basis at the Fifth World Zoroastrian Congress in Bombay in 1990. A full scale simultaneous effort was launched over the Eid holidays in the first week of March and 1,142 forms completed in a couple of weeks. "Considerable effort has been taken not to miss any families but maybe two to three have been overlooked. A few individuals refused to cooperate in any way but we have written their names and addresses on the forms to make the census complete," adds Cowasjee.

Javaid Sultan collated the data and Ms Farishta Dinshaw fine-tuned the draft, informs Cowasjee even as she thanks Fram Framji for enabling her to present the findings in an illustrated format.

Zoroastrians in New York

There are more than 600 Zoroastrians in

Behind the 4 parallel lines of our logo, is a story of infinite connections

nurtured by a 140 year tradition of personalised service. Over 7 lakh account

relationships in India. Business connections and global communication networks.

56 branches in 14 cities of India. And a global presence spanning 42 countries.

A story of a bank called ANZ Grindlays Bank. Summed up in simply 4 lines.

READ BETWEEN THE LINES

ANZ Grindlays Bank



■ Amritsar ■ Bangalore ■ Bombay ■ Calcutta ■ Coimbatore ■ Darjeeling ■ Delhi
■ Ernakulam ■ Guwahati ■ Hyderabad ■ Kanpur ■ Madras ■ Shimla ■ Srinagar

LONDON

- Bed -- Breakfast
- Homely Atmosphere
- Congenial surroundings
- Three minutes walk to Tube station
- Twenty minutes to central London by Tube
- Very reasonable terms
- Visitors invited preferably Zoroastrians

CONTRACTORS

Bombay Phone Nos: 3634161, 3641581
10.00 a.m. to 12 noon, 8.00 p.m. to 10 p.m.
3760707, 3728549 11.00 a.m. to 7.00 p.m.

London contact:

Beroz Mody, No 10
Court Farm Road, Middlesex, UB 5—5 HQ
Tel No: 0044-181-8413491

and around New York, estimated long time resident and community leader Dr Lovji Cama, but only about 60 percent have chosen to be members of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York (ZAGNY) or the Iranian Zoroastrian Association (IZA). The two organizations claim a membership of 300 and 80 respectively and elect five and one trustee respectively on the board of New York's Darbe Mehr Zoroastrian Temple.

The first darbe mehr to be set up in North America thanks to the largesse of the late Arbab Rustam Guiv, it was embroiled in a legal controversy with the Guiv Trust after the donor's demise. The Trust wished to take over the ownership of the Darbe Mehr which according to the founding charter vested with ZAGNY.

In the course of the protracted litigation ZAGNY members actively considered the founding of a separate institution with pledges totalling over \$ 400,000. They set themselves a three-year deadline to collect over a million dollars required for the project and had decided that if that did not come to pass, the collected money (\$ 250,000) would be returned to the donors. Though the deadline was extended by a year, the collection did not increase and the original donations were returned but the accumulated interest remained, Cama informed *Parsiana* in the course of his visit to Bombay in August 1994.

In the meanwhile the New York State Supreme Court ruled against the Guiv Trust and decreed that the Temple belonged to the community that used it — in essence, the Zoroastrians of the area. In conformity with the New York State's legal requirements ZAGNY and IZA set up a board of six trustees, their representation as well as their financial obligations being governed by the ratio of their respective membership (5:1). And so it has continued since then with the election of two trustees each year as required.

In the event, the interest amount that remained with ZAGNY

BHARUCHA & MOTIVALA

Builders & Engineers

14, Boat Club Road, Poona



*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.

With compliments from

Bombay Real Estate Development Company

Private Limited

M/s S. F. Engineer

Property Developers

Noshirwan Mansion, Henry Road, Colaba, Bombay 400039
Telephone: 2841475, 2841491, 2825665
Fax: 2833563

from their original scheme for acquiring a new darbe mehr was utilized to refurbish the Rustam Guiv Darbe Mehr with new flooring, windows and roof. The Darbe Mehr hall's legal capacity is 160, says Cama, but twice that number gather for Navroze and other special functions and there are plans to expand it in future. There is enough land to expand and the hall could easily double in size.

ZAGNY has been running religious classes for years, with Cama taking the 15-30 year group and Ms Ivy Gandhi the younger ones aged 7-14 (Ms Gandhi passed away in September 1995). The major need right now is for more classrooms, he said. They currently have four but need six to eight, he added. Simultaneous classes for adults are held by Prof Kaikhosrov Irani.

"Our membership is spread in 50-100 towns. Only 50 percent live in New York; the rest are scattered over a 100 mile radius," informed Cama.

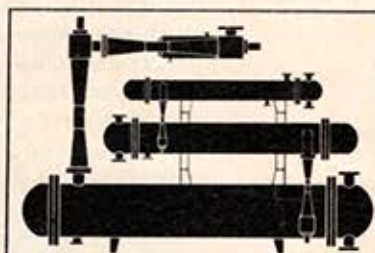
ZAGNY holds two seminars annually and Irani, the current president of ZAGNY and professor emeritus at City College, New York, is always involved. Cama has been running camps for the 15-30 years age-group for the past seven to eight years and later Gandhi had started a similar activity for her group. Their studies are based on the book *The Good Life*, a 61-page primer by the Religious Emblem Coordinating Committee, which went into a second edition published by ZAGNY in 1994.

The Good Life Religious Emblem Administrative Council includes Ms Villy Gandhi, Irani, Cama, Dr Noshir Langrana, Fred Morris, Framroze Patel and Ervad Ratan Vakil.

The book starts with a prelude to Zoroastrian philosophy, viz: "Zarathushtra made it perfectly clear that:

continued on page 40

**The Combined resources of
Croll-Reynolds and Mazda
Provide a Comprehensive
range of world's most
efficient equipment.**



Vacuum Systems,
Air Pollution Control-
Equipments & Two-
Stage Liquid Ring-
Vaccum Pumps

Reducing Valves,
Safety Valves,
Control Valves,
Desuperheaters
& Valve Positioners



MAZDA CONTROLS LTD.

Patel Chambers, Near H.K. House, Ashram Road,
Ahmedabad - 380009. INDIA

Ph. : 408967, 408014, 408654, Telex : 0121-6620 Fax : 079-427394

US-India Joint Venture Company

requires personnel for

**Sales
Accounts
Manufacturing**

at senior and middle levels.

*The U.S. company is amongst the Fortune 500
list of companies.*

Interested candidates may write to

The Advertiser (USJV)
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

"The head must rule the heart"

Trusteeship implied deep thought and lonely choices for retiring BPP chairman Eruch Desai

Amavaz S. Mama

"I've enjoyed every moment of my trusteeship; I enjoy it even now though I'm in a hopeless minority," claims Eruch Desai virtually on the eve of retirement after two decades on the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) board, the past three months (August to October) as its chairman.

The Bombay High Court initially vindicated Desai at the end of the two year battle for chairmanship, upholding the traditional right of the seniormost trustee to preside over the board (as against the concept of the board's right to elect a chairman — in this case businessman Jamshed Guzder). It has not, however, altered the decision of the busy solicitor to retire. He questions those who wish him to continue: "Isn't 20 years good enough for you?"

A senior partner at Mulla and Mulla, Craigie, Blunt and Caroe, Desai is retiring at an age when many a professional first enters the contest for trusteeship. At 63 Desai, has behind him a reputation for steadfastly refusing to budge from positions which his careful analyses have revealed to be correct — no matter how unpopular. "Chairmanship doesn't matter. As I've always mentioned, the chairman is the first among equals. He gives directions. People don't realize how much time (trusteeship work) takes in the background. It's not just making noise but doing solid concrete work."

Unhappy that the community tends to equate a trustee's job to that of a social worker, Desai clarifies, "A trustee has to do much more — formulate policies, examine trust deeds, give the lead in several directions." The amendments to the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act (PMDA) and the chapter on Parsi intestate succession in the Indian Succession Act, the analysis (and rejection) of the Adoption Bill, the BPP's exit from (and reentry into) the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, the schedules relating to tax benefits when the J. J. College of Commerce was separated from the BPP, the Punchayet's amended policy on doongerwadi benefits for Zoroastrian women married to men of other communities in the aftermath of the controversy surrounding Roxan Shah's tragic death, its affirmative response to the navjote of Neville Wadia, are some of the important issues that have preoccupied BPP trustees as community akabars, Desai provides the examples. "I am happy that my exhaustive notes on these matters (led to) the momentous decisions taken by the trustees."

Despite this impressive list, Desai insists that the main issue for trustees to handle is the preservation and protection of the Punchayet's properties. With increasing age and the cost upthrust of maintaining them in good repair, the resources of the trust need augmenting. "I would have taken the initiative to involve the well-to-do of the community much more." The kind of involvement he seeks — and considers feasible — is evidenced by the recent 50 lakh rupee donation by Nariman K. Dubash for doongerwadi upkeep and nassessalar amelioration; the spearheading involvement of the Godrej family in

the development of Godrej Baug which had led legal doyen Nani Palkhivala, civil engineers Shapoorji Pallonji and others to pitch in with substantial contributions.

Desai is generally tight-lipped on the BPP board's current preoccupations, one of which is the reopening of the Spenta apartments case by the Income Tax (IT) authorities. The BPP claims to have acted according to the opinion of Palkhivala that no tax liability would arise from profits on the sale of Spenta flats at Gibbs Road to affluent Parsis if they are ploughed back into the development of rented properties for the poor. Desai says "the IT officers



Desai: "If I am not convinced..."

have the power to reopen files at random." Apart from noting that the issue is a technicality, Desai refused to be drawn into further discussion of a "sub judice matter."

The deterioration of the Sodawaterwalla Agiary at Marine Lines where the BPP shares trusteeship responsibility, does not seem to have received proportionate attention. It has been a "long-standing dispute," agrees Desai (see "Strife at the Sodawaterwalla Agiary," *Parsiana*, July 1985) which has been reactivated and there is "some resolution that our representatives should have a greater say." Are the differences still to be sorted out? Desai lists his reasons for delays here and elsewhere: "The assertion of legal rights... the delays of litigation... the BPP can't take the law into its own hands... We have to ascertain the steps needed to be taken. It's a time-

EROS



ELEVATORS

A Division of
E. E. & M. W.

50th
Anniversary
1945-1995

27, M.P. Marg, Opera House, Bombay 400004 Tel: 3640293, 3640132, 3674939 Fax: 3640169

consuming procedure."

With no sign of the lifting of the Gujarat High Court's stay on the movement of the Doongaji Agiary fire from Bharuch to the Godrej Baug Agiary, the BPP is said to be negotiating with Athornan Mandal president Cowasji Dinshaw for the transfer of one of the two fires from his family's agiary at Lonavala for enthronement at Godrej Baug, informs Desai. (*Parsiana* subsequently learnt that the negotiation had floundered on the reef of monetary repayments by "a foreign government." One of the fires in Lonavala is the one that had been flown back from Aden.) "To move or not to move the fire has a religious bent. We are mostly guided by the high priests. But we have relaxed our previous customs. One has to be practical. I'm not purely orthodox or fundamentalist... The head must rule the heart. Else I wouldn't have given opinions that I have. But I wouldn't like change for the sake of change."

The BPP, he notes, has also been urged to intervene to prevent the sale of the Marzban Sanatorium at Khandala, part of which property has already been disposed of according to Desai's sources. "The officials, the judiciary, the bureaucracy hold the BPP in very high esteem. We are

denigrated by our own community," asserts Desai.

Drawing on his 20-year perspective to suggest an ideal composition for the BPP board, Desai begins with what he knows best: "One solicitor is enough but necessary, especially where he belongs to a large firm (so that he can draw upon the assistance of a qualified staff). Unlike an advocate, a solicitor can spare his own time. A chartered accountant; an architect/contractor/builder; a priest would be an asset; an educationist like Mehroo Bengalee; a man of standing like Godrej or Tata or Nani Palkhivala; and a businessman."

Twenty years have also provided Desai with memories of the personae who have presided over the Punchayet board. "Lady Jehangir was an adorable person — very dignified, serene, but she could be quite firm." The "affable, mild-mannered" Erach Nadirshaw's tenure was very short — probably less than a year. He was succeeded by the "redoubtable, very decisive and forceful B. K. Boman-Behram." Though an advocate himself, Boman-Behram passed on a number of legal matters to his young solicitor colleague until the latter defied the chairman's dictat that the BPP withdraw from the Federation. (At the third World Zoroastrian Congress Delhi Parsi

Anjuman president and Federation vice president Shiavax Nargolwala had criticized the BPP's electoral scheme. Within a fortnight Boman-Behram huffily withdrew the BPP from the Federation.) Desai, then the youngest trustee on the board (though not the juniormost), refused to accede to the fiat. "He implored me: 'We are six on one side. It would look much better if you fall in.' I said, 'If I'm not convinced, I won't budge.' I sent a note next day explaining (see "The Voice of Dissent," *Parsiana*, February 1978). He didn't take to me kindly after that incident." Desai recalls that Boman-Behram was so incensed that he not only prevented new matters from being entrusted to Desai but passed a resolution withdrawing the file on PMDA amendments which Desai had initiated and on which he had chaired several meetings, and recommended that Jal Vimadalal (who had joined the BPP board on his retirement as High Court judge) take over as chairman of the project. "Even during the Aderbad controversy [where Desai prevented the builders who constructed the building of ownership flats at Khareghat Colony from charging what they were not authorized to charge (see "Desai's decade," *Parsiana*, September 1985)] Boman-Behram was not happy with



CANESPA MANAGEMENT ASSOCIATES

Full range of Consultancy Services for

- Company Secretarial Matters • Foreign Collaborations
- Technical Tie ups • International Marketing
- Corporate Planning and Development

Kiritco, 2nd Fl, PNB House, P. M. Road, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2665322 Fax: 022-287 1185

Our challenge in life is but one – to get ahead of our own selves, to break our own records, to outstrip our yesterday by our today.

When it comes to banking, SBI sets the pace every year. To break its own past records. Take into consideration the profits for the year 1994-'95: Rs 715 crores. That's 160% growth over those of 1993-'94. Deposits of Rs 85,000 crores. A loan portfolio of Rs 49,000 crores. A Capital Adequacy Ratio of 12.77%. A network of over 8,700 branches in India. And the impressive growth of all our associate banks and subsidiaries.

Euromoney – Europe's leading financial magazine voted SBI India's best domestic Bank. Second year in a row.

And Asiamoney – Rated it as the seventh best managed Company in India. Which just goes to prove one thing. Each year we put our own past performance in the shade.



State Bank of India

A leap year performance. Every year.

*Get good value
for your money*

Stay at **RAILWAY HOTEL**

15-17, Charni Road Junction
Bombay 400004
Telephone: 3851028

**Beer Parlour
Permit Room**

Dorrabji's

JERROZ HOTEL

Panchgani 412805

Phone: (02168) 40238

me." Unmindful, Desai faced the flak, noting with a contented laugh, "But Boman-Behram helped me in my election against Hector Mehta (in 1985)!"

Dr Aspi Golwalla he describes as "a unifying personality — very soft spoken, well mannered, easy to get along with, never ruffled by anything and never ruffled anybody."

Desai notes that "even now I am very friendly with Jimmy (Guzder)" notwithstanding their tussle for chairmanship. "I give him due respect that his age demands. I don't forget that once upon a time he was my senior on the board. (On the expiry of his first term on February 25, 1985 Guzder had chosen not to seek reelection and the late Naoroji Godrej had come in unopposed. Guzder reentered the Punchayet on the resignation of Vimadlal on January 2, 1986. Desai thus became senior to Guzder by a matter of 29 days.)"

Desai explains, "Principle is principle to me. At Aspi Golwalla's time I was offered the chairmanship. I'm never a party in breaking a healthy tradition," adding, "with due humility," that he is fully capable of conducting meetings and discharging the duties of a chairman. During the recent meetings which he has chaired Desai says, "We have been completing almost all the (about 25 to 30) items on the agenda; concluding meetings much earlier... Despite differences they (fellow trustees) respect what is a right and just stand. I have been receiving utmost co-operation from all, including Jimmy."

An issue that has acquired much emotive appeal is the community's right to elect trustees on the basis of universal adult franchise. Desai feels that no aspiring trustee would be able to establish contact with the masses. "Nobody who is involved in his own profession would be able to spare such time. Because the electorate (Anjuman Committee) is small, he is able to establish contact. Even so... it's not easy, climbing stairs to reach people... It takes two months to contact everyone. Those who propose adult franchise should galvanize the community to come and vote at anjuman committee elections."

Desai further argues, "The trustees are said to be akabars; but 90 percent of their work deals with property management. Who gives the properties? The donors." The donors would like to have some say in its management, he adds.

Educated at the Imperial High School, St Xavier's College and Government Law College (GLC), Desai notes, "Ninety-nine percent of my principles are my daddy's."

Lawyer Byramsha Desai taught his son "to think the truth, to speak the truth and to (act according to) the truth." A disciplinarian and a taskmaster, Byramsha "never socialized that much, didn't believe in friends, didn't view my friends with favor," and, in turn, earned from them the sobriquet of "Oliver Cromwell." Though Desai fell in with his father's wishes, being home for the family dinner by 8.30 along with his brother and two sisters (his mother Bhikamai had died when he was six) even after he had become a solicitor, he had bridled at the patriarch's ban on sports. Open dissent led to unpleasant reaction, so Desai says he took to walking out with his table tennis (TT) racket camouflaged under his arm to become the GLC's TT and carrom champion and its opening batsman in intercollegiate matches. Tennis, badminton and now golf are other games Desai plays. This early practice in following his convictions with courage helped Desai in his spirited stand against majority opinion on the BPP board, he muses.

Wife Coomi plays tennis and TT and accompanies husband and son Hormuzdyar (12) who "has a lovely style in golf" on to the course. Desai's regret is that while he would love to have his son play more games, the demands of modern schooling makes it well-nigh impossible.

Looking back at the time when he was first elected to the BPP in 1975, Desai notes that life was easier then but otherwise finds "no perceptible change. The prosperity of the community 20 years ago may not percolate to all sections today. The reliance on trust institutions (to meet) the needs and aspirations of the community has increased greatly in recent years for various factors. The community's view is that it's their birthright to rely on trust institutions to solve their problems. It was not so 20 years ago. I don't think the conditions of the community have deteriorated appreciably. The numbers may have declined, largely because of migration. You can compare the numbers of the community outside (India) 20 years ago and now..."

"No houses, no spouses' is a wrong theory. Very eligible people live alone. Less than 12 people have qualified for the BPP's third child scheme. Although we've constructed so many houses, the birthrate has not gone up. The life-style has changed. More and more girls go for service. It is difficult for them to manage large families. You can't compare (our community) with other communities because they are so

continued on page 126

FUN TOURS

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



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.

Swiss Pass

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.

INTERNATIONAL CRUISES

A whole new world to discover. TCI brings you this great opportunity to holiday at sea on board the world's best luxury liners in the world. Cruises are offered in the Caribbean, Alaska, Atlantic, Mediterranean and the Norwegian Fjords. Special rates offered for early bird bookings, individuals, groups and on TCI's own cruise departures. TCI are the special representatives for International Cruise lines in India.

OVER 100 TRAVEL OPTIONS, JUST ONE CHOICE

TGI

Travel Corporation (India) Ltd.,

Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Bombay - 400 021. Tel: 2021881 / 2027120. Fax: 2029424. **CHEMBUR:** Tel: 5529634 / 5. Pune: Tel: 628872 / 625272. Fax: 622050. **AHMEDABAD:** Tel: 407424 / 408164. Fax: 427549. **BARODA:** Tel: 336476 / 321801. Fax: 321742. **SURAT:** Tel: 670925. Fax: 667294. Or any of our 27 offices in India.

ADVERTS

ZOROASTRIANS ABROAD

continued from page 33

•All women and men have the freedom to choose between good and evil and an individual has the responsibility to make an informed decision.

•All women and men are equal and are equally entitled to the light of knowledge and wisdom.

•Following the path of Asha, which is righteousness, God's kingdom of heaven, equality, fraternity, harmony and peace can be established here in this world.

"Zarathushtra, though surrounded by believers in magical rites, proclaimed that religion has its basis in moral rectitude, not external practices of imaginary values — that is to live a life of Good thoughts, Good words, Good deeds."

The rest of the contents include a historical background to Zoroastrianism from the legendary past to the Zoroastrians of the present, briefly placing the Achaemenian (550 BCE to 330 BCE), Seleucid (330 BCE to 250 BCE), Parthian (250 BCE to 226 AC) and Sasanian (226 AC to 641 AC) dynasties into their respective niches. It then traces the history of the religion under the Caliphs, the arrival of the Parsis

in India and the condition of those who remained in Iran.

It discusses the revelation that Zarathushtra received — the religious and ethical message of the *Gathas*, the role of Asha and the concept of the Amesha Spentas. Some of the basic prayers have been transliterated and translated. The rituals, calendar and ceremonies like the *boi*, *navjote*, *jashan*, wedding, *ghambar*, have been described.

The Good Life acknowledges the works of the late Dinshaw Irani and the late Dastur Maneck Dhalla along with the help of scholars like Dr Farhang Mehr and Dr Ali Jafarey, as also of organizations like the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Chicago, Zoroastrian Studies of Bombay and the Lost Generation Publication. Those particularly involved with the second edition include Ervad Yazdi Antia of Ontario, Ms Hutoxi Bardoliwalla, Cama, Ms Zarine Dotiwala, Navroz Gandhi, Ms Aysha Ghadiali, Irani, Ms Arnavaz Patel and Ms Bella Tata.

Despite the effort the publishers retain a marked intellectual humility. As notes the Foreword, "Zoroastrianism is, above all, a way of life; hence it is essential that

what is learned is practised on a daily basis. Attitude is as important as knowledge, and needs, therefore, to be translated into action. The message of the prophet is action oriented."

Silver in Sydney

There were barely 20 Zoroastrian families in Sydney when the Australian Zoroastrian Association (AZA) of NSW was inaugurated in 1970. Now there are well over 300 families and the AZA celebrated their Silver Jubilee in style at the Guive Darbe Mehr in Sydney last June, writes Kersi Meher-Homji in a letter to *Parsiana*.

After the traditional *jashan* and *ghambar*, Dr Sam Kerr gave a scholarly talk on the Sasanian dynasty: history traced through coins minted over the centuries. Then eight stalwarts who had seen the Association grow from its infancy went down memory lane and recalled their experiences — from light-hearted to momentous. Each speaker was introduced by President Kitty Masalawala. Former president Dr Peshotan Katrak presented AZA history through slides and overheads with witty comments. "It was nostalgia at its best and indeed pleasant to recall those 25 glorious years when

SORABJI RUSTOMJI & CO.

Exporters & Stockists of Sandal Wood,
Sandal Wood Oil & Other Essential Oils

Sales Depot

Durlab Bhavan, Shop No 4, R. M. Roy Marg

Charni Road Junction, Bombay 400004

Tel: 3856675, 3821637

Fax: 3738161 Cable: INSANDAL

Sales Depot & Factory

Hooseinbad Compound, Champsai Bhimji Road

Old Anjirwadi, Mazgaon, Bombay 400010

Tel: 3738343, 3728346

With best compliments of

ADI B. SAGAR & CO.

**ELECTRICAL CONSULTANTS
ENGINEERS
AND CONTRACTORS**

BOMBAY

N DAVAR & Company

**Painting Contractors
Interior Decorators**

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

dedication and achievements outweighed cynicism and opposition at every corner," notes Meher-Homji.

SPOTLIGHT

Sydney University, led by **Jehangir Meher-Homji**, won the Australasian University Debating Championship held in Melbourne in July. Jehangir was also selected in the Top Seven Debaters category, besides being nominated as the best speaker in four of the six preliminary rounds, informs a press release. All Australian Universities plus those from Delhi, Dhaka, Malaysia, Philippines and Japan had participated in the championship convened by Rishad Khambatta of Bombay and judged by Ray D'Cruz of Sri Lanka.

Zubin Dastoor, son of FEZANA president Dolly Dastoor and Dr Phiroz N. Dastoor of Quebec was honored by the *Payk-e-Kankash*, the publication of the Council of Iranian Mobeds of North America with its Gold Leaf Award in its Spring 1995 issue.



Houston will be the venue of The **Seventh World Zoroastrian Congress** to be hosted in USA by FEZANA in 2000.

*Kankash awardee
Dastoor*

The **10th North American Congress** is planned to be held in San Francisco in July, 1996.

Compiled by Arnavaz S. Mama

With Compliments from



TALATI & PANTHAKY-ASSOCIATED PVT. LTD.

VEVAINA AIRCONDITIONING SYSTEMS

We specialise in

- * Airconditioning of Tempo Travellers.**
- * Airconditioning of 25 and 35 seater luxury buses.**
- * Refrigeration of vans.**
- * MARINE Airconditioning.**

All correspondence to the below address :

**618, Jami Lodge, Jame Jamshed Road, Dadar,
Bombay 400 014.**

FAX : 415 1211

Jal's

**Detective and Protection Services
Security Consultants**

Conducted and Operated By

Jal B. Contractor

Proprietor

Dy. Commissioner of Police, Bombay (Retd.)

No Branch Office

We provide all your requirements for confidential investigations, security-guards, bodyguards (armed and unarmed) in plain clothes. Armed guards in uniform for property protection. Escorts for cash and valuables, dog squads with handlers for land-patrolling, etc. Well trained, disciplined and experienced staff.

Reasonable rates, round the clock services.

Contact:

Office: 293, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Road, Byculla,
Bombay 400027 (Under the Fly Over)
Tel: 3760707/3728549

Residence: G-1, Fariyas, Cumballa Hill
Kemps Corner, (Next to Shalimar Hotel, Bombay 400036)
Tel: 3634161/3641581

Parsi population up, says census

The strength of the Zoroastrian community in India has increased by 4,752 over the last decade, according to the 1991 census figures conveyed to *Parsiana* by the census department in mid-October 1995. The census figures state that there are 76,382 Zoroastrians in India of whom 51 percent are females. Maharashtra recorded 60,501 Zoroastrians, and Bombay, 53,794. In these two regions too, the female constituent was 51 percent.

As revealed by the figures, 79 percent of the Indian Zoroastrians reside in Maharashtra and 70 percent reside in Bombay. The 1971 and the 1981 census findings had also indicated that Bombay accounted for 70 percent of the Zoroastrian population in India.

The census figures for the first time since 1950 have shown an increase in the Parsi population. The 1991 figures are even more intriguing when one allows for the declining birthrate and the high mortality rate which in Bombay alone shows an excess of around 500 deaths over births in a year.

Calling Foreign Based Individuals/Companies

Mazda International

offers you Liaison and Representation services in Bombay/India.

- 1) Banking, Legal, Educational, Medical and Personal Matters.
- 2) Property Sale or Purchase, Shares Investment, Establishment of Trust, Portfolio Management.
- 3) Any other service as per your requirements.

For full details contact

Mr Adil D. Bodhanwalla

Mazda International

101, Krishna Bhavan, Govandi Station Road, Deonar, Bombay 400088
(Tel: 5552512, 4121932 Fax: 091-22-5562565)



**THE FIRST TYRE COMPANY
TO WIN 300 FORMULA-1 RACES.
WORLDWIDE.**



**THE FIRST TYRE COMPANY TO WIN
ISO 9002 FOR ITS ENTIRE RANGE.
IN INDIA.**



GOODYEAR

Superior Technology.
Better Tyres.

ISO 9002 awarded to Goodyear India Ltd. Ballabgarh for its entire range of tyres, tubes & flaps

Chaitra Leo Burnett-D GY3094

"A practical stand"

Despite the difficulties that confront community activists, BPP trustee Dadi Engineer says he intends to keep trying until he succeeds



Arnavaz S. Mama

"I'm still undergoing my education, grasping the problems!" laughs Dadi Engineer, the latest addition to the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's (BPP) board of trustees. "Six weeks is too short a period for issues that have been pending for more than 10 years!"

Noted solicitor and senior partner at Crawford Bayley and Company, Engineer who is on the board of more than 30 companies is recognized as an authority on excise and other indirect taxes. These professional activities take him away from Bombay about four times a month, most frequently to Delhi where the Supreme Court and Excise Tribunal are located. "They call me the 'No Time Man,'" Engineer acknowledges with amusement, displaying an infallible asset: a sense of humor that surfaces on cue and especially when tensions and tempers are waxing.

Engineer also heads two other organizations. He succeeded Jamsheed Kanga to the presidency of the Committee for Electoral Rights (CER — subsequently renamed the Committee for Economic Revival) in 1984. The other is the UK based World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO); Engineer presides over its India chapter.

The phone never seemed to cease ringing that Pateti evening as Parsiana interviewed the busy solicitor. As Engineer politely tried to keep intrusions short, Parsiana looked around at the office layout to discern any changes over the 11 years since the last interview. It seemed familiar: legal papers were everywhere, blocking half the window behind the lawyer; on the carpet along the bookcase; constituting a little wall midway across the massive desk, effectively screening Engineer's paper work from intrusive eyes so that we couldn't make out if he doodled as

he talked or drew spontaneous caricatures. The Civil Court Manual and other legal treatises sitting cheek by jowl with the *Encyclopaedia Britannica* and the *Encyclopaedia of Science and Technology* frowned upon our heretic notions!

We confronted Engineer with a conflict of interest scenario: The BPP finds the WZO's constitution questionable (the WZO accepts individuals and anjumans as members and treats them on par; it has also recently amended its memorandum of association to admit non-Zoroastrian spouses) and has chosen to remain aloof from that body. Affirming his intent to continue as the WZO president, Engineer responded, "If I find a conflict of interest I'll have to choose. There can be healthy difference of opinion. I hope to bring the WZO and the Punchayet closer." He hopes too "to put in a word with the Punchayet" regarding the mediclaim policy for the community that the WZO is said to be formulating. The question of the BPP or the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India becoming members of the WZO has been shelved since some time according to Engineer who admits that the WZO's rural uplift, entrepreneurship and mediclaim projects are being looked after by Dinshaw Tamboly. "I don't know the nitty-gritty of the WZO's entrepreneurship scheme," he confides.

On the CER front too Engineer intends to continue as president. His approach to the organization however has changed radically over the years. The CER is "not a party" he says but a "loosely knit group of individuals with common ideas and certain conceptual thinking about the affairs of the community and also regarding the Pun-

chayet." In 1984, we remind him, he had spoken about democratizing the party,

holding elections to party offices, etc. "Nothing happened regarding elections," he concedes. "Over a passage of time we realized it's not necessary and not advisable to formalize it." Admitting that Fali Poncha, chairman of the CER's managing committee, is taking much keener interest in the organization's working than himself, Engineer declares that CER-sponsored trustees on the BPP board "have totally independent thinking, (are) not hide-bound by the mandate or directive of the CER. (Though) bound by the philosophy, we are totally free to take our individual decisions...Even in these six weeks I have disagreed with (trustee) Dinshaw Mehta on several points."

As an example Engineer notes that along with trustee Dr (Ms) Mehroo Bengalee he had attended the first meeting chaired by senior trustee Eruch Desai on August 9, 1995 after the High Court refused to grant a stay against the opinion of the single judge upholding seniority as the mode of selection of the chairman of the BPP, though an appeal was admitted against the judgement. Hence trustee Jamshed Guzder vacated the position which he had occupied on the basis of election by the majority of trustees, all of the CER. The other CER trustees had made a written request that the meeting be postponed (until after the Supreme Court hearing on August 14), informed Engineer. "The meeting proceeded as a quorum was available," relates Engineer, adding that he had "made a statement that my presence would not affect Jamshed Guzder's rights." A subsequent meeting on August 21 was also attended by Guzder

*The house of Navroji Patel
Caterers of repute wishes all
Iranis and the Parsi community
a very happy Jamshedi Navroze*

For all your catering requirements

Contact

Mr Bomi Navroji Patel

139-A, Nazir House

Cumballa Hill

Bombay 400036

Tel: 3649319, 3640393

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 Fax: 91-22-2660427

Telex: 11-84739 DFCO IN

and trustee Minoo Shroff.

As Desai's term of office expires in November 1995, we ask Engineer whether the CER would support Rustom Tirandaz, the man he defeated at the hustings in July, assuming that Tirandaz decides to contest. The question was prompted by a statement made by the CER at a pre-election meeting in June in Nowroz Baug that Tirandaz had sought CER support which was promised to him if he withdrew then and stood at the next election. "I don't think so," says Engineer. Though the decision is subject to review, he informs that the CER have decided on Kersi Limathwala as their next candidate for trusteeship.

Though orthodox in his religious beliefs, Engineer says, "I hate issues, I hate controversies. I intend to take a practical stand and try and solve problems." He is agreeable to the transfer of consecrated fires from old, deserted locations to new places where Parsis reside like Panthaky Baug, Godrej Baug, Borivli, etc. He attributes the obstacles to that path to narrow outlooks and unbridled egos. During his electoral campaign Engineer had mooted the idea that he would try to get the trustees of various Parsi charities together to avoid duplication and rechannel funds from redundant objectives to where money is more urgently required like housing, education, entrepreneurship. On being informed that the idea had been tried before with little success, Engineer says, "You do what you can. (There are) so many 'ifs' and 'buts.' But you keep plugging away until you achieve something... If I succeed in 10 out of 100 cases, I'll believe I've succeeded... My motto is 'Get along with the world.'"

Engineer says he fully supports the BPP's scheme of incentives to couples to have a third child. He would additionally like to see financial help offered to childless couples to enable them to benefit from the new medical technology: "Set up a panel of doctors; some correctives may be available to solve the problem," he says, suggesting the institution of a medical aid centre for the purpose.

A St Xavierite through school and college who branched into law after his Inter



Silloo and Dadi Engineer: the family's BPP connections

forms his bio data.

"I owe a lot to my parents," says Engineer, referring to his advocate father Bejonji ("strong-headed but honest to the core") and his mother, the late Goolbai, whom he remembers as "almost an angel." Describing himself as "a very dutiful son," Engineer visits his 91-year-old, house-bound father daily. Wife Silloo (née Secretary) says she has been busier since she resigned after two decades as senior executive at Zodiac menswear. Quips Engineer, "I never let her forget her name was Secretary!" More to the point, Engineer's election as BPP trustee revives an old association for Silloo's family — her great grandfather, Nusserwanji Behramji had been honorary secretary of the Punchayet in the last decades of the 19th century.

Since his election Engineer says he has revisited all the places where he had sought electoral support like Nowroz Baug, Godrej Baug, Khareghat Colony, etc. Work on the long awaited gate at Nowroz Baug has begun, he notes in response to our query, though he refuses to accept credit for it. "It may be coincidental," he smiles.

Willing to help other anjumans in India facing legal problems like the one in Secunderabad where infighting has led to the state government's threat to take over its assets, Engineer says he knows little so far about the Federation's work but is ready to help in any way he can: "Whatever I take up, I do well... I have my priorities."

Arts, Engineer completed his BA from Siddharth College while doing his solicitor's articles. Currently vice president of the Bombay Incorporated Law Society — the governing body of solicitors — Engineer has previously served on the governing council of the Bar Association of India and given evidence before Parliamentary committees on amendments to several statutes. A keen Rotarian, he led the Rotary Club of Bombay to win 11 awards during his year as president. And the Regional Grand Lodge of Western India conferred upon him the Order of Service to Freemasonry, its highest honor under the Indian constitution, in-

From **P a a t r a**

to **FONDUE**
CATERING & ALLIED

TRADITIONAL & EXOTIC MEALS & DECORATIONS

AS WELL AS SIT DOWN MEALS & BUFFETS AT REASONABLE RATES.

CONTACT: PARVATHI K. AT 3870456, 3872350, FAX: 3851103

NESS BAUG, BAKHET 11, 2ND FLOOR, NANA CHOK, BOMBAY 7

REPUTED QUALITY CATERERS, FOOD & RESTAURANT CONSULTANTS.

THE DINA

Where only
the best will do

Contact:

Bombay: Mehta 2024005,

Nayyar 6040298

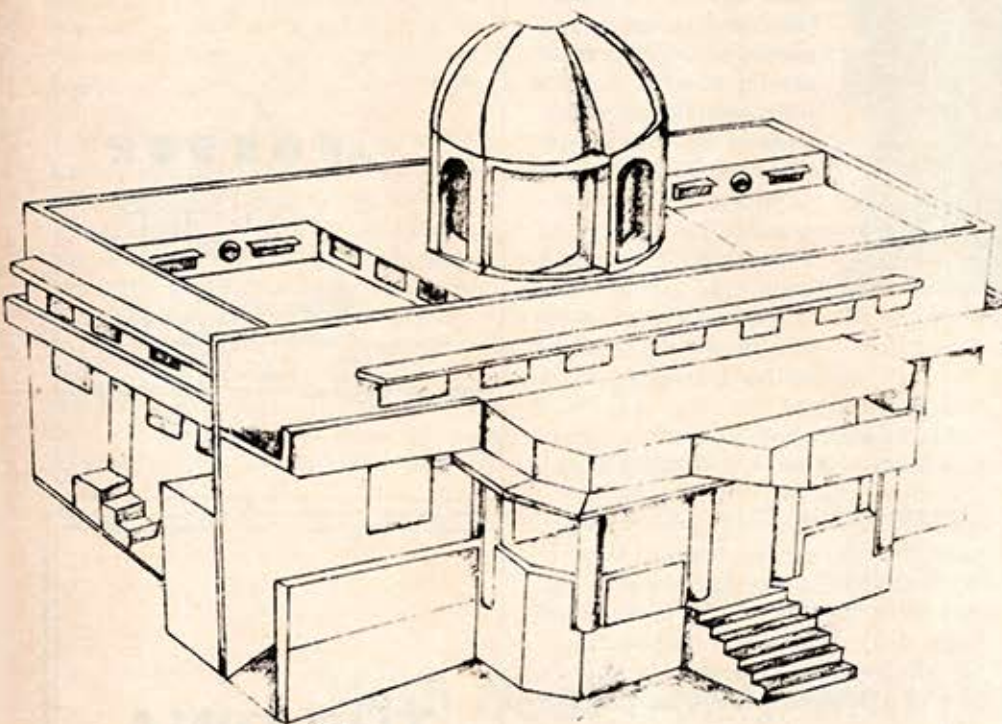
Mahableshwar: Jal/

Mehmooz (02168) 60246

Dina Hotel,

Mahableshwar 412806

New home for an old fire



The Mhow Agiary has the only consecrated agiary fire in northern and central India

Group Capt D. M. Marker (Retd)

A memorable event is being added to the rich history of Zoroastrians at Mhow, in Madhya Pradesh. We are rebuilding our agiary since we had perforce to raze the 150-year-old structure.

Since joining the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, Mhow, only vaguely known to Parsis a few years ago, has now gained prominence as an active anjuman concerned with the welfare of the community as a whole.

Mhow Anjuman opened its doors to all Parsi outsiders by offering and allocating

to them vacant low rent houses on their charitable trust property when these became surplus to their own requirements. Many such families are now residing with us and several more are on the waiting list. Conscious of the uncertainty of our times, the Anjuman has placed its accounts and other details in the hands of the Federation, accepting it as a custodian for its operations in case of all future eventualities.

Situated on the Malwa Plateau in the center of the country, Mhow is looked upon as a pensioners' paradise. It has al-

ways been an important base for the army — first the British and now the Indian. Parsi settlers moved in with the British some 200 years ago and mainly engaged themselves as contractors. They served in administration, army messes, education and other departments. The pioneering spirit of the community assured their success.

Philanthropy did not lag behind. With prosperity, love for mankind surfaced. In 1875 Khan Bahadur Edulji Pestonji Ghaswala gifted a public hospital to the Cantonment Board, which was later expanded. It still serves the poor of the town and the neighboring villages. In 1866 Khan Bahadur Edulji Pestonji Birdi established a cosmopolitan school which continues to function as a high school open to all.

The Khan Bahadur Byramshaw Illava Public Charity Trust was founded by the Illava family who also donated a ward for Parsis at the M. Y. Hospital in Indore. The Shri R. C. Jall Public Charity Trust and the Mhow Town Hall are associated with the late Rustomji Cowasji Jall, an MLA from Mhow.

The community has always been active in social and welfare organizations like the Rotary, Lions, Red Cross, Ex-Servicemen League, etc. Its services are recognized and appreciated.

A dadgah was built around 1840 which was later upgraded to its present status. To ensure that a vital part of our heritage is passed safely to our future generations we are undertaking the reconstruction of the agiary. For posterity, a capsule has been buried under the *kebla* (sanctum sanctorum), with a short note on the agiary authored by our erudite honorary secretary, Dr Behram Masani. It reads:

"The ancient structure of the Agiary was constructed through Anjuman contributions even prior to the establishment of a tower of silence in Mhow in 1840. The main contributors were Seth Pestonji Meherwanji Dotiwalla, Seth Jeevanji Edulji Appoo and Seth Meherwanji Rustomji Masalawalla.

"On the 5th of March, 1846, Shehenshahi *roj* 9, *mah* 6, 1214 YZ, a new structure was consecrated as atash dadgah, under the guidance of Dasturji Hormasji Jamaspji Jamaspasa.

"This building was extended in 1857, during the time of the Mutiny, and an atash adarian was consecrated therein, in 1887. Under the leadership of Khan Bahadur

*With Best Compliments
From*

ANTELEC Private Limited

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

Specialists in high voltage indoor/outdoor substations, power
substations, power and lighting distribution, public address,
CCTV, Fire alarm, Lightning protection systems for Factories,
Stadia, Railway Complexes, 5 Star Hotels, Townships, Hospitals,
Textile Mills, Commercial and Non-commercial Institutions.

If quality, reliability and time are major parameters in your
project, call **Antelec Private Limited**

Registered Office

73 Jolly Maker Chamber No 2, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021
Tel: 2021067/2850383/2850384 Fax: 9122-2021040

Branch Office

802 Chiranjiv Tower, 43 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019
Tel: 6417345, 6217662 Fax: 6463974

Dhunjshaw C. Dotiwalla and Seth Cooverji Dinshaw Masalawalla, additions and alterations were carried out, and in 1896 the golden jubilee was celebrated with great eclat.

"1912 saw the passing away of Dasturji Khurshedji, and Sardar Dasturji (Khan Bahadur) Noshirwanji was appointed as head priest at Mhow.

"To bring the Agiary structure into proper shape, considerable additions and alterations were carried out in 1916, mainly under the guidance of, and financial help from, Khan Bahadur Sardar Dasturji Noshirwan and Khan Bahadur Byramjee Rustomjee Bhaya, and the dome of the fire was shifted. These additions and alterations were carried out at a cost of about Rs 12,000, largely contributed by Khan Bahadur Byramjee Rustomjee Bhaya.

"A plaque then fixed in the agiary read, in Gujarati, to the following effect:

"The pious structure of the dar-e-meher was initially consecrated on *roj* 9th, Adar Yazd, *mah* 6th, Sherwar Amesaspand, 1214 YZ. But as this structure did not meet the needs of the present Zoroastrian population, suitable changes have been made in the old building by public contribution, and the present structure has, after consecration, been thrown open for the use of the community.

"Mhow Camp, *roj* 9th, Adar Yazd, *mah* 11th, Behman Amesaspand, 1285 YZ, that is, 16th July 1916 AD, Sunday.

"In the humble service of the Anjuman, Noshirwan Dastur Kekobad."

"In 1980, necessary repairs were carried out at a cost of Rs 35,000.

"On March 18, 1990, Sunday, the 150th

anniversary of the establishment of the dar-e-meher at Mhow was celebrated. Zoroastrians from Indore, Ratlam, Bhopal, Ujjain, Neemuch and other cities participated in large numbers, and the high priest of the H. B. Wadia Atash Behram, Dr Firoze M. Kotwal, blessed the occasion as chief guest.

"During the course of repairs started in 1994, a considerable portion of the struc-

The ancient Agiary was constructed through Anjuman contributions before 1840

ture collapsed (in January 1995), and it became necessary to demolish the rest of the structure, and to build afresh.

"To this project Jehanbux Bilimoria, an architect from Bombay, and engineers Adil Marfatia and Phiroze Madan from Indore, have made valuable contributions. It is estimated to cost Rs 13 to 14 lakh rupees and appeals for donations from Zoroastrians worldwide have been made. Digging work for re-construction commenced on May 9, 1995, *roj* Behram Yazd, *mah* Adar, 1364 YZ, after the performance of due ceremonies."

It is vital, therefore, that a place of such religious significance is not allowed to perish. We hope that readers will view this with the same urgency as we do, and that they will assist us in this essential project by demand drafts or crossed cheques, favoring the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, Mhow. Donations of Rs 5,000 or more will be acknowledged, if desired, with mention on a plaque which will be installed at a prominent place in the new fire-temple.

We have applied for a certificate under Section 80-G of the Income Tax Act, 1961, so that the donors too could avail of the benefit.

Constructing an agiary

The model agiary designed for the Parsi community of Mhow will measure 57' by 37' (2,109 sq ft) plus an additional front verandah of 33' by 10' (330 sq ft). The structure is raised on a platform 4 ft above ground level. A ramp is designed as additional access for old, disabled people and small children to enable them to climb the high plinth level with ease. The height of the structure above the plinth is 14' and 17' respectively for ceremony rooms and the main prayer hall.

The aerodynamic principle of the double dome has been utilized to eliminate smoke without the help of any mechanical or electrical energy: natural wind is put to use as smoke extractor. The height of the dome structure, 34' from ground level, can be reached for cleaning and maintenance from the terrace at 21' from ground level.

The Italian marble slabs which were removed from the old agiary structure will be re-used. The remaining areas will be covered with quality Indian marble or other polished natural stones.

In order to cut down future recurring maintenance expenditure of painting and face-lifting, which may become unmanageable for future generations, we intend providing permanent finishing materials, internally and externally, if sufficient funds are available. All decorative, ornamental and aesthetic features will be taken from Iranian/Zoroastrian sources.

The extreme climatic conditions of Mhow will be taken care of by proper natural ventilation and air circulation, so as to make devotees feel comfortable during their stay in the fire-temple.

Jehanbux Bilimoria



Glimpses of the old agiary in Mhow that was demolished
Photos: Kerman Marker
Previous page:
An artist's impression of the proposed agiary at Mhow

Source: P. Nariman and Company

Leading tyre company in India?



We have many firsts to our credit. But, quite honestly, we are rather reluctant to talk about them.

Like we were the first tyre company to win the ISO 9002 certificate. But then, we were the first to deserve it any way; so what the heck.

Sure, we were the first tyre company to cross the Rs. 100 crore landmark in exports. As also the first to introduce steel radials for LCVs in India. Again, considering our achievements, that's really no big deal.

Why, we are one of the top twenty tyre companies in world today. But then, why tire you with mundane details like that.

Even the news about our tie-up with Goodyear of U.S. to manufacture high technology radials for trucks, buses and passenger cars is no longer news.

That's not all...

The fact is we couldn't really figure out what to talk about in this advertisement. After much thought, we decided to give you a simple two-word message. Something so significant you would never forget. DRIVE SAFELY.

Ceat has been putting in a lot of effort on the road safety drive in India. Our multi-media programme is aimed at making the road user conscious about the criticality of road safety. And this is only a beginning to what we hope would turn into a great movement.

In other words, it is your safety and that of your loved ones that's close to our heart. Now that is what Ceat is really all about. Amen to that.



Nagpur's legacy of faith

Numbering around 600, the Parsis in Nagpur are determined to nurture the fire that burns in their 100-year-old Mullan Dar-e-Meher

Dilnavaz E. Bhagwagar

A news item, appearing in *The Times of India* a hundred years ago, ran as follows: "(From a correspondent) Nagpore, November 4, 1895.

"An interesting ceremony was performed today at Nagpore by Dastur Sahib Shumsul-Ulama Sirdar Khan Bahadur Hoshangji Jamashji, the Parsi High Priest, at the opening of the first fire-temple, before an assemblage of Parsi ladies and gentlemen. The proceedings were commenced by the High Priest, assisted by other priests, taking the sacred fire in a procession headed by two priests with drawn swords.

"Mr Nusserwanjee Maneckji Mullan, at whose cost, amounting to Rs 10,000, the agiary has been built, made a speech dedicating the fire-temple to the use of the Parsis and handing it over to the Nagpore and Kamptee Zoroastrian Anjuman. After several other presents had been made, the whole assembly retired at noon, to partake of a general feast."

This announcement heralded the birth of the Bai Hirabai Nusserwanjee Mullan Dar-e-Meher at Nagpur, on *roj* Behram, *mah* Ardibehst, YZ 1265.

The history of this agiary is as interesting as it is ancient. In 1889 Seth Dadabhoy Sohrab Zal offered Rs 2,000 for establishing a dar-e-meher at Nagpur. The offer was turned down as being too niggardly.

In 1890 the devout and wealthy Seth Nusserwanjee Mullan announced that he would build an agiary at his own cost, if the Parsis of Nagpur could raise Rs 10,000 as a nibhav or maintenance fund. The Parsi populace rose to the occasion and collected the required amount of money — a princely sum in those days — over a period of three years. Exceeding his earlier com-

mitment of enshrining a dadgah, Nusserwanjee Mullan bequeathed to the community an atash adarian. He named it the Bai Hirabai Nusserwanjee Mullan Dar-e-Meher.

Even this grand gesture was not without its undercurrents of strife and dissatisfaction. It is often said — and not without reason — that there are bound to be as many opinions as there are Parsis. True enough. The sizable number of Parsi railway officers and engine drivers living and working in the Ajni railway yard, a few

They were never able to raise the money to build another agiary

miles away from Nagpur, were opposed to the building of the dar-e-meher in Nagpur and wanted it in Ajni. They did not contribute to the nibhav fund and decided to boycott the Nagpur agiary, choosing instead to have their prayers and religious ceremonies performed in places as far away as Bombay, Udvarda, Navsari and Surat. They were, however, never able to raise the money to build another agiary and, in time, came with bowed heads to the Dar-e-Meher in Nagpur.

The first panthaky of the new agiary was Ervad Edulji Cawasji Kanga. Hailing from Navsari, Edulji Kanga was both a scholar and a teacher. He tended to the atash at the Dar-e-Meher from the day it

was installed there till the day he died.

The Mullan Dar-e-Meher, built in 1895, was picturesquely situated on a hillock overlooking a large and beautiful manmade lake, known then as the Jumma Talao. Years later in a burst of patriotic fervor it was renamed Gandhi Sagar. 'Visit Nagpur' tourist brochures romantically call it the Tank of Tears; why, no one has been able to explain!

The hillock on which the agiary was built was made of the mud thrown up during the excavation of the lake. Over a period of years, as the mud gradually shifted and settled, cracks developed in the foundation and the walls of the agiary. Less than 50 years after it was built, it became imperative to pull down the old structure. The land was levelled and a new and more beautiful edifice built in its place, under the watchful eye of civil engineer Jamshedji Karkaria of the Empress Mills. The reputed Jamaji and Company were the contractors. It was wartime, materials were scarce or unavailable and work progressed slowly. But these two venerable Parsi gentlemen, Jamshedji and Jamaji, personally supervised the laying of every brick and marble slab.

The solemn ceremony with which the atash was installed in its new abode is remembered with awe by all those who witnessed it. At the midnight hour of October 24, 1943, on the eve of Behram *roj*, the ceremonies for the consecration of the new agiary commenced. Senior dasturs from Bombay and Navsari came to assist. A procession of 40 priests in full regalia escorted the fire to the sanctum sanctorum. Parsi men, women and children, a silent or whispered prayer on their lips, lined the

**Parvati
couldn't read, write
or spell "future".**



**Today,
she can have the
future she wants.**

You can give Parvati and children like her, a chance for a better life.
With Concern India's REKINDLE For Children programme.
Support a child's special needs for just Rs. 3000 a year. You can share the
laughter and joy you bring with regular updates and project reports.
Fill in the coupon, fill a child's life with happiness.

CONCERN
INDIA FOUNDATION

Helping people help themselves

rekindle
FOR CHILDREN

Ador House, 6, K. Dubash Marg, Bombay - 400 023 or 14 Birbal Road, 2nd floor, Jangpura Extension, New Delhi - 110 014.
or P.O. Box- 49, G.P.O., Pune - 411 001.

YES, I WANT TO JOIN THE REKINDLE FOR CHILDREN FAMILY.

I want to support — child/children.

I am enclosing a cheque for

() my annual contribution of Rs. 3000 per child

() my first bi-annual installment of Rs. 1500 per child

() my first quarterly installment of Rs. 750 per child

If you would like to support more than one child, please

specify how many.

Name: MR/MRS/MS. _____

Add.: _____

City: _____ Country: _____

Please make all cheques payable to "THE CONCERN INDIA
FOUNDATION" and send it to the above address.

Two venerable Parsi gentlemen personally supervised the laying of every brick and marble slab



path of the procession. In the stillness of the night, the toll of bells, the sanctity of the prayers offered and the piety of the congregation were unforgettable. Ms Dolat Pavri, now a mature three score, recalls in vivid detail the ceremony she witnessed as a little girl of nine. Her brother, the much respected Ervad Hormuzdiar Pavri, then a young man of 30, offered the first *boi* in the new agiary.

The years rolled by and the fortunes of the Parsis of Nagpur rose and fell. The flagship of the Tata industrial empire, the Empress Mills, expanded from one section

to five sections. The population of the Parsis of Nagpur peaked 1,500 in the early '50s. Legendary Parsi munificence was reflected in the J. N. Tata Parsi Girls High School, the Limji Billimoria Cricket Pavilion and other institutions for the benefit of the people at large.

Today, the Empress Mills have been taken over by the government, the once predominantly Parsi management is now composed of other communities, and the population has dwindled to around 600 Parsis. But the flame of the atash adarian continues to burn bright.

The centenary celebrations of the agiary in October this year, will include a jashan, lectures, entertainment and a grand celebration dinner. Dinshaw Bapuna, president of the Shree Nagpur and Kamthi Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman, his committee members and many other Parsis have been working for the past year at fund collection and planning of programs befitting the occasion. A

major portion of the funds is being used for the needed repairs and beautification of the agiary, for the panthaky's house and the gardens surrounding the agiary complex.

To the benevolence of the atash the Parsis of Nagpur attribute their unity, camaraderie, prosperity and well-being. The managing committee of the Anjuman has rightly decided that we need to preserve, for future generations, the legacy of faith and philanthropy that our fore fathers handed to us. Your contributions in cash or cheque favoring 'Shree Nagpur and Kamthi Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman' may be sent to Shiraz J. Gimi, chairman, centenary committee, 75 New Colony, Nagpur 440001. They will be gratefully received.



Top: Head priest Ervad Bommy Vazifdar of the Bai Hirabai Mullan Dar-e-Meher with his wife Niloufer and son Pourush Sanctum sanctorum (center) and facade of the restored Agiary



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

Accolades for achievers

Nineteen outstanding Zoroastrians received the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India's Awards for Excellence

Arnavaz S. Mama

"The Parsis, we are all very conscious, are a community that has made its contribution to India's life, society and progress and in many ways to India's thought, modernity and social service... From the first day of India's aspiration for freedom Parsis were in the forefront."

P. K. Dave, Lt Governor of Delhi, was addressing the tired but exhilarated delegates to the executive council meet of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, distinguished coreligionists who had been invited to accept the Federation's Awards for Excellence and the Parsis of Delhi.

The morning jashan on January 28, 1995 had been followed by a talkathon and a visit in the evening to Vijay Chowk to witness the full dress rehearsal of Beating the Retreat — the spectacle of sound and color that marks the ceremonial end to the Republic Day celebrations. They hurried back, coated and shawled against the capital's winter cold, barely reaching their seats under the shamiana on the Delhi Parsi Anjuman (DPA) complex ere the Governor and his lady arrived to the traditional welcome of *achoo-michoo* by Dhun Bagli, manageress of the Mengusi Dharamshalla.

The 19 awards presented — a shield, a citation and a purse of Rs 1,000 each — covered a gamut of achievements in the years 1992 and 1993 ranging from scholarly research to military valor and social service, as though in substantiation of Dave's words, "wherever I've gone, I've seen Parsis contribute to trade, industry and social causes."

The Col Adi Tarapore Memorial Award (instituted in memory of the only Parsi recipient of the Param Vir Chakra, India's highest award for bravery in the field of battle, who died in the 1965 Indo-Pak war in a blaze of glory) for 1992 was presented to Group Capt Fali Major of the Indian Air Force (IAF) for his daring and dangerous

rescue of 10 tourists stranded at a height of 1,300 ft when a resort ropeway snapped in Himachal Pradesh. It took Major and his crew two days to winch out the survivors individually from the cable car to the helicopter which had to hover precariously close to the cables. Major personally participated, motivated and led his crew through the nailbiting suspense of the operation (as Major noted in the course of a brief chat with *Parsiana*, "Unless you lead from the front, you lead no one").

Air Commodore Adi Gandhi who has flown all the major aircrafts in the IAF inventory and is the only officer who is operational on both MIG 29 and the M2000 Mirage Aircrafts, received the Col Adi Tarapore Award for 1993. "Under his able guidance the base created a fourth line repair module for better snag rectification and developed software for trouble shooting charts for major maintenance problems," notes the citation, underscoring the value of base support and maintenance in the frontline performance of pilots.

The Shiavax Nargolwala Memorial Award for social service was presented to Dr (Ms) Armaity Desai for 1992 and Dr (Ms) Banoo Coyaji for 1993. Desai, who now chairs the University Grants Commission, was then director of the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS), founder and president of the Asian and Pacific Association for Social Work Education, consultant to various UN agencies and more. In 1992 Desai had been conferred the Katherine Kendall Distinguished Service Award, instituted by the International Association of Schools of Social Work, for her contribution to social work education.

Obstetrician and gynecologist Coyaji's association with family planning and family welfare, specifically the low birth weight child survival project which she started under WHO (World Health Organisation) auspices, "may bring about a veritable revolution in improving maternal and child

health," states the citation. Dave had noted earlier that Coyaji is recognized internationally and her work in Pune heard of by everyone, as witnessed by the Ramon Magsaysay International Award for 1993.

The social service award was renamed in honor of the late Nargolwala, the Federation's architect and for 26 years president of the DPA whose liberal paternalism put Delhi Parsis in the vanguard of progress.

The Bombay Parsi Punchayet Award for the study of Zoroastrian history, culture and scriptures for 1993 was presented to Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa, high priest of Bombay's Anjuman Atash Behram since 1956. Principal of the Jamsetji Jejeebhoy and Mulla Feroze Madressas, JamaspAsa has been honorary professor of ancient Iranian languages at Bombay's St Xavier's College and visiting professor to the universities of Mainz and Shiraz. With much research and several publications behind him, JamaspAsa was one of the 14 international religious dignitaries chosen to preside at the second Parliament of World Religions in Chicago in 1993. There was no claimant for the award for 1992.

The Mazda Education Foundation Award for education, research, science and technology was presented to Rusi Engineer for 1992 and to Rustom Damania for 1993. Lauded for his work in energy conservation, Engineer is editor-in-chief of *Energy Scenario*, the magazine of the energy conservation industry which highlights data and information on the subject. In 1992 Engineer was awarded the Rajiv Gandhi Gold Medal of Merit, the Manav Seva Puraskar Award and the Yuv Rattan Award, notes the citation.

Deputy director of Bangalore's National Aerospace Laboratories, Damania's work for the past 30 years has concerned teaching, research and development in the field of aircraft design and flight mechanics. In

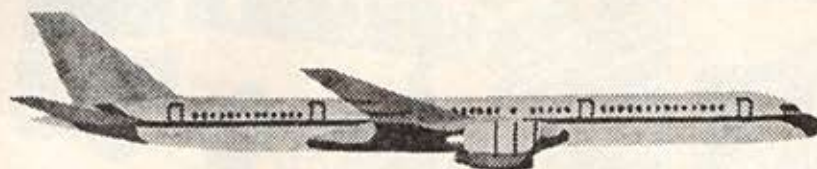
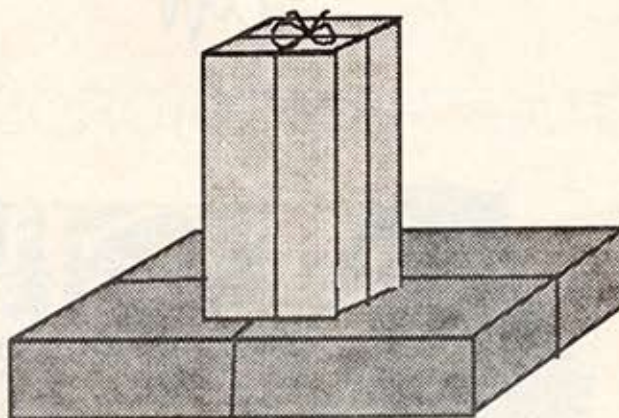
The Best Way to Express

Your Documents,



Packages &

Freight



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

* 237 Destinations in India

* 204 Countries Worldwide

BLUE DART

BLUE DART EXPRESS LIMITED,

Modema House, Mezz. Floor, BlowPlast Compound, Old Prabhadevi Road, Bombay 400025

• Tel. No.: 4221588, 4309777, 4361343 • Fax No.: 4224169

Regd. Office : Lumbini Palace, 4 Tejpal Road, Vile Parle (E.), Bombay 400 057 Tel.: 8328030, 8388343 Fax : 8377439

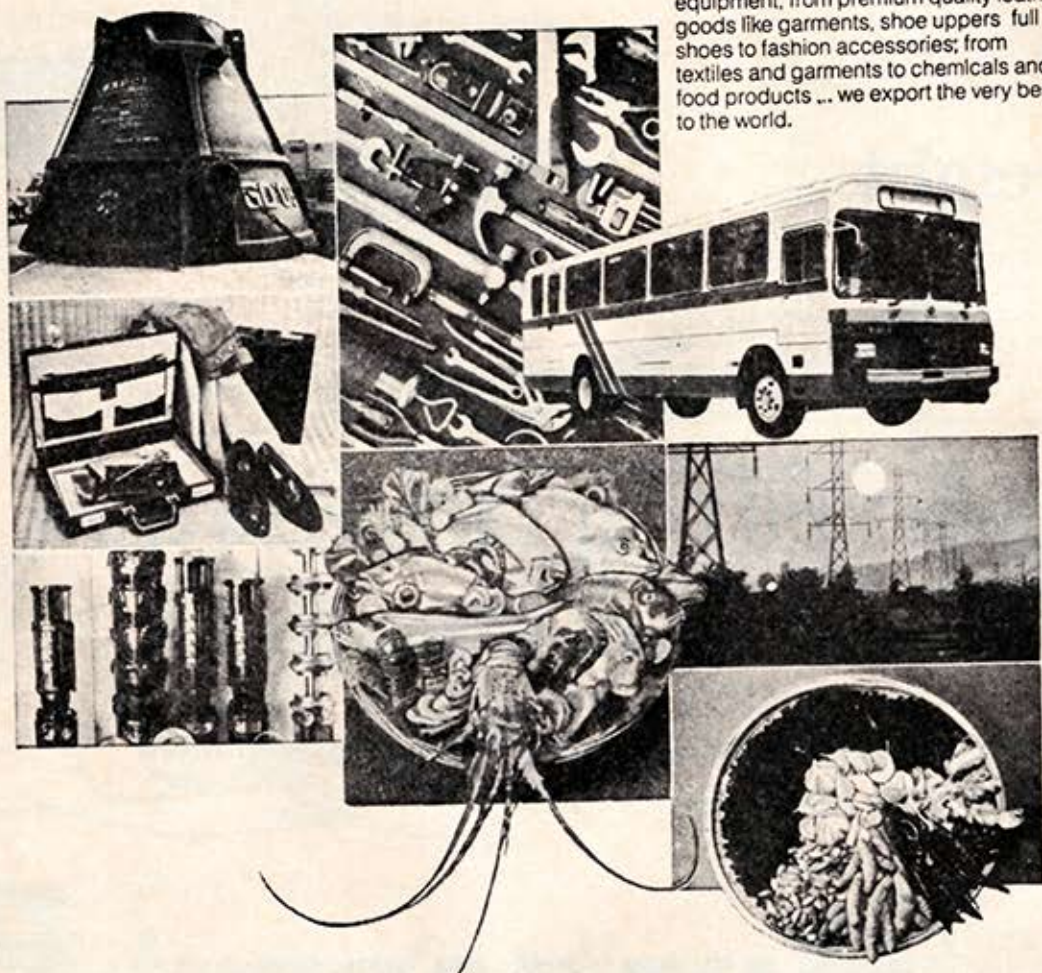


A world of difference

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, Shivasagar Estates,
Dr Annie Besant Road,
Worli, Bombay 400 018, India.

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

1993 a versatile aircraft for use in training, sports and hobby flying, surveillance, aerial photography and environment monitoring was entirely designed and fabricated in India. Damania was actively involved at every stage of the project. The rust-proof, easy to maintain, 850 kg model can stay aloft for four hours.

The Gherda Chemicals Award for 1993 for education, research science, and technology was presented to Prof Dr (Ms) Zarin Turel, head of the nuclear chemistry division at Bombay's Institute of Science, who was awarded the degree of Doctor of Science in 1993 by the Bombay University for her independent publications in the field of radio chemistry. Earlier she had been awarded an honorary MD by the University of Denmark for her work in nuclear techniques in medical research.

Two outstanding surgeons, a gynecologist and a chartered accountant received the two Federation awards for professional competence for the two years. Adi Rabadi, who has presented several papers on financial management and allied subjects, prepared studies for the evaluation of iron and steel and industrial projects in India and pioneered research on social cost benefit analysis in India as director of a project initiated by the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India, received the Nargis Adi Gandhi Memorial Award for 1992.

With several papers published in international journals on family planning and infertility, Dr Ruzva Bhathena's work on contraception has been acknowledged by the board of the Royal College of Obstetricians and Gynaecologists, UK. A member of its faculty since July 1993, Bhathena is the first Indian gynecologist to receive this honor, notes the citation conferring on him the Nargis Adi Gandhi Memorial Award for 1993.

A pioneer in laproscopic and endoscopic surgery in India Dr Tehemton Udwadia received the G. K. Panthaki Award for 1992 for his participation in over 20 workshops in India and abroad in the capacity of chairman, leader or guest speaker, notably the third World Congress of Endoscopic Surgeons in Bordeaux, the annual meet of the American College of Surgeons in Chicago and the 28th biennial meet of the International College of Surgeons in Cairo.

The winner of the 1993 G. K. Panthaki Award was renowned urologist Dr Dara Karanjavala. In a career spanning over four decades, Karanjavala has published 45 papers and chaired sessions at international conferences in Europe, America and the Far East. Awarded the Padma Shri in

Award winners who responded to the Federation's invitation to attend the meeting and receive their trophies in person (left to right from top row): Turel, Coyaji, Rabadi, Marshall, Damania, Gandhi, Engineer, Udwadia, Bhathena, Bilimoria, Major





*Achievers of excellence (left to right):
Desai, Bhagwagar, Jamaspa, (late)
Taleyarkhan, Motivala*

1983, the Dhanvantri Award in 1986 and the St Paul's Gold Medal from the British Association of Urological Surgeons in 1993, Kananjavala's expertise in kidney transplants is said to have few equals.

The Surat Parsi Panchayat Award for adventure had no takers for 1993. The 1992 award was bequeathed posthumously to the late Firdaus Taleyarkhan whose tragic death in the Garhwal range of the Himalayas cut short a brilliant legal career. A prominent constitutional lawyer who gave freely of his time for social and environmental causes, Taleyarkhan was the honorary secretary of the Bombay Bar Association and vice chairman of the International Bar Association. An expert rider, he served the Amateur Riders Club of Bombay as honorary secretary. Taleyarkhan's dedication to mountain climbing had led him to successfully complete advanced courses in climbing and rescue operations in India and abroad, including the Glenmore Mountain Climbers Course in Wales, UK. A veteran of several operations, he often liaised with international mountaineering expeditions in the Himalayas on behalf of the Indian government and had participated in a rescue mission that had saved the lives of two members of the Austrian Himalayan Expedition. The only son of veteran politician Homi Taleyarkhan and his wife Thrity, the award was suitably accepted by DPA president Lt Gen Adi Sethna on behalf of Homi who was then recovering from an operation in a Bombay hospital.

The Dhunjishaw Gheyara Memorial Award meant for students was bagged for 1992 by budding architect Vistasp Bhagwagar and for 1993 by medico Dr Minocher Battiwala.

Bhagwagar had received his bachelor of architecture degree from New Delhi's School of Planning and Architecture, be-

ing awarded the gold medal for best student in 1991-92. His design thesis on a center for Zoroastrian culture in Ahmedabad and research paper on the Pragati Maidan complex for fairs and exhibitions were considered the best that year. Doubling as a freelance cartoonist for international youth magazines, Bhagwagar's talent had been acknowledged when he won the UNESCO gold medal for 'Peace in Painting' competition in 1984 and the first prize in the ministry of environment's poster competition in 1987.

Battiwala who secured his MBBS from Calcutta in 1993 with a silver medal in medicine and two prestigious awards in surgery had ranked first in the state of West Bengal in the joint entrance examination for medicine held in 1988.

The Jiji D. Irani Memorial Award went for both years to water sportsmen. Lt Commander Homi Motivala of the Indian Navy, a national and international yachting champion, claimed it for 1992. Motivala, who was awarded the Shaurya Chakra in 1981 for outstanding bravery when he was but 23 years old, was declared Yachtsman of the Year 1990 by the Yachting Association of India. His most recent achievements include the silver medal at the VII Asian Sailing Championship at Japan and gold medal in the enterprise class in the World Championship at Zimbabwe, both in 1993.

The 1993 Jiji D. Irani Award was bagged by rowing champion Neville Bilimoria of Ooty. Son of champion rower Jamshed Bilimoria, Neville was awarded the 1992 Most Improved Oarsman Cup from the Madras Boat Club which he represented in the 52 Amateur Rowing Association of the East Regatta in 1992 and in the 1993 International Regatta under the aegis of the Far Eastern Amateur Rowing Association, winning silver medals in three events. At the All India Inter University Rowing Championship in 1994 Neville was named overall champion and won the gold medal for pairs.

Two other awards for sports were pre-

sented for the year 1993. The Dadi Balsara Award was presented to Darius Marshall who won the 1993 silver medal in the 37th National Shooting Championship at Madras. Marshall who runs a modern automobile workshop in Calicut has also won trophies in high speed and rally motoring, tennis, billiards and snooker.

Swimmer Ms Ruksheen Palia has taken a head start in the pursuit of excellence. At the age of five she represented Bombay in three events in the Maharashtra State Amateur Aquatic Association Championships in each of which she was runner-up. In the year 1993 she won 19 gold, 11 silver and four bronze medals in various competitions. She currently holds the record for the 25m butterfly stroke and the 25m freestyle for girls under seven. Palia was awarded the Mehernosh Cama Memorial Award for sports.

Unfortunately, the Federation delegates missed their chance to see the spunky Palia. She, along with Desai, Jamaspa, Kananjavala, Bhagwagar and Battiwala, received her trophy in absentia.

After the awards had been presented, economist Dr Freddie Mehta who was attending the function was called upon to address the gathering impromptu. Noting that "we've established a tradition of ruining every happy event by putting a serious note at the end," Mehta joked that he was being "offered as a sacrificial lamb to all of you!"

Calling it a lie that "there's no talent left in the community," Mehta was nonetheless distressed that there were no new entrepreneurs forthcoming. On the board of directors of the IDBI (Industrial Development Bank of India) for the past 12 years, Mehta said, "It strikes me as significant that Marwaris, Punjabis and Gujaratis came forward with one scheme after another. But during these 12 years which new Parsi entrepreneur came with a project? With the possible exception of the Damani's (of Damania Airways) what's happened to the community that gave the

HELPING WOMEN STAND ON THEIR OWN FEET

Bank of India's

Priyadarshini
YOJANA

FINANCIAL ASSISTANCE TO
WOMEN ENTREPRENEURS

In keeping with its commitment to the upliftment of women, Bank of India has designed an exclusive scheme for women entrepreneurs. The scheme is applicable to small scale industrial undertakings, artisans, village and cottage industries, small road transport operators, small businesses, professionals and self employed, retail traders and agricultural & allied activities.



Bank of India
The Bank that cares...

For further details, contact your nearest Branch OR the Woman Counsellor at:
Ahmedabad 5353118, Bhopal 554404, Bombay 2673599, 2820007, 6285109,
Bhubaneswar 406410, Calcutta 2481973, Chandigarh 703311, Delhi 372418,
Hyderabad 315174, Kolhapur 68140, Lucknow 242417, Madras 8263910,
Nagpur 533353, Patna 225973, Pune 325408, Ranchi 200837



country the first steel mill, the first textile mill?" Seeking an explanation why "the fire has gone out of us" Mehta asked, "Have we become too professionalized? Has the capacity to go up and go down gone out of us?"

Allowing that there are about 15 to 18 Parsi youths among the 123 who receive the J. N. Tata scholarships for studies abroad each year, Mehta suggested that the community embark on a totally different approach. "We put India on the industrial map of the world... We have to (continue to) contribute to (its) industrial development. We must dedicate ourselves..."

Now that the economy has opened up, the community in India must connect with Zoroastrians abroad, let them know of the opportunities available here: "The chairman of General Electric comes to India; the chairman of Siemens comes to India. It is a question of seizing opportunities." Mehta suggested the opening of a Parsi bank and mutual fund: "There is no shortage of Parsi talent, financial skills, in England and America. About 30 Parsis would be happy to come back if they are assured of a role to play."

Another field of enterprise the community could venture into easily, is what

Mehta called a "medical park." Noting that "there is no end of demand for hospitals in and around Bombay," Mehta urged the community leaders and doctors present to explore the field, prepare a directory of Parsi entrepreneurs, employ professionals on the staff of community institutions even as the Sindhi community trusts have done.

Mehta had said, "I hope I'm not sounding too somber. I am not trying to destroy your appetite for dinner..." He need not have worried. In terms of appetite, the Parsis are made of sterner stuff. Mehta's words and the day's events were chewed and, hopefully, digested along with the scrumptious dinner provided by a well-wishing Zoroastrian couple.

Large exposure to life

Group Capt Fali Major is the first generation of his family to go into the services because of his fascination for flying and yen for a profession which would yield job satisfaction. One of the last direct entry cadets into the Indian Air Force (IAF) — after doing his physics and maths in Nizam's College, Hyderabad — Major has had no regrets. He says he "loves the IAF."

A man who has gloried in offensives and mercy missions and such duties as

sustaining the army on the Saichin Glacier (the largest glacier in the world outside the Arctic and Antarctic Circles, he informs) where air transport is the only conveyance possible, Major is totally against financial and other material incentives to raise the community's birthrate. "What may be required is indoctrination in Bombay instead of Rs 1,000 per child. Rs 1,000 may be a disincentive. It may prevent (the youth) from going out. Don't mollycoddle the boys... Send the youngsters on adventure camps like river rafting, mountain climbing..."

According to Major, Zoroastrian youths from north and south India are ready to venture from their homes. It is the Bombay boys who seem unwilling to leave the parental nest. "Probably the mothers, especially widowed mothers, don't want their sons to leave. (But) there seems to be a paranoia about accommodation!"

At a loss to understand the diminishing interest of Parsi boys in a services career, Major ponders on the priorities of the youth. Among the plus points of the armed forces is the generally comfortable lifestyle they are enabled to enjoy and the large exposure to life at all levels. Even the enlisted man handles machinery worth

With Best Compliments From

America's No. 1 Engine Oil



PENNZOIL INDIA LTD

Apeejay House, 3, Dinsha Vachha Road, Bombay 400 020.
Bombay 2820818, Delhi 3315051, Madras 451236,
Pune 54053, Ahmedabad 353420, Indore 62878.



H. J. Irani

HORTICULTURIST & NURSERYMAN

Prop: *Bandra florist*

Suppliers of all kinds of flowers & plants

Experts in developing farms with commercial crops, undertaking contracts for garden development with annual maintenance and pioneer suppliers of Indoor plants for offices on hire basis.

**“AWARD WINNERS FOR EXPORTS
OF LIVE PLANTS & FLOWERS”**

23-E, Hill Road, Opp Bandra Police Station
Bandra (W), Bombay 400050
Tel: (Off) 6423068, 6433299, (Resi) 6427180
Fax: 91-22-6400805

crores of rupees: "If you want him to work efficiently, the environment, the food, must match his professional competence. You must educate and indoctrinate the man continually, but you must also ensure that his returns are commensurate."

Leadership in the services requires you to interact with your seniors and your juniors, to keep updating your professional knowledge and competence, says Major. "You must not only be able to do a maneuver better, you must be able to correct the junior who goes wrong."

Major's son has followed his father into flying, but not into the IAF. He works instead as a flight instructor in the Baroda Flying Club — a job he found for himself, says his father proudly. A daughter in Bangalore is in her final year BCom, simultaneously pursuing a diploma in computers and a correspondence course in BCom (Hons) from Delhi University.

Practice and dedication

"Rowing is the second toughest sport next to swimming — every muscle works!" Neville Bilimoria should know. He and his teammate Mohit Keswani practice from 4.30 to 6 every morning and evening. The

dedication led them to the senior level in one year. Normally it would require four years at a minimum, he says.

A history graduate from Madras University and an aspiring law student, Neville, 26, is a fourth generation Parsi from Ooty where the family has an oil business.

Rowing is an expensive hobby, we learn. The scull (with a single rower) is an im-

*"Why has the fire gone
out of us? Have we
become too
professionalized?"*

ported boat worth Rs 1.5 lakhs and a pair of blades (oars) cost Rs 20,000. The honeymoon with the sport began in 1992 when Bilimoria won the men's championship in Ooty and thus a chance to go to Madras. From there he has gone on to regattas in Calcutta (where he and his friends were adjudged the best civilian team in December 1994) and Colombo.

But Bilimoria is not resting on his oars. "We need more practice and dedication,"

he says, aiming at the Fourth National Games in Karnataka in 1996 and attributes his past success to national coach Burun Chander, president of the Tamil Nadu Rowing Federation and to V. N. Rajendran and Arvind Bhagat of the Madras Boat Club. "I couldn't have come up without them," he acknowledges.

Long distance running, badminton and the khargan dance are Bilimoria's other interests. The dance (of which he says he has given 210 performances, mainly to contribute funds for the blind) requires a lot of body movement with a pot balanced on the head, much rhythm and practice, he informs. Sponsored by the All India Museum Festival, Bilimoria's renditions have won awards for his school and the Nilgiris district.

Aiming to settle his sister Cyrene, also an oarswoman, before doing so himself, Bilimoria currently works as a liaison officer in Madras for a New Zealand firm. "After I saw all the other awardees, I feel I have not achieved all that I am capable of," says the godfearing, kusti-wearing Zoroastrian who shuns beef, respects all shrines and says he does whatever he feels is good.

**For over 50 years,
our master craftsmen have
excelled in maintaining a rich
tradition of excellence
in fine quality furniture**

**Exquisitely hand-crafted
in contemporary as well as authentic period style
designs using the finest quality wood..**

We meet all your decorating needs.

The Drawing Room

14 Oricon House, K. Dubash Marg, Bombay 400023

Tel: 2842986

FIRST LEASING COMPANY OF INDIA LIMITED

*"It is nice
to be a depositor with
First Leasing"*

An authentic
depositor statement



749 Anna Salai, Madras 600002
Phone: 8520025/0705/1615/0557/3697
Fax: 8523257/2757

The mating game

The ideas and attitudes that come
in the way of marriage
as enunciated by Federation delegates

Is there a stigma attached to finding a spouse through a matrimonial bureau? Is it degrading for couples to be offered a monetary incentive to have children? Should couples be lured into marriage by the offer of low cost accommodation? These are some of the questions that occupy the collective consciousness of the community. The debates rage on endlessly.

At the executive council meeting of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India in June 1994 at the Khareghat Hall delegates from all over India including members of the Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations had an animated discussion on these issues. As the delegates and the youth present represent the leaders of the community in the country, their thoughts and feelings on these sensitive issues make interesting reading. For the benefit of its readers *Parsiana* will publish in this and forthcoming issues excerpts from the two-day deliberations.

This instalment concerns the Bombay Parsi Punchayet's (BPP) Matrimonial Bureau and the perceptions that govern its effectiveness.

Ms Banoogoshasp Irani (Young Zoroastrian Association of Dahānu): There is a stigma attached to a matrimonial bureau. *Mané shu jarurat chhé*, I don't need it I can find my own partner. That attitude is there. **Homi Taleyarkhan** (Former member of the Government of India's Minorities Commission): I was just going to mention that a number of our girls turn to the matrimonial bureau to find a husband. They don't necessarily want to fall in love. They just want a man who can look after them and ensure their future. They have not been

able to find such a person and this is where the bureau can help.

Rustom Anklesaria (then chief executive, BPP): I will tell you my personal experience. My first son is married to a non-Parsi. She has turned out to be a wonderful lady, I think no Parsi girl could have been better, but at the time when he married without our consent, we were shocked... Because we were afraid as parents that our younger son may also repeat the performance, we advertised. I got 84 answers in reply...

Today in *The Times of India* you see pages and pages of matrimonial ads for

matrimonial bureau should change also. Today a Parsi girl goes to work in an environment which is non-Parsi. She finds a nice young non-Parsi boy earning well, enamored of her and she falls in love. So whose fault is it if not ours, that we are not giving our girls adequate opportunities to mix with boys of our own community? The matrimonial bureau is one of the platforms for that purpose, and we should remove the stigma from our minds against it.

Ms Vania: May I ask one question? How often and where do the members of the matrimonial bureau meet?

Jamshed Guzder (then chairman of BPP and president of the Federation): Before we answer that question may I please substantiate what Mr Anklesaria has said. One day a lady walked into my office. I'd known her for 25 years, her husband belongs to a family of crorepatis; not lakhpatis, but crorepatis. She asked my advice about her daughter, who was not getting married and I suggested that she should advertise. As Mr Anklesaria said just now, there is no shame in advertising, and the mother gave me the description of the girl, other details and the post box number. We gave all that to *The Times of India*, *The Bombay Samachar*, etc. I'm just making the point that even a crorepati family

saw nothing wrong in advertising for a husband for their daughter.

Anklesaria: The answer to Ms Vania's question is that we had a regular matrimonial get-together which we've stopped for some time now because the results were so discouraging. When despite spending thousands of rupees the outcome is disappointing your hands are tied. It is true that the



different communities. They see no shame in seeking help from the matrimonial bureau, and that stigma is exactly what we are trying to remove from the minds and attitudes of Parsi parents. We parents give false attitudes to our children. But the old order is changing. The world has become competitive, Parsis have started moving out of baugs, and our concepts about the

*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



(A.M.A.)

Federal

PROTECTION & INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

Security/Manpower Consultants * Armed/Personal Body Guards * Cash/Cargo Escorts (with vehicle) * Kennel squad

Ahura Autos

Spot payment offered for Indian/
Imported cars

H. P. A. Enterprises

For booking of flats under construction
at Udvada (Near Iranshah)

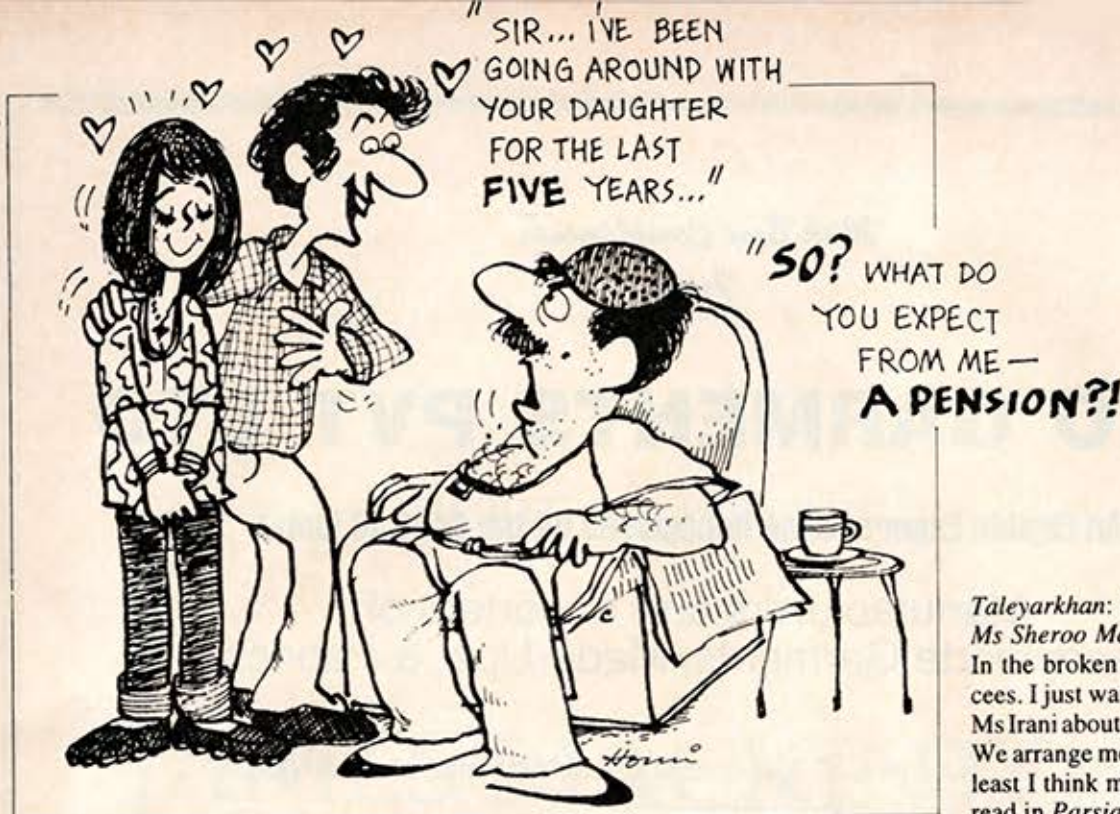
Cont:- A. D. P. Hataria

Federal Trade Agencies

B. P. Consultancy Services

Main Street, Pune 411001, Tel No: 631963

250, 1/1 Perin Nariman Street, Fort, Bombay 400001, Tel No: 2611926, 2621281, 2617331



very stigma you mentioned is a psychological barrier: *Jau matrimonial bureau ma jaiyé tau naam kharab thai ké ené koi multuj nathi* (A visit to the matrimonial bureau suggests that matrimonial prospects for the person are bleak). That stigma is not in other communities, but still with us. The 36 marriages we have achieved in eight to 10 years is a very limited number, but if more eligible people come to our bureau with an open mind, the stigma would be removed. So it is for us to send our young people to get registered so that more and more eligible persons with a particular income and status are available.

You know, Ms Vania, the problem is that a girl wants a better boy than herself, and there is nothing wrong in that. But in certain professional jobs the ladies get Rs 3,000 to Rs 5,000 to start with, while the boys progress slowly. So the girls settle for somebody five to 10 years older than them because they and their parents do not take into account the younger boy's total prospects. Ultimately a chartered accountant who started with Rs 3,000 may go up to Rs 25,000, but the girl's parents are not prepared to wait. Therefore the fault lies as much with the parents who have implanted their attitudes in the younger generation as with the girls.

Similarly with housing: every mother will say, find a house first, then get married. Every girl will say the same thing. But the 30,000 strong Zoroastrian population in Iran doesn't wait for housing. They get married first then ask for housing

or fend for housing. Here we implant in our daughters the attitude that if the boy does not have a flat, don't get married. So couples come before Mr Guzder, before (BPP trustee Ms) Silloo Kavarana, to say they have been engaged for seven years, 10 years, 'tame gher nathi aapta, maru engagement tan vakhat tuti gayu (you are not giving us a flat, my engagement was broken three times).' But though the Parsi Punchayet conducts social work nobody has left crores of rupees with them to give housing. How do other Parsis survive in other cities? How do the other communities survive in this city? Do they wait for houses to get married? No! If you have really found a suitable person you must get married, then search for the house. But here the tables are turned and attitudes require to be changed, otherwise no amount of facilities, no amount of incentives are going to be really productive. This is my humble submission.

Ms Vania: Here I suggest that the Parsi Press should take up the issue. They can help remove the stigma attached to the matrimonial bureau by advocating naturalness about wanting to get married. It is not necessary to find a good person on your own, you can take the help of the matrimonial bureau.

Taleyarkhan: Mr Anklesaria, of the 36 couples who responded, have you any report of how the marriages turned out, so that you can publish those success stories? **Anklesaria:** Excepting one which broke up, all have been happily married.

Taleyarkhan: That's a good thing. **Ms Sheroo Master** (joint secretary, BPP): In the broken marriage, both were divorcees. I just want to say one thing, I support Ms Irani about there being a definite stigma. We arrange meetings and many times — at least I think more than a dozen times I've read in *Parsiana* that they've got married, but they've been too embarrassed to come forward and admit, despite my follow-up work, that they met through the bureau. The number 36 is based on the information of those who've cared to refer back to us. Many have not bothered to inform us, perhaps because of the stigma, or is it ingratitude?

I personally feel that the attitude of parents is the most important thing to be changed, specially with girls. Suppose a girl is earning Rs 2,000, they expect a boy even at the age of 27 to earn about Rs 8,000 to Rs 10,000; and they simply reject those listed on our matrimonial bureau who earn less. Unfortunately, I have only one girl on my list who is SSC, the rest of them are double graduates or graduates. On the other hand, about 40 percent of the boys are just SSC. The result is that it is very difficult to match them and we feel frustrated that in spite of getting them together, then doing the horoscope matching, and the computer matching, it is impossible to please everyone.

Guzder: I will give you an example of another kind. An important person in the community who had done his Senior Cambridge wanted to go to Cambridge, but unfortunately couldn't because his father died or whatever. Now he is married to a girl who is an MA and they are very happy. The boy didn't go to college at all, but he is very successful.

A male: I think it's possible to understand the sensitivity of young people because this concept of going to the matrimonial

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

With Best Compliments From

BHARUCHA & CO

Engineers & Builders

'Kutika'
31/1, Pune Solapur Highway
Pune 411013
Tel No: 670030
Fax: 670094

bureau is only a modern version of the old concept of *kajvali pasé jaa* (approach a matchmaker). But it must be remembered that in a small community like the Parsis, the matrimonial bureau is inevitable. If instead of 70,000 Parsis in Bombay you had 70 million Parsis in Bombay, there would be no need whatsoever for a matrimonial bureau. It would always be possible for the young to find a suitable partner amongst themselves. But as long as the numbers are limited, we must have a bureau to evaluate the suitability of one to the other. Otherwise the problem of boys and girls remaining unmarried in the community will always be there.

Guzder: The question often asked is why all the people who are looking after and managing the matrimonial bureau are not themselves married. What reply do I give?
Master: Mr Guzder, you people selected the wrong persons. You thrust the job on us.

Keki Gandhi (joint honorary secretary of the Federation): I would suggest that to get round this stigma problem each location should carry out a sort of socioeconomic survey or even a population survey. But only with this kind of a survey can we know the age composition, sex composition, occupation, educational level;

then that data can be fed into the matrimonial bureau so that it doesn't have to wait for people to come over, it can start work behind the scenes. For example, in Delhi we already have an unofficial or informal matrimonial bureau consisting of half a dozen ladies and three or four gentlemen who go around looking for girls and boys who can be brought together, they are working behind the scenes...

Irani: There are very few unmarried Iranis. You see, the elders of the community make sure — '*tari dikri kumari ché, taro dikro kumaro ché*' (your daughter is unmarried, your son is a bachelor), so let's do something, and they do it. It's accepted: 'if you can't find somebody, we will help you out.'

Bezun Dittia (special invitee): I can certainly say that the setting up of youth organizations/festivals is a help. In Secunderabad, for example, I know for certain that two marriages have taken place because of them. So I think we are on the right track. The only thing is to push the idea forward a little faster so that it shows more results.

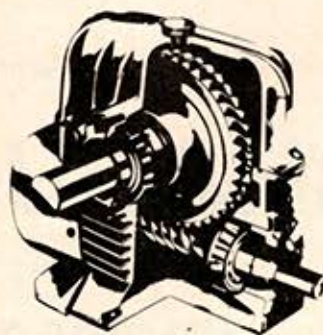
Guzder: I want to tell you that at least five girls in our office have married boys in our office. We don't have a matrimonial bureau, but it happens.

Irani: I would like to say one more thing. Somehow an Irani girl accepts it that even if she is a professional, she will marry soon and continue with her profession after getting married. But the Parsi girl's attitude is that she will educate herself, get a job and stand on her own feet, '*mará pug per ubhi rahu*'. So as Sheroo Master was saying, there is the problem of being over qualified. It is a matter of attitude.

Master: Main thing is that the girls don't want to go out of Bombay, and people from the mofussil want to come to Bombay. Our Bombay boys tend to reject mofussil girls because when a Bombay-based girl is already working, the preference is for her. And these days the attitude among girls is that they are not very keen to go abroad, specially to the UK, and not even to the Gulf countries.

Taleyarkhan: I entirely disagree with the good lady that Parsis are not willing to go out of Bombay. When addressing the Borivli Parsi Association I found that a number of them live there and are prepared to live in the suburbs or in the mofussil provided they get the accommodation. The main problem is accommodation. They are in such a desperate position that they are prepared to go out but preferably not too far out, which is understandable. But

With
Best
Compliments
of



CPEC LIMITED

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

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

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



*Readymade
perfection
from
Bombay Dyeing*

SHIRTS

TROUSERS

KURTA - PYJAMAS

NIGHT - SUITS

VESTS & BRIEFS

AND MORE

VIVALDI
READYMADES

**BOMBAY
DYEING** 
ESTABLISHED 1879

the Parsi Punchayet is perfectly right in providing them with housing outside Bombay. Many of them are willing to go when they know that people come in even from Poona and other places every day to work in Bombay. There is no alternative. Why should they be the exceptions?

Master: Some boys working in Vikhroli for Godrej have accommodation but when I try to match them with our Bombay girls, the girls refuse. Their attitude is that it's tough to come from Vikhroli to work at Nariman Point or VT. So these are the problems we face all the time. Also it is the parents who interview the boy rather than the girl, and even in front of me they ask very embarrassing questions. Recently a very well settled boy was asked not about his prospects, but how much he had invested, and in which companies. He was very annoyed and I felt this girl would never get married if this was the attitude of her parents. Even with the boys sometimes, the parents talk while the boys sit like dummies, even very educated boys.

Guzder: Maybe the approach is not so wrong, because if she is a matter-of-fact girl, she feels that her marriage is an investment and a life-long one at that. She must know what this boy earns.

Taleyarkhan: She wants to ensure her

security.

Master: She has a good job in a bank. He was working in a good company, had a house and all that.

Anklesaria: I cite from my own experi-

These days the attitude among girls is that they are not very keen to go abroad

ence. When I advertised for my younger son, the father of a young girl came with the daughter and started cross-examining my son in my wife's and my presence. 'Have you a washing machine,' he asked my son, who said 'no.' 'Have you got a scooter or a car?' My son said 'I have a scooter.' The father said, 'What about a car, my daughter is used to an independent car.' So my son said, 'my father has a car but it is his car, so if your daughter wants an independent car, let her come to me after 15 years, then I will have a car of my own.'

Gandhi: I thought he would have said, 'Let

her marry my father!'

Anklesaria: That he couldn't in front of my wife.

Irani: You should have asked her to bring her own car. She was used to it, let her bring it.

Taleyarkhan: I know of a case where a boy went to a girl's father and said I have been meeting your girl for the last five years. So the father said, 'what do you expect, a pension?'

Anklesaria: In these examples we are not giving any names, we are just describing the attitudes which come in the way of marriage. And one request to the press here is to ask the community to change its attitudes, if it wants results. Otherwise we are going to be where we are.

Dittia: May I add one small anecdote? A boy and a girl got married. After the wedding night the boy turned to the girl and said, 'Now that we are husband and wife we must confess everything to each other. I am sorry to say that the diamond ring I gave you is not diamond but made of glass.' And she said, 'Don't worry, sweet. My left eye is also not a genuine eye, it is made of glass.'

Anklesaria: All this shows that dating, mating and marrying are the most interesting subjects in the world.

Compliments from

G. D. ANKLESARIA & CO

Makers of "GD" Generators
with Intac Caterpillar Engines 180 to 625 KVA

HO: New Road, Ratlam (M.P.)

Works: Silvassa (D.N.H.)

Ph: 20109 - 20809

Fax: 07412 - 30003

**SMALL COMPANY, LESS OVERHEADS
LOW PRICES AND WE DELIVER**

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

Praying together, staying together

If Zoroastrians met regularly for community prayers it would help individuals to remain within the fold

Under the heading "Congregational foxtrot," the newsletter of the Borivli and Suburban Zoroastrian Association (BASZA, March-April 1995) published the opinion of certain eminent members of the community on the desirability of introducing weekly congregational worship among Zoroastrians. The thoughts expressed on this subject by Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa, High Priest of the Anjuman Atash Behram, Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal, High Priest of the H. B. Wadia Atash Bahram, Zoroastrian Studies founder Khojeste Mistree and economist Dr Freddie Mehta are reprinted by *Parsiana*.

The issue as stated by BASZA:

"The Christians assemble every Sunday at Church for mass, the Muslims assemble every Friday at the mosque for namaz. These practices bring the flock together, promote social interaction including in-marriages, elevate the clergy's status and reestablish faith in the religion.

"It is eminently desirable that such a practice should start in our community. We Zoroastrians could assemble at our nearest agiary, atash behram or community hall from, say, 11 a.m. to 11.30 a.m. every Sunday. The panthaky or anyone else could then lead us in humbandagi, to be followed by a crisp 10-15 minute talk by anyone on any topic that might concern us as a socioreligious group. This may not be our tradition, but all traditions must have had a starting point!

"If concerted and simultaneous steps are taken by our dasturs, the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, the managing committees of all our residential baugs and the Parsi Press, a beginning could be made. Even if a few Zoroastrians begin to participate, the movement will pick up gradually. This is because the present generation, especially the youth, is more concerned about our religion and our community than the earlier generation was. What are your views in the matter?"

Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo JamaspAsa

Congregational prayer is not the forte of the Parsi community which believes in individual communion with the Almighty. But I am in accord with the views expressed. A beginning should be made to bring the community, and especially the younger generation, closer together. It is however our sad experience that while coreligionists flock to social and entertainment functions and programs, the atten-

not fulfil its objective unless it makes the participant righteous, elevates one's thoughts and makes one a better human being.

Hamazor thus signifies unity, harmony, order, strength and righteousness. From this view of the ritual, there is not only a communion between man and man, but also between man and Nature, between man and God. Let us therefore try to be in harmony with the order and system established by God in Nature, through congregational prayers.

Dastur (Dr) Firoze Kotwal

It is good for the community to hold congregational prayers which the minister, either a lay person or cleric, first pronounces and the whole congregation repeats

after him. This is followed by a brief talk of about 15 to 20 minutes on any religious subject. This practice will, no doubt, bring the members of the Parsi community together and instil in them a spirit of devotion and reverence towards their religion.

In order to stem the tide of mixed marriages to a large extent, Parsis should unite to found cooperative housing societies in which they could live together as a socio-religious entity.

It is not an outside agency that can help elevate the status of the clergy. The priests should be educated in religious and secular disciplines, and considered as shepherds rather than meek sheep in matters of religion. Unfortunately, a novice with a questionable religious background and lifestyle vociferates (louder) than an expert in the field.

In order to reestablish faith in the religion, each Parsi home should genuinely (be) a fortress of righteousness and purity, and should have the capacity to cope with all temptations. A child can hardly be blamed for felonious behavior when parents themselves act (in a lawless fashion) in their private lives.

In ancient Iran, Zoroastrians used to



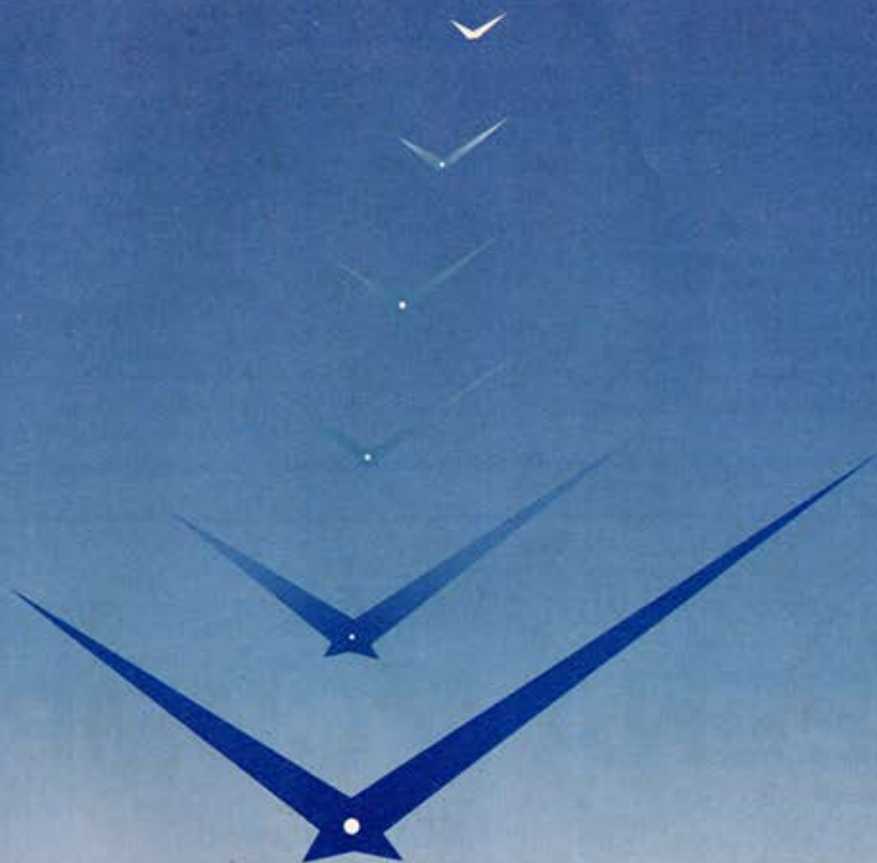
Left to right: BASZA secretary Khurshed Pastakia, Jamasp Asa and Kotwal — bringing the community together

dance at lectures and Sunday Schools is negligible and the beginning made with good intentions just peters out.

But concerted efforts by all those who have the good of the community at heart can produce results. It is advisable to be in tune with nature and its Creator and spare some time in meditation. This will be beneficial to the community in the long run.

In fact, Zoroastrianism preaches the practice of hamazor — to be of the same strength — in the ceremony. By performing the hamazor with one of the principal celebrants, say after the recital of *Atash Niyayishn* or any other appropriate prayer, members of the congregation make themselves participants in the ritual, thereby showing themselves as partners in the advantages resulting from joint prayers.

While performing the hamazor one recites *hamazor hama asho bed* which means, 'may you be one (with us) in (spiritual) strength and may you be righteous.' The ultimate aim is to elevate the minds of the reciters. A worship does



TIME FLIES.
BUT THE FINEST PARSI VALUES REMAIN.

Upliftment. Brotherhood. Unity. Generosity.

Here's a tribute to the values upheld by the Parsi Community
on the occasion of Yazdegirdi.

And here's to happiness, peace and prosperity.



TITAN INDUSTRIES LIMITED

Tower 'A', Golden Enclave, Airport Road, Bangalore - 560 017.

THE
QUALITY
Of **PACKAGING**
MOST OFTEN DECIDES



Winners

In the **MARKETPLACE.**

Good packaging can do wonders for your product. Especially when the packaging is from Ecoplast.

With Ecoplast, the product ascends to the status of a well-known brand, cutting through a clutter of a host of me-too's.

In the area of flexible packaging, Ecoplast's forte lies in the production of multilayer films made by the blown-film co-extrusion process.

At Ecoplast, the accent is on unparalleled quality. Ask some leading manufacturers of salt, wheat flour, tea, coffee, noodles, biscuits, edible oils, milk powder, semi-processed foods, shampoos, detergents, toothpaste, creams and lotions.

Stringent standards set by a team of hard core professionals with just one aim in mind -- to help your brand make it to the top.

Go on. Ask any of our delighted customers. It pays to dress your product well. With Ecoplast.



Ecoplast Ltd.

Registered Office: National Highway No. 8,
Water Works Cross Road, Abrama-Valsad, Valsad 396001, Gujarat

Sales Office: Sona Udyog, Bldg No. 4, Parsi Panchayat Road,
Bombay 400069. Tel: 8325364/8325837, Fax: 8366384

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, Cochin & Hyderabad

hold congregational jashans in which all participants prayed together by making *paywand* or hand contact with each other. Zoroastrians are enjoined to congregate during five days in a month viz. Meher, Rashna, Bahram, Ashtad and Aneran. These five days of spiritual rejoicing are called Myazd Days in Zoroastrian scriptures.

Those persons who failed to participate in the holy assembly were often humiliated and expelled from the community, and a heavy penalty was imposed on them. What we do now in the name of humbandagi is but a remnant of (a past grandeur).

A good beginning can be made in this regard if all those concerned would cooperate. A conscientious preacher would indeed be able to inculcate in youth the importance of Zoroastrian values and Ahura Mazda's healing love present in our beautiful prayers.

Khojeste Mistree

I think that the idea of community worship is an excellent one if it can be implemented on an area by area basis.

In Karachi they have a tradition which I believe was started by Dastur Dhalla when he initiated assembly prayers during the 10-day muktad period preceding the New Year.

The community comprising of the rich and poor in Karachi gather at the Saddar Agiary Hall between 7 and 7.30 every morning, when they sing verses from the *Gathas* followed by a simple explanation in Gujarati and English given by their religious leaders.

Dr Freddie Mehta

While I cannot claim to be an expert on the reactions of the Parsi community, the question that you have raised is a valid and pertinent one.

As a young boy in Karachi, I remember that there used to be a humbandagi followed by a very interesting and scholarly presentation by the great doyen of our religion, Dastur Dhalla. Though Dr Dhalla was not popular with the extremely orthodox sections of our community, there used to be a sense of getting together: there used

to be a propagation of the knowledge of our history, our roots, our contributions and, above all, of our religion. I believe his book on Zoroastrian civilization was in fact an elaboration of his lectures.

Right now, in Bombay also, we do hear of the humbandagi in the Banaji Atash Behram every Monday, which apparently is very well attended. I also have reason to believe that both Khojeste Mistree and Ms Meher Master-Moos are conducting their own classes with very good results, but one has to stare reality in the face.

Christian children are taken care of both by their parents and their priests, right from their birth. Was it not the Jesuits who said, "Give us a child for the first five years, and he will be a dedicated Catholic all his life?" A variant of this was said by Lenin in respect of his creed on communism. In the case of Muslims, one does not even have to think of this question, for the simple reason that a Muslim by definition cannot be converted to any other religion except under penalty of extermination!

In this area the greatest tragedy lies in the collapse of religious education, a collapse which sadly is to be attributed to none other than the parents themselves.

My wife has repeatedly experienced the tragedy of Parsi parents actively protesting that their children cannot 'waste' their time by joining classes on Zoroastrianism. It is not only that our children are cursed with ignorance of our religion, very often their parents are so 'modernized' that they cannot do what the Christians and the Muslims do so readily. The malady is, therefore, much deeper.

We are not asking Parsis to become fanatics; we are not asking them to spare two hours every day; we are asking them only to spare one hour a week in a spirit of get-togetherness. But the biggest obstacle will come not from the children, but from the parents. Why does this attitude not afflict the Christians or the Muslims?

They have a priesthood which is dedicated night and day to the propagation of their religion; they are looked after by their communities and they, in turn, look after the community's children.

A Christian woman who is passing through an emotional problem can go to a priest for emotional comfort. She looks to the priest for the inculcation of the religion in her offspring. We, on the other hand, have persisted during the last 50 years in systematically dismantling our priesthood as an organized and organizing force in our community.

It is not that everything is lost. But we must begin again somewhere. There are people even today who are actively helping, in terms of time and money, to promote the teachings of Zoroaster in certain classes, and once this fire (and I mean fire in the real sense of the word) is ignited in our children, it will soar towards the ideal you are talking about.

We do not need a tightly knit, organized religion, but we do need an informal exchange of ideas, and avenues for Parsi boys and girls to meet, not only for the sake of religion but, not less importantly, for the sake of uniting themselves in matrimony — as what is required to be saved is not only our religion but also our community.

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

NEW GENERATION ELEVATOR



ZAINA ELECTRIC & MECHANIC WORKS PRIVATE LIMITED

Head Office
Prospect Chambers Annexe, 2nd Fl., Dr. D. N. Road, Bombay 400 001
Tel: 2047460 • 2041830 Cable: NIRUPAMA
Branch: Pune Tel.: 654655

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

**CON
CORD
ELEVATOR**

The succulent chikoo has been nurtured by generations of Iranis

A few stations out of Bombay Central, along the Western Railway (the old B.B.&C.I. Railway) male vendors, variously attired selling tea, *bhelpuri*, *masala daal* begin to invade the railway compartment. But when you reach Palghar, saree clad women come up to your compartment window selling delicious, cheap chikooos, four for Rs 3 and, if you haggle, they may put in one more in the cute small bamboo basket.

Your train is now passing through the chikoo belt from Palghar to Umergaon. As you travel further into Gujarat the chikooos become smaller and lose their flavor.

At the time when Safari Airways was operating, you could fly to Surat by a Dakota. The Dakotas are propeller-driven, low-flying aircraft, so the passenger could see the vastness of the land below. As you approached Vasai, you saw the desolate vastness of the salt pans. But as you approached Palghar the scene below changed to green as row upon mathematically precise row of chikoo trees came into view, each orchard marked by a border of coconut trees. Ninety-nine percent of these orchards have been planted by Irani Zoroastrians.

There were no chikooos in India — not during the times of *Ramayana* and *Mahabharata*, not during the times of Shivaji or until the Indian Mutiny 150 years ago. Our familiar chikoo originated in southern Mexico and northern Central America. Known as sapodilla or chicozapote in Spanish speaking countries, the medium sized tree is characterized by slow growth and very hard, reddish wood whose durability is attested by 1,000-year-old elaborately carved lintels seen in some Maya ruins, as notes the *Encyclopaedia Britannica*.

The credit for bringing the plant to India goes to Sir Dinshaw Maneckji Petit, who had a variety of exotic plants from all



An American native in India

Z. M. Zend

over the world planted in his garden at Nana Chowk where Ness Baug now stands. Another import was the pomelo or grapefruit, a denizen of Jamaica.

Close to the Petit garden was a small plot belonging to Ardeshir Keikhesrou Irani who cultivated lotion grass, a special horse fodder which was sold to the Governor and a great many other carriage owners of the time, informs his grandson Keki Irani.

Ardeshir's parents, like other Zoroastrian Iranis, had undergone a lot of hardships and subjugation under the Muslim raj in Iran. When the British raj was stabilized in Bombay after what was then known as the Indian Mutiny of 1856, these Iranians started migrating to Bombay from Iran along the old camel routes up to Quetta and then on to Karachi and Bombay. Some came in fishing boats from Bandar Abbas to Karachi and thence to Bombay.

Being penniless refugees they worked as menials in the homes of Parsi Zoroastrians. But being farmers, intelligent and industrious, they looked for land to start their farming activities and migrated to the empty lands of Palghar, Boisar, Vangam,

**Sir Dinshaw
Maneckji Petit
had a variety of
exotic plants
from all over the
world planted
in his garden at
Nana Chowk**

Dahanu, Gholvad and Umergaon. There even today you will find the fifth generation of Iranis carrying on their forefathers' farming activities. Unlike Parsis who had landed in India 1,300 years earlier and had pursued cash crop farming like rice, wheat, barley, etc the Iranians were used to growing fruit-bearing trees like plums, peaches, apricots, pistachios. They knew

how to manage orchards. It also speaks volumes about their perseverance and tenacity that, though penniless, they were prepared to wait for at least five years before the trees could yield fruits and profits whereas cash crops recover expenses annually.

Ardeshir was a second generation Irani, born in Bombay in 1856, notes Keki. Starting as a mill *mazdoor* (worker) in his mid-teens, Ardeshir had eventually reached the position of municipal watering contractor whose job was to water the roads of Bombay which were then basically dirt tracks for the horse-drawn carriages.

It was about 100 years ago that Ardeshir's sister, Shirinbai, who was acquainted with Lady Petit, introduced Ardeshir to the Petit household where he became the estate manager and one whose opinion was sought and trusted. By 1896-97 Petit entrusted the Irani with the task of locating a suitable two-acre plot along the B.B.&C.I. Railway line between Palghar and Daman where Petit wished to construct a sanatorium for the benefit of the community.

Ardeshir selected Gholvad for its beauty

Burjor Framji & Company

Licensed Plumbers
Sanitary & Drainage Contractors

Marine Mansion, 1st Marine Street, Bombay 400002
Tel: 2083207

Mrs Jeroo & Jehangir N. Medhora

Wish a Happy Navroz to the Parsi Community

JEHANGIR MEDICAL ELECTRONIC INDUSTRIES

ASSOCIATE COMPANIES

JEHANGIR ENGG ASSOCIATES

JV BIOMEDICS INTERNATIONAL

Tel No: Factory 4930853 (Fax), 4922782 Office 3888020

PRODUCTS RANGE

- * ELECTROTHERM Portable 250 Watts Shortwave Diathermy unit
- * THERASONIC Portable Ultrasound therapy unit
- * ELECTROMYODYNE STD-3 muscle stimulator
- * MEGATHERM
- * FARADYNE Faradic stimulator
- * SONOMIST Ultrasound Nebulizer
- * CONTINUOUS PASSIVE MOTION UNIT
- * TRANSCUTANEOUS NEURONALGESIA (TENS)
- * ELECTRONIC TRACTION FOR CERVICAL & LUMBER
- * TRACTION TABLE FOR ABOVE UNIT

**Pioneer in manufacturing of Physiotherapy and
Electrosurgical equipments (Cautery) in our factory.**

Our Popular latest Jehangir's Solid State Electrosurgical unit
MEGATOM-UROATOM-BIPOLAR COAGULATOR-ACE-300 (State of Art)
are widely used all over this vast country.

Our MEGATOM & ACE 300 is specially used for TCRC & all type of
LAPAROSCOPIC surgeries

All correspondence to:

92/94, Engineer Bldg, Ardeshir Dadi Street, Khetwadi, Bombay 400004

Factory: Unit No 308 Bussa Heavy Industrial Estate, Lower Parel, Bombay 400013

Rustam, Sorab,
Jamshed, Noshir, Banoo,
Freni, Russi, Mehli,
Cyrus, Silloo,
Freddie, Jhangoo,
Aspi, Firdoze,
Dinaz, Meher,
Adi, Perin, Dolly, Zubin,
Ratan, Shirin, Keki,
Zarin, Sheroo, Mehroo,
Roda, Goolu, Dhunji,
Pilloo, Cumi, Farokh,
Jimmy, Bachi, Jeroo,
Homi, Katy, Polly,
Sam, Noshir, Dara,
Behroze ...

– Navroze Mubarak!



एअर इंडिया



AIR INDIA

**Ardeshir Irani — the man with
the green thumb**
*The chikoo orchards
'Bage Eram' continues to be the family
residence*



continued to work in the gardens until the age of 90. The same year at X'mas time Lady Hamabai Petit, the founder of the Avabai Petit Girls' School in Bandra, visited Bordi to see the Petit Sanatorium. She stayed at Irani Villa and a tea-party was held in her honor, recalls Keki.

Despite the growing affluence, despite being married to Dinbai, a practising naturopath who was born in Iran and honored with the suffix 'bibí' (which Keki says is the female equivalent of 'arbab' in Iran), Ardeshir ruled his son Homi with an iron hand. For a period of four years Homi had to earn his livelihood in Shanghai. The family lived in a simple single-storyed house in Balaram Street. It was only on Homi's marriage that Ardeshir built a second floor to accommodate the growing family and it was from there that Keki says

he attended Cathedral School.

"Slim and trim, always dressed in China coat and duck pant" is how Keki recalls his grandpa, a despot with a penchant for thriftiness who was nonetheless content to be bullied by his grandson. Apart from horticulture, Ardeshir had a passion for *jalsa* — Mohammedan bhajans. The fondness had cost him his first job at Morarji Mills where he had been kicked awake after a late night *jalsa* session, relates Keki. Ardeshir had decided the job was not for him, though his elder brother Jamshed, who had introduced him there, continued in the Mills' employ, rising to become a self-taught engineer.

When Homi died in 1970 the care and maintenance of Bage Eram landed on Keki. His brother's widow lives at Irani Villa. Today the area is known for pomelo

as well as for its proximity to the railway and the beach. Everywhere else the distance between the two was greater. The precise spot that Ardeshir selected was off the beach of Bordi.

Accepting Irani's recommendation Petit entrusted him next with the task of supervising the construction of the sanatorium and, on its completion, gifted his loyal employee with the surplus building materials to create a bungalow of his own opposite the sanatorium.

On completion of Irani Villa in 1900 Ardeshir resigned from Petit's service and, with some saplings from Petit's Bombay estate, set up the first chikoo garden east of Suez on his one acre plot, informs Keki. Nurturing the orchard with skill, Ardeshir was able to purchase an eight-acre plot in the same area, the avenue of trees leading to a beautiful bungalow, and called it "Bage Eram" — the Persian for Garden of Paradise.

Ardeshir's landed investments increased by another four acres in 1924 to commemorate his grandchildren's navjote in Cama Baug, recalls Keki on whom the old man doted. In 1935, he bought another 10 acres close to the station known as Bridge Garden from a fellow Irani whom Keki remembers as Fardoon.

Toiling into his mid 80s, Ardeshir died in 1939, survived by his only son Homi and daughter-in-law Jaloobai who together





M/S. SAVAKSHAW M. PANTHAKY
CATERERS

of
**DELICIOUS
MOUTH - WATERING
PARSI CUISINE**

for
**Navjotes • Weddings
Festivals • Parties
and anyone and everyone
who loves good food**

**TELEPHONE KITCHEN 492 8592
TELEPHONE OFFICE 307 2973, 307 6951**

or papanas (close relatives of the grape-fruit), bananas and lichees, besides chikoos. Both chikoo and pomelo trees need to be grafted with substantial manuring with oilcakes and cowdung besides chemicals, informs Keki. An old menace is the red ant. "One pair of ants can produce millions in three to four months," notes Keki. Originally the anthills used to be burnt. It was an old-fashioned and expensive method often singeing the outer branches of the trees. Now DDT is said to be directly injected into the hives.

Although there are 95-year-old chikoo trees at Irani Villa, Keki says that from the age of five to seven years until they are about 45 to 50 years old, the annual yield of fruit keeps increasing dramatically in quality and quantity. After that it begins to decline.

Similarly with the pomelo: the tree may bear about 24 fruits after five years; 200 after 10 years. Keki notes that he has removed three generations of pomelo trees from his orchards.

Keki recalls that Iranis of the region are all his grandfather's colleagues. They took chikoo grafts from his Gholvad estate and chikoo orchards now cover 1,000 acres. But the BSES (Bombay Suburban Electric Supply) thermal power plant "has finished the greenery of Dahanu...the green belt of Dahanu, Boisar and Palghar is ruined," says Keki sadly. Another villain he identifies as "the hole in the ozone layer (which is) burning the tender leaves of the chikoo." He is afraid "it will finish the chikoo..."

With Best Wishes

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 upto 6.5 KL or 4.5 KL

Sita Estate, "A" Wing, No 1, 1st Floor, Unit No 1, R. C. Marg, Chembur, Bombay 400074

Tel: 5555425, 5519359

BRANCH BARODA: Tel No 329924, 329818

A GOOD BUSINESS COLLABORATION IS LIKE A HANDSHAKE.
THERE IS NO UPPER HAND.



Today's business environment is one of global interaction and cross-border affiliations. Companies with a common purpose and direction, quick to join forces. And yet, what defines a perfect business collaboration?

At Colour-Chem, we believe it is a relationship of equals. Just as the one we share with our global associates - Hoechst AG, Germany.

As a result of this relationship, Colour-Chem has access to world-class technologies, a reach into international markets and radically different management styles.

Styles that emphasise on quality of the highest order. That lay stress on being concerned on the customer's behalf, for his time and money. And that inculcate professionalism within the organisation.

Today, Colour-Chem is a Company that is on the move. With an established presence in domestic and foreign markets, and new horizons to conquer.

We are confident that we will make it happen with our partner in progress - Hoechst AG. Because ours is a relationship of equals.

Colour-Chem

Subsidiary of Hoechst AG
194, Churchgate Reclamation, Bombay 400 020

Hoechst 

HTA 2898.95

The pulse of his patients

Octogenarian Dr Jehangir Irani still puts in a 12-hour day at his clinic

Z. M. Zend

On seeing the doctor preparing the syringe, the patient, a young boy of seven, hid himself under the four-poster of those days. No amount of threat or cajoling could persuade the child to come out. So the good doctor went under the bed to allay the boy's fears and gave him the necessary injection. The time was six o'clock in the morning and the doctor was Jehangir K. Irani (Kasnavia).

Eighty-one-year-old Irani belongs to the fast vanishing tribe of general practitioners who can diagnose an ailment in a few moments in the traditional manner. He feels the pulse, observes the tongue of his patient and prescribes. The patient is given a choice: a long delayed treatment or a short fast one and he varies the prescription strength accordingly, never prescribing expensive patent medicines from the drug stores.

Patients love to visit him because he always smiles and infuses confidence which itself works as half the cure. His ground floor dispensary opposite the Cama Baug Nalla Ota on the perimeter of Khetwadi (once a stronghold of Parsis) accommodates varied clientele: from *bhaias* in a bakery at Fountain to memsahibs from Malabar Hill. Many of the rich and famous, after going from one expensive specialist to another, come to this humble dispensary for tension-free treatment.

The dedicated doctor works from 8 a.m. to 11 p.m. with a break from 2 p.m. to 5 p.m. Until 10 years ago he used to make house calls in the wee hours of the morning from 5 a.m. to 8 a.m. When he began having heart trouble he would walk up the stairs of old tenements backwards, using his heels, to reduce the strain on his heart.

He believes in serving the sick and the poor having experienced poverty himself as a child. Born to Pirojabai and Kudaram who lived in a one-room apartment on Tabbot Street in Poona, Irani's primary education was in Gujarati medium at the Sardar Noshirwan Girls' High School and his secondary education at the Sardar Hoshang Boys' High School. His school

fees and the cost of his books were financed by the Mody and Nicolson Funds. An academically brilliant student he stood first throughout his school life.

His father used to run a small tea shop at Rasta Peth and not being able to afford any servants, Jehangir and his brother

School teams in cricket shield matches. What was particularly noteworthy was that he was selected to play for the senior cricket team as an opening batsman when he was still a junior.

He was good in hockey too and in fact was selected to represent the Poona hockey team. Jehangir had almost completed his interscience examination from the Navroji Wadia College, only the biology practicals were pending, when he was chosen to play in Bombay for the Parsi Cyclist Cup. The game was a draw and had to be played again the next day, coinciding with his practicals. On his return journey to Poona, he had to change a train at Kalyan. While waiting he got busy preparing for his practical examination and almost boarded the wrong train!

Destiny had decided that Jehangir would become a doctor. He passed his MBBS from the G. S. Medical College in 1938 and studied for his MD in the same College but did not have the money to appear in the exams. In the Wadia Hospital he worked as a house surgeon for one year; in the K.E.M. Hospital as a house physician in the skin and venereal department and also in the medicine ward. Until 1946 he worked under Dr K. N. Sahar on a salary of Rs 150 per month. Thereafter he started his own practice buying the dispensary of Dr Treasurewala at Rs 20,000 from a loan granted by his friend Dr M. L. Kapadia.

Married to Roshan N. Motiwala whose uncle owned Harding and Company, the famous pharmacy, he has two children, Murzban and Dolly, both of whom are doctors. Dolly will be standing for election to the legislative assembly.

In his nearly 50 years of practice Irani has never been comfortable to leave his patients and proceed on a long holiday. He either goes to Udvada or Dahanu for a few days once a year. Such is his commitment that when he was discharged after an eye cataract operation, the first halt he made was at his clinic where he was anxiously awaited by a throng of his patients.



Irani: professional devotion at 80+

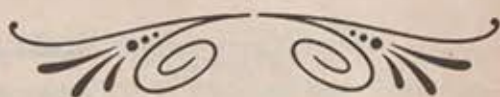
Rashid were called upon to assist there. After school hours they had to clean the cups and sweep the floor. That was the time when in the early chill of the morning you could get a big cup of tea for three paise which was sufficient to last the whole process of dipping and eating the hard crunchy *broon* (round, crusty bread) and *Polson maska* (butter), and a saucer full would be left to wash down the breakfast.

Just one day before his matriculation examinations, Irani got injured in a hockey match and had to be taken to hospital for stitches. The next day he appeared for his exams. When the results were out he had got a first class and he stood first amongst all the Parsis of the then Bombay Presidency. This earned him the D. D. Gilder Scholarship which saved him from ending up in his father's tea shop.

The Divinity Scholarship for standing first in the whole School had been won by Irani and on several occasions the General Championship Cup, being a keen sportsman. He represented his junior and senior



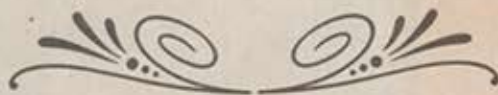
Miss Mehr Jesia, Miss India 1986, wearing a 'Gara' made by Naju Daver



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



RUSTAM MANECK: THE BENEVOLENT BROKER —1

The large

As broker to the Portuguese and the English, leader and benefactor of the Parsis of Surat, Rustam Maneck holds a prominent place in the early history of the Parsis of India. A diplomat and an influential man, many were the occasions when he was called upon to negotiate peace between warring factions. Even during his lifetime Rustam Maneck was celebrated in a Persian poem *Kisseh-i Rustam Maneck*. His sons founded the Seth family in Bombay and played a leading part in community affairs in that city.

The fame of the family was kept alive by several books on Rustam Maneck and the Seths viz *Jalbhai Seth's* in 1900; *J. J. Modi's* study in 1928; and *S. K. Hodivala's* book in 1931. Subsequently substantial reference has come to light on the family's commercial activities. We now have the English translation of *Pissurlencar's Portuguese Records on Rustam Manock* (1936); *H. R. Das's* accounts of the Norris embassy (1930, 1959); *M. S. Com-missariat's* study (1953) of *Nowroji Rustam's* visit to England; and *A. Das*

Gupta's Indian Merchants and the Decline of Surat (1979). A careful study of all these and many other sources has resulted in the compilation of an article by Dr Homi Eduljee on "Rustam Maneck and His Sons: Brokers of Surat" carried in the *Journal of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute (KRCOI)*, No 60.

To acquaint our readers with the vicissitudes in the lives of Rustam Maneck and his sons *Parsiana* has been permitted by the KRCOI trustees to reprint an edited and abridged version of the text from their *Journal*. Along with this piece there is another dissertation in the same publication "The Zoroastrian Calendar: an Overview" by Keki Shroff. Priced at Rs 50 the *Journal* is available at the KRCOI, 136, *Bombay Samachar Marg, Bombay 400023*.

We will be serializing this feature over five instalments. The first episode relates some personal details concerning Rustam Maneck's background and his efforts to assist the hapless victims when Shivaji raided Surat and Aurangzeb imposed the poll tax on all non-Muslims.



Kindhearted fixer

Dr Homi Eduljee

A valued broker and a successful mediator, Rustam Maneck was respected by both Indians and Europeans



Very little is known of Rustam's early life, and what little we know is due to a Persian poem, *Kisseh-i Rustam Maneck*, written by a priest Jamshid Kaikobad in 1711 AC. Jamshid Kaikobad was the tutor of Rustam's youngest son Nowroji and wrote his poem during Rustam's lifetime.

The date of Rustam Maneck's birth is not known, but it can be estimated from the year of his death. He died on July 31, 1719 AC at the age of 86; hence he was born in 1633. He was descended from a family of Navsari priests. The claim to have been descended from Neryosang Dhaval need not be taken very seriously. Many Navsari priests claimed descent from the famous Neryosang, the 12th century dastur who

translated the Zoroastrian scriptures into Sanskrit.

Rustam's great-grandfather Chandana left Navsari and settled in Surat. He and his son Jamshid were in very poor circumstances, but with the birth of Jamshid's (adopted) son Maneck they began to see better days. Maneck worked for the Portuguese establishment in Surat, and his services must have been greatly appreciated, for, as we shall see later, the Portuguese conferred an honor on him. Rustam must therefore have been brought up in fairly comfortable circumstances.

Rustam was married to a lady named Rattanbai and had three sons: Framji, Bomanji and Nowroji. According to the *Kisseh*, Rustam was a very kind-hearted, charitable man who delighted in doing good and in relieving the distress of all communities. He had roads repaired; built bridges over streams; encouraged the cultivation of wastelands and had gardens with fountains laid out. He built a hall in a garden for the Parsis to use for marriages and religious ceremonies. He had built in Surat and in the villages wells to provide pure water, and also watering-troughs for

Facing page:

Side gate of the Muncherji Bomanji Saith Fire-temple popularly known as the Sethna Agiary at Tardeo; Inside hall of the Maneckjee Sett Dar-e-Meher at Fort; Nowroji Maneck; Rustam Maneck family tree at the Sethna Agiary

Photos: Homyar Mistry, Homz Prints

cattle. For example, he had a well dug in Hajira, near Surat, in 1699. The Persian inscription at the well reads: "(I, Rustamji) Maneckji, Parsi, dug this well in the way of God. Whoever drinks the water of this place, the righteous reward of that person may be receivable to this humble self."

After the death of the Moghul Emperor Aurangzeb in 1707, the depredations of the Marathas in South Gujarat and around Navsari increased considerably. To escape the danger, a couple of thousand Parsis left Navsari and came to Surat. Rustam built houses for them and settled them in a part of Surat which is still called Rustampura.

Rustam underwent the navar ceremony in 1675 at the advanced age of 42 years. Although he never practised as a priest, because of his priestly lineage and initiation he took a leading part in the priestly affairs of Navsari and Surat. When the Iranshah was brought to Navsari in 1419, the priests of Sanjan and Navsari came to an agreement regarding the division of priestly duties; the Sanjana priests were to minister to the Iranshah only, while the Navsari priests, the Bhagarias, were to perform all other religious ceremonies. For about 250 years this arrangement worked well, but then dissension broke

out. In 1683 the priests of Surat wrote to the Sanjana priests of Navsari that they should follow the rules laid down by their fathers. In June 1685 the priests of Navsari, Surat and Sanjan met in Surat and the old

Many of the ordinary people were held as hostages until they were ransomed

agreement was reaffirmed. Rustam Maneck took a leading part in the discussions and his signature heads the list of Surat mobeds and behdins who signed the letter of agreement. Peace did not last for long. The Bhagarias started collecting ashodad in the Iranshah and this enraged the Sanjanas and the people of Navsari, and the Bhagaria priests were prevented from entering the Iranshah for eight years. Rustam Maneck then negotiated peace between the warring factions in October 1693: the Bhagarias promised not to collect ashodad in the Iranshah, and the ban against them was lifted.

The family's leading role in the settlement of priestly disputes did not end with the death of Rustam Maneck. In May 1723, the priests of Godavara panthak met at his house to settle some differences. Rustam Maneck's eldest son, Framji Rustam, headed the list of Surat witnesses.

Neither the *Kisseh* nor the family histories tell us anything about Rustam Maneck's personal relationship with the other Parsis of Surat, although one would expect that a man of his eminence would have had close ties with the other prominent Parsi families. One fact we know is that one of his grandsons was married to a daughter of Lowji Wadia, the famous shipwright.

Two incidents in Rustam's middle age enhanced greatly his reputation amongst the Parsis of Surat. The first was Shivaji's raid on Surat in 1664. Shivaji, the Maratha leader, made a sudden assault on Surat. The city was poorly fortified and the cowardly Moghul governor put up no defence at all. The Marathas entered the city and for four days they looted it and set the houses on fire. The rich merchants were caught and tortured till they handed over their wealth; many of the ordinary people were held as hostages until they were ransomed. The *Kisseh* tells us that some



Pestonji
& Co.
Makers of Fine Jewellery since 1936

296, Raja Rammohan Roy Rd, Bombay 400004 Tel 3611121 FAX 91 22 8366384

With best compliments of

**JMM ASSOCIATES
&
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

Parsi men were taken as hostages and their families, not being able to raise the ransom, came to Rustam Maneck for help. He paid Shivaji or his officers a sum of Rs 10,000, and also gave food and clothing to the families.

The *Kisseh* says nothing about Rustam Maneck being harassed by the Marathas, or his house being set on fire, and J. J. Modi asks: why? Modi gives three possible reasons: The English and Dutch factories had stood by their guns to defend their premises; Modi suggests that as Rustam was broker to the English he and his house might have been protected by them. Second, Rustam might have recruited guards to protect his property and thus, like the English and Dutch factories, dissuaded the Marathas from attacking his house. Third, Rustam was not amongst the richest merchants of Surat and thus escaped Shivaji's rapacity.

Modi's first reason is very weak. There is no record of Rustam Maneck being broker to the English or any other company in 1664; the earliest record we have is an ambiguous statement in a Dutch letter dated 1681. The English factory did protect the warehouse of Haji Said Beg, but this was because the warehouse adjoined

the factory and, as the Surat factory record tells us: "being so very near us, as one wall to part both houses, we feared that they (the Marathas) would strengthen that place and afterwards annoy us and by their multitude force their way to undermine and blow us up." Also, we do not know the position of Rustam's house relative to the English, so we cannot say whether the English would have protected it (as they did Haji Said Beg's) in their own interest.

Modi's second reason is more probable. The Dutch report tells us that "the principal inhabitants, though, if they had the presence of mind to do so, they might, by hiring a few Moor soldiers, have defended their houses and saved their goods." It is possible that Rustam did hire some guards to protect his property.

Modi's third reason is also probable. There are indications that in 1664 Rustam was neither one of the rich nor famous merchants of Surat. When Shivaji reached Surat, he called on the Governor of the city to come to him with the three leading merchants to discuss the ransom they would pay him to spare the city. The three merchants were Virji Vora, Haji Mohammed Said Beg and Haji Qasim. Even as late as 1691, Rustam Maneck was

not known to be particularly influential with the English factory. In August of that year, the English, French and Dutch were confined to their factories because of a charge that a ship belonging to Abdul Gafur was captured by European pirates. The Turkish crew came to "Dungevora (Dhunji Vora) a famous Persy (Parsi) merchant, and friend to the English," and informed him that the charge was false and the pirates were really Danes. It is significant that the sailors went to Dhunji Vora and not to Rustam Maneck.

There is another possible reason why Rustam Maneck's house and property were spared, and this has to do with the flashes of humanity that Shivaji was wont to show. The Capuchin monk, Father Ambrose, went to Shivaji and pleaded that the poor Christians of Surat be spared. Shivaji respected him, took him under his protection, and when the rest of Surat was sacked, the Capuchin monastery and the Christians were spared. It is also reported that when Shivaji learnt that a certain merchant had been charitable to the poor with gifts of food and provisions, he ordered that neither the man nor his possessions should be harmed and sent soldiers to guard his house. The *Kisseh* tells us that Rustam Maneck

With best compliments from

DINSHAW & DINSHAW

ENGINEERS & CONTRACTORS

390/286, Bootee Street
Poona 411001
Tel Nos: 634746-633930



PRUDENTIAL SHIPPING AGENCIES PRIVATE LIMITED

Shipping Agents

77, Mint Road, Fort, Bombay 400001

Phones: 2622566/2620154/2622787 • Cable: "SHIPMENT"

Telex: 011-82307 PSAB IN • Fax: 91-22-2870139

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

PROFESSIONAL • PROGRESSIVE • PRUDENT

*

**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:
The Trustees
Framjee Cawasjee
Institute**

Anandilal Podar Marg
1st Marine Street
Opp Metro Cinema
Bombay 400002
Phone: 2013654

*

did give food and clothing to the poor Parsis, besides paying their ransom, but we do not know if he is the 'certain merchant' referred to in the report. In any case, Shivaji might have spared him for his charitable deeds.

The second important episode in Rustam Maneck's life was the poll tax imposed by Aurangzeb sometime between 1672 and 1675. This tax was imposed on all non-Muslims. The tax fell heaviest on the poor and the method of collecting it was humiliating. Most of the Parsis of Surat were weavers and hence were amongst the poorer classes. They came to Rustam and begged of him to relieve them of their distress. Rustam agreed to pay for the Parsi community (presumably for the poorer section, and not for the rich merchants) every year. One estimate is that he paid Rs 5,000 every year on behalf of the poor Parsis. When the poor of other communities heard of Rustam's act, they appealed to him to relieve them also. Rustam agreed to pay for the poorest of the other communities but declined to take the responsibility for entire communities.

These public benevolences earned Rustam Maneck a mention in the Dhup Nirang ceremony (chanted during the uthamna prayers). In a manuscript dated 1746 AC, we find the following four names preceding the names of members of the laity: Neryosang Dhaval, Dastur Meherji Ervad Vatcha, Ervad Rustam Osta Maneck and Osta Nowroz Ervad Rustam. Meherji Vatcha was the famous Dastur Meherjirana of Navsari, and Nowroz Rustam was the youngest son of Rustam Maneck.

There are two other incidents in which Rustam Maneck played a prominent part and which are mentioned in the *Kisseh*. The first is the release of Osman Chalibi's ships which had been captured by the Portuguese. (This will be discussed in detail in the next instalment when we come to Rustam's dealings with the Portuguese.) The second is the part played by Rustam in Sir William Norris' embassy to the emperor Aurangzeb in 1701. (This will be discussed in the third instalment when we come to Rustam's dealings with the English East India Company.)

The accounts of Rustam Maneck's public and private benevolences all come from the *Kisseh-i Rustam Maneck*. Unfortunately, there are no independent accounts that corroborate or amplify what the *Kisseh* says. However, as the *Kisseh* was written in Rustam's lifetime we can safely assume that it is entirely trustworthy, specially as we have some concrete evidence in the

existence of the wells at Hajira and Rustampura. As far as Rustam's dealings with the Portuguese and the East India Companies are concerned, these are fairly well documented in their records and we can discuss them in some detail later. But before we discuss his commercial dealings we must settle the vexed question of the year of his death.

Parsi Prakash in 1878 gave the date of his death as roz 17, mah 10, year 1090 AY, i.e., July 30, 1721 AC. In 1900, Jalbhai Seth, a direct descendant of Rustam Maneck, in his history of the family, repeated this date, and this apparent endorsement of it led Modi and Hodivala to accept the date as correct. However, R. F. Vatcha, in *Bumbai no Bahar*, 1874, gave the year of death as 1088 AY, i.e. 1719 AC. There is an earlier reference to Rustam's death. In 1722 Jamsasp Dastur Hakim (better known as Jamsasp Hakim Vilayati) came from Iran to India with answers to some questions on points of religion and rituals that the Parsis had raised with the mobeds of Iran. While in India, he made copies of the *Fravardin Yasht* and other religious texts, and in the colophon to his manuscript he writes that he arrived in Bombay in 1091 AY and "as the laudable virtues and greatness of Mobed Rustomjee, son of the late Mobed Maneckji, were renowned throughout the world, this servant of the religion had desired to meet the great man... But this servant heard on his arrival that the late Rustomjee had passed away on the day Srosh Yazad and the month Bahman and the year 1089 Yazdegardi."

Vilayati's date differs from that of *Parsi Prakash* in two respects: he gives the month of the death as Bahman which is the 11th month, whereas *Parsi Prakash* gives it as the 10th month, Deh; Vilayati gives the year of the death as 1089 AY, one year earlier than *Parsi Prakash*. The matter can now be settled finally. Rustam Maneck was the chief broker to the English East India Company's factory at Surat, and therefore a person well-known, and of great importance, to the Company. The Surat Diary for Monday, August 3, 1719 records that Rustam Maneck died on July 31. As the record was made within four days of Rustam's death, there can hardly be a mistake in it. Rustam Maneck therefore died on Friday July 31, 1719.

Dr Homi Eduljee was associated with the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute both as a joint honorary secretary and as a trustee for a number of years. A chemical engineer by profession he is also well read on Indo-Iranian topics and the Zoroastrian religion.

GARDEN



Garden
PRINTS & WEAVES

In Pursuit of Plastics

Packaging expertise offered
by Ecoplast is sought by leading manufacturers,
informs chairman Pheroze Kharas

Parinaz Gandhi

There goes a packet of Captain Cook salt into your shopping bag. The box of Kellogg's wheatflakes on the shelf catches your eye and you remember to include that in your purchases. Sachets of Clinic Plus shampoo are also a must-buy... You notice the convenience and sales appeal of these wrappers but take for granted the containers' other properties like permeability, durability, sensitivity. And how many would guess that the common factor in the case of all these sheaths is Ecoplast, the 13-year-old company that is a leading supplier of plastic films for flexible packaging? "In terms of volume of production, we are among the three largest in this competitive business (in India); in terms of technological input, we are the leaders," says Pheroze P. Kharas, chairman and managing director and one of the original promoters of this enterprise.

With the installation of their new plant at Abrama-Valsad in Gujarat in mid August this year they will be yet another step ahead of their competitors. Not only will their production capacity increase by two and a half times but there will also be greater in-process quality control, explains Kharas.

It was to finance the project cost of their expansion program estimated at Rs 755 lakhs that the company entered the capital market in November 1994 with a public issue of 7,60,000 equity shares aggregating Rs 304 lakhs. The issue offering shares of Rs 10 each at a premium of Rs 30 per share, was oversubscribed 7½ times, mentions Kharas. Presently the scrip is quoted at around Rs 30 on the Bombay Exchange. Since the market in general is bearish Kharas says, "I'm not terribly concerned... Once the market is buoyant it will go up to Rs 60," he is willing to hazard a guess. His

present preoccupation though is to make the new plant functional.

According to the schedule of implementation carried in their prospectus, the plant was to be installed by April 7, 1995. However the delay in the arrival of one component has made the management



Kharas: technical leadership

recast their plans, setting back their dates by four and a half months. "This won't affect the profitability of the Company because there is enough capacity to tide us over the delay," assures Kharas. Their financial projections for the year ended March 31, 1995 envisaged net sales of Rs 1,209 lakhs and profit after tax as Rs 91.80 lakhs.

"We're acknowledged by all flexible package users as providers of technology in selection of polymers for a given application... With our considerable experience and knowhow we are able to build features as per the clients' specifications," states Kharas. Before Britannia introduced their Little Hearts biscuits in the market, they approached Ecoplast for guidance on the

type of packaging material to be used to suit their two-fold requirements. They needed to bloat their pouch by flushing nitrogen into it so that the biscuits would not break; and secondly, they wanted cent percent seal integrity to ensure the freshness of the biscuits. When Kellogg's sought an alternative for aluminum foil to package their cornflakes, it was once again Ecoplast that was able to come up with a solution: vacuum metalizing of multilayer films wherein one of the layers is treated with aluminum coating, Kharas gives us a diagrammatic explanation. "This is the first time in India and possibly in the world," that this technology has been introduced, claims Kharas. Not only is this procedure cost effective since it means a saving of 20 percent but, being easier to recycle there is also an environmental advantage.

Don't plastics too constitute an environmental hazard? "If plastic packaging were replaced by other known materials, the volume of waste would increase 256 percent, energy consumption will increase by 201 percent and the cost of packaging by 212 percent," the finding of the German Society for Research in Packaging Market is cited in the Ecoplast prospectus. Other sources too are quoted in the prospectus comparing the two percent food wastage in developed countries as versus 30-50 percent in developing countries like India which are handicapped due to inadequate post harvest processing or packing.

Kharas, who was formerly the president and presently an executive committee member of the Organization of Plastics Processors of India, now serves as chairman of the Enviroplast Committee of the Plast India Foundation. Committed to promoting the image of the plastic industry he

WEATHERMATIC AGENCIES

Airconditioning Engineers

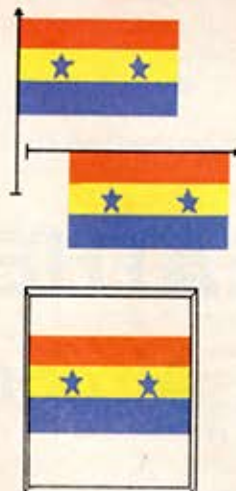
Estd 1969

**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: 4461456, 4458422, 4463029
Fax: 91-22-4463025**

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



Zoroastrian Flag of Friendliness and Brotherhood

The flag has a Persian blue stripe which represents Iran, the saffron (gold) stripe in the middle represents India and the maple leaf red of Canada is at the top. These three stripes indicate the countries where the Zoroastrians are mostly concentrated. Canada just may turn out to be our new home as many of us are now emigrating there (already more than 8,000 souls). The first of the two seven-pointed stars (Friend of Earth) represents the seven earthly creations of Ahura Mazda: Sky, water, earth, plants, cattle, man and fire. The second seven-pointed star (Brother to Men) represents the seven spiritual sides consisting of good thoughts, good words, good deeds, power, devotion, perfection and immortality. These two stars indicate the enlightened Zoroastrian doctrines to be practised through free-will based on righteousness. Ours is a life-affirming positive type of religion. We have no place for denial ethics like fasting or monasticism or similar negative practices. Be Proud you are a Zoroastrian!

In addition, as Zoroastrians we are fortunate to have a religious creed which does not require us, as devotees, to think non-rationally and behave slavishly and follow through part-paganistic and part-satanic dogmas handed down by religious fanatics (calling themselves prophets, saints or whatever) the trivial non-compliance of which makes one instantly liable to a brutal punishment on the flimsy grounds that, beyond their fatalistic tenets, there is nothing which is necessary or that nothing else will do, thus making one's life as miserable as a helpless tongue-tied slave.

The Asho Farohar decals decorate our agiaries, homes

and cars. But if you ask me, he has got too much hair. The beard is so long that it almost touches the belly button. He has not had a haircut or a shave in 3,000 years. The nose is long enough to cover his entire face. The hands are bigger than his head. The ring should be in the right hand. Being stuck on the outside wall of the rocks and exposed to 3,000 years of sun, rain, wind and snow, the outlines have deteriorated to such an extent that he does not look like the original handsome Asho Farohar that he was. The only nice thing about him is his space suit (WINGS). I think he should be made to look like a Hollywood film star. Everyone (up in the heavens) thinks that he or she looks like or wants to look like a Hollywood film star. And why not? Look at Christ's paintings on the Church Walls — such a gentle and an endearing face. Why can't we have such a gentle, dignified, properly groomed and good looking Asho Farohar?

Fly the flag from the hoist side, like other flags, only if the flagpole is 25 to 30 feet high. Otherwise, hang it from the top (see above) with sunshine or light in the background. That will give a fine glow to the colours to shine beautifully. In the agiary or the hall let it be placed at the entrance or put it in the window, against the light, like a small window curtain placed between two springy curtain rods. See that the Asho Farohar is upright.

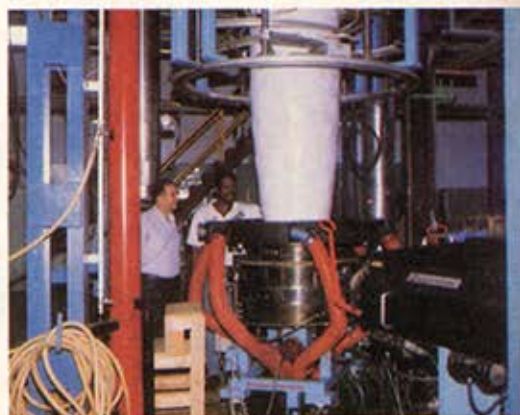
The Zoroastrian flag of Friendliness and Brotherhood enjoins being Earth-friendly. Therefore properly look after and use — but do not abuse or waste or pollute — Ahura Mazda's bountiful Earthly gifts and thus enable the Planet Earth to continue in good condition for milleniums to come. This is our holy duty. Brotherhood requires us to behave as a righteous person to our fellowmen.

A friend has suggested that we should have our own Zoroastrian salutations: BGBY the first letters of Be Good — Behave Yourself. So next time, instead of saying goodbye or bye bye, just say BGBY (pronounced beegeeby). The design of the flag is open to your ideas and suggestions. Please feel free to express them. Write to:

Jehangir Medora (Paymaster), C/o Parsiana, GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001.



The Ecoplast plant and products



factory at Abrama-Valsad. Multilayer films have the advantage of combining a range of desired properties that would not be possible with monolayer films. Frequently, expensive material is used in the film layer that comes in contact with the product and the layer that is sealed; while for the layer between these two, a cheaper component is used. Kharas uses his three fingers to illustrate the workings and thereby the saving in cost.

The per capita consumption of plastics in India is among the lowest in the world, we learn. By 1997-98 the government is expected to bring down its import duty to 25 percent on all basic polymers but as of now India has the world's highest tariff barrier on imports, 65 percent of CIF (cost, insurance and freight). Even though at Ecoplast 20-25 percent of their raw materials are imported, Kharas is bothered not so much with the government's duties and policies as the attitudes. "Instead of being pro-business, government agencies, customs, excise are all anti-business. They always want to find something wrong. It is a nuisance value which is totally unproductive. And the worst part is they go after the honest fellow who is paying his taxes and helping the government with revenue," woes Kharas. "Though communications are improving, we are also very poor in infrastructure in terms of road and rail transport," is the observation of Bombay-based Kharas who has to travel at least twice a month to his factory in Gujarat besides touring other parts of the country when liaising with his clients.

In terms of work force, theirs is a fairly lean organization. "There are 55 of us including myself ('I'm on the payroll,' he clarifies) of whom four are Parsis." Even after the commissioning of the new plant

argues that the impact of a material should be measured at different stages — manufacture, transport, use and disposal as is done in life-cycle analysis. "Plastics consume the least quantity of non-renewable hydro-carbons as versus metal, paper or glass," asserts Kharas, adding, "Over 90 percent of all plastics that show up as municipal waste are thermoplastics which lend themselves to recycling with some loss in properties. Thousands of people in urban areas make a living out of collecting, segregating and selling scrap." Some of the items commonly used from recycled plastic are plugs to protect threaded pipe

ends, electrical conduits, irrigation tubing, road markers, flower pots, garbage bags... "The cycle keeps going on and on," sums up Kharas.

He is confident that their new equipment imported from Brampton Engineering at a cost of C\$15.46 lakhs will "allow us to run a new generation of polymers." There are polymers and polyethylene, laminates and sheets, monolayer and multilayer films, Kharas is willing to elaborate on the constituents of the plastic industry. We, however, are content to learn that Ecoplast employs the coextrusion process to manufacture multilayer films at their

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: 3745863, 3745825

only five more people have been employed. This is because the machinery is fully automated, controlled by the computer.

He has tried employing more Parsis and even approached the Sidhvas (owners of Globe Hotel) in nearby Udvada but was candidly informed that "koi factory maa kaam karva nahimagsé. Chhokraoné Bombay maa bank job joiéch (No one wants to work in the factory; the boys are keen on a bank job in Bombay)."

In their line of business, demand has been growing between 20-25 percent a year. Yet competition is keen among the 34 odd suppliers all over India. Ecoplast has established itself, built up goodwill as also a good circle of customers. "It has taken us 20 years to get somewhere. I don't recommend that youngsters should get into business straight away. Starting a business is very very difficult. I would never venture a business on my own. I joined a business that was thriving. It is useful to join a small organization," 59-year-old Kharas speaks from experience.

Before Ecoplast Kharas was with V. K. Engineering and Plastics. Prior to that he was with Union Carbide where he got "intensive training in plastics" in his capacity as sales manager for plastics and chemicals for all over India. Before joining Union Carbide as development engineer he was with the Atomic Energy Establishment for a year on a salary of Rs 300 which he found was "too low; I couldn't even afford to get married." Kharas who had schooled at Cathedral and John Connon, had graduated in chemistry from Wilson College before proceeding to the College of Technology (now the University of Technology), Loughborough, England to do his graduation in chemical engineering.

When he left Union Carbide to join V. K. Engineering and Plastics it was with the intention of jointly producing coextruded films. Ecoplast was promoted in 1981 by T. P. Vashi (since deceased), Kharas and Bankim B. Desai. Starting with a small capital of Rs 10 lakhs — partly financed as a term loan from the Gujarat State Finance Corporation and a minor contribution from the Kharas family — their initial production capacity was 500 tons per year. The equity today is in the region of three crore rupees and the production capacity 4,500 tons.

Since Kharas' inclination was towards science, he was not drawn to joining the jewelry business, Pestonji and Company

started by his father Pestonji in 1936. Besides he was only 14 when his father died leaving the business to be managed by his mother Jerbai and maternal uncle Pilloo Sakhidas (since deceased), Kharas cites

one of the reasons for his non-interest. "We are where we were 20 years ago. There is need to broaden the customer base, to introduce new methods of making jewelry." Even in retrospect

he is happy that he did not join the family business saying, "Today I can contribute a lot more. You learn so much more if you are not insulated."

Reading books on management are a high priority with Kharas as also playing tennis twice a week at the Bombay Gymkhana. Regretting that he does not make time for community affairs, Kharas says he is not governed by conventions. He is essentially a liberal. "I am open to be convinced by new ideas, new thoughts... I have no strong views on the community or religion." What does he feel strongly about? "The way to conduct business — deal in a righteous way so that you don't deliberately break laws or avoid taxes, don't try and make a fast buck, don't say something and do something else, have fairly transparent pricing policies. The relationship with the customers should be such that the goodwill built cannot be wiped out easily." And while he may not say so, punctuality too is one of his strong points. He had an appointment with Parsiana at 11 a.m. on June 16, and he walked in precisely at that hour. "Traditional Parsi values" too he cherishes like "respect for elders, consideration, extending help to the family."

His family comprises of wife Nargish who is a housewife, eldest daughter Zarine who works as branch operations manager of Countryside Consumer Financial Services at Bangalore, second daughter Yasmin who helps to run Pestonji and Company and youngest daughter Naheed who is training to be a company chartered secretary and will, hopes the father, join Ecoplast.

In the meanwhile the company is gearing itself towards exports, to tap the overseas market. Expansion, they are keen on. But diversification is what they are reluctant to consider as "we don't want to get into any field where we are not the leaders. There is still a lot of scope for specialization in our own field," believes Kharas. "Our philosophy is to build on our strengths."

"You learn so much more if you are not insulated"



Always remember

શ્રીલમાં TATA

બુટમાં BATA

કેટરમાં KHAMBATA

Ketayun & Bomi

22/A, Wellington Terrace
Wellington Street
Bombay 400002
Tel No. 2069636, 2057242

MATRIMONIAL

Professional, mature, tall, middle-aged Zoroastrian male with a pleasant disposition and financially independent seeks a Zoroastrian lady, plus or minus fifty and willing to settle in North America to share life's pleasures. Interests include travel, the live arts and nature.

Please write in confidence, preferably with a photograph to:

The Resident
1705 Helix Court, Concord
California 94518, USA

MATRIMONIAL

Parsi boy, 33, an IIT Engineer, residing in Australia, invites correspondence from well-educated, young ladies, 25 to 30. Must enjoy outdoor activities like trekking. Should be willing to settle in India or Australia. Apply to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/29-95)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Correspondence invited from Pune/Bombay based, educated, well-placed, Parsi bachelors up to 32 years for domestically accomplished, vegetarian, Parsi girl, 26 years. Please write with (returnable) photo to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/30-95)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

Rutt-Deen: hospitable and viable

Dali Bhesania started his Rutt-Deen Hotel in Calcutta much before other entrepreneurs saw hope in this city

Jerroo Irani

The prognosis was poor, declared the prophets of doom who expected the city to die with a whimper. Yet Calcutta, India's largest city in terms of population, continued to pulse with stubborn though asthmatic vibrancy.

Now the city which is synonymous with art and culture, and paradoxically with dirt and disease as well, is seeing a revival in its fortunes. A swanky new airport, excess power (goodbye load shedding), telephones that work, better roads, new hotels... underscore the city's commitment to setting up international level infrastructure. And riding the crest of Calcutta's newfound entrepreneurial zest are its hotels, one of them being Hotel Rutt-Deen, a Parsi-owned hostelry that has weathered the winter of Calcutta's discontent, through the '60s, '70s and '80s. That was the time when the easiest thing in the world to do was despair, for crippling power shortages, crumbling infrastructure and resultant flight of capital had become the norm.

Today, things are reportedly looking up and 75 percent of Rutt-Deen's clientele is corporate, states 79-year-old Dali Ruttonjee Bhesania about his brainchild. It was in 1961 that Bhesania bought the plot of land on which the hotel was to be raised. At the site was an old bungalow which was demolished. Initially, a part of the

ground floor plus one-storey edifice was converted into a liquor bar. In 1964, Bhesania obtained permission to build more floors and in 1975, the five-storey hotel was completed. "We can pride ourselves on having possibly the largest rooms in the city," states Bhesania gesturing to the around 400 square feet rooms that are spartan and functional.

Located in a leafy back street called Loudon Street, just off the famous Park Street, Rutt-Deen exudes a home-like intimacy, "thanks to the rapport between the staff and management," states Bhesania. The rooms have attached baths, telephones, and fridges, and room service is also available during the day. (The rates range from Rs 750 for a single room to Rs 950 for a deluxe double room.) In the evenings, guests can relax on the manicured lawns

where tables and chairs have been placed under hospitable trees. Rutt-Deen has a certain lack of artifice which is in marked contrast to the unashamedly luxurious hotels that are coming up in the once imperial city. Nor does it sport the faded grandeur of Calcutta's dowager, the Great Eastern Hotel, which, though frayed at the edges, still has some of its old magic and nostalgia for a lost era.

Lost era

And those were the days — the prewar years which were the finest moments of Calcutta's life. There were nightclubs galore and entertainers from Egypt and Europe for the city was a recreational center for the British, recalls Bhesania. Calcuttans had perfected the art of everyday living and the balls at the Grand and riotous parties at the clubs were looked-forward-to events on the social calendar.

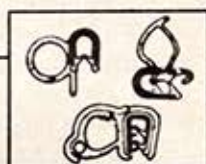
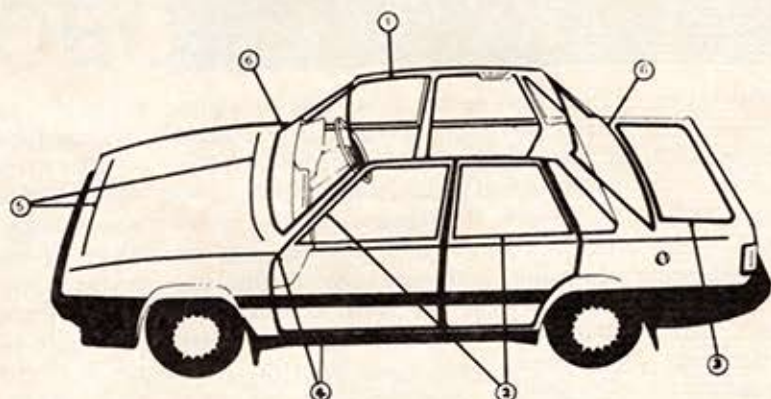
At the time, there were around 2,000 Parsis in Calcutta (now there are around 1,100), according to Bhesania, who adds that most have moved to Bangalore, Pune, Canada and the US. Food supplies used to come from Dacca, reminisces the silver-haired septuagenarian trustee of the Calcutta Zoroastrian Community's Religious and Charity Funds. In 1941, 20 eggs cost five annas, mutton was available for 10 annas for a kilogram; sandesh, the Bengali sweet, cost eight annas!



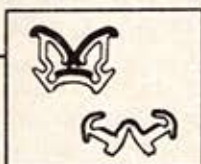
Bhesania with his "soul mate," a 1954 Mercedes

Gold Seal

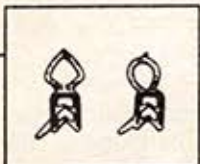
**India's Market Leader in Quality & Technology
offers you the best E.P.D.M. Rubber & PVC Profile
for all International Cars**



1. Bi-component
Door Seals



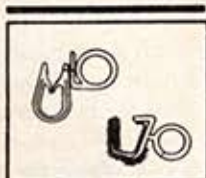
2. Flocked
Channels



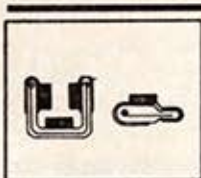
3. Boot Seals



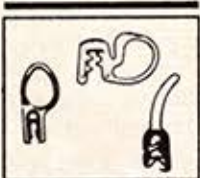
4. Wind Shield
Rubber



1. Conventional
Beadings



2. Conventional
Channels



3. Bonnet Seals



4. Sponge Outer
Door Seals



Gold Seal Engineering Products (P) Ltd.

Regd. Off: Gold Seal Compound, Bhandup, Bombay-400 078.
Tel: 5613498/99-5615216 Tlx: 011-72352 GSEP IN Cable: Fineoto Cumballa Hill,
Bombay-400 026. Fax (91) 22-5642171,
Daman Plant: Daulet-Abad, Bhimpore, Daman-396210. Tel: 02636-2043



*Bhesania with wife Dina
In the hotel's main lobby*

Roads were hosed twice a day with water, jute mills were run by kilted Scotsmen and Darjeeling was the winter capital, unspoiled and virginal in its beauty.

At one time, the chairman of Great Eastern Hotel — where Rudyard Kipling reportedly stayed — was a Parsi, Ardeshir Billimoria. The hotel was not responsible for Kipling's disenchantment with Calcutta which he dubbed "The City of the Dreadful Night." The Great Eastern Hotel was in fact to be taken over by a French company whose sole aim was to burnish its faded image. However, the move is being resisted by the Hotel's labor union, according to news reports. While the strident red of yesteryear is mellowing to a rosy pink optimism, labor unions still flex their muscles, states Bhesania and next year's elections will be crucial, he feels. While Calcutta awakens to a new dawn, land prices have gone up. What cost Rs 90 a square foot 20 years ago is now priced at Rs 3,000 a square foot.

The Parsi community in Calcutta is well settled, states Bhesania of his brethren who are businessmen and professionals.

Community ties are strong. The Parsi Club encourages and hones the athletic instincts of the young. The Stree Mandal gives tenderhearted ladies the opportunity to do social work. The Scouts and Guides movement is alive and kicking and the community's theatrical skills find expression when the Amateur Dramatics Club puts up a free Gujarati play on Pateti. (The actors range in age from 18 to 35.) And when the community looks for solace rather than laughter there is an agiary, and a Tower of Silence to provide eternal peace.

The not so well-off are not forgotten and live in charity housing. Recently, at 52 Chowringhee, the community built the five-storey Olpadvala Memorial Hall, a part of which is used for functions and the upper floors have been rented to private companies. From the proceeds medical aid is given to Parsis and non-Parsis.

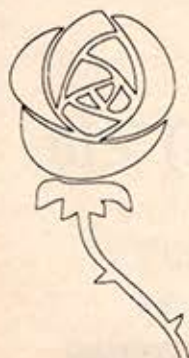
Bhesania, whose father migrated from Bhesan in Gujarat in 1910, is still full of vim and vigor, though he hasn't had a holiday since 1975. His most memorable one, however, was the one he took in 1954,

a vacation in Europe when he spent 57 shillings for a double room in London!

That's when he met his "second wife" — a perky little thing. His new "soul mate" was a black Mercedes (a 1954 model) which he bought for Rs 14,000. The car occupies pride of place in the parking lot and as Bhesania poses next to it for a picture, he runs his fingers lovingly over the shining chassis. "I've had to have it serviced just once," he says.

Unfortunately, human beings are not as resilient as a well crafted Mercedes car, and Bhesania himself has had to slow down. He runs the family liquor business with "moral support" from his ailing wife Dina and has handed over the reins of the hotel to his daughter Zarine Sarosh Tangri (who was out of town at the time of our visit).

She, too, reportedly brings a human touch to the business of running a hotel. In a milieu where hotel managers and proprietors are more concerned with the bottom line, Rutt-Deen, one feels, is in sync with a city where the finer things of life still matter more than commerce.



Best Wishes

Cawas Lalkaka

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited from well-educated, well-placed, caring, Zoroastrian gentlemen, 45-50 years for Zoroastrian lady, divorcee, 41 years. Write with full details to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/31-95)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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



PHEROZE FRAMROZE AND COMPANY (Registered)

6 Nanik Motwane Marg, Fort, Bombay 400023
Tel: 2671566, 2671452, 2671432 Fax: 2624837 Tlx: 11 84097 PFCO IN

EXCHANGE BUREAUX

Bombay Fort, 6, N Motwane Marg Tel: 2666529, 2666530, 2666531

Bombay Airport, Sahar (International) Tel: 8326444

Bombay Airport, Santacruz (Domestic) Tel: 6183321

Bombay Docks

BRANCHES

Goa: No 119, Hotel Fidalgo
18th June Road, Panjim 403001
Tel: 220129, 226291-9 Ext 119 Fax: (0832) 220129

New Delhi: GF 9-11 Indraprakash Bldg
21 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110001
Tel: 3352547, 3310028, 3352548 Fax: (011) 3724008

Bangalore: G-2 Richmond Plaza, Richmond Circle
Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, Bangalore 560025
Tel: 2227194, 2211025 Fax: (080) 2211064

Things go better with Mistry

Homi J. Rogers

McCann Erickson India's founding president Sorab Mistry plans to make his agency the most sought after in the Asia-Pacific region

For millions across the world, call it hype or sustained usage, "things go better with Coca-Cola." But the man who's been making things go better for Coke itself on three continents — Europe, America and Asia — is our own home-grown Parsi, Sorab Mistry. From March this year Mistry is president and chief executive officer (CEO) of McCann Erickson India (MEI), the advertising agency whose parent company has been handling the Coke account internationally since 1956.

"I'm proud and challenged to be the founding president of McCann Erickson India," exults Mistry, in an interview granted by him to *Parsiana* within days of his appointment to this very senior position. Mistry is the first expatriate to head the country's premier foreign-controlled advertising agency which is part of a network encompassing 207 offices in 161 cities in 101 countries of the world.

McCann sent Mistry to India in 1992 when their client Coke was planning a re-launch in the country. Rather than lose the account to some other advertising agency in India, the parent agency handpicked Mistry for the job. The strategy was successful. Mistry, who had already put back Coca-Cola in the reckoning in Canada, was all set to replicate history. Operating from a room in Oberoi Towers in his role as executive vice president of Tara Sinha McCann Erickson (Tara Sinha being the local agent with whom McCann Erickson had forged an alliance in 1990), Mistry "presented a winning campaign, and bagged the account," as he puts it with justifiable aplomb.

"There are some situations that destiny



Mistry: "Destiny takes over"

takes over," reminisces Mistry. The Coke launch brought him to India at a time when he was all set to pack his bags and head eastwards to Japan to become a truly international advertising professional. "But I was glad to come here, to be with my mother in the years of her failing health," states Mistry, sad-eyed. (Nargish, his mother, passed away within two months of his new appointment.) A dynamic media representative in her time, Nargish managed advertising for a host of publications, "never in the course of her work letting the family down," says Mistry adoringly.

Coming from a family steeped in advertising and marketing (his father Feroze held a sales position in the distillery business while elder brother Rumi slipped

easily into advertising), it may seem strange that initially young Sorab had an aversion to the profession. The economics graduate from St Xavier's College in Bombay thought advertising to be parasitic. So, armed with his degree and "influenced by the desire to find my roots," Mistry chose a different course: he left for Tehran, where he stayed with an Iranian family and even learnt Persian.

"Sorab always had a thing about being a Zoroastrian," tells elder brother Rumi, who heads Rhizic, an advertising agency founded by him. "Even today, despite his many years abroad, Sorab has more Parsi friends than I," he adds with a chuckle.

Paradoxically though, while searching for his roots, 24-year-old Mistry struck out on a different path. His views on advertising having sobered, Mistry joined Ziba McCann Erickson (Iran) in November 1973 as a management trainee. Two decades later, his life completed a full circle when the agency with which he started his working career appointed him senior vice-president for Asia-Pacific; and later, when their Indian partner Tara Sinha divested 51 percent of her equity stake, they zeroed in on him as their first CEO and president in India.

The spurs were well-earned, for through the years Mistry had carved a niche for himself in advertising. Like the boy who stood on the burning deck when all around him had fled, Sorab with his Iranian name of legendary fame, kept the Tehran office of McCann going all through the Islamic revolution of 1977-78 when the Shah was deposed. There was, he recalls, "open firing in the streets. I fled Iran leaving every-

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

thing behind, last of all, only the day after a mob came to burn down the office."

McCann, having spotted the spark in the young management trainee (they had selected him for formal training in London in 1975), now invited Mistry to join their UK branch as an account (the word for 'client' in advertising jargon) supervisor. Here, too, Mistry got to work on his two pet accounts: General Motors and Coca-Cola, with whom he had started his career in Iran. A desire to be international in his approach took Mistry to Canada. Here he joined J. Walter Thompson (incidentally, this agency handles the advertising of Coke's arch rival, Pepsi) in Toronto in 1980, and spent the next decade working on Unilever brands and Ponds. Within 10 years, Mistry rose from being senior account executive to senior account director, and embraced the Canadian lifestyle, even adopting Canadian citizenship.

His only daughter, 15-year-old Shayda ("the name means 'madly in love' in Persian," he informs us) of whom he is extremely fond and whose framed picture graces his cabin, continues to study in a French school in Toronto, after his estrangement from his wife. "She was an Iranian girl, a Moslem. Unfortunately, our value systems did not work out," he admits candidly, without harboring any bitterness.

Mistry's sojourn in Canada was extended by circumstances as fortuitous as his coming to India. The man who brother Rumi describes as "plucky, and always on the move," sought a job in the Far East with a view to expanding his horizons, when his earlier employers McCann Erickson persuaded him to stay on in Canada and help them in stabilizing Coke. "They offered to post me anywhere in the world, if I would first sort out the problem in Canada," recalls Mistry with pardonable pride.

"It was a prestigious job," he continues, reminiscing happily about how he, "a man with a strange name and strange color" amongst Canadians, set about the daunting task as vice-president, McCann Erickson (Canada). The Coke team he headed was staffed with 10 account servicing people and 15 creatives, the number employed by many full-fledged middle-rung agencies in India. And Mistry got results. Under him, Coke's internal evaluation system registered a powerful upward swing within just two years. Mission accomplished, Mistry was all set to ask for an oriental posting

when Coke's launch in India necessitated his presence in the home country.

For 45-year-old Mistry (who schooled at St Stanislaus, Bandra, where "he was an average student," according to brother



Relaunching Coke in India.

Rumi), the present appointment could not have come at a more opportune time. "Accustomed," in Mistry's own words, "to being in an organization at the top," he could have been stifled in an agency that ranked No 16 (as per an annual survey conducted by A&M, the advertising and marketing industry's fortnightly in India) in the pecking order, with billings of Rs 55 crore, just one-fifth that of the top advertising agency in the country. But his elevated position gives him a chance, to quote him, "to correct, or at least begin to correct, an aberration." McCann Erickson has been the No 1 agency worldwide for three consecutive years, according to *Advertising Age*, and go-getting Mistry hopes to make the Indian outfit not just one amongst the largest, but the most sought-after advertising agency in the Asia-Pacific region.

"We have the flair, energy, international resource base and," adding with American belligerence, "the 'attitude' for it. We want to win and we hate to lose," he affirms, confident that if the same strengths are applied to the Zoroastrian community, it could regain its prime position too.

"The Parsis had relatively more opportunities as children than members of other communities," he states, ruing the fact that

while the community may yet call upon its glorious past, the winning 'attitude' is missing. "There's a total decline of Parsi entrepreneurship, and what we stood for," laments Mistry. "There's no J. R. D. Tata or Bhabha in the making today."

Mistry apportions the blame for the community's present middling position to an "unwillingness to being competitive in today's society. How long can we live on vestiges of our ancient wealth?" he questions. "It is sad that we are not willing to keep pace with modern times."

At MEI Mistry formulated, within days of taking charge, a plan that will put the agency ahead of others, and simultaneously offer the young advertising professional a chance to hone his talents. McEd (McCann Education) is a formal training program that will be offered to employees at his agency to provide state-of-the-art training material and on-the-job learning opportunities in all aspects of the business. Mistry is prepared to work out, likewise, an organized program that will ensure the health of the community and take it successfully into the 21st century.

"Rather than give fish, I would like to teach the community to fish," observes Mistry, expounding that what we need is not funds but re-organization of trust funds. "We can get together and form a blueprint for ensuring the community's bright future, and undertaking constructive reform involving the Zoroastrian youth, especially our boys, who have let our girls down tremendously." Mistry volunteers to give his time and knowledge to form a body to draft such a blueprint provided, he adds cautiously, the program conceived is not drowned in a sea of nitpicking. "Parsis here have great eyesight," he says, referring to their ability to scrutinize every minute detail. "But," he expands the analogy, "they have no vision."

It is a sad but telling comment, and one which Mistry can make in all fairness, having been exposed for over a decade to the Zoroastrian way of life in the 'motherland' as well as in Canada; the second largest gathering of Parsis outside Bombay. "Parsis in Canada have a good lifestyle. They are well-settled, a happy and contented lot. They go to the fire-temple. The kids meet at prayer classes which they attend regularly. Religious functions are celebrated with togetherness, and help is extended to fellow Zoroastrians in personal and occupational spheres." Most

BUILDTech INDIA

Engineers and Contractors

Structural and Civil Repairs, Restoration, Renovation,
Rehabilitation, Waterproofing, Guniting, Plastering, Plumbing
and Painting of Multistoried Buildings and Structures

S/1, Jenab Court, Forjett Hill Road, Forjett Street, Bombay 400036

Office: 3890912, 3890913

Residence: 3642073, 3622631, 3612224

With Best Compliments From

**Mrs Dina Dara Sukhia
and family**

And

Victory Theatre

2429 Gen Thimayya Road
Camp, Pune 411001

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, 2610001, 2618764
Fax: 91-22-2615725

importantly, as Mistry tells it, "Parsis in Canada are not too loud or garish, like the nouveaux riches here."

Mistry himself is a devout Zoroastrian. "Not in the religious, but spiritual sense," he clarifies. "Zoroastrian like the rest of our family," Rumi adds, which includes a sister Hutokshi married to a German. One of Mistry's first acts on assuming his new

"Rather than give fish, I would like to teach the community to fish"

post was to offer maachi at the Colaba Agiary, sited in the neighborhood of his new residence. "At the Agiary I find solace and time to reflect on life," Mistry remarks. And his abiding concern for the community is reflected in his observation: "The dasturji (he meant mobed) was in such a sad state: old, impoverished, with a dirty sudreh and gown."

At the entrance to the McCann office there is a huge cutout in metal proclaiming "Truth Well Told." It summarizes the philosophy of the company, explains Mistry, which is "to find the essential truth about the product, and tell it well." For one who has sold the dream of a lifestyle built around a drink, amongst other consumer products, Mistry has grasped the truth about his community equally well. As he analogizes: "Parsis today are (like the) English: they have a heritage, a glorious past, and are too tied up with it. They need to be like Americans: raring with that frontier spirit."

Like the agency he has taken charge of, the community is small; an advantage, as he sees it, because "it allows us to react to situations very quickly without being bogged down by bureaucracy." There are many other similarities between Mistry's agency in India, and the community. Like McCann, "Parsis have assimilated the culture of the country they've gone to, while keeping their own culture intact in a subtle way." They have "stood by ethics and integrity," and "command enough clout abroad."

Could, then, Mistry's gung ho game plan, which is expected in agency circles to make McCann a force to be reckoned with, succeed just as well in putting the fizz back into the community?



OUR WORLD OF VACATIONS 1995-1996

	No of days	Rs	+	U.S.\$
Thailand.....	6	14,950	+	180
Thailand & Singapore.....	8	18,950	+	400
Thailand & Hong Kong.....	8	24,250	+	450
Thailand, Singapore & Hong Kong.....	10	24,750	+	675
Thailand, Malaysia & Singapore.....	13	21,950	+	800
Mauritius.....	7	19,800	+	550
Mauritius & Singapore.....	8	21,950	+	650
Australia.....	9	44,950	+	850
Australia.....	15	48,500	+	1550
New Zealand.....	15	52,500	+	1550
Australia & New Zealand.....	14	52,500	+	1550

INCLUDED SIGHTSEEING:

THAILAND

Bangkok : Temples
Pattaya : Coral Reef, Nong Nuch
Phuket : James Bond Island
Chiang Mai : City tour

SINGAPORE : Sentosa Island with
underwater world

HONG KONG : City tour, Ocean Park

MALAYSIA

Kuala Lumpur : City tour
Genting
Highlands : Cool Retreat
Penang : Hill & Temple tour

MAURITIUS : North Island, South
Island, Lie Aud Cerfs

AUSTRALIA

Cairns : Barrier Reef, Kuranda
Gold Coast : Movie World, Sea World
Sydney : City tour, Canberra
Melbourne : City tour
Perth : City tour

NEW ZEALAND

Auckland, Waitomo, Rotorua,
Wellington, Picton, Greymouth, Fox
Glacier, Queenstown, Te Anau, Milford
Sound, Dunedin, Mount Cook,
Omarama, Chirstchurch.

ALSO TOURS TO USA, CANADA, EUROPE, JAPAN ETC

Apart from set itineraries, you can build your own package to suit your needs.

Your Choice of Tours All Over India, Nepal and Bhutan

For details contact:

H. K. LALA & CO.

Capitol Cinema Bldg., Murzban Road, Bombay 400001.
Tel: 2043006/5744/5094. Fax: 022-204 6925

Subject to GOI / RBI Approval

Molding and minding

Counsellor cum educator Diana Marfatia is instilling in the new generation a pride and awareness of community affairs

Parinaz Gandhi

"Don't make the same mistakes as the elders," is the message imparted to the youth of the community by Ms Diana Marfatia. Coordinator of the Bombay Parsi Panchayet's (BPP) Holiday Programme for Youth (HPY), she is trying to ensure that the next promising generation does not waste time in acrimony. "Instead of covering up for each other's faults we like to keep cribbing and delight in pointing out the weaknesses in others," she rues, particularly perturbed since the community, so small in numbers, can ill afford to be lost in controversy. "Whatever strides we are making (then) get wiped out," points out Marfatia who is appalled at "our inability to accept that someone else can have a different viewpoint."

The community, in her opinion, has its plus points too: "We are known to be gregarious and willing to give time to others. And being among the most well-educated we have a headstart over others."

Many are the teenagers she has influenced who on completion of their schooling attend the month long HPY, and who on completion of the course choose to retain their ties with the Programme by becoming members of the Youth Club that meets every month for different activities. "They are very well-mixed with the general population but there is a greater pride in their community affairs and their religion," says Marfatia hoping that these 250-300 youths who are members of the Youth Club will grow up to be adults with a difference.

The opportunities offered by the HPY are tremendous. As acknowledged by different participants who at the end of the course are made to fill out a detailed 25-page questionnaire, it is only through the HPY that they realized that they were able

to speak in public or to come forward or to take responsibility. "Religion too suddenly becomes a hit," mentions Marfatia confiding, "I myself learnt more about the religion through the HPY."

Another interesting outcome of this Programme is the camaraderie among the youth, points out Marfatia. "They get an opportunity to come together, work together, plan together... Invariably associations and contacts within the community keep increasing and a lot of progress is possible," she adds.

When members of the Youth Club attend all-India youth fests they walk away with a lot of prizes. "That is because they go well-prepared," reports Marfatia. When a paper is presented by one of their Youth Club members, it is usually the collective effort of the entire group. Marfatia encourages participation. Regarding hosting of an all-India youth meet in Bombay, Marfatia says she has not volunteered though "if it has to be done we'd face the challenge given the back-up and support from our trustees. My youth seem very confident," laughs Marfatia realizing that the onus would ultimately rest with her if she yields to the members' persistent pleas. "Di (as their 33-year-old affable leader is popularly addressed), let's do it."

Presently Marfatia has her hands full for besides serving as coordinator of the HPY she also officiates as counsellor cum coordinator of the BPP's school counselling service and has, beginning this year, been appointed headmistress of The Byramjee Jeejeebhoy Parsi Charitable (BJPC)

Institution's primary section where, in addition to her administrative duties, she will also undertake teaching and counselling.

"I am suddenly doing three times more work than I was used to," admits Marfatia, a qualified social worker from the Tata Institute of Social Sciences (TISS) who did her BEd with distinction in 1994-95 from the Bombay Teachers' Training College and received a gold medal for being the "all round excellent student of the year." She has been offered principalship at other institutions but feels "morally obliged to continue with the BJPC." Besides, "I always preferred to do more challenging work," she explains her disinterest in an assignment where "the bus is already running smoothly."

The more Marfatia tried to distance herself from community institutions, the more she was drawn to them. She recalls that when as a student at TISS she was posted to the BJPC to do her field work in counselling she was nearly in tears. She felt that she would not know how to interact with the Parsi kids because she had not been educated in a Parsi institution (her schooling was at Queen Mary's and graduation in sociology and psychology from St Xavier's College). Neither did she reside in a Parsi colony making her feel that she was not a typical member of the community. She asked her superiors for another posting but was told, "This is the way to grow." And grown she has in the 10 years since she started doing counselling work for the BPP. She has had scope to work with the trustees, the BPP staff, the teach-



With Best Compliments From

WHITE CLOUD FILTER PADS Private Limited

412 Gultekdi Road, Pune 411037

**PIONEER MANUFACTURERS OF
Finest Quality Machine Made Filter Pads
in the Country
and also Merchant Exporters**

Phone: 432236, 430476 Fax: 91-212-477923 Gram: Filter Pads

We thank the
generous,
respected donors
for helping

Parsiāna

Dosabhai N. Oliaji

Duke Hotel

Devka-Daman 396210

Tel: 34251

ers, the parents and the children, all of whom she prefers to know by name.

When in 1985 the BJPC requested the Punchayet to post a full-time counsellor at their school, the late Prof Noshir Kaikobad arranged for Marfatia to work there. Sub-

sequently the counselling work expanded to include Sir Cowasjee Jehangir, Panday and Avabai Petit Schools too. Since 1989 she has been officiating as coordinator of the BPP's HPY. "The only reason why I have lasted is because of Mr (Rustom) Anklesaria

(erstwhile chief executive of the BPP) and the trustees who have always given us encouragement," acknowledges Marfatia. "Not once have they stifled or stubbed our growth. We have never felt disgruntled. Our salaries today match those outside as they realize that for good professional services you need to pay well." Over the years Marfatia has been assisted at different times by different juniors, she insists on naming every deputy: Ms Kamal Shroff, Ms Asheesh Tata, Ms Binaifer Bharucha, Ms Renu Shah and now Ms Monaz Tarapore.

**"I always
preferred to
do more
challenging
work"**

"Some day you may not find full-fledged counsellors," Marfatia tells the Youth Club members as she tries to groom them to take over the management of the HPY. The 20 best students of the Youth Club have been constituted into a committee which she

hopes will ultimately take over from her. They presently serve as volunteers during the sessions to assist Marfatia who has to handle a crop of a little less than 200 children who join the HPY each year. "We don't allow them to become too

rowdy. A little bit of school life we insist upon. Around 30 percent drop out each year because they find the discipline too strict or the lectures too boring or have their own travel plans or other courses to attend. We tell them, 'either come or don't come.'"

This year they took a conscious decision not to say no to any child interested in the Programme and therefore shifted the venue to the J. B. Vachha High School for Parsi Girls in Dadar. But since there was no substantial increase in the number of registrants, next year the venue will be shifted

With Best Compliments From

Cadbury's

CADBURY INDIA LIMITED

19, B. Desai Road, Bombay 400026

You'll find our **FRIDGES**



In virtually every second Indian home.

And more and more husbands bring home

our **MICROWAVE OVENS**



the delight of their wives.

Our **COMPRESSORS**



are found in more fridges

around the world than any other compressor made in India.

And more and more shops chill soft drinks in

our **VISICOOLERS.**



Our **DEEP FREEZER**



freeze more ice creams.

And our **CASH REGISTER**



are found in Hotels, Bars, Restaurants, Fast foods and Dept. Stores.

Kelvinator®

Those magnificent men and their cleaning machines!



1923-1995
Seventy two years of
clean service!

DIANA-ECLIPSE

For all your carpet and upholstery cleaning

☐ "Parag" 27, Peddar Road, Bombay
Tel: 4941987, 4945302

back to the Khareghat Hall. The Programme offers a mix of lectures, workshops, competitions, visits, games. The treasure hunt, personality contest and quiz that they introduced this year were very popular. They will also try to accommodate more visits in the coming year. One of the guest speakers this year, Mickey Mehta, has promised them access to a swimming pool next year, informs Marfatia. They have an array of topnotch speakers addressing the youth. "Even though we don't know them from Adam, these speakers spare the time. No speaker, however busy, has declined for reasons of time," Marfatia perceives their cooperation as reflecting on the popularity of the Programme.

"We have always kept ourselves outside of Punchayet politics" so the Programme has never been affected by who officiates as BPP chairman. Since years, the precedent has been laid down that the seniormost trustee addresses the inaugural session, the chairman addresses the valedictory function of the HPY, and the other trustees speak at some other sessions, thereby involving all the trustees in this Programme. When she hears criticism about the functioning and alleged corruption of the trustees Marfatia always tells the grumbler, "I haven't seen it so I don't know about it." As she clarifies, one disgruntled person who does not get a house circulates a story so "it negates the thousands of houses that the Punchayet has given."

This element of dissatisfaction Marfatia has noticed in her interactions with the parents. Despite the fact that children of deserving Parsis get "hazaar (countless) help in the form of free education, provisions, uniforms, donations, the parents always want something more. If they are given a *charsa* (coverlet) they say 'why not a *bandoos* (blanket),' if they are given a *bandoos* they will say 'why not install a heater in the house?'"

Abject poverty Marfatia does not have to encounter. But in the

With Best Compliments From

D. B. MADAN & CO

"MADAN HOUSE"

50, MOORE STREET, MADRAS 600001

PHONE: 5340667, 5340687 & 5340727

TELEX: 041-7088 DBM IN, 041-7820 DBM IN, 041-6883 DBM IN

FAX: (44) 5341559 CABLE: GENITS, MADRAS

Shipping Agents For:

FESCO LINES: Far Eastern Shipping Co, Vladivostok, Russia

FESCO Shipping International Pte Ltd, Singapore

(Pioneer in carrying granites from India to Japan)

and Clearing & Forwarding Agents

Sixty years ago, we were the sole brokers to the Nizam of Hyderabad.

Is it any wonder we treat every customer as king ?

Founded in 1926, Darashaw & Co. is amongst the oldest continuously managed broking and investment banking houses in India. Our highly specialised expertise, unquestioned integrity and innovative spirit have helped us achieve market leadership in the money, provident fund and corporate treasury markets.

As India's financial markets open up, we plan to leverage our distribution and market strengths and derive synergy between the various markets that we operate in. To cover mutual funds, life insurance, pension and provident fund products. And whatever the shape of the future, we will still continue to treat every customer as king.

Darashaw

Estd. 1926

Broking and Investment Banking

Group Companies: Darashaw & Co., Darashaw Securities (P) Ltd & Baman Mehta & Co.

Central Bank Building, 4th Floor, M. G. Road, Bombay 400 023. Tel: +(022) 265 2835/265 5119/ 265 5109/ 265 2379 Fax: +(022) 265 6611
• Delhi Tel: +(011) 611 6130/ 67 5804 Fax: +(011) 688 5149 • Bangalore Tel: +(080) 558 5671/558 5678 Extn. 1118 • Vadodara Tel: +(0265) 33 7068 Fax: +(0265) 33 6751

- * 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: 3739373
Tlx: 11-74571 BFW IN

course of her counselling work she has witnessed problems related to poverty at the BJPC and problems related to affluence at the Cowasjee Jehangir (CJ). So while bed-wetting, aggressiveness, nail biting was common among some BJPC children who came from broken homes or faced accommodation problems, drugs, back-answering, rudeness, *nafatpanu* (couldn't-care-less attitude), 'I'm the boss' mentality was prevalent at CJ though it has mellowed considerably over the years. The principals of both the schools "have really cleaned up the place," credits Marfatia relating how earlier over-aged students were admitted or promoted indiscriminately.

In the primary section at the BJPC they do believe in giving admission even to some disadvantaged or academically backward students hoping that they would improve given a chance. In addition to counselling at the BJPC some children are referred to the Child Guidance Clinic run by the TISS at the Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children. Dyslexia is a disorder fairly

common among Parsis, she has realized. She related one instance of a child who is not showing any improvement and the teachers who are otherwise very encouraging, hardworking and supportive, urging Marfatia to give up on this child. With all the patience at her command she has managed to convince them to continue with the child unless the counsellors at the Child Guidance Clinic opine that the child is beyond progress.

Instrumental in introducing the EVS (Environmental Studies) approach to learning in the primary section of the BJPC in collaboration with Parisar Asha, Marfatia is happy that the young children now are not burdened with homework or unit tests though class tests on surprise may be administered. The emphasis is on being creative, interactive and learning the language. Remembering the time when she started teaching remedial English to Std IX and X at the BJPC (she still does, in addition to social service to Stds VIII, IX and X, English to Std VI and history-civics to Std VIII) Marfatia notes, "I thought I

**"No speaker,
however busy,
has declined
for reasons
of time"**

With Best Compliments

ZARDUST & ASSOCIATES

Builders & Engineers

**31/1, Pune Solapur Highway
Pune 411013
Tel No: 670494**

PARSIANA AND ZOROASTRIAN YOUTH

We extend our best wishes for
your future and welfare

With compliments

Sikkim Aromatics

and

Sikkim Distilleries Limited

RANGPO, SIKKIM

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

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited from good looking, cultured, educated girl, prepared to stay in one of the largest cities of Kerala, for a handsome, fair, 5'6" tall, 27-year-old boy, well-settled in family automobile business. Apply with bio-data and photograph which will be returned to you.

Matrimonial alliance invited from well-educated, well-settled, young man for a 24-year-old, smart, charming and pretty girl having completed her Masters in Literature and a course in journalism. Apply with bio-data and a recent photograph which will be returned to you to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (July-Aug/27-95)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

would forget my English in that place." Today their standard is much better.

In the past she has had to conduct a lot of parent education sessions but that has been discontinued now as there has been a substantial improvement among the parents. "As counsellors our duty is to teach them to help themselves; make their own decisions." Parents do however feel free to meet her in the half hour allowed to them after school closes. And when they know that they have found a sympathetic listener, they tend to take much more of her time, she has noticed. Administrative and teaching responsibilities she has been able to undertake with greater insight, she says, for "having been a counsellor I know the other side of the fence and then to take over is so much easier."

Inspiration for Marfatia has come from her father Dara, a solicitor: "I have grown up seeing him totally selfless and our house doors open to all. He believes in giving without expecting anything in return." Her mother Bacha is a housewife and so too is her sister Deenaz. Brother Shahrukh is settled in Singapore.

Her working hours she may devote to others but she likes to keep the evenings for herself. Adept at the piano, she enjoys going to performances of western classical music. Cooking and reading she makes

time for and also professes a love for children. In the next academic year she will begin her MED studies and she would like to do her PhD too when "I am grown up and my children have grown up..."

Ideally she would like to marry a Parsi "so that there is less need for adjustment then" she says. She doesn't think there is anything wrong in accepting children of Zoroastrian mothers into the faith provided the mother is willing to stick by all the prescriptions of the religion... "Most times, though, a father will insist on the child adopting his religion... This differentiation in terms of sex is senseless," she feels. In reality, as she points out, who checks whether children of inter-community marriages are initiated? Whether they enter fire-temples? She does not favor conversion on the grounds that "I don't see why any one should convert from one religion to another. But neither can you hold anyone's hand or heart" if he or she feels inclined towards your religion.

In the distant future she would like to start a school of her own "along the lines that I think is best for children." For the immediate future she would be content to head a school and work on other programs "and through that help the youth of the community."



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 Best Compliments
From

FORBES GOKAK LIMITED

Registered Office:
Forbes Building
Charanjit Rai Marg, Fort,
Bombay 400001

Introverted and quiet as a child, Pervez Mody was very shy in the presence of others but with the piano he was at ease and was able to express himself through music. Nearly two decades later he gives his reasons for befriending the instrument that to date has remained his companion and is now his career mate. His pursuit of a profession in music took him to Moscow from where he earned his master's degree in fine arts. After specializing in piano performance, accompaniment and pedagogy, he returned to India last year. In July 1995 he qualified for a doctorate course in artistic improvement at the Karlsruhe Conservatoire of Music in Germany.

Fifty-six musicians from all over the world had auditioned for admission to the course. Only six made the grade, Mody being one of them, notes an article in the PunePlus edition of *The Times of India* of August 19, 1995. His prowess at the piano Mody was able to prove and thereby earned a scholarship for his tuition. He now has to prove that he can pay for his board and lodging at the Conservatoire for which reason Mody is making desperate attempts to raise the stipulated deposit amount of \$ 12,000 (nearly four lakh rupees). If by end September he can't show that he is able to finance his stay there, "the course will fall through," informs an apprehensive Mody.

He has approached some 10-15 Parsi trusts, private bodies and individuals. Until end August he had managed to raise Rs 50,000. Processing an application, he has realized, "takes time. Things move rather slowly and I need the money rather fast." Certain trusts told him that their deadline for applications being long past, it would be difficult to accommodate him. Mody understands their constraints but says that he gave his audition in July 1995, received a confirmation the same month, how could he have applied earlier?

"Sports personalities don't need to look out for sponsors. Many corporate bodies employ them and grant them concessions (to advance in their chosen field). Theater people and artistes should be encouraged the same way. Then people would be more interested in taking up such professions. At the moment, because of lack of funds, it is difficult to learn, difficult to earn," Mody regrets. Neither is governmental support available, points out Mody, concerned that even television channels do not telecast many western classical music programs. "It is my dream to establish

The promising pianist



Pianist Pervez Mody is among the six selected from across the globe to do his doctoral studies at the Karlsruhe Conservatoire of Music in Germany

Parinaz Gandhi

a music conservatoire in India," says the pianist.

Non availability of western musical instruments, their high costs and heavy duties if they are imported into India, is another reason that deters aspirants from opting for a career in this line, he says. In Mody's case, the presence of a piano at his

Jyoti Mahal residence on Sleater Road gave him easy access to the instrument. Seeing his cousins trying their hands at the keyboard it was only natural that Mody wanted to follow suit. Initially he got a lot of encouragement from the mother and daughter team of Farida and Feroza Dubash, acknowledges Mody, and walked away with a lot of prizes at different music contests.

The decision to make a career as a pianist was reached after he heard a recording of Alfred Cortot playing *Chopin Études*. "God knows how many times I played that record. That was the turning point for me. Before that I didn't feel so strongly (about music). After that I was lost," remembers Mody who finds it difficult to explain to the Indian public that he is a full-time musician.

On different occasions Mody has performed over the All India Radio, and under the auspices of the Time and Talents Club and the Poona Music Society (PMS). Only this year he was given the distinction of inaugurating the brand new Bluthner piano bought by the PMS at a performance rendered by him at the Gulati Hall. In September, he was slated to play at Bombay's National Centre for the Performing Arts.

A familiar figure at chamber music concerts in Russia and India, Mody has also played piano concertos with orchestras in Tajikistan and Khazakstan, reports the Pune edition of *The Times*.

Two weeks prior to a performance he practices nearly eight hours a day; otherwise his daily regimen accommodates five hours of practice. He quotes the famous Russian composer and pianist Rachmaninoff who stressed the importance of practice by stating that "The first day I don't practice, I know; the second day I don't practice, my friends know; and the third day I don't practice, everybody knows." He relates how in Moscow students used to line up early in the morning in the freezing weather waiting eagerly to step into a practice studio. "You have to be very dedicated and disciplined," emphasizes Mody who also plays the harpsichord. "The concept of loafing around just doesn't apply. Because of constant practice you have very few friends. A part of your adolescence is lost," mentions 26-year-old Mody who claims he has no regrets on the rationale that "a sense of achievement and enjoyment in what you do is most important."

Chances are, we've helped
your great grandfather, your
grandfather and your father
see better.

We're glad to be able to
help your children as well.



Denying your child a check-up could affect his vision later in life. • Drop by at Phiroze M Dastoor. We're located for your convenience, at 5 centres, across the city. • We've got computerised eye testing, and a wide, wide range of exclusive spectacle frames. To match all tastes and suit all ages. Fitted with the finest lenses in the world. • What's more, we were the first to bring contact lenses to India. • We've successfully introduced Laser Refractive Surgery to India. Which means, myopia, astigmatism and hyperopia can now be corrected, permanently and safely, thanks to the world's latest, most advanced and precise laser technology.

• Invest in your child's vision; call Phiroze M Dastoor for an appointment today.

**PHIROZE M.
DASTOOR & CO.**

S I N C E 1 9 0 4

- **FOUNTAIN:** 379 D. N. Road. Tel - 2045668/8271. • **NAPEAN SEA ROAD:** Taher Mansion, Opp. In Style. Tel - 3644459/3625493.
- **DADAR T. T.:** D/15, Empire Mahal, Khodadad Circle. Tel - 4130546. • **SANTACRUZ (W):** Guru Arjan Niwas, 53 S. V. Road. Tel - 6490028.
- **ANDHERI (W):** Shop no. 3 and 4, Ramjharukha Society, Opp. Andheri flyover. Tel - 6285192.

Well-prepared as he is before he walks up to a stage, Mody says he prefers to play without the music in front of him. Else it would be "like an actor with his dialogue in hand. There is lesser freedom of expression," he has realized. "The important thing is to feel very relaxed before a concert," he adds. "There should be peace of mind, no kind of confrontations, the family should be very supportive." In Mody's case family includes father Tehemton who studied the accordion under Goody Seervai, mother Mehroo who has a good voice, sister Delna who has taken to acting, and brother Hoshedar who is a computer analyst.

He recalls a performance in Russia when he had to proceed directly from the train to the concert platform. "You get shaken up initially but the Moscow discipline teaches you how to deal with it," says the pianist. There is also a fair amount of self-consciousness that the artiste has to cope with each time for it can either pep up the performance or hamper it, he has noticed. "Children don't have stage fright. It is as you grow up that you become self-conscious. Once the performance is underway, you are so engrossed in the music that you don't mind the audience."

Before he proceeded to Moscow where he got a full scholarship for seven years to study the piano extensively, he was studying commerce at Bombay's Sydenham College. His schooling was at St Mary's (ICSE). When at home, his religious fervor



The family together: Hoshedar, Delna, Pervez, Tehemton and Mehroo

may be missing, but when abroad "the hold of religion is stronger," he notes. "You feel proud of being a Parsi. I would regularly do my kusti two or three times a day... The more freedom you give, the more enlightened a person becomes." What he would have liked to receive is more formal education in his religion as imparted to the Christians at their Roman Catholic churches.

Some community publications he reads occasionally to keep abreast of news on Zoroastrians. Or his family members brief him, mentions Mody adding, "I would like to but I'm not involved in community activities." In the documentary on Parsis produced for the BBC, Mody says he played the background music. He got an invitation to perform through his cousin, violinist Zubin Behram-Kamdin. But apart from

that he is not able to furnish more details, Mody gives his dimpled smile. He has offered to perform a charity show for the community. Interest was evinced by some organizers initially but thereafter there has been no follow-up.

An avid cricket fan, Mody likes to make an occasional trip to the park or to the disco. He enjoys jazz music too, Ella Fitzgerald being his favorite singer. "Indian music is just as great," in his opinion, being particularly fond of the tabla player Zakir Husain and a couple of Indian flautists. He describes the exhilarating experience of attending the festival of Indian music at the Elephanta Caves where the audience seated comfortably on gaddis (mattresses) with a starry sky for a canopy enjoy live performances by the all-time greats. He finds Protima Bedi's dancing truly expressive.

Presently Oscar Peterson is his favorite pianist. His keenness to go to Germany he states is "because I wanted a change from Moscow. (Besides) I have always been interested in Germany, its place, its culture, Germanic composers, there being a lot of influence of Germany on western classical music."

Playing the piano is as fascinating for Mody as learning about the totality that constitutes music. It is the physical, mental and spiritual involvement required of an artiste that makes music, according to Mody, "the highest form of art."

"THE HEAD MUST RULE THE HEART" continued from page 38

large. But so many of my non-Parsi friends have only one or two children. So it is largely a factor of women's employment.

"I am not a prophet of doom. I don't see any danger to the growth and prosperity of the community. Lots of youngsters are doing well in their respective profession or business. What's needed is more involvement (in community affairs) from the affluent and not the inertia of today..."

"(Bombay Dyeing chairman) Nusli Wadia is currently in the background because his father (Neville) is so involved, but he is taking a lot of interest in the agenda (of the Wadia Baug Managing Committee), accompanies us to the baugs. (Bombay Dyeing director) Hirji Thanawalla is also taking a lot of interest, spends a lot of time. I don't think the present and future

trustees (of the BPP) should take any step that would diminish the Wadias' involvement. To change the complement of the Wadia Baug Managing Committee by increasing the BPP participation to seven could upset the position. (Hitherto the three seniormost BPP trustees plus three Wadia nominees — Neville, Nusli and Thanawalla — constitute the Committee.) Nusli attends almost all meetings. Newcomers coming on the scene are trying to change a system that has stood the test of time. This would be counterproductive because the Wadias will lose their involvement." Nor does Desai accept that Jer Baug and Nowroz Baug are neglected in comparison to Cusrow Baug. "Much more money has been spent on these two baugs than Cusrow Baug," he counters.

"You come more into the (community) limelight if you are on the housing com-

mittee and I was never on the housing committee," says Desai. In Boman-Behram's time housing allotment was done by the chairman alone. Since then all seven trustees have been involved. Desai is keen to note that he ranks second or third after Golwalla in his record of attendance on BPP board meetings and is upset at the "canards planted by interested parties" that his attendance has not been regular. He is also at pains to establish that mere attendance does not signify the totality of a trustee's work. For the last 20 years he says he has set aside every working Saturday afternoon to meet community members who seek him out. "I have spent the best part of my youth (in community service). It's a disadvantage to be a trustee at a very early age. Now I would like to concentrate on my family, hobbies, profession..."

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.

Musicians in the making

Training abroad to become professional musicians, the Billimoria siblings have realized the dedication and discipline necessary in their career

Parinaz Gandhi

They had come down to Bombay for their annual holiday. Yet it was no vacation for the Billimoria siblings as Farhad's violin concert was scheduled for July 28, and Dilshad was to give her flute recital on August 18. And a performance meant they had to put in four to six hours of daily practice for it is only when one's output "is 150 percent during a rehearsal can one expect to measure up to 100 percent on the final day," explains Farhad. Besides meeting their own standards they also had to live up to the expectations of the audience who looked forward to the duo excelling at their respective instruments with each suc-

cessive year of studying western classical music abroad.

Within two hours of the box office opening (both the performances were under the joint auspices of the National Centre for the Performing Arts and the Time and Talents Club) all tickets for Dilshad's show were sold out. In the case of elder brother Farhad's program, tickets were sold out within two days but that is because many violin players frequent the city but very rarely does the public get an opportunity to listen to a flautist, informs the duo's mother Anita.

There could also be another reason for

only last year Dilshad was invited to perform solo at the 1994 Commonwealth Day Observance in Westminster Abbey, London in the presence of Queen Elizabeth II and Prince Charles among nearly 3,000 other dignitaries. Her two-minute rendition was broadcast live over the BBC radio and while Dilshad may now have pleasant memories of the occasion, she recalls that she was petrified and momentarily felt that she had forgotten the music that she was so confident of playing by memory. Once she started playing her ethereal music, the rest came easily. And accolades poured in from all directions. When she was presented to



Music in their blood: Farhad and Dilshad Billimoria

Have you ever looked at the energy crisis as an opportunity?



Rather than see the energy crunch as a setback,
we chose to look at it as an opportunity.

An opportunity to stretch resources. And find
energy solutions for you that are based on a
simple belief : increased output and efficiency with
the same energy input.

Isn't this what energy conservation is all about?

**Improving your business
is our business**



THERMAX

THERMAX LIMITED THERMAX HOUSE,
4 BOMBAY PUNE ROAD, SHIVAJINAGAR, PUNE 411 005

Her Majesty, the Queen remarked that her "music was beautiful," reports Dilshad when prompted to share her unusual experience. Prince Charles enquired of Dilshad whether she was a professional and when told that she was studying at the Royal College of Music, London, added, "I hope we didn't terrify you too much." Presently the only Indian student at the Royal College of Music, Dilshad was also interviewed by the BBC for its Network East television program on Indian musicians studying in England. A regular performer with the College Symphony Orchestra and several chamber music groups Dilshad has played with the Young Musicians Symphony Orchestra at the Royal Festival Hall, London and participated in the Xth International Chamber Music Festival in Austria.

Presently pursuing his postgraduate studies at the J. M. Hauer Konservatorium in Vienna and a member of the Tonkuenstler Chamber Orchestra, Farhad has appeared on Austrian radio and television, and played for Austrian ministers. He also performs with several chamber groups and orchestras in Austria and had last summer played in an open-air concert before an audience of 8,000-10,000 when the world renowned tenor Jose Carreras "electrified the atmo-

sphere," mentions Farhad remembering that he was sitting quite close to the tenor.

What differs is not whether you are performing before an audience in Bombay or Vienna or the States but whether you are performing solo, chamber music or with an orchestra, says Farhad. "All are very thrilling in their own way. It's wonderful

***"It's wonderful
to be one of a body
that creates such
beautiful sound"***

to be one of a body that creates such beautiful sound. And when you are performing with a chamber music group, each player here feels much more responsible," relates Farhad. Invariably though, "you always get nervous," he confides, "but you learn how to deal with it. It can be beneficial too for it teaches you not to become too casual. On the other hand if you start shaking, it can mar your performance." Though he is not able to elaborate on it, Farhad sums up, "Each player copes with

it. He has to psyche himself accordingly but the first prerequisite is to be well-prepared. Learn the music. If you have to refer to the music it comes in the way of the performance."

Dilshad reveals her strategy: "From a week ahead start imagining that you are performing before an audience. It is good to play in front of friends. Get the feel of the entire performance at least three times before the final day." Clarifies Farhad, "All great artistes must have played a piece at least 100 times for small audiences before they come to an important hall."

When a beautiful note is created with a bow, the listener may just marvel at the sound but the player needs to learn a hundred things before he acquires that ability, points out Farhad. That is why though classical music may be soothing and relaxing to very many, to the Billimorias who are involved in its performance, "Every time we listen to a classical composition we unconsciously tend to analyze it, to understand it;" and when all their mental faculties are on alert, there is no recreation. Switch over to MTV, jazz, pop or rock and they are able to find entertainment in it. They like listening to Indian music too and



For Pure Diamonds

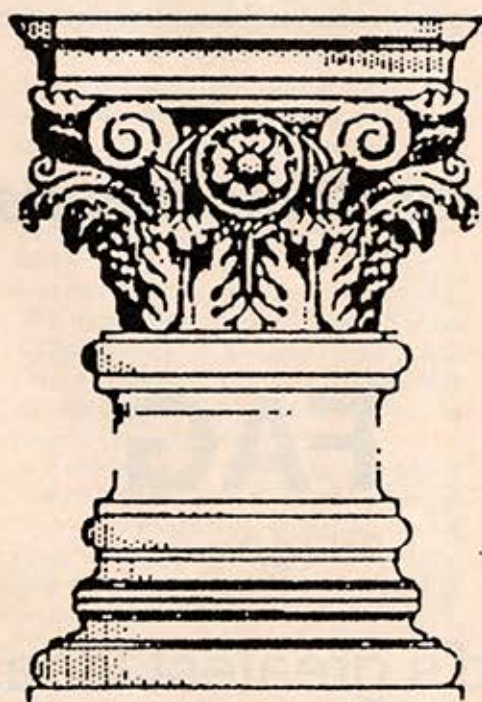
K. WADIA
JEWELLERS

324, Grant Road, Bombay 400007. Telephone 3099648 Fax 3073483
APPOINTED VALUERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

With Best Compliments From

The Trend Setters in Hi-Tech Graphic Arts

TATA PRESS LIMITED



414, Veer Savarkar Marg, Prabhadevi, Bombay 400025
Tel No: 4300941 Fax: 4302707 Telegram: TATA PRESS

Dilshad in particular enjoys going to live concerts of Indian classical music. Comparing his prowess on the violin with that of a violinist rendering Indian classical music, Farhad acknowledges, "We feel they can do so many things with their instrument that we wouldn't know how to. They probably feel the same way about us." Performances on the flute differ too. "The Indian flute is of wood, mine is silver. The Indian (version) has only holes, mine has holes and keys," explains Dilshad. Would she like to play Indian classical music? "It's not possible to do both well. It's hard enough to try and practise one. For any standard you have to put in work," responds Dilshad beaming her vivacious smile.

In their pursuit of music, the siblings have received considerable encouragement and support from their parents Bomi and Anita, both of whom are trained pianists. Not once, though, did the parents need to nag them to practice, states Anita who initially believed that the piano was the sweetest instrument. After Farhad started playing the violin she thought the violin was better. And when Dilshad took to the flute, she thought that wind instrument to be a definite improvement. Crediting her

daughter for blowing on the flute for hours on end, she confides, "I tried doing fu-fu for 10 days and did not manage to get any note out of the instrument." Dilshad's achievements are considered even more remarkable because after learning the basics from Sanjoy Gupta, with his departure from India she perforce had to study the instrument on her own. In her struggle to master the flute Dilshad says she received unstinting support from Dr (Ms) Ernavaz Bharucha, resident conductor of the Bombay Chamber Orchestra. As remarks Christopher Hyde-Smith, senior professor of flute at the Royal College of Music, "She has an exceptional talent for the flute and a flair for performing. Considering that she was self-taught until she came to me, I consider her potential enormous. With good training I would expect her to develop into a first class flute player."

Farhad was more fortunate to find a teacher in Ms Jini Dinshaw who gave him a good grounding in this instrument after which he was awarded a scholarship to study the violin at the School of Music at the Michigan State University, USA. Dr Walter Verdehr, professor of violin at the Michigan State University said of Farhad, "He is a person of exceptional talent, dedi-

cation and discipline...an outstanding performer...will become an exceptionally fine professional musician."

When Farhad was seven, and Dilshad four, they started on the piano under Ms Sheela Martin. Farhad though wanted to learn the violin since he was three. "*Kai gayé bhavnu hosé* (must have brought some interest from his last life)," says Anita. Since small violins are hard to come by in Bombay, the parents told him to start on the piano and after establishing his musicality to switch over to the violin. Dilshad who has always been attracted to the flute says that she took it up in earnest because "I wanted to play in the orchestra like Farhad and piano is not played in an orchestra," she states matter-of-factly.

Both of them now own an instrument which is valued at a couple of lakh rupees despite being second-hand. While a good violin is supposed to mature with age (Farhad's violin must be 150 years old, he guesses), a flute's lifespan is barely 10-12 years (Dilshad's flute is around three years old). "For salaried persons like us it is difficult to afford to give them training abroad," mentions Anita who gave up her job with Larsen and Toubro after the birth of her children. Husband Bomi is vice

With Best Compliments From

FAG

Rolling Bearings

How the world's greatest ideas get moving

FAG Precision Bearings Limited, Maneja, Baroda 390013, Gujarat
Tel: 442651-4, Tlx: 0175-280 Gram: 'FAGBEAR,' Fax: 442197

MERIND LIMITED

ISO 9001
CERTIFICATION
for
THE ENTIRE OPERATIONS
in R&D,
MANUFACTURING,
SALES,
DISTRIBUTION
and
SERVICING.



MERIND – A TATA ENTERPRISE

IN THE BUSINESS OF PHARMACEUTICALS

president of Johnson and Johnson. Both Farhad and Dilshad have won scholarships and awards to finance their studies overseas and rue the fact that there is no full-fledged school for western classical music in India nor an orchestra of professionals since support from public and private bodies is sadly missing. Schooling for Farhad was at Cathedral and John Connon and for Dilshad at the J. B. Petit after which they both studied commerce for a while at Sydenham College and thence proceeded with their respective music studies overseas.

Rather than the parents visiting their children abroad, Anita feels it makes more sense to have them over here every year so that they can remain in touch with their family and friends in India. Do they make time for the community? "Over there your music circle becomes your community," says Farhad. Dilshad notes that she attended a couple of functions of the World Zoroastrian Organisation when she was in the first year (they had given her financial assistance, she informs) but thereafter has not been able to find the time. Anita though sends them clippings of community developments and is happy when they ask for their sudreh-kusti stock to be replenished.

They have no rigid views on whether

they would or would not marry Zoroastrians and the parents feel it would be "stupid of us to expect them to start dating if and when a Parsi comes on the scene." "It helps a little bit when both are from the same cultural background," acknowledges 21-year-old Dilshad. But if she were to marry a non-Zoroastrian and her children not be accepted into the fold she would not be too bothered: "I don't think it matters as long as they have been brought up well, with the right values." The only time the sedate 23-year-old Farhad speaks lightheartedly is to "clarify we are not actually on the way to get married." "As for now they both have many admirers," observes Anita who is happy that when in Bombay the children find time to socialize, to go to the movies, to enjoy a swim, to visit a disco or, as in the case of Farhad, to catch up with news on cricket.

Once they are back in their respective grinds they are in the music race all over again. Like in any other field there is politics here too, Dilshad has realized. "You not only need to be good at your work, you also need to know a lot of people," amplifies Farhad. And, as foreigners, they have to compete with the bias in favor of the country's own nationals. The ratings you get at competitions is difficult

to explain for, as Dilshad mentions, music and style is so subjective that what appeals to one judge may not appeal to another and what appeals on one day may not find the same favor on the next. With all the present stress on technique, the feel for the music that was present in the days of yore is often lost, regrets Dilshad.

Discipline is the keyword for these artistes as they realize the importance of daily practice. "You have to practice irrespective of whether you are in a mood to, or are feeling fatigued or the climate is too hot," says Farhad with Dilshad adding, "What can also be very frustrating is when you try particularly hard to achieve something, and you attain it — two weeks later." With each rehearsal, each concert always proving different, always opening new avenues for them, they find that they are in a career which is never boring — wherein some things they will get and some they will not.

Their future course is still being paved. Whether they come back to India, choose to teach, join a chamber music group or an orchestra is uncertain. Dilshad does feel the need to do some work in India and admits, "Everyone likes to play solo but there are far too many good people and there is not place for everyone at the top."

Kermani Transport Service

Truck Owners & Contractors

H. O. & Admn Office:
Guru Himmat 'A' Wing
Dr Mascarenhas Road
Mazagaon, Bombay 400010
Phone: 3723333, 3712715

Booking Office:
Opp Jakeria Masjid
7-C, Dhobi Street
Bombay 400003
Phone: 3420271, 3420272

Branches:

Delivery Godown: B-Anjirwadi, Mount Road, Mazagaon, Bombay 400010, Tel: 3725002/3724273

Thana: (1) Chitalsar, Manpada, S. V. Road, Next to Tatwadyan Vidhyapeeth, Tel: 5344823

(2) Purna Village, Thana Bhiwandi Road, Near Uttam Roadways, Tel: 34698

Vapi: Near R. T. O. Check Post G. I. D. C., Tel: 30037/32766/32767

Valsad: Kamla Nehru Road, Tel: 53294

Billimora: Gohar Baug Road, Tel: 53175/53397

Navsari: Opp Central Bank, Tel: 5900819

Delivery Godown: Zaveri Sadak, Tel: 1601

Udhna: Road No 2, Tel: 678612

Surat: Delhi Gate, Dangi Sheri, Tel: 35428-35712

Delivery Godown: Ring Road, Near Surat Textile Market, Tel: 621774

UNN: Near Bus Stand, Tel: 872807



With the Compliments of

**THE
EASTERN
ELECTRIC
LIGHT &
POWER CO.
PVT. LTD.**

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**

*We are more than technicians...
We are professionals*

Into the Future...

The Zoroastrians in India will continue to remain conservative while those abroad will be more adaptable, predict the respondents

Never mind the current debate on the calendar issue; even 30 years hence the Shenshahi calendar will remain the most popular, said 77 percent of the Zoroastrians in India and 45 percent overseas who responded to the *Parsiana* questionnaire "Into the Future" carried in the November 1994 issue on the occasion of the magazine's 30th anniversary. Readers' views were sought on a number of issues concerning religious, demographic and social trends that they foresaw for the community after a lapse of 30 years. While the community in India is expected to retain its conservativeness and adherence to traditions, pockets of Zoroastrians overseas will be more liberal and amenable to change, predicted the readers.

Almost 57 percent of the 301 respondents were from Bombay, 31 percent from the rest of India, eight percent from overseas and four percent who did not want to divulge their personal details. The response rate from our subscribers worked out to almost 13 percent with nearly one-sixth of the respondents taking the trouble to send us xerox answer sheets. Extra copies of the questionnaire were requested by a few readers and one in particular expressed her gratitude for being given a chance to share her views. Seventy-five percent of the respondents were graduates or postgraduates and almost 50 percent of the total had an annual personal income exceeding one lakh rupees. Nearly 60 percent were aged over 45 of whom almost 50 percent

were aged over 65.

In India converts will not be accepted into the religion was the guess of 68 percent of the respondents. Overseas, converts will be accepted, according to 78 percent of the respondents. Even among the overseas respondents the same percentage expected recognition for the converts. As to whether children of Parsi women married to non-Parsis will be considered Parsis, abroad they will be, expect 76 percent of the total

20 percent will don this garment predict the respondents.

Just as there is a difference in attitudes among Zoroastrians of Bombay and those overseas, so too is there a difference among those in this metropolis and those in the rest of India. When asked whether converts to Zoroastrianism will be permitted entry to fire-temples in Bombay, almost three-fourths of the respondents replied in the negative; for the other parts of India, half

the respondents replied in the affirmative.

Eighty-five percent expected the number of fire-temples in India to decrease and 58 percent expected the fire-temples in Bombay to reduce in number. When asked to cite probable reasons for the same, 59 percent felt it would be on account of fewer priests and 54 percent due to paucity of funds. Only nine percent felt it could be due to loss of faith. Despite the perceived paucity of priests, just 50 percent expected behdins, and 11 percent, women, to be inducted into priesthood in India.

Abroad, 77 percent expected behdins to be inducted into priesthood, and 31 percent, women to be made priests.

Khandhias may be hard to find. Even then 87 percent expect dokhmenashini to continue in Bombay although for the rest of India, 67 percent replied in the negative.

The strength of the Zoroastrian community will decrease, reckon 56 percent of the respondents and yet, there will be institutions left for the exclusive use of Parsis, indicated 51 percent. Among the



respondents, and the figure rises to 90 percent if the answers of only the overseas Zoroastrians are considered. For India, 50 percent indicated that such offspring would be recognized as Parsis.

The sudreh-kusti will be sported by Zoroastrians in India, believe 92 percent of the respondents. When asked to qualify the percentage, 63 percent of the respondents said that more than 50 percent would wear this attire. Abroad too they will wear this attire, hope 66 percent, but not more than



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

THE BOMBAY SAMACHAR
INDIA'S OLDEST NEWSPAPER

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

most commonly cited institutions were Bombay's B. D. Petit Parsee General Hospital and the Ripon Club.

Maximum consensus was evinced on the subject of celebrations and traditions with 98 percent expecting Zoroastrian households to display chalk and floral decorations on auspicious days, and 92 percent projecting that the dhandar and sev tradition will continue in India. Abroad around 50 percent will observe such customs. Ninety percent conjectured that baug weddings and navjotes will continue in India and 71 percent presumed that food will be served on patras.

The zest for food and life, and respect for the religion should see the community holding its own even 30 years hence.

Parsiana publishes the findings of the survey. Percentage figures have been rounded off to the nearest whole number. Where the responses do not total 100, it means that the remaining people have not replied to that question. Where respondents have ticked more than one alternative, the percentage figures add up to more than 100.

Question 1 (i): Do you think the total population of the Zoroastrian community worldwide will:

Increase: 42% Decrease: 56%

(ii): The number of Zoroastrians in the world, including Iran, would be:

10,000 to 20,000: 2%
21,000 to 50,000: 8%
51,000 to 1,00,000: 33%
1,00,000 to 1,50,000: 31%
1,50,000 +: 26%

(iii): The population of Zoroastrians in India will be:

Less than 10,000: 3%
10,001 to 20,000: 7%
20,001 to 30,000: 13%
30,001 to 50,000: 42%
50,001 to 1,00,000: 34%

Question 2: Do you think converts will be accepted into the religion?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	29%	78%
No:	68%	20%

Question 3: Do you think Zoroastrians will wear the sudreh and kusti?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	92%	66%
No:	6%	30%
If yes, what percent?		
Under 10%:	4%	66%



With best
compliments
from

**NARIMAN
NALLASETH
Pvt Ltd**

**PLUMBING
ENGINEERS
&
CONSULTANTS**

27, Tamarind Lane
Rajabhadur Compound
Apollo Street
Bombay 400023
Phone Nos: 2650066 & 2652986
Fax: 091-022-2655834



With Best Compliments From

HILLA BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED

144 Perin Nariman Street
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2699399, 2621492, 2657599

Engineers of
repute for
construction
works of good
quality

RATAN SURVEYOR & Co

Engineers,
Contractors
& R.C.C.
specialists
Arbitrator
(Member --
The Indian
Council of
Arbitration)

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

10% to 20%:	6%	30%
21% to 50%:	23%	0%
51% to 75%:	43%	1%
Above 76%:	20%	0%

Question 4: Do you think dokhmenashini will continue as a method for the disposal of the dead?

	In Bombay	In India
Yes:	87%	31%
No:	12%	67%

Question 5: Do you feel that more Zoroastrians will opt for:

CREMATORIA

In India	Yes: 43%	No: 52%
Overseas	Yes: 74%	No: 18%

BURIALS

In India	Yes: 35%	No: 48%
Overseas	Yes: 53%	No: 29%

Question 6: Will Zoroastrians continue to observe the muktad ceremonies?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	92%	38%
No:	8%	57%

Question 7: Do you feel the number of fire-temples in India will:

Increase: 10%	Decrease: 85%
---------------	---------------

Question 8 (i): There are 44 agiaries and four atash behrams in Bombay. Will this number:

Increase: 3%	Decrease: 58%
Stay the same: 39%	

(ii): If you feel the number of fire-temples will decrease, then how many will remain?

Less than 10: 5%
11 to 20: 12%
21 to 30: 27%
31 to 40: 25%

(iii): Why do you feel the number of fire-temples will decrease?

Fewer Zoroastrians: 34%
Fewer priests: 59%
Lack of wood for fire: 17%
No funds to maintain the structures: 54%
Loss of faith: 9%
Worshipping at institutions of other religions: 12%

(iv): Will converts to Zoroastrianism be allowed into fire-temples in Bombay?

Yes: 28%	No: 71%
----------	---------

(v): Will converts to Zoroastrianism be allowed into fire-temples in India excluding Bombay?

Yes: 50%	No: 48%
----------	---------

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: 22-2620711/
2615283

Telex: 11-83515 TROS IN
11-81052 TOSA IN.

Grams Cable: "TROSHALT"

Branch Office

2nd Floor,
Port Users' Building,
Sheva, New Bombay 400707
Phones: 7242526, 7242538
Telex: 01313-212 TROJ IN
Fax: 7242545

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

GLOBE THEATRES Pvt Ltd

**Established
April 3, 1915**

**Pioneers of Show
Business in India for
the last 80 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**

Installed with



CAPITOL
BOMBAY**

GLOBE
CALCUTTA**

(vi): Will sandalwood still be offered in the
fire-temples?

Yes: 79%

No: 20%

Question 9: Will there be any institutions
(like hospitals, clubs, etc) left exclusively
for Parsis in India?

Yes: 51%

No: 47%

Question 10: Will behdins be inducted into
the priesthood?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	50%	77%
No:	48%	18%

Question 11: Will women be accepted into
the priesthood?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	11%	31%
No:	87%	62%

Questions 12: Will Zoroastrians adhere to
menstrual taboos?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	41%	13%
No:	57%	76%

If yes, then by what percent?

Less than 10%:	12%	6%
11% to 25%:	11%	4%
26% to 50%:	11%	3%
51% to 75%:	6%	2%
76%+:	7%	4%

Question 13: Will children of Parsi women
married to non-Parsis be considered as
Parsis?

	In India	Overseas
Yes:	50%	76%
No:	49%	21%

Question 14: When at home, which
language will Zoroastrians prefer to
converse in?

Only English: 12%

Only Gujarati: 6%

Only Dari: 1%

Mixture of English and Gujarati: 80%

Mixture of English and Dari: 0%

Question 15(i): Will Parsi residential
colonies be occupied by more non-Parsis?

Yes: 37%

No: 60%

If yes, then by what percent?

Less than 10%: 10%

11% to 25%: 20%

26% to 50%: 7%

51% to 75%: 2%

76%+: 2%

Question 16: Which calendar will Zoro-
astrians follow?

	In India	Overseas
Kadmi:	24%	17%

**With
best wishes
from**

**Farah
&
Tanya**

With Best Compliments From

PENOSH

94-A, M. G. Road, Pune 411001

Tel: 645162-65

Fax: 645166

Telex: 145-7418

BOYS' TOWN Public School Nasik 2

Recognised as a **Public School** by the Department of Education for Indian Merit Scholars. **Excellent Climate -- All-round Education.**

A new **two-storeyed dormitory** with attached bathrooms, study and lounge rooms has just been completed to house 180 boys.

All Academic Subjects -- Technical Subjects: Workshop Technology, Mechanical & Electrical Maintenance, Carpentry & Farming. Training in **Self-Government** through Elected Boys' Office bearers. Games -- Physical Training -- **Daily Assembly with Congregational Prayers** -- Weekly intensive Zoroastrian--Geeta--Koran classes -- **Excellent Modern Kitchen and Dining Room** facilities. Moderate Fees. Concessions to Deserving Students.

Apply to

**THE MANAGING
TRUSTEE
P. N. MEHTA EDUCATION
TRUST**
Cooks Building
324, Dr D. N. Road
Bombay 400001

Shehenshahi:	77%	45%
Fasli:	25%	31%
Gregorian:	32%	43%

Question 17: Will people still wear:

(i): Pugree and pheta?	
Yes: 45%	No: 53%
(ii): Dagli and Parsi coat?	
Yes: 64%	No: 33%

Question 18: Will the tradition of a baug wedding/navjote still continue in India?
Yes: 90% No: 9%

Question 19: Will food still be served on patras?
Yes: 71% No: 27%

Question 20: Will birthdays be celebrated with dhandar and sev?		
	In India	Overseas
Yes:	92%	52%
No:	7%	43%

Question 21: Will Parsi households continue to display chalk and floral decorations on auspicious days?		
	In India	Overseas
Yes:	98%	50%
No:	2%	46%

Question 22: Will parabhs, ghambars continue to be celebrated?		
	In India	Overseas
Yes:	72%	38%
No:	27%	55%

Personal

Question 23: Which age-group do you fall into?
Up to 24 years: 8%
25 to 34 years: 15%
35 to 44 years: 15%
45 to 54 years: 19%
55 to 64 years: 13%
65 years+: 28%

Question 24: Which of the following describes your educational qualifications?
Up to SSC/HSC: 13%
Undergraduate: 12%
Graduate: 38%
Postgraduate: 37%

Question 25: Which of the following would best describe your total personal annual income?
Over Rs 2 lakhs: 22%
Rs 1.5 to 2 lakhs: 11%
Rs 1 to 1.5 lakhs: 15%
Rs 75,000 to 1 lakh: 15%
Rs 50,000 to 75,000: 16%
Below Rs 50,000: 13%

*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

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: 494-9204/9214/9586

ZARIR P. KERA WALLA: GENERAL MANAGER



HIGH TEA WITH A PARSI

Bhicoo J. Manekshaw

Once again experience the pleasure of making and eating your own traditional snacks

For the last three years the kind, gentle, polite and patient editorial staff of *Parsiana* has been requesting me to write an article on Parsi snacks and I, in my usual unforgivable manner, have been saying 'phooey' to them. It is only after my return from the USA that I have realized the value of my country and its people, and feel remorseful about my delay in producing this article.

Give me India any time, with all its dirt, dust, noise and shortcomings. A country where the average man on the street has a certain inborn spirituality; where even a beggar smiles; where there is a certain

respect for the aged, even when they get impossible, as I do; a certain patience and tolerance for everyone: a kind of ahimsa, that no other country has. That is why we Parsis have survived in this country for so long. (Unfortunately, we are destroying ourselves by a holocaust of our own making.)

What little I saw of the States was very beautiful. I was lucky to see the dormant spring shyly enter North America and slowly bloom into a magnificent display of gorgeous flowering trees and shrubs that grow wild in the forests, along the road-

sides, and in the beautiful gardens of Long Island. The scenic beauty of Long Island where I was staying in the charming home of my niece Naushad Mehta Begston was something I have seldom seen. With the Long Island Sound a little distance away and the virgin forests still intact, one could imagine the American forefathers landing there and seeing the same beauty that I saw.

Washington at the height of spring was superb and San Francisco has a delightfully quaint charm of its own. New York, I should not comment on, as I was there for a very short time. I never thought that I

Merwanjee Cama Park

Andheri (West)



Tata Housing offers spacious 1 Bedroom-Hall flats at Merwanjee Cama Park. Located on top of a hill and very close to Andheri Station, the project enjoys an unrestricted view of Andheri and the suburbs around. Merwanjee Cama Park, a Parsee Colony, is surrounded by lush gardens and is away from the hustle and bustle of city life, yet within easy reach of the station, shopping centres, schools, hospitals etc.

A limited number of one bedroom flats of 476 Sft & 585 Sft are available for ready possession for Parsees only. Also available in an adjacent building to the same colony is a one bedroom flat of 585 Sft for Non-Parsees



For more details, contact The Marketing Department

Tata Housing Development Co. Ltd.

D-20, Dhanraj Mahal, 2nd Floor, Ch. Shivaji Marg, Apollo Bunder, Bombay 400 039.

Tel : 287 5217/18 Fax : 2822625



1916 to 1995

79 years of
quality and service

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Princess Street, Bombay 400002

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Tilak Brdg, Dadar, Bombay 400014

PARSI DAIRY FARM DAIRYLAND

Nariman Nagar, Talasari 401606

would ever like highrise buildings, but Manhattan was awe-inspiring and had an elegance and dignity of its own.

The average American is a lovely, kind and helpful person with a delightful sense of humor, but what saddened me was that democracy is stretched so far that everyone demands his or her rights, to the extent that 'I' comes before all else, even the good of the family. There is no sense of sacrifice for the family or children, and what they are doing to themselves is very sad. Seeing this materialism, I thought — give me India every time, with all its failings!

So this article is dedicated to the delightful staff of *Parsiana* with whom I have had an association of nearly 20 years — I think! With editor Jehangir Patel, the association goes even further — to his mother who was in the same school with me at the same time, though much senior to me, and to his maternal grandfather who was a dear friend of my father.

Here, then, are a few recipes for Parsi teatime snacks which have been taken from my new book, *Parsi Customs and Food* brought out by Penguin India.

NANKHATAI

All purpose flour (*maida* — 5½ cups)
Castor sugar (2½ cups)
Ghee or butter (50 gm)
Bicarbonate of soda (2 tsp)
Curds (4-6 tbsp — beaten till smooth)
Cardamom (powdered — 1 tsp)
Salt (a pinch)
Cashew nut (halves — for decoration)
Set oven to 180°C (350°F)
Sift flour with salt and cardamom powder. Beat ghee or butter with sugar till light and fluffy. Add curds and mix well. Add flour and mix to a stiff dough. Rest dough for half an hour.

Place one teaspoonful of the mixture on a greased baking tray, allowing two-inch space on all sides. Decorate each with a cashew half.

Bake for about 20-25 minutes.

BHAKRA

Whole wheat flour (2 cups)
Fine semolina (1¼-2 cups)
Castor sugar (¾ cup)
Thick curd (1 cup — beaten till smooth)
Baking powder (½ tsp)
Eggs (4 — beaten)
Cardamom and nutmeg (powdered—1 tsp)
Rose water (2 tbsp)
Salt (½ tsp)
Ghee (1 tbsp)
Oil (for deep frying)

Sift flour, semolina, baking powder, spices and salt together. Mix sugar and eggs together and beat well. Add flour mixture and ghee. Fold in curds and rose water and mix well to form a smooth dough. Cover with cling wrap film or damp cloth and keep in a warm place for about one or two hours, allowing the dough to rise.

Roll out about ¼" thick and cut into 1½" rounds with a biscuit cutter. Deep fry and drain. Cool and store in an airtight glass jar.

BHAKRA WITH TODDY

Whole wheat flour (¾ cup)
All purpose flour (*maida* — 1 cup)
Fine semolina (½ cup)
Sugar (½ cup)
Ghee (½ cup)
Egg (1 — beaten)
Toddy (125 ml)
Water as required
Cardamom and nutmeg (powdered—1 tsp)
Salt (½ tsp)
Oil (for deep frying)
Sift flour, semolina, spices and salt together. Beat sugar and ghee together. Add egg and mix well. Add flour mixture, mix well and add toddy. Beat to a stiff dough, adding water if necessary. Cover with cling wrap film or damp cloth and keep in a warm place for about 2-3 hours, till the dough rises.

Roll out about ¼" thick and cut into 1½" rounds with a biscuit cutter. Deep fry and drain. Cool and store in an airtight glass jar.

CHAPAT

All purpose flour (*maida* — 2 cups)
Castor sugar (8 tbsp)
Coconut milk (2 cups — extracted from ¾ coconut, grated)
Eggs (6 — beaten)
Ghee or butter (1 tbsp — melted)
Almonds (30 gm — blanched and sliced)
Cheronji nuts (*charoli* — 60 gm)
Rose water (2 tbsp)
Nutmeg and cardamom (powdered—½ tsp)
Salt (a pinch)
Sift flour and salt into a large mixing bowl. Make a well in the center and add beaten eggs, sugar and coconut milk and whisk till incorporated. Add spices, rose water and *charoli* and mix again. Allow dough to rest for an hour.

Just before cooking beat dough well, once again. Heat a small frying pan 5-6" in diameter and coat base with ghee or butter. Allow it to melt and pour in enough batter to cover base of pan. Cook on low heat. Flip over and cook other side. Flip on to a plate.

Sprinkle with a little flour and continue

cooking all chapats. Place chapats, one on top of the other, sprinkling a little flour in between to prevent them from sticking to each other.

KUMAS

Fine semolina (2 cups)
Whole wheat flour (1 cup)
All purpose flour (*maida* — 2 tbsp)
Sugar (1 cup)
Eggs (5 — beaten till frothy)
Coconut water (1 cup — water from a fresh coconut)
Cardamom and nutmeg (powdered—1 tsp)
Salt (a pinch)
Ghee (2 tsp)
Mix semolina, whole wheat flour and salt. Add sugar and ghee to eggs and beat well. Add semolina mixture and mix well. Add refined flour and coconut water to make a batter of dropping consistency (like that of an ordinary cake). Keep aside in a warm place for 24 hours to rise.

Set oven to 180°C (350°F).

Spoon mixture into prepared cake tin (greased and lined with butter paper) and bake for 25-30 minutes. You will know it is done when a skewer pierced into the cake comes out clean.

POPATJI

Whole wheat flour (½ kg)
Milk (400 ml)
Toddy (1 cup) [or Yeast (2 tsp — fresh and mixed with 1 tsp sugar and ½ cup warm water)]
Eggs (5)
Almonds (50 gm — blanched and chopped)
Currants (50 gm)
Orange peel (100 gm — finely chopped)
Caraway seeds (1 tbsp)
Ghee or butter (50 gm)
Icing sugar (as needed)
Oil (as needed)
Beat ghee or butter until smooth. Add one egg at a time, beating constantly. Gradually add flour and milk alternately, and keep mixing. Add almonds, currants, peel and caraway seeds. Mix together. Add toddy or prepared yeast. Mix well, cover with cling wrap film or damp cloth and keep in a warm place for about one to two hours. Allow the batter to rise well.

Heat a *popatji nu panu*. Half fill the depressions with oil and allow to get hot. Spoon in some of the batter to fry. When base is cooked and crisp, turn over with a skewer and cook other side. When brown and crisp on both sides remove from oil with a pair of tongs or a skewer and drain

well in a colander. Repeat till all the batter is finished.

Sifticing sugar over the prepared popatjis and serve.

KERVAI

Ripe banana pulp (2½ cups)

Cornflour (2 tbsp)

Almonds (5 tbsp — blanched and chopped)

Cashew nuts (3 tbsp)

Sultanas (6 tbsp)

Cardamom and nutmeg (powdered—½ tsp)

Castor sugar (to taste)

Poppy seeds (as needed)

Salt (a pinch)

Oil (for deep frying)

Mix cornflour and banana pulp. Fry nuts lightly, drain and add to pulp. Add sultanas, salt and sugar to taste. Take 2 tbsp of mixture and form into balls. Roll fritters in poppy seeds to coat and deep fry.

Serve hot.

KARKARIA

Fine semolina (250 gm)

Whole wheat flour (100 gm)

Eggs (6 — beaten)

Toddy or beer (300-350 ml)

Milk (100 ml or as required)

Rose water (3 tbsp)

Nutmeg and cardamom (powdered—1 tsp)

Ghee or oil (for deep frying)

Mix flour and semolina together. Add 50 gm ghee and eggs. Mix and beat well. Gradually add toddy, rose water and spices. Add enough milk to reach consistency of a thick batter.

Heat ghee or oil in a *karai* (deep wok) and drop in spoonfuls of batter. Allow to fry till crisp. When done, they will rise to the top.

Remove from oil, drain and serve hot.

MEHERBAI GORANI NO MALIDO

Whole wheat flour (225 gm)

Sugar (100 gm)

Almonds (25 gm — blanched and slivered, optional)

Sultanas (25 gm — optional)

Cardamom and nutmeg (powdered—1 tsp)

Egg (1 — beaten)

Rose water (to taste)

Salt (a pinch)

Ghee (1 tbsp)

Mix egg and ghee together. Add half the flour and make a thick roti. Cook on a tava till cooked through. Cool and break into very small pieces.

Make a sugar syrup with a little water and cook to a one thread consistency. Add broken roti and keep stirring till mixture is thick. Add remaining flour and simmer till malido is a thick paste and cooked.

Add rose water to taste, sprinkle with almonds and sultanas and serve with papri.

PAPRI

Whole wheat flour (2 cups)

All purpose flour (*maida* — 1 cup)

Semolina (½ cup)

Ghee (4 tbsp)

Salt (to taste)

Oil (for frying)

Mix all ingredients together except oil, adding water if needed to make a stiff dough. Knead well and roll out into a long sausage. Cut off pieces about ¼" thick and roll out into circles about 3-4" in diameter. Prick with a fork so that it does not puff up while frying.

Shallow or deep fry and drain. Serve with malido.

PANEER

Warm milk (1 ltr)

Curds (¼ ltr)

Cream (¼ ltr)

Lime juice (of ½ a lime)

Salt (1 tsp)

Beat curds with cream and lime juice. Add to milk with salt and mix well, pouring mixture from one pan to another, 3-4 times.

Place on low heat to turn milk. Wait till
continued on page 180

'The Gourmet' Restaurant, OFFERS

**Buffet
Breakfast
from 8 a.m.
to 10 a.m.**

**Buffet
Lunch from
12.30pm. to
3 p.m.**

**Tea Time
Snacks**

**Continental
Food
including
Sizzlers**

**Tandoori
Food**

Take away

**Fish
Specialities**

**Pure
Vegetarian
Food**



West End Hotel OPEN FROM 8 AM. TO 11.30 PM.

45, New Marine, Lines, Bombay -20. Tel 2039121, 2057484. Fax 91-22-2057506

To our dear Parsi Patrons



from

*Croissants
etc.TM*

ANDHERI

MANU BHARATI HSG. SOCIETY,
NEXT TO SHOPPER'S STOP,
ANDHERI (WEST),
PHONE : 6210231

7/BUNGALOWS

3, SEAGREEN APTS.,
RAHEJA COMPLEX,
7/BUNGALOWS,
VERSOVA, ANDHERI (WEST),
BOMBAY 400 061
PHONE : 6234218

LOKHANDWALA

SHOP NO.7,
SUNNY SIDE BLDG.,
LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX,
BOMBAY 400 058
PHONE : 6261832

BANDRA

NO. 5-6 PLUTO,
PERRY ROAD, BANDRA,
BOMBAY 0- 400 050
PHONE : 6425702

LINKING ROAD

MANGAL BHAVAN BLDG.,
BEHIND SATGURUS,
14TH ROAD, KHAR,
BOMBAY 400 049
PHONE : 6341506

NEW JUHU

SHOP NO. 17/18,
BEACH HAVEN BLDG., JUHU,
NEXT TO PALMGROVE HOTEL,
BOMBAY 400 049
PHONE : 6104372/6104371

JUHU TARA

SHOP NO.4, FIONA APTS.,
176, JUHU TARA ROAD,
NEXT TO SEA PRINCESS HOTEL,
BOMBAY 400 049
PHONE : 6104252

CHEMBUR

SUSWAGATAM,
OPP. DIAMOND GARDEN,
CENTRAL AVENUE ROAD,
CHEMBUR,
BOMBAY 400 071
PHONE: 5556679

VASHI

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

MALAD

OSCAR CLASSICS,
SHOP NO. 3,
40, LAURDES COLONY,
ORLEM-MALAD,
BOMBAY 400 064
PHONE 8619406

CHURCHGATE

AT KAMDARS,
INDUSTRIAL ASSURANCE BLDG.,
CHURCHGATE,
BOMBAY 400 020
PHONE : 2821066

WARDEN ROAD

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

PEDDAR ROAD

KIRAN VILLA,
30 PEDDAR ROAD,
GROUND FLOOR,
BOMBAY 400 026
PHONE : 3888239

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 Pheroza Shah Mehta Road, Bombay 400001, India
Tel: 2660214 2662950 after hours: 3644737
Fax: Bombay India 022-2662735-A/c 121

MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE BOOKS & EDUCATIONAL MATERIALS

DR. BEHRAMSHAH D. PITHAVALA'S NEW BOOK; IN SEARCH OF DIVINE LIGHT - COMPLETE EDITION.

Since 1977, MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE has been rendering yeoman service world wide to spread the knowledge of the ancient Mazdayasnie Zarathushtrian Daena, in simple English, for the benefit of present day generation of persons who are English speaking, and do not know the ancient Avesta and Pahlavi/Pazend languages in which our ancient religious books are written. The inner esoteric wisdom of the Divine Universal Natural Laws of Ahura Mazda, contained in the ancient books, was preserved by the Maghavs who reside in remote mountain regions around the Caspian Sea and southern Republics of ex-U.S.S.R. and Iran. This wisdom, giving joy to the soul, ILM E KHSNOOM was taught by the Maghavs to late **Ustad Saheb Behramshah Nowroji Shroff** during the Nineteenth Century, in Iran. In turn, he taught some part of this knowledge in Gujarati, to the Parsees in India, during the beginning of the 20th Century. At present in Russia the grand-son of Maghav family, is teaching this knowledge in Russian. **Paul Globa** and his wife **Tamara** are conducting the **ASHA-Avestan School of Astrology** to teach the Russian people the ancient Cosmic Wisdom.

During 1995, MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE has released two new publications. (1) **MAGHAVANS - OF IRAN & U.S.S.R** This book includes the translation from Russian into English by Mrs. Vera Dehadrai of the books by **Tamara Paul Globa**, about the Maghav families residing in certain locations in what was ex-U.S.S.R., and the Archeological excavations by the Khazakhstan State Archeologists of the ancient Temple Town observatory believed to have been constructed by the Peshdadian Monarch Jamshed Padshah, called **Arkaim**, south of the Ural mountains and north of the Caspian Sea.

(2) IN SEARCH OF DIVINE LIGHT (COMPLETE EDITION) BEHRAMSHAH D. PITHAVALA

This long awaited magnum opus of our respected leading Astrologer and scholar of Zoroastrian religion, **DR. BEHRAMSHAH D. PITHAVALA**, comprising of over six hundred closely packed pages of the previous volumes parts ONE & TWO & APPENDICES & NEW ADDITIONS makes this book a priceless Encyclopedia of useful knowledge for daily life practice for all English speaking Zoroastrians. Nirangs & Eesms contained in this book will miraculously help to solve all your personal, family, health and business problems. This book is worth gifting to your children and grand-children.

ALL MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE BOOKS ARE AVAILABLE BY DONATIONS, TAX EXEMPT UNDER SECTION 80G. OF THE I.T. ACT. PLEASE WRITE TO THE ABOVE ADDRESS TO RESERVE

YOUR COPIES IN ADVANCE.

OTHER BOOKS THAT ARE AVAILABLE IN XEROX OFFSET SOFT BINDING FORMAT ARE:

1. LIFE OF USTAD SAHEB BEHRAMSHAH NOWROJI SHROFF, WITH OUTLINE OF IRANIAN HISTORY AND ADVENT OF SHAH BEHRAM VARZAVAND SAHEB.
2. ELEMENTARY SERIES VOL-1, BIRD'S EYE VIEW OF ILM E KHSNOOM; ELEMENTARY SERIES VOL-2; SAROSH NI KHSNOOMAN NI KUSTI PRAYERS.
3. JZHIRUM - COSMOGENESIS 4. SUDREH LIGHT AND SOUND.
5. MEHER YAZAD.
6. KHOREH AURA.
7. ASHO SAROSH YAZAD.
8. ATASH & ATASHBEHRAMS ORIGINAL BINDING (GUJARAT ONLY).
9. RAINBOW COLORS OF LIGHT & MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA.
10. BOOKLET ON ASTRONOMY BY DR. MEHER MASTER-MOOS.

ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE THESIS:

1. AVESTA ENGLISH/ENGLISH/AVESTA DICTIONARY SET BY DR. PURVIZ KOLSAWALLA OF TWO BIG VOLUMES (HARD BOUND ONLY).
2. HOM YAZAD BY DR. PURVIZ KOLSAWALLA.
3. ZARATHUSTRIAN INFLUENCE & CULTURAL SPREAD IN SURROUNDING REGIONS OF IRAN VOL-1; BY DR. KEYOMARS F. KEYANIAN VOL. 2 & 3; ZOROASTRIAN PERSONALITIES THROUGHOUT THE WORLD BY REQUEST.
4. SPORTS MEDICINE BY DR. ALI IRANI.
5. THURSDAY'S DOCTOR SAHEB: a THESIS ON SPIRITUAL HEALING; BY DR. RTN. KHUBO GURSAHANI.
6. HELPFUL HINTS FOR HEALTH IN DAILY LIFE; BY DR. KAIKHUSHROO CHARGEMAN.
7. ASTROLOGY - THE PHYSICAL & MATERIAL IMPLICATION CAUSED BY COSMIC COMBINATIONS BY DR. P. KRISHNAMOORTHY IYER OF MALAYSIA.
8. HISTORY OF THE TRUE CROSS INTER FAITH PEACE DIALOGUE OF CHRISTIAN SASSANIAN IRAN BY DR. JEHANGIR R. MEDORA OF CANADA.
9. MILTON'S PARADISE LOST - THE ART AND ANGELOLOGY BY DR. MINEO MORITANI OF JAPAN.
10. MEDICAL ASTROLOGY BY DR. SUDHIR O. SHAH.
11. SURYA NAMASKAR YOGA FOR HEALTH BY DR. SHARAD P. NAYAMPALLY.
12. HOMOEOPATHIC TREATMENT OF KERATOCONJUNCTIVITIS SPRING CATARRH BY DR. SANDEEP SATHYE.
13. "COSMIC WISDOM" WITH UNIQUE AURA PHOTOGRAPHS IN COLOR OF "MONO CRYSTAL" HEALING METHOD - BY DR. MRS. NATALIYA SINGH OF RUSSIA.
14. EFFICACY OF KOREAN SU JOK ACUPUNCTURE UMP EFFECT FOR STABILISING SUBSTANCE - BY DR. YOO JEI YEONG OF KOREA.
15. NATIONAL LEPROSY ERADICATION PROGRAM - BY PROF. DR. A.R.K. PILLAI, PRESIDENT OF INDIAN LEPROSY FOUNDATION.
16. HERBAL THERAPY OF



IN SEARCH OF DIVINE LIGHT The Zarathushtrian Way



Complete Revised
Second Edition
Parts One & Two

BY
BEHRAM D. PITHAVALA

Published under
the auspices of the

**Mazdayasnie
Monasterie
1995**

BOVINE THEILERIOSIS BY - DR. RATNAKAR PRADHAN OF ORISSA. 17. THE ENVIRONMENTAL SPECTRUM BY - DR. S.R. JAYAVELU OF MADRAS. 18. HOMOEOPATHY & SPIRITUAL HEALING BY MRS. GIRIJA OF COIMBATORE. 19. PEACE IN THE MIDDLE EAST BY AHMED ABDULLAH OF JORDAN. 20. INTER FAITH PEACE DIALOGUE FOR THE CHURCHES (FRENCH ONLY) THESIS BY DR. FRANCIS DESSART OF BELGIUM.

BOOKS BY KARACHI AUTHORS - LATE MR. TEHMURAS SETHNA; ERVAD GODREJ, SIDHWA: & FAREDOON K. DADACHANJEE:

K.1. KHORDEH AVESTA. K.2. TEACHINGS OF ZARATHUSHTRA/GATHAS. K.3. YASNA K.4. VENDIDAD. K.5. INSTRUCTIONS ON ZOROASTRIAN RELIGION. K.6. YASHTS. K.7. DISCOURSES ON ZOROASTRIANISM BY ERVAD GODREJ SIDHWA. K.8. PARSEES ANCIENT & MODERN BY F.K. DADACHANJEE.

VIDEO CASSETTES:

1. MESSAGE OF ZARATHUSTRA: TWO CASSETTES OF 3 HOURS EACH SET.
2. PARAGNA & YASNA CEREMONIES: TWO CASSETTES OF 3 HOURS EACH SET.
4. CONVOCATIONS CEREMONIES OF ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE OF THE YEAR 1990, 1991, 1992, 1993, 1994, 1995, AND KARACHI 1989: SINGLE CASSETTE OF 3 HOURS EACH.
4. CASSETTES ON MEDICAL SUBJECTS - SINGLE CASSETTES EACH.
5. CASSETTES ON TAJIKISTAN AND IRANIAN HISTORY - IN PERSIAN.

AUDIO CASSETTES: (OVER 500)

Lectures given at the Z.C. in English by scholarly speakers on many topics including Zoroastrian Religion, Health, Interfaith Peace, Astrology etc. Detailed list available from office.

If you are hungry for knowledge there is a veritable feast awaiting you in the Books and Cassettes available through the Mazdayasnie Monasterie. Please write to the above address for further information.

ADVERTISEMENT

The integrity of the Arbab

Burjor K. Karanjia

The Memoirs of Keikhosrow Shahrokh edited and translated by Shahrokh Shahrokh and Rashna Writer. Published in 1994 by The Edwin Mellen Press, Box 450, Lewiston, New York, USA 14092-0450, The Edwin Mellen Press, Box 67, Queenston, Ontario, Canada L0S 1L0 and The Edwin Mellen Press Limited, Lampeter, Dyfed, Wales, UK SA48 7DY. Pp: xix + 230. Price: Not mentioned.

It is true, but almost unbelievable against the historical background of Zoroastrians fleeing from religious persecution in Iran to India's welcoming shores, that a remarkable Zoroastrian was the recipient, in no less a body than Iran's Parliament, of a compliment that should make all Zoroastrians proud. This Zoroastrian, Keikhosrow Shahrokh by name, could not become a minister in a theocratic state like Iran, but he held many responsible jobs including control of state funds and was in a sense for many years the right-hand man of Reza Shah, the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty. On one occasion when an important assignment was entrusted to him, some fanatical Muslims cast aspersions on his character for no other reason than that he was a non-Muslim. But a great religious scholar and speaker of the Majles, Muddaris, gave a devastating reply to the critics in one simple sentence: "In this Parliament there is but one real Muslim, and he is Arbab Keikhosrow Shahrokh."

Ms Rashna Writer and Keikhosrow's grandson Shahrokh Shahrokh have done a great service, therefore, by bringing these *Memoirs* to the notice of a wider audience. They have put the subjects in the original Farsi version (compiled by Dr Jehangir Oshidari) in chronological order, reorganized the structure of the narrative, provided chapter headings to make for easier reading, added explanatory notes to the too brief references to events and persons mentioned in the *Memoirs*, and provided

a table of historical events, a bibliography and an index.

Keikhosrow's fame and integrity have survived his death which took place, alas, in indigent circumstances. Muddaris's compliment was repeated years later by a recent ruler of Iran, Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, who, surrounded as he was by the staunchest and most fanatical of Muslim mullahs, was yet unable to find a person who could match Keikhosrow for honesty, integrity and truthfulness.

Keikhosrow emerges from his *Memoirs* as a simple, high-minded, God-fearing person who stuck to the straight and narrow path throughout his life. With charming simplicity, almost naivety, he begins his *Memoirs*: "I have commenced to write my *Memoirs* from the notes I have made, sitting in my room at the Einhorn Hotel in Baden Baden (Germany). By the grace of God I hope I might succeed. The major part of the *Memoirs* were written in Tehran, but for now, if God wills it, until I return to Tehran, I shall continue to write from memory to the best of my ability."

At a very young age, while studying at a village school, Keikhosrow was taught the *Avesta* and certain Zoroastrian prayers which, he admits, he used to recite like a parrot since his mother would keep a constant eye on him to ensure that he recited them regularly. Exposed later in life to other religions like Christianity and Islam, in addition to Zoroastrianism, the young Keikhosrow was troubled as to which religion he should choose for himself. But the choice was made for him by a higher power. Let Keikhosrow describe what happened in his own words: "One night, I pleaded with God (to give me an answer), and fell asleep. I had two distinct dreams. First of all, I dreamt that water had covered the whole world and that I was floating on top of it without being submerged. The



other dream was that my whole house was on fire, the flames rising above the roof, but nothing had burnt. I saw myself sitting in a kneeling position in the middle of the fire fully dressed in white, reciting the *Avesta* in accordance with Zoroastrian custom. The following morning I told my wife Firouzeh about my dream, and asked her to fetch my sedreh and koshti, which I put on immediately after having bathed."

Referring to the basic tenets of the Zoroastrian faith enshrined in the words *humata, hukhta, hvarashta*, Keikhosrow believed that if people followed these three, evil would cease to exist. At the same time, he heartily disagreed with those who argued that one of the virtues of Zoroastrianism is that it enjoins the good life and therefore forbids self-torture. According to him, self-torture refers to the spirit, not to the body, and to keep one's thoughts, words and deeds pure, is the severest test of the human spirit, and he who is able to observe this most exacting of commandments has no need whatsoever to torture his body in order to purify his soul.

What may interest and no doubt provoke Parsis in India are his views on the exposure of the dead to the sun in a dokhma on a mountain-top or to vultures in crowded cities. Nowhere in the Prophet Zarathushtra's teachings does he find specific instructions regarding disposal of the dead, except in the *Vendidad* where one particu-

lar section states that the dead should be placed on stone slabs and exposed to the sun. Keikhosrow believes that Zarathushtra, whose philosophy was based on logic and cleanliness, could hardly have countenanced the custom of dokhmas. As further evidence, Keikhosrow cites the remains of ancient buildings in which the dead were buried: The tombs of Cyrus, Darius, and those at Persepolis, Pasargadae, Naqsh-e Rostam, and at the entrance of some mountains in Kerman.

Keikhosrow is logical when he declares that if corpses were meant to be devoured by vultures, an area much larger and more open than the dakhma would have to be provided. If, further, one bears in mind Zarathushtra's teachings regarding non-pollution of the elements and plants, exposing the dead to vultures appears a most unhygienic practice. Placing dead bodies in these enclosures for several days, especially in the summer heat, quickens decomposition and spreads diseases, he notes. The shortage of vultures further aggravates the problem. Moreover, the very birds that devour the corpses are known to frequently drop pieces of these bodies in their flight, which is hardly in consonance with Zarathushtra's teachings. Incidentally, among the customs which he feels should

be rectified is the placing of the dead on an iron bier. He feels that if the body was put in a wooden coffin and then interred in the ground, decomposition would follow sooner.

"It was for this reason that I had set my mind on changing this procedure," writes Keikhosrow. "One day in 1935, when a number of us were on our way to Soleimanieh, in the south of Tehran, I noticed a green pasture at the foot of the mountain. I enquired what the place was, and was told it was 'Ghassr-e Firouzeh' (Firouzeh's Palace). We then went to the top of the hill, and there I saw an old palace building with its walls lined in beautiful ceramic tiles. There were two *ghanats* (subterranean streams), two large pools, and on the other side, a garden covered by trees. The land was one *farsakh* (about six kilometers) in length, a part of which formed the Royal hunting grounds. The whole area was surrounded by mountains on three sides. The view was beautiful. One could see the whole of Tehran and Shemiran (formerly a summer resort).

"Upon my return to Tehran, I made enquiries, since I had liked the place for several reasons. Firstly, my wish was fulfilled, as it was named Firouzeh, my late wife's name. Secondly, it was not more

than 10 kilometers from Tehran, with a built-up road leading to it. Thirdly, it was situated on high ground at the foot of the mountain and was suitable for our purposes. And fourthly, it had the potential for further development."

Thanks to the good offices of His Majesty Reza Shah Pahlavi, a site was sold to the community and Ghassr-e Firouzeh became the new cemetery. It housed a colonnaded structure for prayers, a reception hall and houses for nassessalars. Keikhosrow adds cryptically: "Some objections were raised by the Iran League (Bombay) and the Parsis to burial, as opposed to exposure now practised in Tehran, to which appropriate replies were given."

Next to religion, education was closest to his heart. He began by renovating his own village school, went on to establish three girls' schools and in his 10th year in Iran, with the help of rich members of the community, he built a big national school on modern lines in Kerman.

How he got the building of the school donated makes for an interesting story: "It was decided to request Arbab Jamshid Bahman Jamshidian to donate the building for a school. One night when I was playing backgammon with the Arbab at his estate, 'Jamshid-Abad,' I decided to make a bet

STERLING AND WILSON ELECTRICALS PVT LTD

Leading Electrical Engineers & Contractors

City 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 Chambers II
6, Bhikaji Cama Place, New Delhi 110066
Telephone: 608250, 6882454
Telex: 031-72291, SUPR IN
Fax: 6888878

Registered Office

70, Nagindas Master Road (Medows Street), Fort, Bombay 400023
Telephone: 2653287



Corporate Office:

Prop of: Taj Printing Works 46/A, Cawasji Patel Street, Fort, Bombay 400 001:

Tel: 2042432 ♦ 2854218 ♦ 2853058 ♦ 2853080 Telex: 011-75871 MPEL IN Fax: 022-2855325



M. PALLONJI & CO. PVT. LTD.

Leading Contractors for Industrial Painting and Coatings, Anti-Corrosion, Waterproofing, Construction, Diving, Dredging and Offshore Contractors
Members of S.S.P.C. (USA) & N.A.C.E. (USA)

PALLONJI INVESTMENT & FINANCE PVT. LTD.

Manufacturers of Waterproofing material

AquaEpoxy

Manufacturers of Longlasting Exterior coating material

Kenitex



TRAVOTEL (INDIA) PVT. LTD.

Hotel Maya Balrampur

Member of International Hotel Association & FHRAI

Situated at: Balrampur, Dist. Gonda, Uttar Pradesh 271 201.

Tel. No. STD 05263-32208/32507 FAX No: STD 05263-32508



PALLONJI LEASING PVT. LTD.

SEBI REGISTERED MERCHANT BANKER

Hire Purchase, Leasing & other Financial Services



PALLONJI COATINGS PVT. LTD.

Manufacturers of Industrial Paints, Primers & Sealants



STERLING MOTORS

Authorised Telco Dealers

For Nashik, Ahmednagar and Solapur

for **TATA** Passenger Cars and Commercial Vehicles
Sales, Service and Spare Parts

Main Dealership:

Old Agra Road, **NASHIK** 422 001. ☎ (0253) 78298 • 78598 FAX: (0253) 78598

Registered Office :

87, Abdul Rehman Street, Bombay 400 003. ☎ 343 6607 • 342 4150 • Gram : PALLONJIM



with him. It was our normal practice to play for fun, but on this particular night the Arbab was in good spirits and I got the idea of the wager. If I won, he would have to donate the building to the school; and if I lost, I would never again broach the subject of the school with him. Fortunately I won, and the following day he transferred the deeds to the school. Sometime later, on the occasion of his son's sedreh-push (navjote), I took the opportunity of asking him to donate the grounds adjacent to the school, to which he agreed. The school was known henceforth as 'Jamshid-e Djam.'"

As a social reformer, Keikhosrow fought against the social humiliations inflicted on Zoroastrians which bear a remarkable resemblance to those inflicted on untouchables in India. To give just a few examples, when visiting a Muslim home, Zoroastrians were expected to place the handkerchief or shawl they usually carried under their feet to prevent the Muslim's carpet from being defiled. Zoroastrians were not allowed to ride a horse, donkey or mule even when there were no other means of transport. While shopping in the bazaar, Zoroastrians were not allowed to touch any food or fruit, and so on. In fact, in Yazd more than in Kerman, the Muslims consi-

dered the persecution of the minorities a highly meritorious act assuring them of a coveted place in paradise. Keikhosrow would often intercede with governors and

**To keep one's
thoughts, words
and deeds pure, is
the severest test of
the human spirit**

others in authority on behalf of his coreligionists. As he wrote to his fellow Zoroastrians, "The road to progress and prosperity ought not to be the cause of fear and anxiety."

An important task Keikhosrow was assigned, by the Committee for the Preservation of National Heritage, was to locate the site of the grave of Hakim Ferdowsi, the renowned Iranian poet and the country's pride. When he discovered the site with the help of some French experts who had come to Iran for the specific purpose, it was decided to build a mausoleum in the poet's

honor which, on a suggestion made by Keikhosrow, was named 'Aramgah,' a place of rest. One day, visiting the construction site, His Majesty paused in front of the steps to the mausoleum and mused: "It seems Ferdowsi was a great man. After a thousand years, a man of Arbab Keikhosrow's stature has been put in charge of the construction and is the custodian of the work. Would one day that I am remembered in a similar way." It is interesting to record that some extremists in Iran found anti-Islam sentiments in some of Ferdowsi's work. It would seem that Salman Rushdie is in gallant company!

It was as a member of the Iranian Parliament that Keikhosrow played his greatest role. He spoke on diverse matters, the economy, government, law, protection of Iran's national interests, national heritage, etc. Facts and figures with reference to the Iranian budget were given on occasion and reflect his precision and care when dealing with his areas of responsibility, especially the protection of the nation's wealth. The Audit Office was his particular responsibility. He challenged members of the public to inspect the Audit Office's books, which he believed to be in perfect order. Answering frivolous objections raised by

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

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**

some fanatics, the Speaker of the Iranian Parliament was compelled to issue the threat that if Keikhosrow was not willing to continue with his services at the Audit Office, then he too as Speaker would resign from the House. Nevertheless, the recriminations continued. It was as if the nation did not yet recognize its true servants and thus did not show its appreciation. The main cause for this was corruption. As Keikhosrow lamented: "Those who serve with absolute honesty are not acknowledged, whereas some people with low incomes who are sent on assignments, return with thousands of toman in their pockets after which they are given more important assignments." The common perception was that he who did not make money as or when opportunity offered, by fair means or foul, was a fool. How true is this of India where institutions were first corrupted, then corruption itself was institutionalized, till today when the corrupt are actually deified and promoted to high offices of state.

Towards the evening of his life, court intrigues and jealousy of his outstanding achievements, sharpened by the fact that he did not belong to the faith, began to take their toll. Even the Shah, who had extended considerable cooperation to him in

the early years, was incited to turn against him. "I am dismayed," Keikhosrow cried, "that a person of his stature should abandon me at this crucial time in my life." In fact circumstances conspired to rob him of

"Progress and prosperity ought not to be the cause of fear and anxiety"

everything that he owned. What they could not rob him of was his dignity.

The Speaker of the Majles who had consistently stood by Keikhosrow brought his plight to the notice of His Majesty, suggesting that in view of this, his many years of service as member of Parliament be treated as government service and he be paid accordingly. His Majesty agreed, but little was done. Keikhosrow's last words betray no acrimony or ill-will, but only a profound sadness: "With much grief in my heart I write these notes. As a result of the events that have taken place, I have been left with nothing except debts. My main concern now is for the welfare of my wife

(his second wife) and children. Should anything happen to me before I return to Iran and rectify the situation, my family will be at God's mercy. His Imperial Majesty has always been very kind to me, and my hope is that once he discovers the truth he will resume the cordial relationship that once existed between us. I trust he will open the door of compassion to my family and me. If not, their only hope will be the compassion of our gracious God."

History projects the founder of the Pahlavi dynasty as an autocratic but benevolent monarch and a forceful personality. In these *Memoirs*, however, he emerges as a highly respected but easygoing and somewhat whimsical ruler, willing to lend his ear to all sorts of gossip, and thus vacillating between granting favors and then withdrawing them. The motivation of why Keikhosrow suddenly fell out of favor is not effectively brought out, robbing the *Memoirs* of the dramatic impact they might otherwise have had. Keikhosrow did return to Iran from Germany and, by God's grace, was able to set right his financial situation. What the *Memoirs* do reveal is a gentle and wise man who shed much lustre on Iranian soil and won for himself, if not Iran's gratitude, at least a place in Iran's history.

With compliments from

B. B. GARDA & SONS

10 B. J. Road
Poona 411001

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

This issue of *Parsiana* presents Milestones for the months of July and August 1995. Also included are 36 intercommunity marriages as registered at the Old Customs House and at the MHADA office in Bandra (East) for the six month period of March to August 1995. Four civil marriages between Zoroastrians have also been listed. However, names that could not be confirmed as Zoroastrian have been omitted from the list.

Only one Zoroastrian cremation was registered at the Chandanwadi crematorium between March and August 1995.

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 20 and 29 years, the arithmetic mean — the total number of individual ages divided by the total number of brides — being 24 years. The corresponding figures for the grooms were 22 and 36 years, averaging at 28 years.

Compared to 34 babies born in Bombay, there were 170 deaths during the two month period. Forty-nine Zoroastrians succumbed to heart disease of whom 17 were 80 years and above. The other major killers were pneumonia and lung disease (20), brain disease (15) and cancer (13). Old age and general debility claimed eight victims whereas kidney failure took a toll of seven and hypertension of six lives. Four patients each fell prey to Parkinson's disease and diabetes and three deaths each were attributed to septicemia, bronchitis, accident and gastro-intestinal bleeding. Dehydration, asthma and blood diseases were the causes of deaths for two patients each. There were 21 isolated cases registered: urinary tract infection, tuberculosis, pyogenic meningitis (formation of pus in the brain), liver disease, peritonitis (inflammation of the delicate, serous membrane which

lines the abdominal and pelvic cavities), haemorrhage, epilepsy, arthritis, tumor, asphyxia (suffocation) due to hanging, dysentery, anemia, uremia, fever, malaria, leprosy, haematoma (a swelling filled with blood), cerebral malaria, internal haemorrhage, hernia and haematemesis (vomiting of blood). Apart from five youths, aged 25, 27, 28, 30 and 38, two infants (one premature and one stillborn) were also lost to the community. The coroner's report was pending in the case of two deaths. The age range fluctuated between 25 and 102 years (apart from the neonates). The Zoroastrian life expectancy at birth for the two month period, in Bombay was 72 years.

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. 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. We are unable to carry data from areas where the anjumans do not furnish the particulars. 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.

Anklesaria; July 7
A girl to Shahnaz and Hormuzd Irani; July 7
A girl to Philomena and Hoshang Nagporwala; July 7
A girl to Avan and Farhad Tengra; July 7
A boy to Anahita and Burjis Mehta; July 8
A boy to Armaiti and Adil Adajania; July 10
A girl to Aban and Farrokh Nanavaty; July 15
A girl to Dilnawaz and Mehernoz Khambata; July 16
A boy to Minnie and Zarir Rao; July 16
A boy to Farida and Aresh Irani; July 19
A girl, Zara, to Gulshan and Ardeshir Contractor; July 18
A boy, Anosh, to Khureshan and Farhad Bharthania; July 20
A boy to Rashna and Camaji Cama; July 21
A girl to Thrity and Farokh Bhanja; July 25
A girl to Viloo and Khushroo Patel; July 31
A boy to Shirin and Rohinton Wadia; August 1
A boy to Kumi and Rusi Mistry; August 10
A boy to Vera and Cyrus Poonevala; August 11
A boy to Maharookh and Darayus Hozdar; August 12
A boy to Banoo and Maneck Udawadia; August 12
A girl to Rashna and Sorab Patel; August 13
A girl to Tanaaz and Gustad Homavazir; August 15
A girl to Tanaz and Karl Naoraji; August 16
A girl to Shernaz and Aspi Bulsara; August 20
A boy to Meher and Firdosh Katgara; August 21
A boy to Niloufer and Eric Taleyarkhan; August 21
A boy to Arnavaz and Percy Buhariwala; August 22
A boy to Jasmine and Pervaz Daruwalla; August 25
A boy, Neville, to Avan and Navzer Dadina; August 29
Twins (girls), Rukshin and Roshni, to Kamal and Marzban Vesuna; August 31

MARRIED
Kashmira Jilla and Uday Vijayan; March 3

Kamal B. Pardiwalla and Manzar A. Ajmerwala; March 5
Seema Dinesh Sheth and Kersi Homi Tangri; March 6
Moniza Bharucha and Suresh Bhandary; March 14
Mehrnaz Rashid Dehmiri and Rohinton Savak Merchant; March 23
Khurshid Pesi Daruwala and Sarosh Rohinton Motiwalla; March 25
Suneeta Palia and Manu Narula; March 28
Nawaz Marzbani and Paul Cardoz; April 9
Suzanne Dulcie Mendonsa and Fali F. Poncha; April 16
Kamal Dastoor and Sandeep Shanbhag; April 18
Jer E. Daruwalla and Animesh R. Chanchani; April 20
Sabrina Marsh and Jimmy Dadiba Cooper; April 20
Shahnaz Bakshay and Vikrant Kapoor; April 20
Minoo Patel and Leonard Mullins; April 22
Puja Chaddha and Percy F. Unwalla; April 22
Farida D. Batliwalla and Arif K. Zariwalla; April 29
Nazneen Mody and Leroy Fernandes; May 4
Mumtaz Shamsuddin Mithani and Aspi Fali Makuna; May 6
Rajeshwari Sethumadhav and Farhad Pervis Sethna; May 6
Rebeca Gitanjali Shamulu and Bahadur Sam Dastoor; May 12
Amita Anant Marathe and Hormuzd Hoshang Desai; May 12
Shernaz Sarosh Balsara and Venkatesh Raghunath Dhond; May 17
Sumana Basu and Noshir Rusi Spencer; May 26
Nirmala Verdin D'Souza and Jamshed Dadi Banaji; June 1
Priya Taori and Percy M. Batliwalla; June 6
Josephine Raiappa and Percy Homi Gandevia; June 12
Natash Kanga and Zunayed Kamal; June 12
Arwa Eranpurwala and Umesh Chamdia; June 15
Susan Joseph and Shapoor Sorabji Hadvaid; June 16
Navaz S. Pithawalla and Milind S. Sattur; June 26
Farzana Khudamurad Namiryan of Poona and

ALLAHABAD

MARRIED

Kamalrukh K. Sutaria and Hanoze R. Sagar on July 8, 1995

BOMBAY

BORN

A boy, Shahzad, to Kashmira

and Mehernosh Khajotia; March 1

A girl to Kainaz and Farokh Bharucha; July 4

A girl to Nina and Edul Dhondy; July 4

A girl to Nilufer and Rohinton Bharucha; July 6

A boy to Maharukh and Neville

With Best Wishes



From
TPK

Faramroz Feroze Irani of Poona; July 3
Shernaz Dinshaw and Mishal Varma; July 3
Kerban Anklesaria and Jayaprakash Sen; July 5
Shirin N. Zaveri and Gaurav D. Sharma; July 6
Karin Sam Saklatwalla and Zubin Nariman Bamji; July 9
Rukhshana Fali Tavadia and Ronnie Adi Mehta of Vasai; July 9
Maharukh Jokhi and Percy D. Rana; July 27
Ruby Minoo Sethna and Narayandas Shahdudpuri; July 27
Pearl Minoo Marfatia and Cyrus Burjor Italia; August 8
Farnaz Framroze Palkhivala and Shaikh Farooq Shaikh Nageer Ahmad; August 9
Carol Theresa Drego and Merzi Parakh; August 11
Dilnavaz Bahadur Bacha and Shahrukh Rusi Talati; August 11
Ashish Nozer Balsara and Nuruddin Sudruddin Pethani; August 14
Hoofrith Jamshed Jijibhoy and Rumi Padam Daruwala; August 25

Sarvar Sarosh Sassani and Rohinton Rusi Jaorewala; August 28
Soumya Parameswara Komaroth and Cyrus Maneckshaw Khambata; August 28

DIED

Cawas Behramji Bharucha (93), residing at East and West Court, Colaba, 400039; July 1
Nergish Kersi Karkaria (50), Gopal Mans, Turner Rd, Bandra, 400050; July 1
Dosabhoj Kaikhushroo Mody (73), 14, Puspa Vihar Bldg No 1, Opp Colaba P.O., 400005; July 1
Roshen Hoshi Unwala (49), 103, Aderbad, Hughes Rd, 400007; July 1
Najamai Naorojee Jasawala (94), Annexe 3, Patel Clny, Dahisar (E), 400068; July 3
Sheran Burjorji Mehta (79), Ali Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; July 3
Jamshed Fakirji Badshaw (70), 613, Dinshaw Bldg, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; July 4
Dhanjishaw Dadabhai Panthaki (62), 4/8, Panthaki Baug, H. S.

Rd, Andheri (E), 400069; July 4
Kaikhushroo Fardoonji Mistry (81), 1103, Mazgaon Towers, Mazgaon, 400010; July 5
Noshir Faramroze Cooper (65), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; July 6
Pallonji Jamshedji Master (69), 800, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; July 6
Phiroze Cawasji Pithawala (65), F/7, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; July 6
Dhanjisha Behramji Satarawala (68), Nicholson Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo Rd, 400034; July 6
Sohrab Nusserwanji Vania (70), 786, Readymoney Bldg, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; July 6
Avan Minoo Bativala (77), Mani Villa, M. Pasta Rd, Dadar, 400014; July 7
Coomi Soli Chanduwadia (75), 12, Lentin Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; July 7
Jamshid Munchershaw Jall (67), 5, Jehangir Baug, Juhu, 400049; July 8
Goolu Bahadur Mistry (62), 18/C, Gilder Lane, 400008; July 8
Dinbai Cawasji Cooper (95), Kaka Block, Marzban Clny,

Gilder Lane, 400008; July 11
Banoo Jamshed Chhoga (70), A-1-51, Adarsh, 502, Yashodham Enclave, Goregaon (E), 400063; July 12
Rumi Dinshaw Dastur (50), 513, Bombay Market, Tardeo, 400034; July 12
Soli Kaikobad Joshi (65), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; July 13
Zubin Noshir Kudianiwalla (25), Plot no 96, Radhe-Shyam Ki Chawl, Kherwadi, Bandra (E), 400051; July 13
Viraf Jamsap Vania (66), J-3, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; July 13
Minoo Bapuji Bhagat (79), Doctor Bldg, 149/A, Warden Rd, 400036; July 14
Minoo Bomanshaw Dadina (70), F. E. Dinshaw Bldg, Dr Cawasji Hormusji St, Dhobitalao, 400002; July 14
Maneksha Jehangirji Porbandarwalla (74), A/3, Akash Apts, Old Bombay Agra Rd, Thane (W), 400601; July 14
Khorshed Rustom Surty (80), 11, Albless Bldg, Zoroastrian Clny, Chikalwadi, Tardeo, 400007; July 14
Ardesir Jehanbex Lakdawala

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, 4147271
 Fax: 4137729

With best wishes
from
Nergish and Soli J. Arceivala

With Best Compliments From

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

(81), C-29, Malbari Bldg, New Khareghat Clny, Babulnath Rd, 400007; July 15
Behram Ardesher Vandrevalla (66), D-38/3, Godrej Hillside Clny, Pirojsha nagar, L. B. S. Marg, Vikhroli, 400079; July 15
Khurshed Pestonji Cooper (91), 808, Khushnum, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; July 16
Dinaz Pesi Mistry (64), 7C-2, Tata Clny, Tardeo, 400034; July 16
Homai Hormusji Mody (88), Q-8, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; July 16
Hilla Faramroze Bhiwandiwalla (74), 30, Azad Ngr Co-op Soc, Veera Desai Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; July 17
Soli Burjor Cooper (94), 5A, Saahil Apts, Altamount Rd, 400026; July 17
Eruch Minocher Karanjia (62), 44/D2, Batliwala Villa, Noshir Bharucha Marg, 400007; July 17
Tehmina Minocher Antia (80), 16/4, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012; July 18
Khushroo Phiroze Chinoy (46), 518, Jehangir Mans, Mahajan Rd, Matunga, 400019; July 18

Phiroza (Pilloo) Santook Davar (79), 6, Babulnath Rd, 400007; July 18
Homi Dadabhai Karanjia (86), 12A, Tardeo Court, 251, Tardeo Rd, 400007; July 18
Alloo Ferdoon Mehta (89), 686, Vevai Villa, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; July 18
Jehangir Nadirsha Nowrojee (70), Master Chmbs, Dhobitalao, 400020; July 18
Katy Phiroze Bhathena (69), 2, Udharam Hse, Santosh Ngr, 98/C, Hill Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; July 19
Perin Naval Parekh (84), 504, Cumballa Crest, Off Pedder Rd, 400026; July 20
Baby girl of Diana Jehangir Sethna (stillborn), 19/3, Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; July 20
Bapai Dhunjisha Siganporia (65), B-17, Deepanjali, Raji Shahaji Marg, Vile Parle (E), 400057; July 20
Freni Shapoorji Bhavnagri (84), Cheda-Sadan, 115, Churchgate Recl, 400020; July 21
Burjor Jivanjee Ghorkhodoo (68), F/9, Evershine II, Versova

Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; July 21
Motu Homi Kalyaniwalla (75), 41, Subh Nivas, Karelwadi, Thakurdwar, 400002; July 21
Gool Jamshed Kothavala (79), 501, Green Gates, 693, Perry Cross Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; July 21
Rati Fali Engineer (76), 2/A, Petit Bldg, Petit St, Grant Rd, 400007; July 22
Maneck Cawasji Madon (83), 5, Vijay Niwas, Above Grant Rd Post Office, N. Bharucha Marg, 400007; July 23
Savak Hoshang Merchant (72), 8/386-B, Jagmohandas Bldg, Chira Bazar, J. S. Rd, 400002; July 23
Goolbanoo Pirojshaw Shroff (94), Dosibai Home, Masina Hosp Comp, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; July 23
Edal Sorabji Digaria (77), 1/A, Capadia Bldg No 5, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; July 24
Perin Kersi Kapadia (82), Amin Villa, 65, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; July 24
Dhun Byramjee Hormusjee (92), 4, Gazdar Hse, 45,

B. Desai Rd, 400026; July 24
Tehmi Burjor Patel (79), Saraswati Bldg, Anand Ngr, Navghar, Vasai, 401201; July 24
Gower Jahangir Irani (88), Masoli, Dahanu, Tal Dahanu, Dist Thane, 401601; July 26
Freny Rustamji Pastakia (85), 56, Botawalla Bldg, Bomanji Master Rd, Dhobitalao, 400002; July 26
Daisy Rusi Patel (57), C/28, Gilder Baug, J. B. Ngr, Andheri (E), 400059; July 26
Nariman Dadabhai Elavia (76), Burjor Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; July 27
Tehmursp Boman (Bomanshaw) Elavia (79), 2, Engineer Bldg, 11, Lady Pochkhanavala Rd, 400007; July 27
Dolatbanoo Sorabjee Master (87), 45, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; July 27
Homi Rustomji Taraporewalla (79), 1, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; July 27
Keki Burjorji Commissariat (84), 804-A, Ghamat Lodge, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; July 28
Pherozshah Kaikhusru Irani

WITH
 BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

SOFT-HEARTED 'WIBS' BREAD

WESTERN INDIA BAKERS' PRIVATE LIMITED
 KHODADAD BUILDING, 100 D'LIMA STREET
 DOCKYARD ROAD, BOMBAY 400010

WITH THE BEST COMPLIMENTS OF

GHARDA CHEMICALS LIMITED



A MARK OF QUALITY, COURAGE & COMMITMENT

RESEARCH-BASED PRODUCTS MANUFACTURED BY GHARDA

PESTICIDE INTERMEDIATES:

Cypermethric Acid
Cypermethric Acid Chloride
Ortho Phenylene Diamine

VETERINARY BULK DRUGS:

Oxyclozanide & Rafoxanide

PESTICIDES/ AGROCHEMICALS:

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

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

Regd. Office: 48 Hill Road, Bandra (W), Bombay 400 050 Tel: 6422173, 6422230, 6426852 Tlx: 011-71658 GCPL IN
Fax: 91-22- 6404224 Gram: GHARDACHEM

Factory: MIDC Ind. Estate, Plot No. B-29, Dombivli, Dist. Thane Tel: 0251-465216-20 Tlx: 0135-208 GCPL IN

Factory: D1/2 MIDC Lote Parshuram, Tal. Khed, Pin 415 728, Dist. Ratnagiri Tel: (02356) 72018, 72252, 72254 (Lote), Tlx: 0190-7207 GCL IN

(91), Ram Baug, V. N. Purav Marg, Deonar, 400088; July 28
Jal Lovji Mody (69), 3, Chaman Chmbs, Cinema Rd, 400020; July 28
Aloo Rustomji Oomrigar (92), P-16, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; July 28
Dinbai Framroj Sanjana (87), K-2, Dalal Est, Lamington Rd, Bombay Central, 400008; July 28
Parvez Fardoon Baria (60), Pundol Bldg, Sleater Rd, 400007; July 29
Navajbai (Najamai) Hormusji Limjerwala (102), 14, New Satnam Co-op Hsg Soc Ltd, Parsiwada, Sahar Rd, 400099; July 30
Behram Ardeshir Mistry (30), 28, Old Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; July 30
Ivy Keki Munshi (62), Chedda Sadan, 115, Backbay Recl, 400020; July 30
Banoo Paloonji Hiloowala (72), 68, Roshan Mhl, Sleater Rd, 400007; July 31
Pirojsha Maneckji Mody (75), Navaz Mans, S. B. Singh Rd, Colaba, 400039; July 31
Homai Narayan Pradhan (62), 21, Mehr Naz, Cuffe Parade, 400005; July 31 (cremated)

Thrity Homi Thanawala (66), 504-A, Chaya, Swami Samarth Ngr, Andheri (W), 400053; July 31
Godrej Aderji Vania (75), 8, Narielvala Bldg, M. M. C. Rd, Mahim, 400016; July 31
Alamai Merwan Irani (79), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 1
Minocher Dosabhai Shroff (86), Nergish, Edalji Rd, Charia, Thane 400601; August 1
Maneck Hormusji Thanewalla (88), Meher Villa, S. V. Rd, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 1
Tehmuras Rustomji Appoo (82), Jain Laxmi Mans, Lamington Rd, Opp Navjivan Soc, 400008; August 2
Soonamai Edulji Chikhliwala (91), 35/36-1/A, Tata Mills Co-op Hsg Soc, Elphinstone Rd, Parel, 400012; August 2
Freny Behram Petigara (63), N/38, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 2
Kety Kaikhushroo Daver (74), F-15, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 3
Tehmuras Maneckshaw Engineer (80), 8/6, Khan Est, Chottani Rd, Mahim, 400016; August 3

Jeanie Kaikhushroo Shroff (87), Patel Palace, 580, Jame-Jamshed Rd, Matunga, 400019; August 4
Piroja Marzban Billimoria (85), G-19, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 5
Maneck Hirjibhai Bhathena (62), Bode Bldg, Gilder Lane, Marzban Clny, 400008; August 6
Soonoo Hiraji Kapadia (66), Baria Bldg, Corner of Grant Rd, Near Delhi Durbar, 400004; August 6
Nariman Rustomji Gandhi (78), 15-16/3, Panthaki Baug, Andheri (E), 400069; August 7
Dara Nadirshaw Khursigara (55), 31, Shantivilla, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 7
Piloo Cowasji Master (64), Sheridon Hse, Gowalia Tank Rd, 400036; August 7
Temina Nariman Chapgar (81), 8, Mehta Bldg, Panthaki Baug, Andheri (E), 400069; August 8
Nariman Darabshaw Mistry (57), 6/9, Tata Clny, Tardeo Rd, 400034; August 8
Jal Kharshedji Bharocha (88), 524, Commissariate Bldg, Adenwala Rd, Matunga, 400019; August 9

Dina Fakirji Boyce (86), D-15, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 9
Dossan Ruttonji Korwal (83), 79, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 9
Sohorab Edulji Meherji (77), 12/6, Wadia Blocks, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 9
Bahadur Ratanshah Pardiwala (65), Kismet Bldg, 48, Carter Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; August 9
Nariman Nassarwanji Umrigar (65), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 9
Homai Hoshang Bengali (61), 42, Aderbad, 34, Hughes Rd, 400007; August 10
Katy Behram Bharucha (44), 627, Dubash Bldg, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 10
Tehmuras Gustadji Guzder (63), 35, Karelwadi, Thakurdwar Rd, 400002; August 10
Rati Bomansha Marker (85), 534, Marker Hse, Chira Bazar, 400002; August 10
Khushru Jehangir Readymoney (38), Bela Court, 70, Wodehouse Rd, Colaba, 400005; August 10

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

TODAY ISO 9002.

TOMORROW THE IMPOSSIBLE.

Grindwell Norton has proved once again what it had known all along. That nothing is impossible when people work as one.



This is certainly an achievement to be proud of. But what makes us prouder is the inspiring story of how 800 people who determined that they

On March 3, 1993, BVQI, the world-renowned quality standards organisation, awarded the prestigious ISO 9002 certification to Grindwell Norton's Bonded Abrasives Plant at Mora. For its entire range of bonded abrasive products.

would go all out to get the certification - no matter how impossible the task. They took it up as a challenge. They worked days. And nights. Going far beyond the call of duty.

With this ISO 9002 certification, Grindwell Norton has become the first abrasives manufacturer in India to have won this award and has clearly established itself as the undisputed leader in abrasives in India and world-class in quality.

That's what Grindwell Norton is celebrating today. The spirit of oneness. The belief in the magic of togetherness. And this is what will take Grindwell Norton a long way in its continuing quest for excellence.



NORTON

GRINDWELL NORTON LTD.

Bombay • Bangalore • Baroda • Calcutta • Coimbatore • Delhi • Faridabad • Hyderabad • Indore
Jaipur • Jamsbedpur • Kanpur • Ludhiana • Madras • Mora • Nagpur • Pune • Rajkot • Ranchi • Tirupati

Furokh Phiroz Tavaria (80), F-5, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; August 10
Gool Firoze Bhagwagar (59), 3/X-82, Godrej Stn Rd Clny, Pirojsha Ngr, Vikhroli (E), 400079; August 11
Pilloo Merwanji Billimoria (85), 168, Pardiwala Bldg, Fort, 400001; August 11
Maneck Furdoonji Ghista (80), N/11, Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; August 11
Mani Jal Katgara (87), 2, Lady Ratan Tata Bldg No 3, S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400050; August 11
Parvin Naval Patel (41), 8, C. D. Sethna Bldg, 1170, Golanji Hill Rd, Parel, 400012; August 11
Eruch Pestonji Rana (85), 808, Aimaye Manzil, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Dadar T.T., 400014; August 11
Dinamai Meherji Aria (91), 723, Dinsha Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 12
Soonamai Sohrabji Cama (79), Edward Bldg, Lamington Rd, 400007; August 12
Gustad Dinshaw Sidhwa (75), Ackworth Leprosy Home, Wadala, 400031; August 12
Minoo Nariman Cama (50),

D'Mello Chawl, Agashi-Vasai, Dist Thane, 401201; August 13
Homi Shapurji Elavia (66), 66B, Motiwala Mans, Gowalia Tank, 400036; August 13
Gool Hormasji Randelia (84), Todywalla Bldg, 28, Sun Mill Rd, Lower Parel, 400013; August 13
Najoo Phiroze Adrianwalla (78), 9, Sagar Sahawas, Golf Links Rd, Khar-Danda, 400052; August 14
Daulat Pirojshaw Bhagwagar (65), 696-A, Dinsha Master Rd, Dadar, 400014; August 14
Adi Rustomji Billimoria (74), Brightland Plaza, Nallasopara (W), Dist Thane 401203; August 14
Rushi Kekobad Elavia (58), 2/500, Diwanji's St, Rustampura, Surat, 395002, August 14
Nergesh Hormusji Irani (86), 207, Alpaiwalla Bldg, Dr Cawasji Hormasjee St, Dhobitalao, 400002; August 14
Darabshaw (Dali) Shapurji Kanga (82), 12, Patel Bldg, Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; August 14
Jer Homi Lakdawala (66), 5/9, Khan Est, M. M. C. Rd, Mahim, 400016; August 14

Kersas Sorabji Mehta (73), A/6, Captain Clny, Tardeo Rd, 400034; August 14
Kersi Dinshawji Mistry (64), 11/10, Sir Ratan Tata Clny, Tardeo, 400034; August 14
Mani Phiroze Engineer (92), 804/A, Ghamat Lodge, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; August 15
Mota Behram Irani (86), 7, Jehangir Mans, Anandilal Podar Marg, 400020; August 15
Cyrus Rustomji Vesavevala (54), Gustad Mans, 224, J. Dadajee Rd, 400007; August 15
Meher Kaikhushro Dotivala (83), 511/A, Ratan Mans, R. P. Masani Rd, Matunga, 400019; August 16
Freny Palanji Nargolia (Panthaky) (75), N/31, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; August 16
Jal Merwanji Katrak (73), 32, Khan Bldg, New Khareghat Clny, Babulnath Rd, 400007; August 17
Jer Dara Patel (65), 7, Doctor Bldg No 2, Panthaky Baug, Andheri (E), 400069; August 17
Vispi Gustad Divecha (27), 209, Aria Bldg, P. D'Mello Rd, Fort, 400001; August 18
Edulji Maneckji Kotwal (83),

422/A, Dubash Bldg, Novelty Cinema Lane, Grant Rd, 400007; August 18
Banoo Temulji Mistry (89), 47, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; August 18
Naja Eruch Nanavaty (73), 6, Avasia Hse, 8, Darabsha Lane, Off Nepean Sea Rd, 400026; August 19
Banoobai Kaikobad Palkhiwalla (90), C/o Mr Battiwala, Jer Mans, Soonaij Agiary Lane, Gowalia Tank, 400036; August 19
Dinshaw Hirjibhoy Bharucha (71), D/19, Malegamwalla Bldg No 2, Mahim, 400016; August 20
Dhanmai Nadirshaw Daruwalla (93), 33, Capadia Bldg No 5, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; August 20
Baby boy of Diana Porus Daver (stillborn), Khareghat Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; August 20
Eruch Pestonji Duppatawala (77), 667, Dhanmai Bldg, Lady Jehangir Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 20
Framroze Manchershah Khambhata (78), 18, Surti Chmbs, 2nd Dhobitalao Lane, 400002; August 20

**With Best Wishes
from**

Mr Rusy M. Shroff, M.B.E.

and

Mrs Purviz R. Shroff

With best compliments from

**M. N. DASTUR & COMPANY
LIMITED**

Consulting Engineers

Calcutta, Bombay, New Delhi, Madras, Hyderabad,
Bhubaneswar, Bangalore

Alloo Homi Mistry (91), Sea View, Carter Rd, Bandra, 400050; August 20
Perin Phiroze Engineer (74), 7/C, Captain Clny, Tardeo, 400034; August 21
Dolly Jamshedji Khansaheb (60), A/25, Sai Ashirwad, B. P. Rd, Bhayander (E), Dist Thane, 401201; August 21
Amy Jamshed Mehta (65), 16, Todywala Bldg, 28, Sun Mill Rd, Lower Parel, 400013; August 21
Burjor Pirojshah Mistry (79), 647, Gai Bldg, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 21
Aloo Jehangirji Amra (65), 79, M. B. Hse, Janmabhoomi Marg, Fort, 400001; August 22
Sheroo Behram Bharucha (74), 725, Khurshed Mhl, Dinsha Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 22
Sohrab Naoroji Billimoria (82), 4/47, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; August 22
Behruz Hoshang Irani (28), 15, N. M. Petit Widows' Chwl, 133, Old Mody St, Fort, 400001; August 22
Maneck Sorabji Merchant (89), B-47, Gool Mhl, Sleater Rd,

400007; August 22
Khorshed Dinshaw Patel (85), 730, Jehangir Vimadlal Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 22
Homi Dosabhai Tangri (60), Fiona, 502, Juhu Tara Rd, Santacruz (W), 400049; August 23
Peshotan Maneckji Cooper (55), 21, Patel Apts, Jambli Naka, Thane, 401201; August 24
Aspi Dossabhoj Cooper (57), 6, Rustomjee Mahalaxmiwala Bldg, 17, Sleater Rd, 400007; August 25
Homi Jehangir Lelinwala (80), The Reward, Tardeo, 400007; August 25
Gool Cawasji Bilimoria (83), B/2, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; August 26
Erachshaw Fakirji Elavia (79), E/1, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; August 26
Nergish Noshir Rana (86), 4/44, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; August 26
Cowasji Dhunjibhoj Batliwala (77), 20, Anand Bhuvan, Carmichael Rd, 400026; August 28
Faramroze Ratanji Bhadha

(65), Vaspar, 613, Patel Clny, Jamnagar, 361008; August 30
Perin Rustomji Mogul (84), 674, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; August 30
Rustom Burjor Aga (87), 81, Dev Chaya, Haji Ali, Tardeo Rd, 400034; August 31
Jal Aderji Katgara (97), Lady Ratan Tata Bldg, Turner Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; August 31
Jehangir Meherji Pithawalla (58), 9/5, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculia, 400027; August 31

CALCUTTA

DIED
Jamshed Shiavax Banker, June 15
Katy Ghyara, wife of Minoo and mother of Adil; July 20
Freny Homi Engineer, sister of Khorshed Nariman, Cawas, Hosie and late Nergis and Katy; August 11
Silla Daroga, wife of Souli and mother of Hufrih D'souza, Roshan Shinn and Kersi; August 23
Colajee Motabhoj Guzdar, brother of Phiroze and late Kersi, Nari, Fali and Saker Savak Mehta; August 28

NAVSARI

DIED
Shirinbai Nariman Desai (86), mother of Kersi, Mehroo and Nergish; May 31

POONA

DIED
Dolly Rashid Engineer (77), E/8, Hermes Park, 30, Bund Garden Rd, 411001; July 25
Mani Hormazdiar Dastur (62), 826/C, Canning Rd, 411040; July 29
Feroze K. Khambatta (70), 4, Jubilee Rd, 411001; July 29
Piroja Mancherji Pithawala (84), 943, Nanapeth, 411002; August 9
Dhunmai Dinshaw Elavia (69), K. P. Towers I, Fatima Ngr, 411013; August 11
Mani Faramroze Engineer (88), 8, Kunjiban, Hari Krishna Rd, 411016; August 21
Behram Jehangir Katrak (72), Mody Clny, Synagogue St, 411001; August 25

SECUNDERABAD

DIED
Rustom Jehangir Bisney (80), July 26

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

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**

SURAT**DIED**

Dosabhai Dadabhai Variava (96), Bhavnagri St, 395003; July 3
Minochar Nariman Parekh (78), Katargam, Darwaja, 395003; July 8
Pesi Eruchsha Morena (55), Bage Padsha Bldg, Maachlipith, 395002; July 21
Roshan Kawasji Bhathena (72), Dela St, Rustampura, 395002; July 22
Mehramai Homi Shroff (80), Village Bhatha, Dist Surat, 394510; August 1
Najamai Jamshedji Kharas (80), Village Nugama, Dist Mandvi, 370465; August 10
Manackshaw Faramroz Chiniwala (69), Nariman Home and Infirmary, Shahpore, 395003; August 18
Keki Darabshaw Lavangia (55), Nanpura, 395001; August 19
Minoo Jalejer Mir (22), Vakil St, Shahpore, 395003; August 19
Sarosh N. Bhathena (70), Sayedpura, 395003; August 22

CANADA**Alberta****BORN**

A girl, *Alycia Farida*, to *Phiroza* and *Chris Sherback*; May 31

Vancouver**MARRIED**

Atousa Souroshi and *Peyman Nadiri*; May 28
Rashna Junvanwala, daughter of *Ketty* and *Jal* of Surat, India and *Neville Doodha*, son of *Jer* and *Pesi* of Gandevi, India; August 12

GERMANY**Dusseldorf****BORN**

A boy, *Arvaan*, to *Frenaz* and *Kersi Mogrelia*; June 9

PAKISTAN**Karachi****BORN**

A boy, *Noshirwan*, to *Rashna* and *Percy Gazder*; July 10

DIED

Jal Faramji Khumbatta (98); May 25
Mehroo Jehangir Makujina (88); June 7

Rustom (Bob) M. Bamboat (85);

June 11

Khorshed Nariman Golwala

(90); June 14

Ardeshir Dadabhoy Bhujwalla

(78); June 15

Dhunmai Homi Spencer (92);

June 17

Perin Sohrab Katrak (72);

June 24

Coomi Fardoon Appoo (69);

June 29

Ardeshir Kawasji Arjani (82);

July 1

UK**London****BORN**

A boy, *Cyrus*, to *Nancy* and

Kerman Dholoo, brother to

Farzan; March 23

A girl, *Zahra*, to *Dina* and

Perosha Tengra, sister to

Xerxes; April 16

A girl, *Roxanne*, to *Shehnaz*

and *Dorab Mistry*, sister to

Tina and *Sherie*;

April 29

A boy, *Pervez*, to *Shernaz* and

Malcolm Batki, brother to

Natasha and *Farzan*; May 12

A boy, *Darius*, to *Niloufer* and

Kobad Byramji, brother to

Dinyar; May 16

MARRIED

Rukhshana Bilimoria and

Perses Sethna, son of *Roshan*

and *Cawas* of Hemel

Hempstead, Hertfordshire;

May 21

Roshni Talati of Mitcham,

Surrey, daughter of *Parin* and

Rustom and *Cyrus Mistry* of

Kinsbury, son of *Silloo* and *Jal*;

June 3

Roda Kershi Munshi of Cardiff,

Wales and *Farhad Sethna*

of Harrow, Middlesex,

son of *Shireen* and *Darius*;

June 11

Kaizarin Mistry, daughter of

Parviz and *Firoze* and *Maneck*

Kalifa, son of *Nargis* and

Minoo; July 28

DIED

Maneck Framroze Mehta (82),

father of *Rukhshana* and

Freddie and brother of *Pheroze*;

June 29

USA**Bloomington, Illinois****MARRIED**

Zarina Mullan, daughter

of *Linda* and *Sohrab*

and *James Plath*;

August 11

SAL MUBARAK 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 the compliments of

**N. S. Guzder
& Co. Ltd.**

Neville House
Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038

Campbell, California**MARRIED**

Shermin Sorabji, daughter of Villy and Rusi and *Joseph De Biase Jr*; June 18

Chicago, Illinois**BORN**

A boy, *Rustom*, to *Beverly and Rohinton Engineer*, brother to *Kashmira*; July 12

Clarksville, Tennessee**BORN**

A boy, *Rustam*, to *Kayomin and Minoo Wadia*; August 1

Dallas, Texas**DIED**

Parvis Iranpour, husband of *Farin*, father of *Neda* and *Pooya*; July 20

Elko, Nevada**MARRIED**

Mahvash Kaboly-Zadeh of Vancouver, British Columbia, daughter of *Mehrbai* and *Aflatoon* and *Khodadad Kaviani* of Tacoma, Washington, son of *Banoo* and *Khodabaksh*; April 24

Houston, Texas**BORN**

A boy, *Cyrus*, to *Rashna* and *Jehangir Mistry*; April 20

TOTALS FOR 1995

	Bombay		India		World	
	A	B	A	B	A	B
BORN						
Boys	18	67	—	4	8	17
Girls	17	57	—	3	4	11
MARRIED						
Parsi	10	171	1	3	7	10
Intercommunal	36	61 [^]	—	—	2	8
DIED						
CONSIGNED						
Male	87	319	12	58	7	18*
Female	82	304	12	54	6	23*
CREMATED						
Male	—	2	—	—	—	—
Female	1	1	—	—	—	—

A: Total numbers in this issue

B: Running totals for 1995 (February-March 1995-July-August 1995 issues)

[^] Males married out -- 27

Females married out -- 34

* Overseas deaths are listed in the consigned column as *Parsiana* does not have a breakup of those cremated.

These figures pertain to information provided to or collected by *Parsiana*. They do not represent the total number of births, marriages and deaths in the Zoroastrian community in India and abroad.

A girl, *Rhea*, to *Anita* and *Zeris Kavina*; May 30

DIED

Navaz Challa, mother of *Rustom* and *Noshir*; June 4

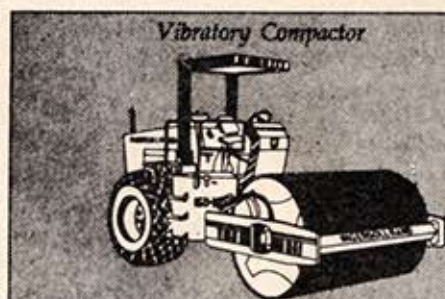
New York, N.Y.**DIED**

Noshir Kerghamwala (71); March 29

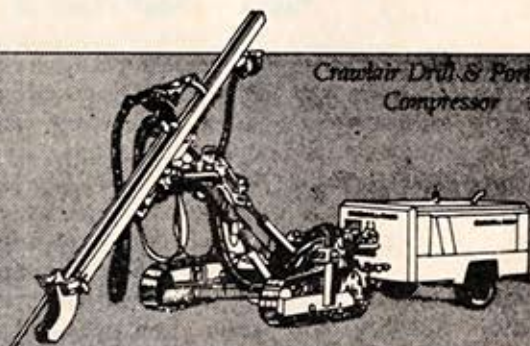
CORRECTION

Jerbanoo Meherwanji Majord died in Poona on April 29. The husband's name was mistakenly printed as *Mehranji* in *Parsiana*, April 1995. The error is regretted.

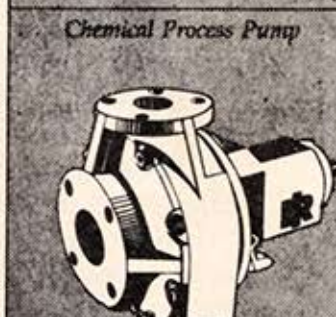
Compiled by Roxana A. Driver



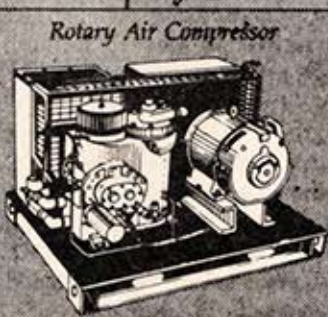
Vibratory Compactor



Crawltair 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.



From
A well-wisher

Custodian of the law

Homi J. Rogers

Died: Kaikhushroo Jijibhai Khambata, 92, retired Chief Presidency Magistrate (CPM) of Bombay, and director of Nowrosjee Wadia and Sons, on October 26, 1994.

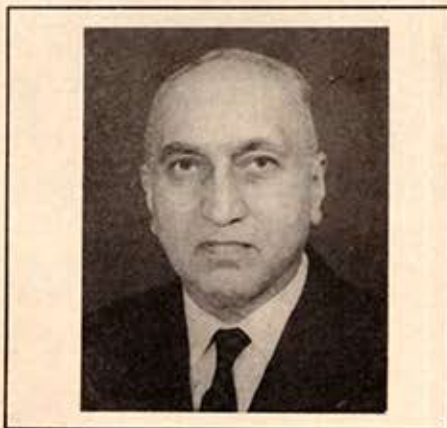
An eminent and upright jurist, Khambata ranked amongst the titans who graced the Bombay bar in the early half of the century. The first Indian Chief Presidency Magistrate of Bombay after independence, "who would have become a High Court judge, had he practised," according to legal luminary and director of Tata Sons, S. R. Vakil, Khambata is remembered for his extremely honest and straightforward approach, and the sincerity he brought to the job on hand.

In 1951 Khambata was elevated to the office of CPM and passed some monumental judgements in this capacity till his retirement at 55 in July 1957. Amongst these judgements was the landmark case in which Russey K. Karanjia, editor of *Blitz*, was accused of forging letters of American Ambassador Chester Bowles and hauled up by the Bombay Police under a criminal complaint. The case described by Homi D. Mistry, a close editorial confidante of Karanjia, as "the most sensational since the trial of Gandhi's assassins" in his book *Four Fighting Decades* was dismissed by Khambata who handed down on March 31, 1953 a 125-page judgement exonerating Karanjia. The verdict surprised the Government, then under Morarji Desai, who preferred appeal to the High Court, which also dismissed the case.

Yet another important case judged by Khambata in his tenure as CPM and ex officio Revenue Judge of Bombay pertained to the sale of land on Sleater Road near the Grant Road Railway Station. His interest in the Juvenile Court which was under him as the CPM was responsible for the setting up of a second such Court at Bandra. As CPM, Khambata also held an ex officio post as President of the Marine Court of Inquiry in which he decided several cases relating to sinking, stranding, collision and accidents of and to ships all along the west coast of India. "I used to appear before him as an advocate for the Mercantile Marine Department and the Customs Department," recalls Vakil, "and must state that he was a stiff magistrate, in the sense that he passed a stiff sentence after conviction, not holding in consideration the position or status of the accused, if he found him guilty." Though Vakil

had quite a few occasions when he would like to have disagreed with Khambata's verdict, he concedes that Khambata was "very thorough" (the job calling for a fair amount of technical knowledge) and "totally honest."

Hirji Thanawalla, a director at Bombay Dyeing and Manufacturing Company Limited, which Khambata joined as legal advisor immediately on his retirement, recalls Khambata's meticulousness and integrity.



"He would always stand by his principles," states Thanawalla, "even stepping down, as he did from a trust, if it involved compromising on his values." Adds Ms Gai Batlivala, his secretary of over 30 years in the Wadia Group of Companies, "He was a very straightforward person, and honest to the last word."

Khambata's long association with the Wadia Group for almost 35 years, first as their legal advisor, and since 1971 as director of Nowrosjee Wadia and Sons (and consulting counsel to its subsidiaries) had him involved in several charitable Wadia trusts, such as the Bai Jerbai Wadia Hospital for Children where he was an alternate to Neville Wadia, and the Neville Wadia Charity Trust. A trustee for over a decade on the N. M. Wadia Charities, Khambata was instrumental in putting up buildings for the poor and the middle-class

in Malcolm Baug at Jogeshwari, a property owned by the Trust.

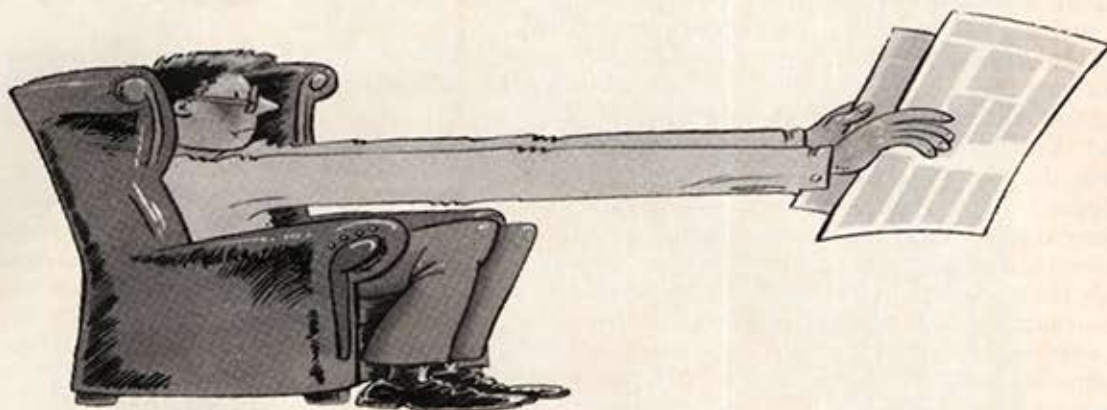
Amongst other trusts which benefited from his experience and erudition were the Dadabhai Naoroji Memorial Prize Fund Trust, the People's Free Reading Room and Library, and the Framjee Cawasjee Institute. He elevated the People's Free Reading Room to a high standard, selecting all the books himself, and seeing they were well maintained. As a trustee of the Framjee Cawasjee Institute he worked ceaselessly for the derequisitioning of the Institute building, and succeeded in getting it from the Government which was sitting pretty on its since World War II, Batlivala recalls his herculean efforts.

Born on July 8, 1902, Khambata graduated from Bombay's Elphinstone College with a first class career throughout. A diligent student, he passed his MA exam with a first-class-first in the same year (1924) as his LLB, going on to serve as a senior assistant on an ad hoc committee presided over by Sir M. Visvesvaraya on the strength of his paper, "The Wealth and Taxable Capacity of India," submitted when he was just 22 in lieu of some papers at the MA examination. As a member of the Indian Economic Enquiry Committee, Khambata played an important part in the writing of the report which was submitted to the Government of India.

His razor-sharp intellect extended as well to the legal field as the economic sphere. An advocate and a solicitor in the same year, Khambata joined the chambers of Sir Dinshaw Mulla, and later served under Sir Jamshedji B. Kanga, then Advocate-General of Bombay, when Sir Dinshaw Mulla was elevated to the Privy Council. Khambata practised for 10 years as an advocate (Original Side) in the Bombay High Court, before he was appointed as Presidency Magistrate of Greater Bombay in April 1937. He continued to hold this post till 1951, barring a period of one-and-a-half years when his services were loaned to the Government of India to work as Deputy Secretary in the Defence Department during World War II.

Khambata was also associated with the Baj Jashan Fund of the Zoroastrian Anjuman Atash Bahram. Interestingly the Atash Bahram was co-founded in 1897 by his maternal grandfather, Shapurji Byramji Katrak. Though belonging to the athraivan (priestly) class himself, Khambata did not

Difficulties in reading?



*It's time you saw a professional optician.
It's time you came to Baliwalla & Homi.
One of the finest optometrists and contact lens practitioners*



Baliwalla & Homi
Private Limited

OPTOMETRISTS

Flora Fountain: 365, Dr. D.N.Road, Bombay 400 001 Tel: 287 4916, 287 1762 ● Dhobi Talao: 614, J.S. Seth Marg, Bombay 400 002.Tel: 201 4906
Fax: (022) 206 4363 ● Parel: J.Merwanji Street, Parel, Bombay 400 012 Tel: 412 6051

With Best Compliments From

LEACH & WEBORNY

When in Bombay Contact

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

believe in relying only on prayers and rituals, but in living a true Zoroastrian life. He had studied the Avestan prayers in his spare moments, translating them too. The prayer he revered most, as per a note prepared by him shown to us by his family, is the *Ahura Mazda (Hormazd) Yasht*, "the most important Yasht in honor of Almighty God." Khambata had culled out 20 names from the Yasht "as being the Manthra-Spenta" (holy mystical words) and held these as being "the greatest, most straight-forward, and most efficacious words" to be recited constantly, and "particularly in moments of difficulties, anxieties... or when one is embarking upon doing an important thing." His family had been imbued with the relevance of these words.

"He was a father-figure," reminisces Batlivala dewy-eyed, recalling his capacity to mix with children and adults, and speak to each at their own levels. Another good reason why Khambata's words were always heard and respected, was because he led by example. In 1939, when the Provincial Government introduced prohibition, Khambata, as custodian of the law (he was then Presidency Magistrate) felt

he should stop drinking himself first. "He didn't allow us to serve liquor at home, and we would tell our guests fond of the peg, 'naakhiné aavjo' (have a drink at home before coming)," laughs Mehru, his wife. His self-discipline extended to driving his own car till he was 87, and carrying his own bag.

Khambata has contributed to the *Encyclopaedia of the Acts and Codes of India*, and authored a book on the Law of Limitations which has run into several editions. A standard textbook on the Limitations Act, Vakil recalls a particular comment Khambata made in the book stating that while there was an article for recovery of a husband, no such article was deemed necessary for recovery of a wife, since it was a good riddance!

But, jokes aside, Khambata made a devoted husband for over 50 years to Mehru, whom he married when he was 40, after having settled his family of four brothers and a sister. He is survived by his wife Mehru; sons, Jamshed, who has business interests in India and the United Kingdom, and Rustom, who is a practising chartered accountant and management consultant.

Shroff's leading role

Died: Jehangir Framroz Shroff, 85, president of the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute (KRCOI) and associated with nearly a dozen other community organizations as trustee or office-bearer, on February 24, 1995 at Bombay following cerebro-vascular ailment.

Shroff gave direction and guidance to the different organizations that he served for nearly six decades. "All of us who were privileged to work with Jehangirji greatly appreciated his selfless dedication, his judgment of people and problems, his sterling qualities of head and heart, and his pragmatic approach. He will long be remembered for his unassuming and gentle ways and his willingness to assist needy individuals and deserving causes..." acknowledges Capt Hormazdiar J. M. Desai, joint

With Best Compliments

From

A WELL-WISHER

Honestly, how
much is this
advertisement
worth to you?



Read this to know
how *you* can save
your company a
fortune in energy
expenses.

The National Productivity Council reports the energy conservation potential in Indian industry to range from 3.4% to as high as 80%. What's more, as you well know, however efficiently-run your plant is, you can slash your energy costs, *even further*.

Forbes Marshall and energy conservation - not mere hardware, but total solutions.

Our *Energy Conservation Cell* conducts *complete* energy audits which include diagnostics, and recommendations. These include our well-known *Steam Demand Surveys* and our *Steam Trap Performance Surveys*. And a lot more. The ECC comprises a panel of experienced professionals, and is fully equipped with portable energy audit instruments.

The Forbes Marshall Guarantee - minimal payback periods that your Finance Director will unflinchingly endorse.

Every Forbes Marshall installation comes with its own payback period, which could be as short as only a few weeks. But is *guaranteed not to exceed 2 years*.

The Forbes Marshall Energy Audit

*Steam generation, distribution & utilization *Condensate handling & return *Compressed air *Waste heat recovery
*Instrumentation, monitoring & control *Efficiency studies of select equipment like heat exchangers & furnaces.

To help your company conserve energy and save a fortune; call or fax Forbes Marshall's ECC for a prompt reply.

 **Forbes
Marshall**
Solutions Engineering

Kasarwadi, Pune 411 034, India. Tel. : (0212)773495 Fax : (0212)777413/ 777593.



Forbes Marshall - The ISO 9001 Group

JN Marshall • Spirax Marshall • Cambridge Instruments • Krohne Marshall • Arca Controls • Moore Controls • Sempell Valves • Forbesons Engineers.

honorary secretary of the KRCOI in his write-up detailing Shroff's contributions.

It was during his nearly 10-year tenure as president that the KRCOI celebrated its platinum jubilee, commemorated the 1,000th birth anniversary of the Persian poet Firdausi of *Shah Namah* fame, organized the Parasika exhibition at the Prince of Wales Museum, and brought together Indo-Iranian research scholars at the two



international congresses held under the KRCOI auspices. For well over 29 years he had been involved with the KRCOI, having joined it as trustee in 1966 and serving as its vice-president from 1973-1985.

Another community organization with which he had enduring ties was the Bombay Parsee Association (BPA) of which he was member for 50 years and served as its president for 25 years until 1992. Admiring his "honesty, integrity, memory, inspiring spirit, courage and enthusiasm," BPA president Vispi Dastur writes, "He rendered yeoman service to the Association and was actively connected with its various activities, especially the promotion of Parsi youth." Despite being a firm disciplinarian, he was popular with the youngsters. He believed in Franklin Roosevelt's philosophy, "We cannot always build the future for our youth, but we can build our youth for the future."

Other bodies where he served as president were the Parsi Pioneers Association, the Gamadia Colony Welfare Association and the Cusrow Baug United Sports and Welfare League. He was vice president of the Iran League and the India Iran Cultural

Society. At the Framjee Cawasjee Institute he served as managing trustee, at the Karani Agiary he was the joint managing trustee, and of the Zoroastrian Building Fund, the Garib Zarthoshti and Rhethan Fund, and the Sir J. J. Benevolent Institute he was a trustee.

Happily donning his scout and Home Guards uniforms on different occasions, his broad chest would display the many medals and bars he had won. At the hands of the then President of India Giani Zail Singh he had been conferred the silver elephant (the highest award in scouting) and the silver star. Associated with the scout movement for 68 years, he retired as chief commissioner, Maharashtra State Bharat Scouts and Guides. Such was his involvement with the Home Guards movement that he served as divisional commissioner of the home defence wing of the Maharashtra Home Guards, as chief warden and as adviser to the controller of civil defence in the Greater Bombay area.

Shroff, being a dedicated mason who held high offices in the District and Grand Lodge of Scotland, Ireland and the Grand Lodge of India, was the first Asian in the English constitution to be honored with the Order of Service to Masonry award. He was also involved in propagating the Lions movement being the principal founder of the first Lions Club in India. Lions International recognized him by conferring on him their life membership.

"Starting on the lowest rung of the ladder, by dint of his work performance and result oriented approach Jehangirji rose to the highest position in whatever assignment he undertook," mentions Desai. Shroff began his career as a two-loom weaver with W. H. Brady and Company, the same firm where he was to later become managing director. Thereafter he was managing director of United Motors. Besides being a director of Empire Industries Ltd where he oversaw the work of the Empire Dyeing and Bleaching Mills, he was also director of *Jam-e-Jamshed* and The Zoroastrian Cooperative Bank Limited.

A delegate to the Parsi Matrimonial Court, among the many appointments that Shroff enjoyed was as Justice of Peace and Special Executive Magistrate. He was known to be "always helpful to anyone who approached him with any problem."

Shroff is survived by his wife Amy and daughter Freny Mehta.

(Compiled by Parinaz Gandhi from write-ups submitted by Capt Hormazdiar Desai and others.)

HIGH TEA WITH A PARSİ

continued from page 150

whely is transparent and remove from heat immediately.

Line paneer pan with wet cotton cloth and pour turned milk into it. Allow to drain. Cover pan with its lid. Leave for half an hour. Invert on to a plate and serve.

PATREL

Gram flour (3 cups)
Whole wheat flour (1 cup)
All purpose flour (*maida* — 1 cup)
Ripe bananas (6 — mashed)
Onions (2 — finely chopped with their moisture squeezed out)
Coriander leaves (3 tbsp — chopped)
Turmeric powder (1 tsp)
Chilli powder (2 tsp)
Dhansakh masala powder (2 tbsp)
Sambhar powder (1 tbsp)
Tamarind (100 gm — infused in 2 cups of water with 50 gm jaggery)
Salt (to taste)
Oil (for shallow frying)
Colocasia leaves (*aloo na patra* 21 — medium sized)
Grind together:
Green chillies (4-6)
Garlic (1 large pod)
Cumin seeds (2 tsp)
Mustard seeds (2 tbsp)
Fenugreek seeds (1 tbsp)
Mix all ingredients except colocasia leaves with ground spices and strained tamarind and jaggery mixture.

Wash and dry colocasia leaves. Carefully remove protruding central vein from back of leaves.

Place three leaves upside down on a board, and spread some mixture on each of them. Place each leaf one on top of the other and fold in sides. Roll, starting from tip of leaves going towards base. Tie down with cotton thread. Repeat with remaining leaves and mixture.

Heat oil in a large frying pan and fry rolls lightly till leaves turn dark green. Steam for 10-15 minutes and then fry again.

Cool and store. Patrel can stay in a refrigerator for a fortnight and in a deep freezer for over a month.

To serve, bring to room temperature, slice and fry slices. Serve with lime.

They may be served without frying.
Bon appetit!

Bhicoo J. Manekshaw, a graduate of the prestigious Cordon Bleu School of Cookery, London, and author of the *Traditional Recipes of India*, has been associated with many haute cuisine organizations in the country.



**'When my
children drink**

Rasna V,

I feel better too.'

Introducing Rasna V with vitamins. Now your favourite Rasna comes enriched with vitamins too. In three delicious flavours: Orange, Mango and Pineapple. While your children relish the same great taste of Rasna, you're assured that they get all the goodness of vitamins. Doesn't it make you say, 'I love you, Rasna' again and again?

NUTRITIONAL INFORMATION		
Nutrient	Essential for	Nutrient added (approx.) per pack
Vitamin A	Good vision, healthy skin	7680 I.U.
Vitamin C	Helps protect against infections/cold	42.6 mg
Vitamin B1	Release of energy from food	4480 µg
Vitamin B2	Growth, proper functioning	5120 µg
Vitamin B6	of heart and nervous system	6400 µg
Niacin		57.6 mg
Vitamin B12	Growth, healthy blood and nervous system	3.2 µg
Folic Acid	Healthy blood and body tissues	640 µg

(Appropriate overages of vitamins added)



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