

Parzianā

FEBRUARY-MARCH 1997 Rs 45



At the
Avabai F. Petit
Girls'
High School

AIRFREIGHT LIMITED

**Meets All Your Transportation Needs
From Door to Door Across the World**



WORLDWIDE EXPRESS®



EXPRESS DISTRIBUTION
SERVICES



TRAVEL & TOURS



AIR & OCEAN
FORWARDING



Regd. Office: Neville House, Currimbhoy Road, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400 001.

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

Parsiana

February-March 1997
Volume 19 Number 7

EDITOR Jehangir R. Patel
MANAGING EDITOR Arnavaz S. Mama
EXECUTIVE EDITOR Parinaz M. Gandhi
SENIOR EDITORS
Dina K. Mehta, Hilla P. Guzder
ASSOCIATE EDITOR Roxana A. Driver
DESIGN Kranti M. Shiloti
MARKETING DIRECTOR Veera Patel
ADVERTISING MANAGER Zarin Mistry
ADVERTISING EXECUTIVES
Niloufer Panthaky, Susan Hadvaid
FINANCE B. L. Arora
EDP Rohinton E. Daroga
MANAGEMENT Jasmine Driver
DTP Bakhtavar R. Battliwalla, K. P. Ravi
SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Khurshid Panthaki
ASSISTANT SUBSCRIPTION MANAGER
Swarupa Kamat
ASSISTANT PURCHASE MANAGER
Bindu Pillai
ACCOUNTANT Anagha Korde
ASSISTANT ACCOUNTANT Varsha Godbole
ACCOUNTS ASSISTANTS
Indu Pillai, Satwant Kaur
OFFICE ASSISTANTS Umesh Poojary,
Selvan Mark, Sunil Sakhare,
Govind Salgaonkar, Mahipat Jadhav

Parsiana is published by Jehangir R. Patel for
Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd at C/o H. L. Roach,
K.K. (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: 2078730, 2072624. Fax: 2074541.
For editorial enquiries: 2078183.
E-mail: parvo@glasbm01.vsnl.net.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. Fax: 2654585.

Annual inland subscription: for one year
(10 issues) Rs 250; for two years (20 issues)
Rs 475; for three years (30 issues) Rs 700.
Foreign subscription rates: Seamail for one year
Rs 450/US \$ 14/UK £ 9; for two years Rs 850/US \$
25/UK £ 15; for three years Rs 1,250/US \$ 36/UK
£ 22 (please allow six months or more for delivery
from the time of publication). Airmail for one year Rs
750/US \$ 23/UK £ 15 (for Pakistan, Indian Rs 525);
for two years, Rs 1,400/US \$ 43/UK £ 27 (for
Pakistan, Indian Rs 975); for three years, Rs 2,100/
US \$ 60/UK £ 37 (for Pakistan, Indian Rs 1,450). For
Indian upcountry cheques add Rs 20 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
-
- 30 Events and Personalities
-
- 53 Zoroastrians Abroad: Dinshaw Joshi and Khorshed Jungalwala
-
- 61 A question of priorities by Arnavaz Mama
-
- 74 A decade of discussions by Sarosh Palkhiwala
-
- 78 Which way to the 21st century?
-
- 84 We need an agenda for survival by Freddie Mehta
-
- 88b The sacred sojourn by Rustam Sidhwa
-
- 94 "Don't knock your brother" by Shanoor Forbes
-
- 96 Avabai Petit School: Where two worlds meet
-
- 102 "This business of charity"
-
- 106 Surfing surnames
-
- 114 Madras Milestones by Parinaz Gandhi
-
- 130 Burjor Mehta: a life on the edge by Mehroze Pochkhanwala
-
- 133 Rohinton Chinoy's pressing role
-
- 141 Fred Poonawalla: A Printer's Vision
-
- 145 Yazdi Karanjia: Family fun by Hilla Guzder
-
- 148 Magician Rutton Bharucha
-
- 154 Books
-
- 170 Milestones
-
- 190 In Memoriam
-

Cover: Stained glass at the Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School
Photo: Homyar Mistry



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.

"Blessed with the bat"

My daughter Ayesha and I were touched by the obituary on my late husband, Rusi Modi, the former Indian test batsman ("Blessed with the bat," *Parsiana*, October, 1996), by Ms Parinaz Gandhi and the sentiments expressed therein.

However we were greatly pained to read in the article under review that the cardiac arrest which my husband suffered at the Cricket Club of India (CCI) on May 17, 1996, "led to his fatal fall from the third floor balcony of the Cricket Club of India."

May I clarify that as a result of the cardiac arrest he had suffered, my husband had collapsed on the first floor balcony, outside the Club library, in the course of his morning walk. There was no injury whatsoever to his body at the time of death. This was verified by the late Deputy Commissioner of Police Jog and the police officers who had examined my husband's body at the Towers of Silence. The official

medical reports into my husband's death certify the cause of death as "cardio-respiratory failure due to myocardial infarction (natural)."

Dr Thawani of Kala Jyoti Hospital, where my husband was rushed in an unconscious state, gave this statement to the Press: "There were no external injuries. If he had (had) a fall, there would have been some bleeding or bruises. Due to old age bones become fragile. Modi would have had multiple fractures if he had fallen."

To clear all misapprehensions regarding my husband's demise, which may have unfortunately arisen from the hasty statement issued by the Cricket Club to the police without verifying the cause of death from the appropriate authorities, a clarification was issued by the CCI to the media as well as to all members of the Club via their newsletter.

As your esteemed magazine is widely read by our minuscule community in India as well as abroad, may I request you to publish a proper correction to the effect that my husband had collapsed on the first floor of the CCI pavilion and that he had not fallen from the third floor, or any other floor for that matter, as a result of the cardiac arrest he had suffered.

Finally, may I add that my husband had been suffering from highly erratic and fluctuating blood pressure over the past few years. This could in all probability have led to the sudden cardiac arrest.

RUTTY MODI

Parinaz Gandhi replies

The clarification issued in the Press several days later inadvertently escaped our attention. We regret the inclusion of this erroneous statement in our *Parsiana* report.

"Parsi Gujarati: the end..."

As usual, though it arrived very late, I enjoyed reading your October 1996 issue. I appreciated the article by Hormazdiar S. Dalal, "Parsi Gujarati: the end of an idiom" critiquing Dr Ratan Marshall's book *Gujarati Sahitya Kshetre Parsionun Pradan* at such length.

However, I do not agree with Mr Dalal's remark that most of our literature was a translation of Western authors' works — maybe some novels and plays, but most of the serious prose was very original.

The works of so many of our Parsi literati — novelists, essayists, poets, jour-

nalists and lyricists who were prolific writers during their lifetime — are out of print, and we require many more works like Dr Marshall's labor of love. For example, can



Desai: popular Gujarati author
Courtesy: Parsi Lustre on Indian Soil

any one today lay their hands on that epitome of Parsi culinary art — the *Vividh Vani*? Once, no Parsi home was without a copy; it was considered a veritable family heirloom to be passed on to generations of brides-to-be.

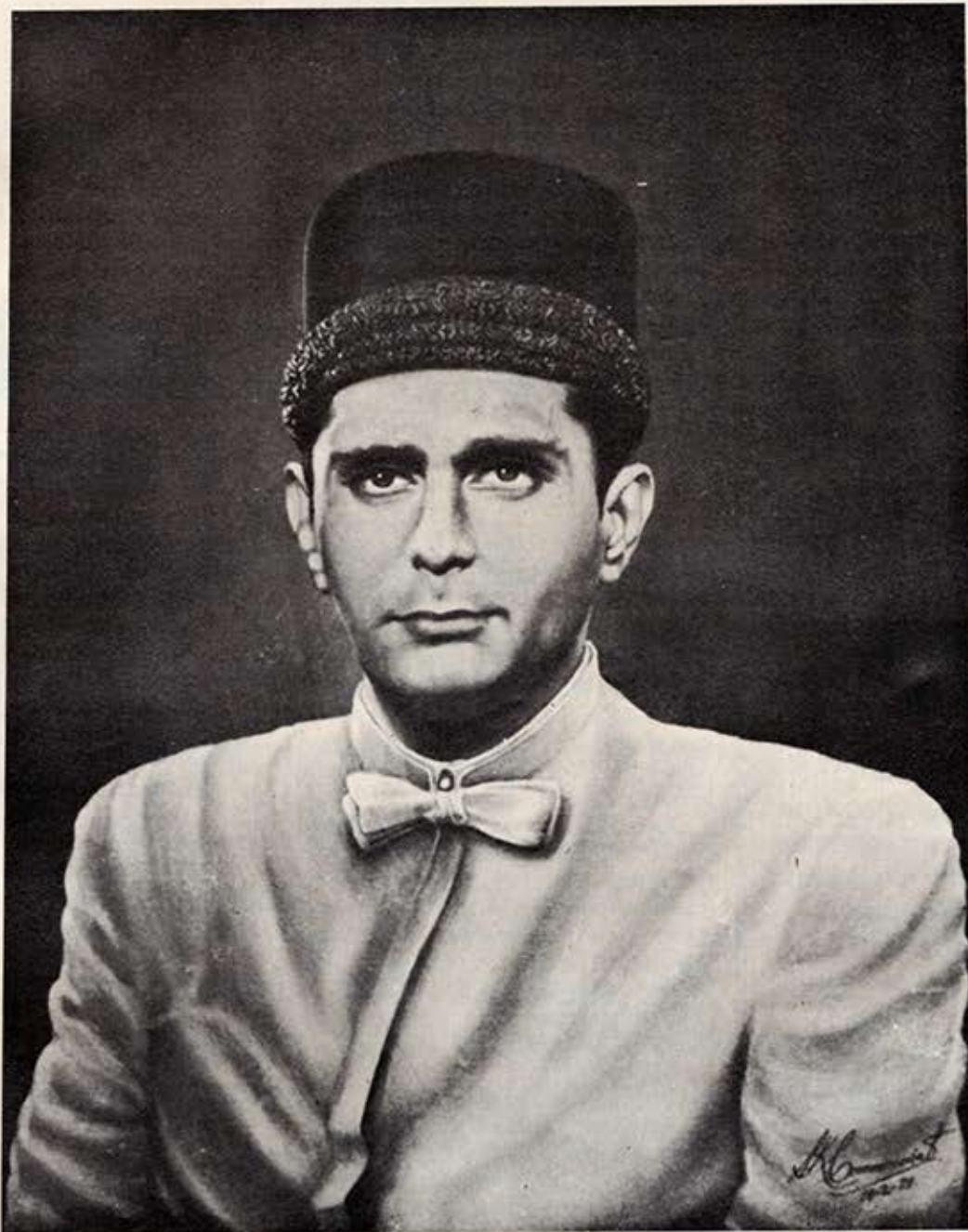
Likewise, another author Mr Sohrabji Muncherji Desai (known popularly as So. M. Desai) of Navsari wrote volumes of essays in Gujarati and published them in book form. A set of five to six volumes called *Khuda Namu* seemed to adorn the library shelves of many Parsi homes, as also his book *Dikri Tu Sasré Kem Samasé?*

Instead of filling up our valuable and hard-to-get newsprint with pages upon pages of controversial views, and airing of personal vendettas, could we not devote that space to retrieve our old academic heritage, however meager, and titillate the interest of our young coreligionists to research and revive the old; and even get inspired enough to add new works to continue the trend?

Dr ROSHEN S. MASTER
Pune

"Prayer made poetic"

Thank you very much for reviewing my publication *Jarthostni Jindagi Samjati*



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

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.

Bandagi ("Prayers made poetic," Books, *Parsiana*, September 1996). I regret that it is outdated as it is published very late. I had already informed you that the publication is received by readers like a hot cake in Gujarat, at Mumbai and in other cities, and the stock was exhausted within no time. There is demand for it even today and I am compelled to print more copies to meet the demand.

I have received many letters from readers appreciating the book's monajat style. The introduction of this book has not been well studied in which I have mentioned clearly not to use *Samjati Bandagi* as text. I have also mentioned that I am not a poet. I think we should not encourage youngsters in our community to neglect the studies of their mother tongue, Gujarati. This publication was not at all intended as a short cut but as a guide only.

N. K. DABOO
Ahmedabad

"Whither, *Parsiana*?"

After reading the letters entitled, "Whither, *Parsiana*?" in your September '96 issue, I have been galvanized into writing that which I've been meaning to do for a long while. But like the delays in publication of the issues of *Parsiana*, I've been inadvertently overdue in sending this to you for printing!

I would like to state my personal opinion on how much I enjoy reading the issues since they give so much interesting and varied information about our community (always with photographs), both on a personal level (i.e. the achievements and news of Zoroastrians both here and abroad), and very enlightening reading material analyzing the philosophy and history of Zoroastrianism (e.g. Ms K. Gould's articles), as well as the controversies arising from the varied views of those who interpret the religion either traditionally or tolerantly, dogmatically or philosophically.

What I most appreciate is the professionalism of the magazine and that *Parsiana* puts forward articles and thoughts of both fundamentalists as well as liberal minded humanists, without showing a bias either way. This I believe is the true spirit behind Zoroaster's line of thinking which permits and indeed encourages acceptance of everybody without judgment and discourages bigotry and dogma of thought. I'd say "*Parsiana* has arrived!"

SHANOR FORBES

It is very difficult to keep a track of the number of issues you send out, as very

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

With Best Compliments From

Eros Elevators

**A
DIVISION
OF
E. E. & M. W.**

(Since 1945)

Head Office

27, Mama Parmanand Marg
Opera House, Mumbai 400004
Phones: 3640293, 3640132, 3674939
Cable: 'Erovators' Fax: 011-91-22-3640169

Sales Representatives:

Ahmedabad--Bangalore--Madras--Pune

Plants

Bharat Industrial Estate
T. Jivraj Road, Sewree, Mumbai 400015

and

Panchal Udyog Nagar
Survey No 184/3(41)
Village Bhimpore, Nani Daman
Taluka Daman (U.T.)

SEVA SADAN SOCIETY

Cooking Department
supplies delicious
Parsi tiffins, lunch
and dinner, reasonable
rates, party orders
undertaken, also
Indian style vegetarian
tiffins, place your
orders today.

Pandita Ramabai Road,
Gamdevi, Mumbai 400007
Telephone 3648005
1.30 p.m. to 5 p.m.

often it is not on a monthly basis. It would be better if you stated that the number of issues are from this date to that.

JAL N. BHARUCHA

The Editor replies

On the contents page of every issue of *Parsiana* we carry a volume and issue number in addition to the month and year line. As we publish 10 issues a year, the volume changes after the 10th issue which is the June issue.

I sometimes enquire on the phone why the *Parsiana* issues do not come out on time, and I get varied answers: Shortage of funds and advertisements and shortage of staff.

In this connection I compared the one-year subscription charged by *Parsiana* with the rates of the *Journal of Scientific and Industrial Research* (JSIR, New Delhi). Inland (*Parsiana*) Rs 200 + 10 (for Indian upcountry cheques)
Airmail (USA) \$23 + \$5 (for US cheques)
Airmail (UK) £15 + £3 (for UK cheques)
Inland (JSIR) Rs 510
Airmail (USA) \$202
Airmail (UK) £126

It will be seen that *JSIR* charges more to USA and UK than *Parsiana*. There is therefore scope for charging more for air-

mail subscriptions to USA and UK.

P. D. SUNAVALA

The Editor replies

Journals published for professionals such as scientists, doctors, engineers, lawyers, etc charge high rates mainly for two reasons. Firstly the information is for the readers to keep abreast of developments in their profession and they can afford to pay. Secondly the readership is restricted so the cost of production, collecting data, staff, etc has to be covered from the limited subscriptions.

In *Parsiana's* case our readership base is small as the community numbers are not only limited but dwindling. But the information contained in the magazine is not of great commercial significance nor are all our readers professionals. Our objective may also be at variance with professional journals. We attempt to keep our subscription rates as low as possible so as not to create a bar to readership. A large portion of our income derives from advertising and a small sum from donations. Professional journals would attract limited advertising though their per page charge would be substantially higher than ours. But they are unlikely to receive donations. Professional journals compete with each

Established 1972

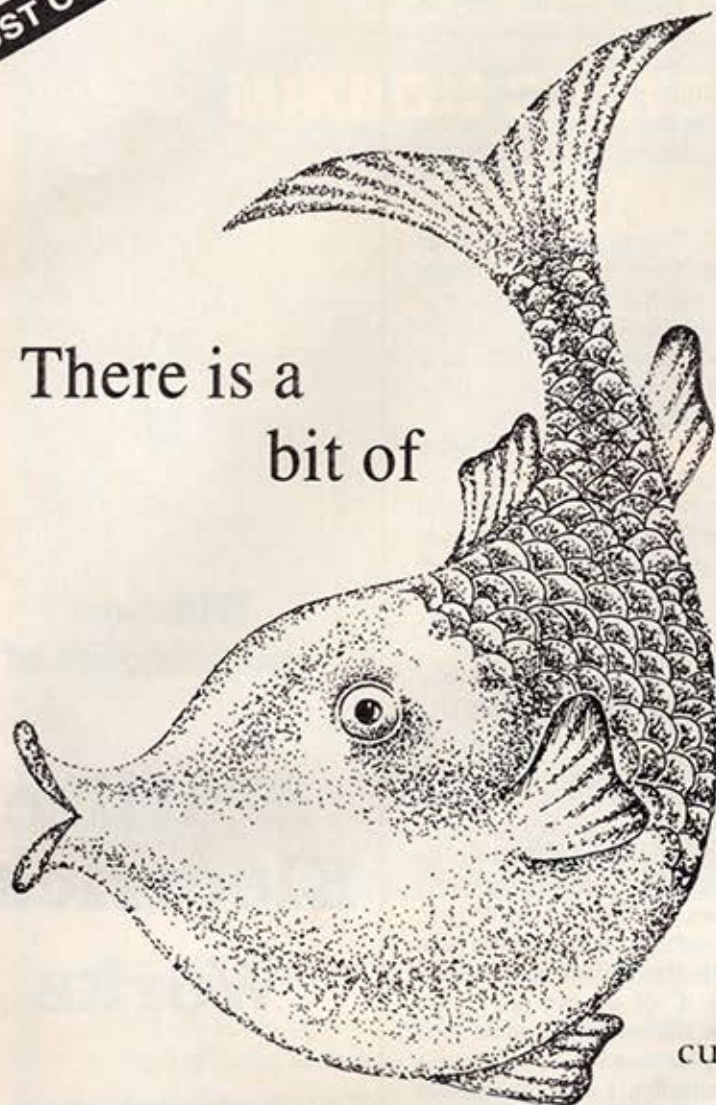
In Service of the Suffering

MAZDA MEDICAL ELECTRONICS BURJIS N. KHURSEDJI & CO

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

JUST OPENED

There is a
bit of



Mangalore

in Bombay Central

Mangalorean delicacies,
now in Bombay. At our
newly opened restaurant
cum bar. Come and dip into
some excellent seafood cuisines with
delicious Indian and Chinese dishes. You'll love it.



Bellassis Road, Opp. S.T. Depot, Bombay Central,
Mumbai - 400 008. Tel.: 3072797, 3072810,
3004646, 3004747 • Fax : 3072877

Valet parking facility available.

NOW THERE IS A

SEA LOUNGE
THAT LIVES UP TO ITS NAME

Navroze Mubarak

For your
investment
in Fixed Deposits,
Shares,
Debentures,
Unit Trust, National
Savings, Tax free
bonds, etc.

For safe
investments
under one roof

FRAMROZ & SONS (LANGRANAS)

Hamam House
Hamam Street
Fort, Mumbai 400001
Tel: 2652621, 2656327

Dadar Office:
Tel: 4152237, 4166635
(Above Central Bank,
Khodadad Circle)

No branches

other for subscribers and subscriber loyalty may or may not be very high. Community based publications like *Parsiana* have a strong reader loyalty and the entry of other journals may not necessarily detract the readers who may prefer to support new journals in addition to the existing ones.

To quote Shelley: "True love in this differs from gold and clay/that to divide is not to take away."

Your Readers' Forum page depicts the postage stamps issued by our government in honor of eminent Parsis. Stamps have also since been issued to honor Sir Pherozeshah Mehta and Shri J. R. D. Tata. It would be appropriate to depict these stamps also on this page.

A. M. WADIA

Readers are welcome to send us postal stamps of Parsis that they would like us to accommodate in our Readers' Forum logo — Editor

"The rivayat of 1996"

This has reference to the article "The rivayat of 1996" (*Parsiana*, July-August 1996).

It has been mentioned therein that 50 Pahlavi manuscripts from the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute were loaned to the Tehran Anjuman "at the latter's request in 1964" and that this is "a source of friction. The folios were meant for the Iranians to reprint and return, as acknowledged by F. Mehr. So far nothing seems to have been done." It is further remarked that "it would be regrettable if we do not print them before it is too late and (the manuscripts) are completely destroyed."

In this connection I have to mention that in 1974 (and not 1964) the then chancellor of the Pahlavi University, Shiraz, Dr Farhang Mehr, had specially invited me for a period of three months to work on the publication of 50 manuscripts to commemorate the 50th anniversary of the Pahlavi Dynasty.

I had obtained the consent of the then trustees to take with me 40 (and not 50) manuscripts from the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute library for printing by the Pahlavi University of Shiraz. The other 10 books comprised of the Avesta Pahlavi Codices and some Pahlavi texts. The full set of 50 volumes were published and are today housed in all major university libraries throughout the world. The original manuscripts were brought back to India by me and are safely preserved in the library of the Cama Oriental Institute.

I am sure Dr Farhang Mehr, who had



With best
compliments of

Starlite Electrical Works

ELECTRICAL
ENGINEERS
&
CONTRACTORS

104, Shree Hanuman
Industrial Estate
42 B, G. D. Ambekar Marg
Wadala
Bombay 400031



With Best Compliments From

**NAGARWALLA ESTATES
PRIVATE LIMITED**

**REALTORS ESTATE
CONSULTANTS**

OFFICE:

GROUND FLOOR, JALDARSHAN, 51, NEPEAN SEA ROAD, BOMBAY 400036

TEL: 3673265, 3684481, 3683713 TELEFAX: 3630006

Navroze Mubarak

GLOBE HOTEL Udwada

Udwada's only hotel
with equal emphasis
on food, accommodation
and cleanliness. Try
our luxury rooms.

For reservations
dial STD 026387-2097

invited me on behalf of the Shahbanou of Iran and as the chancellor of the Pahlavi University, will testify to the above statements.

This clarification is sent to rectify the misinformation and place the facts before the readers.

Dastur (Dr) KAIKHUSROO M. JAMASPASA

Arnavaz Mama replies

I apologize for the error in the report, ascribing the referred manuscripts to the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute. According to my notes Mr Farhang Mehr had said, "They sent more than 50 Pahlavi manuscripts to Iran in 1964 — promised that the series would be returned to the Cama Athornan — regrettable if we do not print them before it's too late and are completely destroyed — seek BPP funds."

"Probing for..."

This refers to the article "Probing for Zoroastrian roots (*Parsiana*, July-August 1996)" based on the new FEZANA (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) sponsored research publication.

While I am familiar with Adi Davar and his articles, I have not come across Ms Khorshed Jungalwala in the course of my own long association with Tajikistan. You

may recall that it was my own several visits to Tajikistan and consequent articles that brought the issue of a possible presence of Zoroastrians in Central Asia into the limelight some years ago.

It is because I know the whole of the area well from my own firsthand visits that I was shocked to notice the inaccurate references made by Jungalwala to 'the Badakhshan-Yaghnob area,' judging by your summary of her article. From the manner in which her contribution to the *Journal* is introduced one would assume that she was contributing scholarly or original research based on her own findings.

A glance at a good atlas would reveal that Yaghnob lies to the western extremity of Tajikistan (where a language of Sogdian origin is still spoken), whereas Badakhshan lies in the south eastern corner of the republic and the eight languages there are all of Eastern Iranian origin as is Avestan. It is therefore very odd that the two quite distant regions should be associated by a hyphen as if to imply that they were contiguous. Her population statistics are also suspect.

Just for the record it was also through initial correspondence between myself and Rostam in Tashkent that the information about the contemporary Uzbek-Zoroas-

With Best Compliments From

THE SWADESHI GRAIN CRUSHING MILL

Established 1935

Reputed crushers and grinders of spices,
masalas and Indian herbs on a large scale

105 Keshavji Naik Road, Chinch Bunder, Bombay 400009
Phone: 376-4693 Fax: 283-2920 EMail: adi.damania@access.net.in

With Compliments of

**SPRAY PRODUCTS (INDIA)
Private Limited**

Manufacturers of Aerosol Products

J-154, M.I.D.C., Bhosari, Pune 411026

Investment in Property: Pune is the best city

Booking of apartments, duplex flats, and bungalows now opened in Palm Groves

Apartments, a luxury complex only two to three km from the Race Course and Camp, in green and quiet surroundings.

Amenities include a club house, swimming pool, children's play ground, lifts with stand-by gen-set, a car-wash, and security arrangement, etc, all at very competitive rates. Take advantage of the initial concession booking rates, before further increases.

No brokerage charged by us in this scheme, instead collect a gift from us on booking.

Many attractive new schemes are coming up in and around Pune within about 15 km radius, at rates ranging from Rs 850 to over Rs 5,000 per sq ft (built-up area).

Modern commercial complexes are also available with shops and offices.

For particulars write to:

Minoo Bhathena
BySel Estate

302 Devika Apartment
2010 West Street
Pune 411001
Tel: 650757

trian situation has come to light. And incidentally I shall yet again be visiting Uzbekistan and Tajikistan for Nowruz 1997 so I would be happy to clarify any misapprehensions readers may have upon my return.

Since we rely so much on our own internal publications for our self-education, it would be prudent (notwithstanding the illustrious editorial board) for some sort of critical checks to be exercised.

SHAHIN BEKHRADNIA
Oxford, UK

Khorshed Jungalwala replies

The Research and Historical Preservation Committee of FEZANA in North America asked me to write an article about my visit to the Central Asian republics of the former Soviet Union in April-May of 1985 and incorporate historical and relevant factual information on the area. The article was based on my own experiences, interviews, bibliographic references and notes.

After my visit in 1985, I have spoken on and written several articles on the visit. I have also submitted two articles to the *FEZANA Journal* in the past. Soon after my trip to Central Asia I was invited by Prof Kaikhosrov Irani to talk about the visit at one of the seminars he arranged for ZAGNY (Zoroastrian Association of Greater New York). When Parvonakhon Jamshedi of Tajikistan was invited to speak at the 1992 North American Zoroastrian Conference in Vancouver, British Columbia, Canada, I was graciously invited to be the chairperson due to my familiarity with the area and my acquaintance with him. The following year, 1993, I was invited to speak about the Central Asian republics at the FEZANA AGM in Calgary, Alberta, Canada.

I do not claim to have any exclusive prerogative in terms of knowledge or experience of that region. However the article referred to is based on experience and factual information as was available from references.

In my article I have referred to the Badakhshan region where East Iranian languages like Vakhun are still spoken. The Badakhshan-Yagnabi region (not area) is referred to in relation to the population of the changing boundaries of the Central Asian republics during the Arab rule.

The write-up in *Parsiana* on the *FEZANA Journal* articles is a critically well-written piece. Ms Bekhradnia, without reading the original article, has taken the information from your article out of context.



Best wishes from a regular reader

*Wishing all Zoroastrians
a very happy Jamshedi Navroze*

With Best Compliments From

Zubin K. Gandhi and Ashok K. Walke

VENUS ETHOXYETHERS Private Limited

Manufacturers of Ethylene Oxide Condensates, Propylene
Oxide Condensates, Textile Chemicals, Leather Chemicals,
Paper Chemicals and Agro Emulsifiers

Factory and Regd Office

Plot No. 109-111, Bicholim Ind. Estate, Bicholim, Goa 403504
Tel: (0832) 362337/362898/362904 Fax: (0832) 362257

Bombay Address

Hari Niwas, 1st Floor, 19, Mathew Road, Bombay 400004
Tel: 3630466/3610523 Fax: (022) 3611285

E-Mail: venus.goa@sma.sprintrpg.ems.vsnl.net.in

*With Best
Compliments From*

**M/s PATEL
PLASTIC
CORPORATION**

4/5, Nandu Industrial Estate
Mahakali Caves Road
Andheri (East)
Bombay 400093

Tel No. 8323754/8300986
Fax No. 6431851

"Promising priesthood"

I write this with reference to "Promising priesthood" (Events and Personalities, *Parsiana*, July-August 1996). While fully agreeing with Mr Dinshaw Tamboly's and Mr Nadir Modi's statement regarding an enlightened clergy, and congratulating the World Zoroastrian Organisation and Athornan Mandal for their scheme for the athornans, I would request the community to seriously consider two suggestions:

- The practice that only the son of an athornan can become a mobed should be done away with, and any behdin child who has an inclination should be allowed to become a mobed. It is the interest with which the child takes to the profession that will bring out good mobeds. I know of practising priests who only recite the ceremonies by rote. How do they help the community?

- A natural corollary would be to induce a certain missionary zeal in those who teach the budding mobeds. This would percolate to the students and generate in them a zeal to become good mobeds. Then only can we have mobeds of good caliber on the whole, who can in turn inspire religious zeal in the community.

H. F. BAGWALA

World Council

Congratulations to those Spentaic spirits who, persevering over many years and six drafts, have at least produced a broadly agreed proposed constitution and bylaws for a World Council of Zoroastrian Federations (WCZF) following the meeting on December 15, 1996 with the Indian Federation. On the whole, it is a democratic and liberal document. To give it sustainable and meaningful life will call for statesmanship and high competence on the part of the seven office-bearers, and the supporting zonal federations. As one from India, I had long hoped that the Indian Federation would be neither a stone wall nor glass ceiling, but a major cooperative promoter. For whatever reasons, there is regret that the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO), London was not one of the founding members. One looks forward to more active and closer cooperation from Iran in future, and beyond the horizon, that of those whom Rohinton Rivetna referred to as "Neo-Zoroastrians" in the erstwhile southern republics of the USSR.

To turn to its primary purposes (objectives), I would like to suggest two additions. One of the objectives states to "promote understanding and seek consensus."

With Best Compliments From

**G DESIGN
INTERIORS**

Cyrus Ghaswala

708 Patel Mansion, Apt 3, 4th Road, Parsi Colony, Dadar, Bombay 400014
Tel: 4129858 Fax: 022 4126950

AIRLIFT (INDIA) PRIVATE LIMITED

**IATA approved air cargo agents, consolidation/
break-bulk agents and custom house agents**

Registered office

13, Adarsh Industrial Estate, Sahar Road, Chakala, Andheri (East), Bombay 400099
Tel: 022 8378601 to 05/ 8348433 Telex: 011-79217 LIFT IN Fax: 022 8368304
E Mail: airlift.mum@gems.vsnl.net.in

Branches

58/A.L.G Nagar Society, Nizampura, Baroda 390002
Tel: 0265 482540 Fax: 0265 332259

5/2 First Floor, Ashok Nagar, Campbell Road, Austin Town, Bangalore 560047
Tel: 080 575161, 560660 Telex: 08458977 ALFT IN Fax: 080 5543363

New No. 100, Old 9/35, Bhakti Vilas, Dr Nanjappa Road, Coimbatore 641018
Tel: 0422 232333/234465/380460 Fax: 0422 380465

Bell House, DIV XLI/185, Y.M.C.A Lane, Chittoor Road, Cochin 682035
Tel: 0484 352466 Telex: 0885 6343

Kamal Cinema Building, Safdarjung Enclave, New Delhi 110029
Tel: 011 6170020, 6193095, 6162376 Telex: 031 72292 LIFT IN Fax: 011 6194743

No 159, Habibullah Road, T. Nager, Madras 600017
Tel: 044 8267495 Telex: 0417764 ACS IN Fax: 044 8281589

D/4 Alaknanda, Patranagar, Senapati Bapat Road, Pune 411053
Tel: 0212 358704/372293 Fax: 0212 372293

A. J. House, TC 34/864, Opp Intl Airport, Vallathukadavu, Trivandrum 695008
Tel: 0484372851 Fax: 0484372851

AIRLIFT -- Your bridge across the sky

Past practical experience, especially in social, doctrinal, and ritual matters makes "consensus" a dim hope. I would prefer the positive, more realistic phrase, "to promote the largest areas of agreement over time." This not only recognizes a more realistic objective, but also the words "over time" imply no threat of dogmatic finality.

When specifying the function of "coordinating the holding of a World Zoroastrian Congress (WZC) at periodic intervals," the bridging function between WZCs, separate in time and space in the last seven congresses, should have been stressed to offer continuity of concerns and recommendations. Coordination shouldn't mean a once-in-five-year coordination.

I find it hard to believe that the Spentaic spirits who have produced this interim draft, have regarded the following objectives as being secondary:

- promotion, perpetuation, and teaching of the message of Zarathushtra etc;
- encouraging charity and benevolence among Zoroastrians;
- nurturing the faith in various parts of the world, paying particular attention to youth; and
- promoting the community' human development.

These are hardly secondary objectives

unless one is asked to believe that social and religious development are secondary to representative governance activities on the international stage. I request the powers that be to reconsider this classification.

If the proposed WCZF is to be functional and objective, I cannot see how it can be so on the suggested minimum annual subscriptions of US \$1,000 each from India, Iran, North America and Europe and U.S. \$500 and \$300 from other smaller communities. To raise more realistic resources, and to be fairer, I suggest that each region makes subscriptions on the estimated basis of Zoroastrian families. Between India, Pakistan and Iran, there may be about 50,000 families, and a subscription of only US \$0.5 per family should annually yield US \$25,000 from these traditional countries. A subscription of US \$1 per annum per family from the other richer countries could yield an additional US \$10,000 per annum, roughly. Is it realistic and fair to expect seven office bearers to bear the administrative costs of the Council, or expect that US \$8,100 per annum will suffice? Are priests who may be called for consultations expected to bear their own travel costs?

If the Council is to put its money where

*We never take our guests and
breath-taking views for granted*



Lord's Central Hotel

Matheran 410102

Matheran Telephone 021483-0228 Fax 021483-0595

Bombay telephone 3867776



*With best
compliments
from*

**NARIMAN
NALLASETH
Private Limited**

**PLUMBING
ENGINEERS
&
CONSULTANTS**

27, Tamarind Lane
1st Floor, Block No 11
Rajabahadur Compound
Opp Allahabad Bank
Apollo Street, Fort
Mumbai 400023
Phones: 2650066 & 2652986
Fax: 091-022-2655834

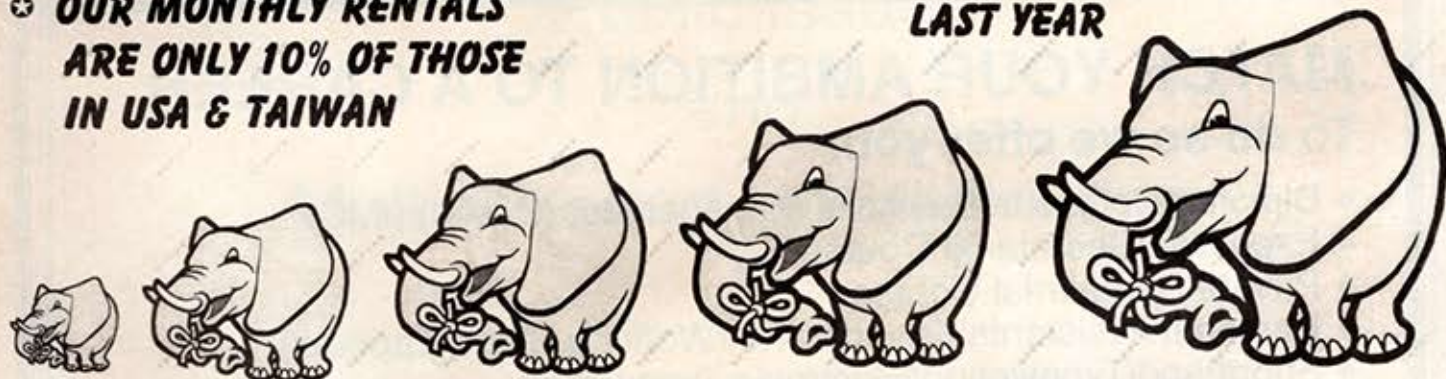




- ★ **CATV IN INDIA BEGAN JUST 4 YEARS AGO**
- ★ **INDIA HAS OVER 15 MILLION CATV HOMES**
- ★ **THE COUNTRY HAS THREE TIMES AS MANY CATV HOMES THAN TELEPHONE HOMES THANKS TO FREE ENTERPRISE**
- ★ **WE RECEIVE MORE THAN 80 SATELLITE CHANNELS**
- ★ **OUR MONTHLY RENTALS ARE ONLY 10% OF THOSE IN USA & TAIWAN**

SATELLITE
& Cable TV

- ★ **WITH THE INDUSTRY SINCE ITS INCEPTION**
- ★ **ALSO ORGANISES THE COUNTRY'S LARGEST, ANNUAL CATV TRADESHOW**
- ★ **EDUCATIONAL SEMINARS CONDUCTED IN MORE THAN 30 CITIES LAST YEAR**



**GROWING WITH INDUSTRY
TO SERVE YOU BETTER**

SATELLITE & CABLE TV

INDIA'S LARGEST MAGAZINE EXCLUSIVELY FOR SATELLITE & CABLE TV

for further details & subscriptions contact :

SATELLITE & CABLE TV

205, Business Plaza, 33, Gazdar Bandh Road,
Santacruz (W), Bombay 400 054 Tel. : 6053059

Fax : 605 3058 E-mail : scat@pobox.com

SATELLITE
& Cable TV

VARIAVAS

Wholesale dealers
of **Godrej** storwels,
filing cabinets,
coffers, cash-boxes

Retailers of:
Refrigerators,
typewriters and
office furniture

Prop: Mr M A Variava

269 Nariman House,
Dr Cawasji Hormusji Street,
Marine Lines, Mumbai 400002
(O) 2091974 (R) 2019119

its mouth is, it will need to take a harder look at its future budgets, and its resources. If office bearers are expected to meet the Council's costs from their own pockets, they will need to be very rich, and these, as a rule, are very busy managing their wealth; or the Council may be omitting very meritorious candidates who may not be able to afford travelling costs. If sufficient funds are not forthcoming, will grandiose constitutions and good intentions suffice? The GNP (gross national product) of global Zoroastrians is far higher now than the wealth of the Jejeebhoy's, Petits, et al in India (1850 to 1950) which produced the community's social infrastructure.

It is a good idea for general meetings of the Council to be planned with the WZO's for larger participation.

ASPI D. MODDIE

Only 42.73 percent of the anjumans of India (a minority) are members of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (FPZAI). I understand that out of the total 50 anjuman members of the FPZAI (as of January 10, 1994), only 17 were in favor of forming the World Council of Zoroastrian Federations (WCZF) and one voted against. The other 32 anjuman members did not bother voting,

indicating their silent opposition to WCZF. Therefore only 14.53 percent of all the anjumans of India voted for the formation of the WCZF.

The Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) was formed in 1987. Only 21 Zoroastrian associations of USA and Canada have joined it (as of March 1, 1996). There are 50 States in USA and 10 Provinces in Canada. Zoroastrians residing in all these 60 regions of North America are not members of FEZANA.

Not only individual Zoroastrians but also associations of North America are members of the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) and are completely satisfied with the achievements and management of the WZO in the interest of the Zoroastrian community, globally.

May we please ask the minority in India, North America and Europe who are supporting the formation of the new body to answer the following basic questions:

•What will the WCZF do that the WZO has not done or cannot do?

•Will the new body be financed by: the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), India, the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America, the Zoro-

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 Assistants' Programme (Working Stenographers)
 - ♦ Shorthand/Typewriting/Electronic Typewriting
 - ♦ Telephone Operating & Receptionist Techniques
 - ♦ English Conversation & Writing Skills
 - ♦ Personality Development
- and
- ♦ **Computer Packages**

Enquire at:

Sir J. J. College of Commerce

14, Nanabhoy Lane, Hutatma Chowk

Mumbai 400001 Tel: 2871058/2844329 Fax: 2871185

THE OLDEST BAKERS



Breads

Chocolate Cakes

Pizza Bread

Decorated Cakes

Eggless Cakes

Fig-8 Biscuits

Methi Biscuits

Nankhatai

Sweets Bits

Surti Batasa

Khari Puff Biscuits

Finger

Cashew Macrooms

Etc...



Dotiwala

BAKERS & CONFECTIONERS

M/s. DOTIWALA ENTERPRISE

Opp. Makai Bridge, Nanpura, Surat. Ph. : (O) 475027 (R) 471312.

M/s. C. S. M. ENTERPRISE

H-19, Parle Point Place, GhodDod Road Side, Surat. Ph. : 667404.



TARACHAND & Company

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

We give free home
delivery for bulk orders

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



80, Sleater Road
Grant Road (West)

Tel 3883691/3871277

astrian Trust Funds of Europe (Inc), London, UK?

•How can the WCZF purport to represent Zoroastrians when it is obviously not supported by the majority of anjumans/associations, and specially when many trustees/anjumans in India are known not to represent Zoroastrians living in their catchment area?

Articles appearing continuously in the Bombay Press confirm that there is disunity among the BPP trustees. If they have failed to retain unity among seven trustees, how will they retain unity among Zoroastrians worldwide? Furthermore, donors are completely dissatisfied with the BPP not using their donations properly and accounting for them. Is it not advisable that the BPP should concentrate fully on the affairs pertaining to Zoroastrians of Bombay, instead of wasting their time, energy and community funds towards a new body, which, if finally formed, would definitely create disunity in the community globally?

The WZO was formed in January 1980 under the direction and guidance of Prof Farhang Mehr of Boston (USA), with headquarters in London (UK).

The WZO is the only established, proven and democratic world body, progressive, forward-looking, retaining complete peace and harmony, thereby fulfilling its motto — "Zoroastrian unity worldwide." It has performed the duties of a world body by safeguarding Zoroastrians globally, holding international conferences on Zoroastrian religion, culture, history, etc and also caring for the weaker sections of the community neglected for generations by trusts/anjumans of India. What comparable help has been given, since 1980, by the BPP or FPZAI or FEZANA to the needy Zoroastrians of India?

Many Zoroastrians from all parts of the world have donated generously to the WZO for its multifarious activities, convinced by the honesty, integrity, sincerity and openness of the WZO. The late Mehraban Farhangi and his wife Goli gave a magnanimous donation of £150,000 forming The World Zarathushtrian Trust Fund to promote the WZO's selfless efforts in the interest of all Zoroastrians. During the fiscal year April 1, 1995 to March 31, 1996, WZO received Rs 5,85,54,093 for worthy and noble causes espoused by WZO.

In the *FEZANA Journal* (Spring 1997) Mr Rohinton Rivetna appreciates the "laudable work" of the WZO. He then suggests finding "a workable link" with the London based WZO.



Fully air-conditioned hall

with 560 seats for
Marriage Ceremonies,
Annual General
Meetings,
Prayer Meetings,
Prize Distribution
Functions,
Lions Club's Meetings,
Dramas etc. etc.
Our Ground Floor
Hall is available for
Exhibitions and Sales

Contact:
Trustee
**Framjee
Cawasjee
Institute**

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



WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS OF

Hotel Rutt-Deen

Ideally located in the centre of the city in a quiet locality with a spacious garden. Adjacent to shopping centres, 15 km from the airport and 5 km from the railway station. Major credit cards accepted and exchange of foreign currency is also available

Centrally air-conditioned. Spacious rooms with attached bathrooms, TV, fridge, and direct dialing facility in every room

21-B, Loudon Street
Calcutta 700016

Tel Nos: 2401878, 2402389, 2403340, 2476911, 2475240

Fax No: 91-33-2475210

Telegram: "RUTT-DEEN"

My humble suggestion to the leaders of the BPP, the FPZAI and FEZANA is that they should join the WZO in their individual capacities and also influence/persuade their associations/federations/anjumans to join the WZO. Any other course of action is bound to divide the community globally.

Providence is always on the side of the strongest, honest, sincere battalions.

NOSHIRWAN F. COWASJEE

London, UK

As our community already has a world body in existence since 1980, i.e. the World

Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO), one wonders why the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India, and the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America desire to form a second world body.

I request all Zoroastrians wherever they may reside to give serious consideration to this matter and ponder on the following obvious questions:

- Is a second body really needed?
- How will this body be financed?
- What kind of role will this new body play in the affairs of the global Zoroastrian community?

•How will it help and safeguard the welfare and rights of individual Zoroastrians who live in small pockets and may or may not belong to any Zoroastrian association in their part of the world?

The constitution of the WZO is unique as well as truly democratic. Zoroastrian bodies (large and small) as well as individual Zoroastrians can become members and play their part in maintaining the survival of the Zoroastrian religion.

To argue that only the representatives of various bodies can form a federated body or council is to display a kind of civil service mentality which opposes any change that does not suit it. The community is primarily interested in knowing what useful service any organization renders. This the WZO has been doing and none can deny that.

If wiser counsel does not prevail and another world body is formed, it will break up the dwindling community, divide the limited financial resources and destroy whatever unity and harmony currently exists within the community. What can this second body do that the WZO has not done or cannot do? The community certainly does not need a body that may well turn out to be a 'talk shop.'

We should have the good sense of geese which always fly in a 'V' formation, thereby

POWER PUSHER FINANCIAL SERVICES Private Limited

Hanoz P. Patel and Zubin P. Patel

Dealing in:

Bonds, issues, company fixed deposits, HDFC, UTI, LIC, mutual funds, post office savings, PPF, shares, primary issues, inter-corporate deposits, 10% tax free relief bonds.

Office:

306, M B House, 3rd floor, 79 Janmabhoomi Marg, Fort, Mumbai 400001

Tel: 2846522, 2846521 Fax: 022-2846521 Res: 3866533, 3879979

SHAW GARMENTS (P) LIMITED

Manufacturer and Exporter of Quality Garments

8, West Mada Church Street, Royapuram, Chennai 600013, India
Phone: 5954156 Fax: 5954156



Navroze Mubarak!

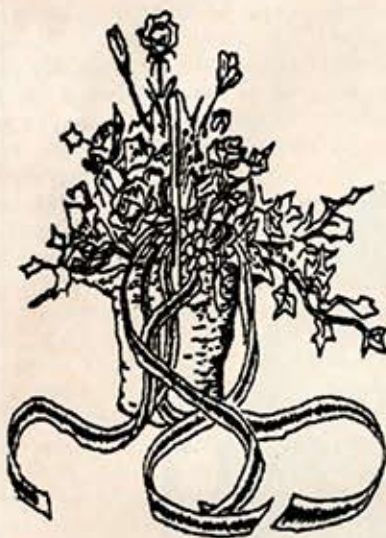
As the world becomes one global village it takes not only technology but also the will and effort of dedicated communities to make this world a better place to live and grow.

With its global presence Motorola – like the Zoroastrian community – understands what it means to bring together the world, it is this spirit of goodwill and harmony that Motorola salutes today.



MOTOROLA
PAGERS

What you never thought possible.™



FROM A WELL WISHER

enabling the whole flock to move at least 71 percent farther than if each bird were to fly on its own... The geese honk from behind to encourage those up front to keep up their speed. When the lead goose gets tired, another goose takes over. It pays to take turns doing hard jobs for our group. Finally, when a goose weakens or is wounded and falls out of formation, two geese fall out to help and protect him until he is dead, and then set out on their own or with another formation until they catch up with the group.

CYRUS P. MEHTA
Essex, UK

WZO seminar

So decorous was the conduct and management structure implemented by the president, Mr Shahpur Captain and his dedicated team of helpers at the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) seminar in London on November 16 and 17, 1996, that each visitor/participant felt he/she was allocated a "project manager" to see the whole seminar through from start to finish.

Before I proceed further, it behoves me to state quite unequivocally that I am not and have never been a member of the WZO, London, lest my testimony be considered a eulogy. The sole purpose is only to give credit where due. At the international conference on "The Religious and Secular Literature of the Zarathushtrian Tradition," Mr Shahpur Captain and his ever so courteous team demonstrated a clear recognition of punctilious catering to the needs of participants/visitors and revealed that service is paramount.

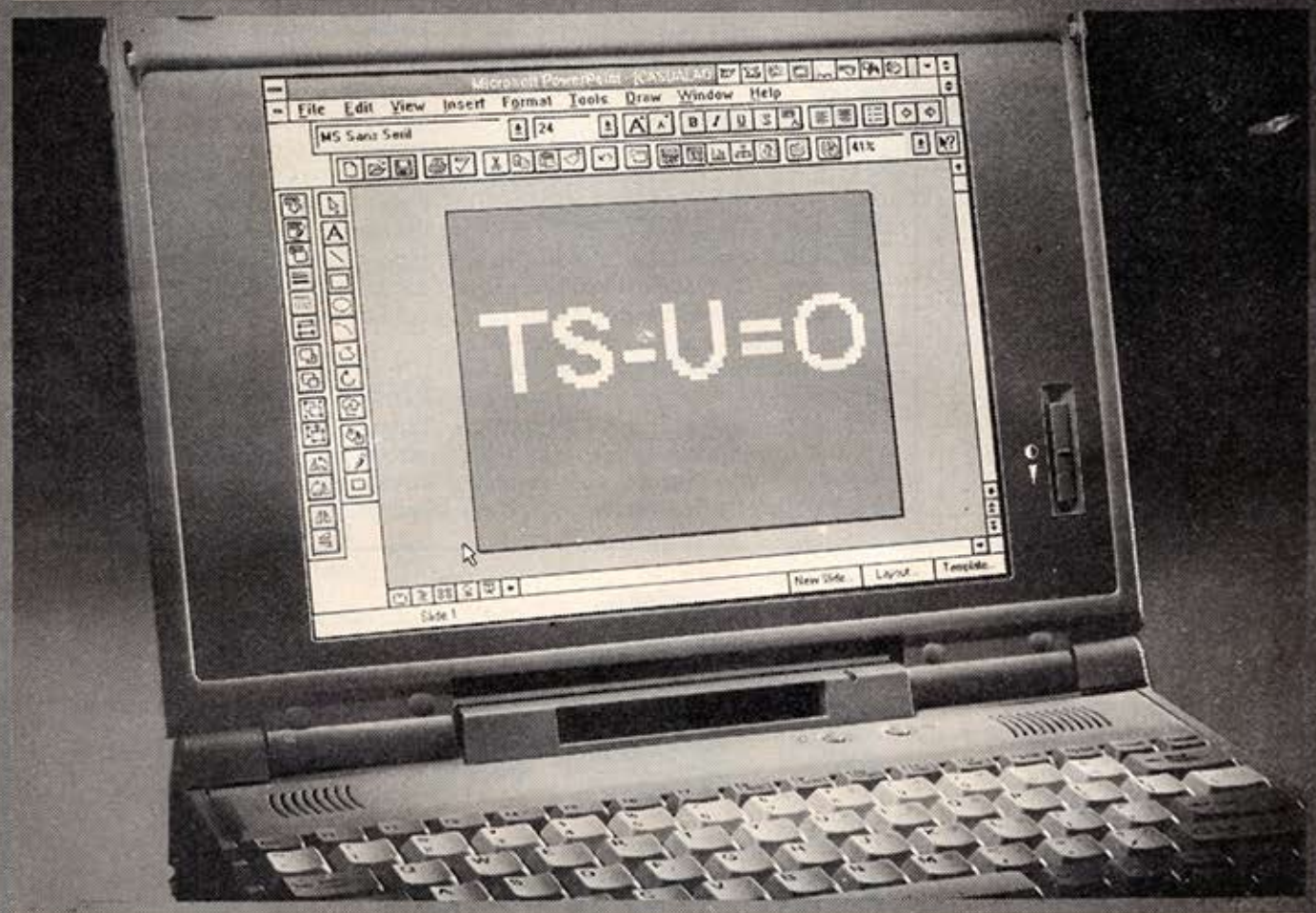
Those Zoroastrians who have been in the habit of labelling the behavior of WZO (London) as totally dysfunctional, would have found much to emulate in the core values of honesty, openness, dignity, integrity and commitment — to mention a few — in evidence at this seminar. It would be a truism to say that tremendous "behind the scene" efforts had been clearly expended by this organization to arrange what has unquestionably been a unique event. Arranging an assemblage of such erudite speakers of international renown — Professors Kaikhosrov Irani, Farhang Mehr, Francois de Blois, Ilya Gershevitch, Stanley Insler and several others — on diverse aspects of Zoroastrian literature must have obviously been a mammoth task.

It would be trite to claim that this unique experience immeasurably enhanced the knowledge and understanding of the profundity of diverse aspects of Zoroastrian-

With
best wishes
from

**Farah
&
Tanya**

A FORMULA THAT KEEPS US AT THE CUTTING EDGE OF TECHNOLOGY



A simple formula, indeed, for expressing complex state-of-the-art technology found at Tata Steel. A formula that unequivocally expresses your indispensability in our life. At Tata Steel, without you, our technological ventures would be futile. Absolutely zero!

For example, what use would our technically superior corrosion resistant steel reinforcing bars be without you to enjoy the fruits of living happily in a house that stands up to the elements? Or what use would they be if they could not protect a bridge which you and your family could cross everyday?

As the 21st century approaches, the efficiency of our scientific ventures and technological innovations can only be judged by the ultimate benefits that accrue to you. Hence the formula that makes high technology at Tata Steel seem so simple. As simple as understanding yourself.

TATA STEEL
Where *you* come first

Thanks for your
most informative
and interesting
articles -- we read
every issue from
cover to cover.

An interested
reader from
the U.S.A.

ism. The quantum of valuable information made available on the tenets of Zoroastrianism could not have failed to infuse great pride in the many Zoroastrians present at this seminar, with an overwhelming feeling of the quintessential greatness of the Zoroastrian heritage. Perhaps here is irrefutable evidence of Zoroastrianism continuing in perpetuity.

Interspersed between this 'food for thought' (engrossing lectures) was the delectable array of inviting 'food for the stomach' (meals and drinks) served with disciplined order and amicability which considerably enhanced the enjoyment. In essence, order, courtesy and decorum permeated these pauses.

FURHOK K. TANGREE
La Roche-sur-Foron, France

Seat for naval officer

Captain Rustom F. Contractor of the Indian Navy is the first Parsi naval officer to be selected to attend the Royal College of Defence Studies course in London. This is a prestigious course for top senior officers of the services, both civil and military, and attended by the most up and coming officers from the Commonwealth and other friendly countries. Vacancies on this course are so difficult to find that the Indian Navy

is offered only one seat every alternate year.

Rustom Contractor hails from Nagpur where he schooled prior to joining the National Defence Academy at Khadakvasla. He has had a distinguished career in the Navy, specializing in navigation. He commanded several ships including the *Rajput* and *Ranvijay* with distinction, earning high praise from his admirals. Amongst his notable shore appointments was his recent command as the naval officer-in-charge, Port Blair, where he did much for the locals and his interaction between the services and civilians was much appreciated. Captain Contractor is married to Thrity and has a boy aged 12 and a girl aged 10.

Vice Admiral R.K.S. GHANDHI

Help Chikhli Agiary

From the donations received in response to our previous appeals we have been able to complete the construction of a community hall, priests' quarters, dharamshala rooms,



**With
Best
Wishes**

**Nandiroyce
International Limited**

Suite 1000, 1235 Bay Street, Toronto M5R 3K4, Canada

AND

Boyce Associates

Suite 1000, 1235 Bay Street, Toronto M5R 3K4, Canada

M/S ARMIN WORLDWIDE

Customs Clearance -- Air and Sea
Customs Clearance -- Imports and Exports
Freight Forwarding
Import Licence Brokerage
Consultancy

For all your customs clearance needs for
both air and sea -- exports and imports



Kindly Contact

Mr Narioshang N Nava
Proprietor

M/s Armin Worldwide

A-203, Vertex Vikas Building, 2nd Floor
Opp Andheri Station, Andheri (East)
Bombay 400069, India

Tel: 8205388/8354061, 8378412/8378432
8378435 Tel/Fax: 8220818

Mobile Phone: 98210-31331

Pager No: 9622-305890



PERCY AND KAIZAD ROADLINES Private Limited

**Transport Contractors
& Fleet Owners**

Contractors to

Godrej & Boyce Mfg Co Ltd
Godrej-GE Appliances Ltd
Krupp Industries (India) Ltd

Daily and direct services to:
Maharashtra, MP, UP,
Rajasthan, Haryana, Delhi,
Chandigarh and Punjab

Regd Office:

111, Trapinex House, 1st Floor,
Sholapur Street, Mumbai 400009

Resi: 2185674, 2182885

Office: 3718679, 3727831,

3760913, 3767531

kitchen behind the Agiary (where at present the dadgah saheb is kept), and compound wall.

Now, in the second phase, the repairs to the main Gazder Agiary building is going on. But because of shortage of funds, the work is proceeding very slowly. We still need Rs 3,00,000 and therefore appeal to our community members and trusts to help us again with generous donations.

Please send your cheque/draft in favor of "Renovation Fund, Chikhli Parsi Anjuman" to the Anjuman, Italia House, Bazar Street, Chikhli 396521.

YAZDI ITALIA

Joint Managing Trustee, Chikhli Parsi Anjuman

Faith in the fire

It is heartening to know that quite a few of our agiaries have completed 150 years. Those youths and elders from our community who run after other religions must know that in our own religion we have a rich legacy left by our forefathers. Perhaps, we can say that the Zarathosti religion is the mother of all religions.

Praying in solitude before the holy fire, be it the exalted Iranshah padshah or the fire in an atash behram or an agiary, should make us forget our worldly worries as we attune ourselves to the Maker and His

beautiful creation. Like the popular saying, "An apple a day keeps the doctor away," we should advocate "A visit a day to the fire-temple keeps worries at bay."

BHIKHAJI M. ADENWALLA

They stand for...

May I introduce you to the following dignitaries with whom we are acquainted in one form or another? My own grandpa Sir D. B. Cooper's initials stood for dignity, boldness, courage.

S. L. Kirloskar signified sound learning, knowledge;

J.R.D. Tata: jubilant, resourceful, dynamic; N. A. Palkhivala: nobility, amiability, perseverance.

S. N. COOPER

Satar

Edited by Parinaz M. Gandhi

ADDENDUM

Due to an oversight the photo credits, for the color pictures in the cover story: "We are here to defy extinction" (*Parsiana*, January 1997) were omitted. The picture of the illuminated Karani agiary was by Rusi Davar, the others by Nazneen Vajifdar, Spectravision Labs. The omission is regretted.



HOTEL PRESIDENT

The Businessmen's Home in Indore

Located in the heart of the city's commercial and business centre, Hotel President is only 11 kms from the airport. All the 65 luxuriously appointed rooms and suites are air conditioned with direct dial telephone, colour television with 24 hours satellite entertainment. Our health club with a gym, steam, sauna and jacuzzi is an ideal place to unwind. For the business traveller we have a large conference hall and a travel desk.

HOTEL PRESIDENT

163, RNT Marg, Indore 452001

Phones: 527892-93, 524792-93-94 Fax: 0731-512230 Gram: 'President'

GAIN. AGAIN - AND AGAIN...

Gains that you can't afford to ignore !

Place your capital gains in **BOB's CAPITAL GAINS EXEMPTION DEPOSIT SCHEME**, a scheme to protect salaried individuals, HUFs, association of persons, firms, companies and also those NRIs who have taxable capital gains in India.

Invest in **BOB Cap - Gain** for 7 years to avail **exemption from taxes on your capital gains. Your investment will earn interest of 12.5% p.a.**, payable half yearly with the added advantage of quarterly compounding.

Isn't it gain... again... and again ?



Available at all branches.



Bank of Baroda

(A Government of India Undertaking)

Events and Personalities

A Bhavan for Pherozechah

Even as he laid the foundation stone of Sir Pherozechah Mehta Bhavan to house the department of civics and politics at Bombay University's Kalina Campus on March 1, 1997 recalling the "memory of one of the greatest men our country has produced," Maharashtra governor and ex officio chancellor of Bombay University Dr. P. C. Alexander charted out a course of research for its advanced students.

Saluting the golden jubilee of the country's independence, he noted with pride that India was one of only 60 of the United Nations' 165 members who were considered truly democratic. "Many countries became independent but very few who became independent along with us or after us have had the rare privilege to celebrate independence and democracy (50 years later)," he said.

Alexander's concern that evening under the shamiana was that "representative democracy had not been properly researched or studied in the context of Indian conditions."

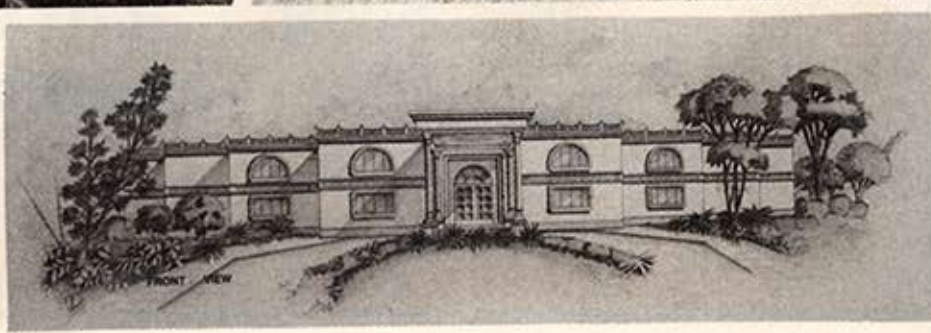
At the inauguration of the Pherozechah Mehta Bhavan (from top left): Thrity Taleyarkhan, Guzder, Antia and Alexander Below: Modi with frontal view of the proposed Bhavan

Fifty years of following the western model had thrown up certain problems. "Is something that is practical, feasible, in smaller countries... England, Switzerland, Australia, New Zealand... adaptable to a continental country like ours?" Tracing the history of democracy, Alexander noted, "What was true in the city state of Athens could not be implemented in other places" but even Athens lacked total democracy — neither slaves nor women were allowed to vote.

Distinguishing the two basic considerations of democracy — accountability of the elected and the continuing participation of the electorate — the governor spelt out the figures that impede that exercise in the Indian context. The Lok Sabha's 545 members represent 950 million people (expected to increase to 1,300 million in a

decade) — a ratio of one to 1.7 million. "How can you enforce accountability?... Reaching 1.7 million people with a manifesto is an impossible task. (Hence the problems of) money power and muscle power... Can we increase the number of MPs (members of parliament) to keep pace with the population? (But) even 545 members cannot find the opportunity to speak or participate."

Alexander contrasted the Indian scene with that in the UK where the MP is not nominated to represent his party in the general elections unless he is approved by the party members at the local level and returns to his constituency every week or fortnight to report on how he voted and participated in Parliament and to get his constituency's views on matters under debate. Thus, "this understanding between



TO BE A SUCCESS, YOU'VE GOT TO REACH FOR THE STARS



In 1993, Tata Exports achieved the prestigious Super Star Trading House Status

With exports to almost every country on the globe, we at Tata Exports pride ourselves on having our feet firmly on the ground. And now we've reached the stars as well. On the 20th of November 1993, we were awarded the Super Star Trading House Status.

Starting out in 1962, we were then known as CIEL (Commercial and Industrial Exports Ltd.), the French word for 'sky'. Tata Exports today has really reached the skies. We're today India's leading exporter of commercial vehicles, construction equipment & materials, steel and steel-based engineering products, ferro-alloys & minerals, leather and finished leather



products, agricultural commodities, marine products, chemicals, textiles & garments, home furnishings, health care products and ceramics, globally.

Over the years, we've been honoured with several prestigious awards:

The Overall Exports Trophy, the National Productivity Council's Award and the coveted ISO 9001 from RWTUV CERT of Germany (the first Indian company to gain this honour). Also recognition by Dewas District for Environmental Consciousness.

At Tata Exports, we strive to shine the brightest in the business galaxy. Today, tomorrow, forever.

TATA EXPORTS LIMITED

Overseas: Algeria • Cyprus • Ethiopia • Hong Kong • Kenya • Mozambique • Namibia • South Africa • Thailand
• U.A.E. • U.K. • U.S.A. • Zambia • Zimbabwe **India:** Bombay • Calcutta • Delhi • Dewas • Madras

the elected and the electorate continues through five years." In India prospective candidates are selected by party headquarters far away from the constituency. "Where is the accountability? The trouble starts with that... How do you ensure participatory democracy where the transport system is so primitive?... You may see a man once in five years..

"We alone can conduct research... We may end up feeling the need to devolve power to the state level and thence to the punchayet level. If so, we must provide these institutions with much more power. Otherwise we have empowerment without responsibility."

The function had begun with mistress of ceremony Homai Modi reading messages from the then Prime Minister Deve Gowda and Gandhian Usha Mehta congratulating Bombay University for keeping the memory of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta alive. University vice chancellor Dr Snehalata Deshmukh recalled Mehta's 45 years' service on the University Senate. "Work and worship is the only motto for success. Even the lion gets no food unless he works hard," she noted, obliquely punning on the indefatigable Mehta's sobriquets, Lion of Bombay and Ferocious Mehta.

Homi Taleyarkhan, chairman of Sir Pherozeshah Mehta 150th Birth Anniversary Celebrations Committee informed the gathering that the civil engineering firm Larsen and Toubro had agreed to construct the Bhavan designed by prominent architect I. M. Kadri and had donated Rs 10 lakhs towards its cost. One crore rupees had been collected towards a total cost estimate of two crore rupees, he said. A further Rs 10 lakhs were promised by noted businessman and Bombay Parsi Punchayet chairman Jamshed Guzder that evening.

For Dr Nawaz Mody, the Committee's secretary and head of the University's department of civics and politics, it was "a dream fulfilled" as she promised to give full attention to Alexander's guidelines. Recalling the Committee's "minor aims and objectives," Mody spoke to the assembled gathering (which included a busload from South Bombay courtesy community activist and noted solicitor Burjor Antia who had chartered an airconditioned vehicle for the occasion) of the encouragement from the chancellor and vice chancellor which propelled the members to think in larger terms, and eventually of establishing the Bhavan. The Committee's year-long program of commemoration had

included a two-day seminar on Mehta's contributions to national life (see "When the lion roared..." *Parsiana*, October 1996) and Mody credited Taleyarkhan with being the Committee's "rock of support."

Kadri himself recounted how he had been inspired by Mehta's relentless discharge of public duties, adding, "In regard, respect and remembrance I have designed the Pherozeshah Mehta Bhavan." The edifice has an external garden as well as an internal one and, said the architect, "facilities for any scholar from anywhere in the world to come and research. I only hope that when the building is complete people will find inspiration from Pherozeshah Mehta for their own work." *Arnavaz S. Mama*

NPA honors Dastur Mirza

"A dastur's first duty is to learn and to teach. I have remained a learner and teacher," Dastur (Dr) Hormazdyar Mirza



Felicitations for Mirza (right) with wife Manijeh. Above (from left): Jal Tata, Modi, Mirza, B. Antia, Dubash and Farrokh Antia

responded to the citation, purse and shawl presented to him by the Navsari Parsi Association (NPA) honoring his 52 years of dedication to the community as high priest at the Iranshah.

The felicitation on March 18, 1997 at Allbless Baug had been preceded by a jashan. The acknowledgement of Mirza's lifelong work in propagating religious knowledge among Zoroastrians in India, North America, UK and Africa was followed by the appreciation of 15 other priests ranging in age from 65 to 79 years, the youngest of them having clocked over 50 years of service. In fellowship most NPA trustees and other professionals had

donned their white priestly pugrees.

The munificence of the presentations (Mirza received one lakh rupees, 10 yozdathregar mobeds received Rs 50,000 each and the remaining five Rs 35,000 each along with the customary shawl) was thanks to the generosity of Nariman Dubash and the Dubash Sanjana Endowment which, as noted NPA president Burjor Antia, had sponsored the event. Their intention, said Antia was "to send the message to (the members of) the athravan community that their lives' labor is appreciated and recognized."

Dubash, an automobile engineer from the Chrysler Motor Corporation and the evening's chief guest, hoped that the belated but heartening community appreciation of their services will prompt the priests to "encourage their sons to enter the profession so that they can tend the holy fires."

Mirza elucidated the many duties of a dastur: "to memorize the text, understand it, to decide (on) holy prayers and to perform ceremonies reciting the sacred texts so that life may be renovated, refreshed." The frail nonagenarian who had recently recovered from a bout of illness and surgery, spoke with his usual authority. "How far I have succeeded



and where I've failed (in these duties) my community will decide. I've tried my best." Concluding his remarks, Zoroastrianism's seniormost scholar priest invoked God's blessing on the NPA, the community, the country and all mankind.

Initially there were only five mobeds on the NPA's honor list, Antia had noted. Now as they had become aware of many more potential beneficiaries, including chasniwalas and widows of mobeds, Antia stated that this function was but the first in a series to come. In her vote of thanks NPA



ALBAJ GROUP OF COMPANIES

Design, supply and fabrication of piping installation for process industries, on turn-key basis, for all types of IBR and non IBR piping

Specialised fabricators in S.S. and C.S. for coded pressure vessels, heat exchangers, fly ash arrestors, economisers, superheaters, chimneys, air receivers and oil and gas installations at site, with approval of CCOE, Nagpur

Complete modification and retubing of existing boilers, with IBR approval

Bio-gas sweetening packages, compressor packages, conversion kit for vehicles (CNG)

PSA nitrogen and VPSA oxygen plant

Design and manufacture of air dryers and filters

Pune: 340, Clover Centre, Moledina Road, Pune 411001
Phone: 631511/633018 Tele Fax 91(0212) 634050/633018 Gram: Pipework

Bombay: 8 'Arcadia', 1st Floor, 195, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021
Phone: 2821659/2823103/2825516 Tele Fax 91(022)2850015

vice president Homai Modi referred to Dubash's "spontaneous generosity (which) grew as we worked for this function" and invited him to be an NPA patron. She also gave intimation of NPA plans to hold an entertainment program on the fifth Gatha (Pateti) to collect funds for its various programs.

The yozdathregar mobeds felicitated that day were: Ervad Peston Rabadi, 79, and Ervad Rustom Sidhwa, 68, of Boyce Agiary, Ervad Navel Antia, 78, Ervad Jal Unwalla, 75, and Ervad Bahadur Balsara, 72, of Sethna Agiary, Ervad Minocher Bhada, 77, of Batliwala Agiary, Ervad Noshir Behram-Kamdin, 70, of Dadyseth Atash Behram, Ervad Darab Masani, 70, of Anjuman Atash Bahram, Ervad Bahadur Panthaky, 69, of Banaji Agiary, Ervad Aspi Nalladaru, 67, of Banaji Atash Behram. Other priests with over 50 years' service were Ervad Bomansha Balsara, 79, of Vachaghandhy Agiary, Ervad Homi Bhada, 76, and Ervad Behram Vajifdar, 65, of Sethna Agiary, Ervad Minoo Bharucha, 71, of Dadyseth Agiary and Ervad Erachshaw Kotwal, 70, of Cama Baug Agiary.

Other institutions which had aided the NPA were the WZO (World Zoroastrian Organisation) Trust Funds and Union Press.

The substantial turnout (including Bombay Parsi Punchayet trustees, senior politician Homi Taleyarkhan and industrialist Sohrab Godrej) witnessed a revue, Parsi Dhamka, presented by Universal Theatres before proceeding to a fish curry, chicken farcha and sali botti dinner by Tanaz and Neville Godiwala.

A.S.M.

Lone Parsi on BMC

Congress candidate Noshir Rusi Mehta is reportedly the only Parsi to have won a seat to the Bombay Municipal Corporation during the recently contested elections in



Mehta: third term as corporator

February 1997. In this his third term as corporator from Ward No 20, Mehta secured about 64 percent of the votes polled, according to a write-up in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of March 2, 1997. Representing this Muslim dominated locality since

his father's assassination in 1987, Mehta's involvement with the Corporation has included a stint as member of the improve-

ment committee and chairman of the BEST committee, mentions the news report.

Fellow corporator Rustom Tirandaz, who had been representing Dadar and Matunga for nearly two decades, was not successful this time despite the support he had harnessed from leading members of the community like Dinshaw Tamboly, Ervad Rustom Panthaky, Dr Jamshed Sunawala, Firoze Sholapurwalla and Mithoo Jesia. According to their appeal carried in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of February 16, 1997, "The need of the hour is experienced, competent, transparent and committed representation. Who better than this honest, clean and dedicated man...who is easily approachable and accessible to anybody and everybody 24 hours a day?"

Candles, the symbol chosen by independent candidate Cyrus Behram Irani, could not pave the way to his success in ward No 8 covering Dhobitalao, Chira Bazar, Mumbadevi, Abdul Rehman Street and Kalbadevi. Yet another "upright, independent and public-spirited person" filing his nomination from Ward No 1, in Colaba was Dara Contractor who despite his long-standing affiliation with the Lions and Freemasonic movements was not given a chance "to serve the people of his constituency and address their various

America's #1 Jeans

Wrangler®

The Western Original.

AVAILABLE AT:

COLABA: GRAND BAZAAR, KALA GHODA: VINOD APPARELS,

D.N. ROAD: MUNNU'S, D.N. ROAD (VASHI): RICHY RICH,

C.S.T.: CAMERA 'N' JEANS, GOWALIA TANK: FASHION ORBIT,

HEERA PANNA: VISHAL BOUTIQUE, DADAR T.T.: CLASSIC,

LINKING RD. (BANDRA): DENIM WORLD, BLUES BAZAAR, ANDHERI: SHOPPER'S STOP,

LOKHANDWALLA COMPLEX: ROCK 'N' ROLL, MULUND: WOODPECKER.

LEASING
HIRE PURCHASE
BILL DISCOUNTING
LOAN SYNDICATION
FIXED DEPOSITS
Vehicle financing
MERCHANT BANKING



FITTING SOLUTIONS TO YOUR NEEDS

Tata Finance Limited: Dubash House, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400038.

Across 28 cities nationwide with Regional Offices at :
Mumbai: Tel: 2661471/2621653/5232765. Madras: Tel: 8232748/
8232749/8232750. Delhi: Tel: 3723591/3723592/3316094/3316109.

needs in a planned and efficient manner," as conveyed in the *Jamé*.

A steely centenary

"The Godrej story is not limited to industrial excellence and enlightened concerns. It is also a very human chronicle of strong, determined men and women, gifted with vision and uncommon talents, who built a powerful and unique business undeterred by setbacks and difficulties...Drawing upon extensive interviews...and exhaustive research," the author Burjor Karanjia has put together in the words of eminent jurist Nani Palkhivala, "a most fascinating and inspiring account of one of the great Indian families who have done the country proud," as notes a press release.

The book, *Godrej — A Hundred Years*, was released by the Vice-President of India K. R. Narayanan at the Pirojsha Godrej National Conservation Centre in New Delhi on March 3, 1997 when present on the occasion were the city's glitterati, several senior industrialists and members of the Godrej family, including the chairman of the Godrej group, Sohrab Godrej. The first volume of the book concentrates on the first two generations of this close-knit family who have created a business conglomerate that is today a household name in the country. Published by Penguin Books India Private Limited, the hard cover is priced at Rs 295. The second volume of the book is due for release in December 1997. A paperback edition as also a Hindi and Marathi version are expected to hit the stands.

When introducing the founder Ardeshir Godrej, Karanjia writes: "Deep within him he was proud of the principled stand he had taken...But he also realized now that he had damaged his career as a lawyer, perhaps beyond repair. Without any alterna-

tive means of livelihood, he was returning (from Zanzibar in 1894) to a briefless future. Nevertheless, Ardeshir didn't return empty-handed. He brought back a parrot, the unique African Grey..." Of Ardeshir's brother Pirojsha, the author mentions, "He bought a tract of land in Vikhroli village at a public auction. There were several pockets of settlers in the neighboring areas whom he bought off one after the other, paying more in the process than he had done for the original piece of land. Considering today's prices what he paid was a pittance, yet he had to sell his shares and almost everything he had to defray the cost besides taking loans. He did this against the advice of friends and well-wishers who sincerely believed he was throwing money away and being unmindful of his children..."

The book is just one of the centenary projects planned by the company. A TB hospital in Delhi, a management institute in Bombay, memorial lectures on the birth anniversaries of its stalwarts, co-sponsorship of programs by Zubin Mehta and the Munich Philharmonic Orchestra, and various other events will familiarize the public with Godrej's progress through its first century.

Godrej lecture series

"None of the three railway budgets and one financial budget which I represented leaked out — (which) speaks of the efficiency of the Godrej cupboard," deputy chairman of the Planning Commission and former union finance minister Madhu Dandavate made a bantering start to the first Godrej Memorial Lecture titled "Gandhi's human touch," at the Bombay House Auditorium on March 26, 1997.

A series of four lectures has been planned to commemorate the four stalwarts of the family — Ardeshir, Pirojsha, Burjor and Naoroji — in this centenary year of the House of Godrej. Dandavate's lecture

marked the 129th birth anniversary of Ardeshir — inventor, innovator and "entrepreneur par excellence," in the words of Sohrab Godrej, his nephew and head of the House of Godrej.

Like his friend Mohandas Gandhi, Ardeshir believed that "self-respect came from self-reliance" and donated towards Gandhi's work "at a time when hardly anyone supported Gandhi," noted Sohrab. Describing Ardeshir as an apostle of "plain living and high thinking" Sohrab recalled that his uncle "never detached himself from libraries and books. He worked half the day and in the other half pursued other interests." Among these was the development of agriculture along scientific lines, indicated Sohrab.

Eminent jurist Nani Palkhivala who chaired the proceedings described Dandavate as the "humblest and simplest finance minister" India has had and referred to the bond of ideas between Gandhi and the Godrejs: "the family has created enormous wealth for the nation and has maintained such a low profile and lifestyle."

Dandavate's talk featured a series of anecdotes about the Father of the Nation as "Gandhi's human touch is deeply needed... in the ignoble public life of today." One story recalled the dark days of communal rioting in Noakhali (a district in what is now Bangladesh) where Gandhi went with his peace brigade of ladies including his granddaughters. When Gandhi learnt that three young girls with him had been targetted by vandals, he approached a Muslim landlord to shelter them. The Muslim family harbored them with great kindness until the violence was over. Sadly, when the brigade returned home after restoring calm to Noakhali, the three young girls were turned out of their homes by

*Godrej centenary celebrations (left): Narayanan with S. P. Godrej at the book release function
Right: Dandavate and members of the Godrej family at the first Godrej Memorial Lecture*



Jamshedi Navroze Mubarak



**CAFE
MONDEGAR**

where you can mix music with beer

Near Regal Cinema, Colaba Causeway, Mumbai-39. Ph: 2020591

their Hindu parents for the taint of living with Muslims and spent the rest of their lives in Gandhi's ashram, said Dandavate.

In another anecdote he recalled Gandhi's concern for public funds. A girl who sought Gandhi's autograph and had been asked to give something in return, had paid Rs 10 which was accepted for national use. That evening Gandhi, Acharya Kripalani and a colleague had been invited to a dinner meeting a distance away and had to hire a tonga to get there. The money was given to Kripalani to arrange the transport. When the trio reached the dinner venue Gandhi enquired the cost of the ride. Kripalani informed him that it had cost five rupees, but was unable to return the balance five rupees to Gandhi as he had neglected to collect the change from the tongawalla. In characteristic style Gandhi informed the hostess that only two members of the trio would dine that night. Kripalani may be allowed a glass of water but no more; he had wasted public funds! Commented Dandavate: "It was a mere five rupees — not 500, not 5,000, not five crore!"

Similarly Maulana Abdul Kalam Azad, another staunch Gandhian as Dandavate recalled, had refused to accept public funds collected to create a memorial to his dead wife. She had never done public service,

he said and directed that the money be deposited for national use instead.

In the course of his speech Dandavate requested Soonu Godrej, wife of the late Naoroji, sitting on the dais beside him, for a glass of water. It wobbled slightly when he placed it on the lectern, leading the scientist-economist-politician to quip, "The glass is less unstable than the political system!"

"Few in the changed India of today, 50 years after Independence, have the competence and the moral right to speak on Gandhi, the Father of our nation, as much as Madhu Dandavate who has been... a source of guidance and inspiration to all of us by the example he sets, by the simplicity of his lifestyle... the lucidity of his writing and thinking and his deeply held conviction, which we share, that Gandhi's values are as relevant today as they were before freedom was won..." noted the scroll of honor presented by Sohrab to Dandavate. A former professor of nuclear physics at Bombay University, Dandavate had been elected to the Lok Sabha five times over.

Paying homage to Ardeshir as "one who loved to invent new and better ways of doing things," Soonu recalled the depth of his attachment to the concept of swadeshi, remembered eating "unusual tasting...

chicoo and papaya toffees" and how he gave away knowhow on perfumes, food flavors, etc which he had developed to friends to exploit commercially.

An audiovisual on the Godrej group screened that day featured the family's multifaceted activity — office furniture and security systems, soaps, oils and food stuffs, property development, white goods and electronics, collaboration with government organizations, space research, as well as social commitment to environmental and human development reminiscent of the Gandhian ideology of the pioneers — Ardeshir, the innovator and his brother Pirojsha, the consolidator. A.S.M.

Youngest atash bahram

There were 12 dasturs in attendance at the jashan in 1897 to mark the installation of the sacred fire at the Anjuman Atash Bahram, the last of the eight atash bahrams to be consecrated in India. One hundred years later, the strength of the dasturs may have waned but the community's faith in the atash padshah has resulted in the release of gold, silver and copper coins and a 40-page booklet, *A Brief History of Anjuman Atash Bahram - Mumbai (1897-1996)* as part of its centenary celebrations. For the future, the compilation carries an

With Best Wishes From

Mr Rusi D. Lakdawala

and

Mrs Aloo R. Lakdawala

With Compliments From



PEEKAY WINE MERCHANTS
Private Limited

Sitaram Building, Near Crawford Market, Bombay 400001

Telephone (Shop): 3413680, 3421822, 3445515

The Zoroastrian Wine Merchants
of Crawford Market



Anjuman Atash Bahram: piety and fervor
Photo: Gustasp Irani

invocation: "May the blessed fire... provide spiritual guidance to our community in the times to come."

The fervor and gaiety that marked the enthronement of the Anjuman Atash Bahram fire, the dedication of the priests

who were responsible for fetching, purifying, consecrating and unifying the 16 varieties of fires, the efforts of Dastur (Dr) Jamaspji Minocherji JamaspAsa with the support of the Bhagaria priests of Navsari in raising Rs 2,25,000 towards the construction of the Atash Bahram and surmounting various difficulties from the time of the foundation-stone laying ceremony until the fire was housed 11 years later, all find a mention here.

In fact 12 pages of the booklet are reserved for Jamaspji who was not only the first High Priest of this Atash Bahram but who also enjoyed the distinction of having consecrated 15 dar-e-mehers during his 68-year life-span and had served as the High Priest of Aden and the Punjab. Renowned for his scholarship of Avesta, Pahlavi, Sanskrit, Gujarati and Latin, Jamaspji's portrait has been placed in the Indian Institute of the Bodleian Library in Oxford, mentions the write-up.

The names of the major donors who had contributed over Rs 5,000 towards the Atash Bahram building fund are specified in the booklet. Notable among them were Cawasjee Dinshaw Adenwala, Dadabhoy Nusservanji Contractor, Shapurji Sorabji Narielvala and of course, Dastur Jamshedji Sohrabji Kukadaru who may have lacked

personal wealth but had piety aplenty which enabled him with the power of his prayers to identify a gold brick, the sale proceeds of which were able to raise his promised donation of Rs 10,000.

The book abounds with historical nuggets concerning the Anjuman Atash Bahram. For the uninitiated there is also an introduction to the status of fire in Zoroastrianism, details concerning consecration of an atash bahram, the 16 varieties of fire that are a prerequisite, the dates of establishment of the eight atash bahrams... While most of the text is in English, the wordings of the prospectus, the anjuman patra and the inscriptions on the different tablets are carried in their original form in Gujarati.

Presently the board of trustees is chaired by Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusroo Minocher JamaspAsa who also completes 40 years as High Priest of this Atash Bahram. The other trustees in the centenary year are: Sardar Dastur Hormazdyar Noshirvan JamaspAsana, Erachshah Ardeshir Dastur, Ervad Burjor Hormasji Antia, Dr Burjor Dosabhoy Daboo and Pheroze Jehangir Katrak.

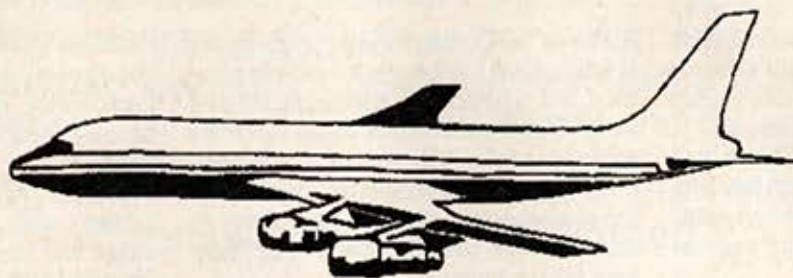
Special platinum cover

To mark the platinum jubilee year of the Bombay Parsee Association (BPA) which



**Greetings
from the**

**Virjees
of
Panchgani**



With Best Compliments From

YEZDAN AIR CARGO & COURIER

Air Cargo Booking & Forwarding Agent

Head Office:

A/2, 283 Shah & Nahar Industrial Estate, Lower Parel, Bombay 400013

Tel Nos: 4954641-2-3 Fax: 4954411

Andheri Office:

Swarup Nagar, Pipeline Road, Andheri (East), Bombay 400099

Tel Nos: 8381238-9 Fax: 8381239

has rendered "yeoman service...to the community and the country for the last 75 years," the department of posts, Government of India, issued a special cover with a special cancellation at a function on August 22, 1996 presided over by R. Narasimhan, chief post master general, Maharashtra. The cover depicts the BPA emblem with the asho farohar, *Khordeh Avesta*, the holy fire, and the words, 'humata, hukhta, huvarashta.'

The same evening, under the aegis of the BPA and sponsorship from the World Zoroastrian Organisation Trust, a Universal Theatre play, *Aai Karastan Konnu* was staged at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan when the platinum jubilee souvenir was released. Veteran thespian Nader Nariman's contribution to Parsi theater for the last 51 years earned him a shawl on the occasion.

Garlanding the statue of Dadabhai Naoroji and laying wreaths at the War Memorial at Khareghat Colony were also undertaken as per the Association's annual practice.

The concluding program in the platinum jubilee year was the jashan and felicitation function organized at Allbless Baug on November 13, 1996 when eminent educationist Themis Aga was the chief guest. Among those felicitated on the occasion were Ervad Ramiyar Karanjia, Vispi Dastur, Jamshed Dalal, Minoo Titina, Farokh Tarapore, Shernaz Engineer, Benaf Dadachanji, Dilnavaz Bhamgara and J. C. Chaina.

More of The Parsis

"I hope the book, written with a warm heart and a searching mind, will help us to teach our history and these simple principles of Zoroaster to our children and others so that this great religion which has survived for 3,500 years shall not die." So stated Jeroo Mango, managing partner of Danai bookshops and publishing company under the same byline, of a set of three books, *The Parsis*, at a function held on February 19, 1997 at the Darbar Hall of the Asiatic Society of Bombay (ASB) to mark the release of the third and final volume of the definitive work on the community written at the turn of the last century by a French woman, Mlle Delphine Menant.

The dignified book release ceremony was conducted in the presence of several distinguished personalities, which included at least two Bombay Parsi Punchayet trustees, three past sheriffs of Bombay, and a former governor and Indian ambassador, in the audience. It commenced with Ervad Aspandiar Dadachanji (panthaky of



Mango (above), Beraud-Chaulet releasing *The Parsis* as SarDesai and Jeroo Mango look on



Bombay's Vachaghandhy Agiary on Hughes Road) invoking the blessings of the Lord, and praying for the health and welfare of Danai. Vimal Shah, honorary secretary of the ASB welcomed the gathering, and commented on the overwhelming response from the community and its admirers who were present in large numbers for the function.

ASB's president Dr Damodar SarDesai spoke glowingly of the community's contribution to the country and complimented their "honesty, charity, enterprise" and, tongue-in-cheek, "their love for the British." Yet, as he remarked, the Parsis were the most patriotic lot of Indians, not just because they produced a field marshal (Sam Manekshaw), or an atomic scientist (Dr Homi Bhabha), or a man with industrial vision (J. N. Tata), amongst other greats, but because in all their actions, members of the community strive to translate into practice what their forefathers promised to do for the country. In his address, SarDesai laid stress on the need for ethnic pluralism, cautioning the community that assimilation which involves adaptation and adjustments should not lead to loss of ethnic identity. Mango echoed a similar sentiment (when she spoke of the community maintaining the integrity of religion): "Though we shed our Persian customs and adopted Hindu customs, and later started integrating with the West, we remained Zoroastrians with our uncomplicated faith, whether we are in America, Europe or India." Mango hoped that the community would rid itself of customs and prejudices which seek to exclude others, and revert to preserving the moral values of the religion.

The 364+xii page tome containing five chapters dealing with the domestic life of the Parsis, funeral rites and customs, the Punchayet, education, commerce, literature and public service, and described by

SarDesai as a "mine of information on the community" was befittingly released by a Frenchman, M. Marc Beraud-Chaulet, consul general of France in Bombay, who proceeded to pay tribute to his compatriot ancestor for her seminal work on the Zoroastrian community, undertaken with erudition and careful research, even before visiting India.

Mango, who had stumbled on a rare and out-of-print 1917 translation of Menant's book at an antique bookshop was egged on to publish it by the eminent scholar on Zoroastrianism, Prof Mary Boyce, who read about her intention to do so, in an interview published in *Parsiana*. The first two volumes had been published in 1992 containing the first three chapters of Menant's work, as translated and heavily annotated by M. M. Marzban.

However as per a clarification issued by Jal Hormusji Ardesir Vakil in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of March 9, 1997, "The English translation of the first three chapters was done by my late paternal aunt, Miss Ratanbai Ardesir Vakil who was born in 1869... (and) graduated in 1890 with honors in BA. Her French teacher was Signor Pedraza and Ratanbai developed a great love for the French language. Immediately, she was elected to Fellowship in Wilson College. As a Dakshina Fellow, she taught French in the college. It was during this period that she translated the first three chapters of D. Menant's book... (which) was printed and published as far back as 1902... She died at the young age of 26... There is no reference to the pioneering work done by Ratanbai (but credit is given to) M. M. Marzban who did not know the French language at all."

Nevertheless, as Mangorevealed, a large chunk of Menant's book remained untranslated — or the translation was lost and despite best efforts could not be traced. That there was more to Menant's path-

This is 3 year old Shreya.

Her parents abandoned her
and vanished. If you turn the page,
you'll do the same.



With no one left in the world, little Shreya
doesn't have the slightest hope of facing the future, unless she
gets an education. And that's where you come in. To make a dream
called Nanhi Kali come true. Through Nanhi Kali, you can
become the foster parent of a little girl like Shreya.

By giving Rs. 100 a month towards her education, your 'daughter'
will be put into school and in fact, you will receive regular reports
about her progress including a photograph. Nanhi Kali is a special
project of the K.C. Mahindra Education Trust - a trust set up by one
of most reputed industrial families in India. A trust that's been
working since 1953 to promote education and enlightenment
across the country. Since Nanhi Kali literally means 'little flower',

with people like you, we hope to repair the broken
petals of thousand of such underprivileged little girls.

So please don't turn the page yet.



CAUSE

CELEBRE Created by Contract for a cause.

Yes, I, _____ would like to adopt a 'Nanhi Kali' like Shreya. ✶ Enclosed is my cheque of Rs. 1200 (@ Rs. 100 p.m.) in favour of K.C. Mahindra Education Trust for
one year education. Please do send me progress reports and a photograph. ✶ Instead of one Nanhi Kali I would like to adopt _____ Nanhi Kalis for _____ years. Thank you.

• Anonymity of donor assured. • All donations are exempted under section 80G of income tax act.

Nanhi kali³

A project of K. C. Mahindra Education Trust
Cecil Court, Mahakavi Bhushan Marg, Mumbai - 1.
Phone : 2021031. Fax : 2852441.

breaking work on the community than the three chapters brought out by Mango as a reprint of the 1917 work, was disclosed to her by Boyce in London, when she (Mango) called on her. Mango then proceeded to "corner" her husband, Anthony, the honorary Greek consul general in Bombay, as recounted humorously in the book's preface, into translating the five remaining chapters — provided by Boyce — from French to English. "My husband spent his days and nights for the past two years with Delphine," laughs Jerroo. The "accidental translator" complied with this request ("The wish of the woman is the wish of God," Anthony recalls a French proverb) armed with his knowledge of French (his first language, as Jerroo informs), his love for history, and his association with the community for many years, which was further bonded by his marriage with Jerroo in 1977.

Homi J. Rogers

Women in Islam

Turan Jamshidian was on the last lap of her travels when *Parsiana* met her on February 5, 1997 at the Iran Culture House. The editor-in-chief of *Mahjubah*, an Iranian magazine devoted to women's affairs, Jamshidian had travelled through West Africa, Sierra Leone, Kenya, South Africa



Jamshidian: women's rights

to the world and informs women of their Islamic rights ... most women don't know their rights ... helps them to have access (to their rights), trains women to raise children in the Islamic way," notes the youthful grandmother who also teaches English at the University of Tehran.

The Islamic Republic "encourages and motivates women to be educated," says Jamshidian to enable them to understand "cleanness — a sign of the faith." Determined to exemplify itself as a modern Islamic country, Iran is encouraging its women to take an active part in athletics as well as politics, she says. There are six to seven physical education faculties. Co-education prevails in the theory classes though men and women play and practise in different stadia. Women athletes only

and Sri Lanka in a bid to find out what articles her 15,000 subscribers need to read. The monthly, English language publication "introduces Islam

participate in indoor stadia, never outdoors, she clarifies.

A master in business administration from Esfahan University, Jamshidian claims that her *hejab* (a soft black sheet which she deftly winds around herself) is a source of safety and self-confidence. The respect for the attire in the country together with the ban on alcohol enables even lone women to travel freely through the country, she maintains. Except for Azahra University in Tehran and Fatemeh Medical University in Qom which are only for women, all of Iran's universities are co-educational with 40 percent of the professors being female and highly qualified.

Education is free up to PhD level and is available to all communities, says Jamshidian though the competition is severe and entrance exams are tough.

A girl chooses her husband and marriage is essentially a legal contract, informs Jamshidian: "The ceremonies are only for those who want them. Some dispense with them altogether and prefer to give money in charity." Thanks to the late Ayatollah Khomeini and the present Ayatollah Khamenei, men are encouraging their wives to study, work and be active in society, she says. Islamic women however are not free to marry men of other faiths



Your thumb impression
is unique
So is 97-year-old



Founded in 1900
by Prof Sohrab R. Davar

FREE PLACEMENTS

Only at Davar's * FIRST COUNTER
at Fountain

* Phone Fountain: 2042007/2824678
Vashi: 7685046/7686567

Goa: Panjim: 221140

Ribundar: 234155/234257/234256

DAVAR'S COLLEGE OF COMMERCE BANKING & LANGUAGE STUDIES

Join Job-Oriented Courses

- ♦ Special Personal Secretaries' Diploma (with Audio-Visual Aids and Computers, Jobs Guaranteed)
- ♦ Executive Office Assistants' Diploma
- ♦ Computers/Income Tax
- ♦ Accounts — Basic, Advanced
- ♦ Personality Development for men and women
- ♦ Elegance — Davar's Finishing School
- ♦ Shorthand/Typing/Fax/Telephone Operating
- ♦ Investment Analysis and Portfolio Planning
- ♦ Special Ladies Course in Money Matters
- ♦ Diploma in Commerce (D.Com.)
- ♦ CAIIB (for Bank Employees)
- ♦ GCD (Government Commercial Diploma)
- ♦ English/Arabic/French/Spanish/Italian/German, etc
- ♦ Translation in all languages
- ♦ Free Placement Service

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

though Muslim men may have non-Muslim wives who are permitted to maintain their own religion. "The children (of such intermarriages) are allowed to choose (their religion) but mostly (prefer to be) Muslim," she adds, dismissing the subject as a "personal, individual matter."

The state provides a month's premarital counselling. A certificate of attendance as also a health certificate are compulsory before marriage can be legalized, Jamshidian informs us. Divorce is rare and counselling is again enforced. In case of divorce the property is divided between husband and wife and the children's custody is decided by the court which is "constituted of religious participants and lawyers, some only of lawyers," says Jamshidian.

About 85 women's NGO (non governmental organizations) function in Iran, Zoroastrian, Jewish, Christian and Islamic ones among them, maintains Jamshidian.

A.S.M.

Promise information

Working in close proximity with nature, harnessing the assets of greenery and vegetation to launch products of international repute, Aspi Balsara, chairman and managing director of Balsara Hygiene Products Limited, has now started The

Balsara Garden Club. It is meant to impress on the Bombayites the importance of growing more plants and trees. Further to adopting avenues like Carter Road or Meadows Street, they have a sapling bank where they nurture plants, notes a write-up in the *Bombay Times*, February 25, 1997. "The Bombay Municipal Corporation has already started involving the corporates, but more than tree-plantation they need security to protect the trees from being cut," advocates Balsara whose expertise has also been sought by the Bombay Parsi Punchayet in its attempts to grow bawal and other trees on the doongerwadi estate.

Information on the Balsara group of companies, its domestic and international product ranges, its market activities in India and overseas can now be accessed on the website, according to a press release issued by the company. The group's flagship, Balsara Hygiene Products Limited which manufactures personal and household care products for distribution in 40 countries around the world, boasts a domestic annual sales turnover of one billion rupees, and an international sales turnover of 300 million rupees.

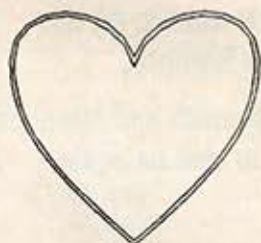
Their Promise toothpaste claims to be the first product to have been granted international accreditation by the British

Dental Health Foundation, the principal source of reference for information and assistance on dental health matters in the UK.

Earlier, the Government of India, ministry of science and technology awarded recognition to Balsara Hygiene Products' in-house research and development center which is personally supervised by the group's chairman and managing director, Aspi R. Balsara, notes a press communique. Their research effort is concentrated on the development of natural and herbal consumer products like toothpastes, shampoos, creams and soaps, and ingredients derived from plant sources and recognized in ayurveda and other holistic systems of Indian medicine. A sister company, Balsara Herbal Products Private Limited specializes in the production and supply of herbal extracts to leading international manufacturers of natural cosmetics such as Boots and Body Shop, mentions a write-up from the company.

Moved by music

Currently a soloist at the First Church of Christ Scientist, Hongkong, soprano Dilshad Khambattarendered a performance under the aegis of The Poona Music Society on January 3, 1997 with piano ac-



**Does he really love me?
Will it last?
Will he marry me?
Is he the right one?**

Before you find out the answers to the above queries, it is better you get yourself attended to by our hairdressers, barbers and beauticians from top to toe and make yourself look presentable for all occasions.

To find perfect love and happiness you must be well groomed.

ENNIS 3, Russel St, Calcutta Ph: 29-8088

NU ENNIS 6A, Corporation Place, Calcutta Ph: 244-2272

AUGUST MOON 27 A/B, Royd St, Calcutta Ph: 29-8873

Kids will receive a toy, sweet and balloon after a haircut. We are open everyday.

Saal Mubarak

Lion Viraf N. Chiniwala

Member American Concrete Institute
Member Concrete Institute of India

Proprietor

VELDON COATS

Specialists in renovation of
multi-storied buildings

Some of our past and current projects

The Oberoi Towers -- 33 floors
Jolly Maker I -- 27 floors
Monalisa -- 17 floors
Kamal -- 9 floors
Kshitij -- 32 floors
Eden Hall -- 19 floors
Maker Chambers III -- 15 floors
Buena Vista -- 25 floors
Grand Parady-A -- 27 floors
Twin Towers-A & B -- 27 floors
West End Hotel -- 6 floors
Sneh Sadan -- 9 floors

The Oberoi Mumbai -- 15 floors
Akash Ganga -- 23 floors
Rajat -- 7 floors
El Cid -- 15 floors
Dalamal Park -- 25 floors
Miami -- 13 floors
Chandanbala -- 23 floors
Crystal -- 15 floors
Raheja Centre -- 14 floors
Meher-A & B -- 14 floors
Ben Hur -- 18 floors
Dar Ul Mulk -- 7 floors

Maker Towers -- H. I. J, K & L -- Entire complex of 14 floors

1st Floor, 7 Cassinath Building, Cassinath Street, Tardeo
Mumbai 400034

Phones: 4923560/4938949 Fax: 4925601 Gram: VELDCOATS



Vocalist Khambatta (left) and Kavarana: pursuing engineering

companiment by Tehmie Gazdar. Compositions by W. A. Mozart, Franz Schubert, Richard Strauss and Giacomo Puccini were rendered during the evening at Gulati Hall.

Known to have participated in workshops, oratorios, concerts in Salzburg, India and Hongkong, Khambatta had initially received voice training under Veronica Krishnappa at Poona before she qualified for a scholarship from the Goethe Institute to study music at the Mozarteum in Salzburg. As member of the Salzburger Dom Chor she toured USA, Canada and Europe and sang with them during the Salzburger Festspiel, notes an introduction to the soprano. As soloist of the Paranjoti Academy Chorus she had accompanied them on their tour of Japan, USA, Germany, Austria and the Netherlands. Peter Doss, Prof Paul Schilhawsky and Prof Walter Reiniger, as also Margareta Elkins are the other professionals whose tutelage has benefitted Khambatta, adds the write-up.

Gazdar has not only been a familiar face with the Bombay Philharmonic but she has also been invited to perform with the Symphony Orchestra of Colombo and members of the Berlin Philharmonic Orchestra in a chamber concert in Spain, mentions the introduction. Innumerable celebrity artists must she have accompanied on the piano.

After receiving her early lessons in piano from her eldest sister Amy Bhabha, Gazdar had studied with Dr Maneck Bhagat and earned diplomas from the Trinity College of London and the Royal School of Music. She then earned a scholarship to study at the Royal Academy of Music, London and won several prizes at competitive festivals in England, as per a press release.



Seventh scholar Yet another student to qualify as a J. N. Tata Scholar for the year 1996-97 was Firdosh Kavarana who was not listed with the "Six scholars," (Events and Personalities, *Parsiana*, October 1996) as details of his achievements reached us much later. Kavarana will be pursuing a master's degree in materials science and engineering at the University of Utah.

With a background in metallurgy, Kavarana who had completed his graduation in engineering with distinction from the M. S. University, Baroda, has been commended by his professors for being "intellectual and creative in his work with an analytical ability," as notes the press release. He gained work experience as research engineer with the Tata Iron and Steel Company (TISCO), Jamshedpur. Kavarana is also an avid sportsman who played football, basketball, cricket (even during his TISCO days), and enjoys swimming too.

Son's guiding spirit

The death of her young son Karl in 1979, a promising jockey, left Nan Umrigar devastated. The pangs of physical separation

made her miserable. She doubted the existence of God, she questioned the meaning of existence. After six tortuous years she says she was able to establish contact with Karl who by then had made substantial spiritual progress. The story of her travails, her renewing of ties with her son, her dependence on Karl to solve dilemmas for herself, family and associates make her book *Sounds of Silence -- a true experience*, absorbing and very readable.

Through automatic writing (defined as writing performed without conscious intention and sometimes without awareness as if of telepathic or spiritualistic origin) she has been able to share her innermost thoughts and anxieties with Karl. Concentrating on Karl, each morning she sits with pen in hand and finds that with practice, her hand automatically starts moving on the paper before her, giving legible responses to queries she poses to her son. Umrigar may have been prompted to take to automatic writing by Khorshed Bhavnagiri who found consolation by communicating with her deceased sons Vispi and

Nan Umrigar (right) in contact with jockey son Karl



CHAALO

TORONTO

JAIYE !



Premium condominiums on Toronto lakefront with direct view of Lake Ontario and Toronto islands, within walking distance to CN Tower, Skydome, Theatres, and downtown Financial district.

Facilities: Indoor/Outdoor Pool, Squash/Racquetball Crts, Sundeck, Exercise & Aerobics Club, Lounge, Card Room, Juice Bar, Social Club, Multimedia/Screening Room, Billiards Room

Price: \$200 Cdn (RS. 5,200) per sq. ft. approx.
Suite Sizes: 500-1100 sq. ft. (Total 320 suites)
Parking Spaces: One per suite (individually titled)
Price includes: 5 appliances, Fibre Optics links
Mortgage Financing: Up to 65% for qualified purchasers
Investor Program: Full Service Rental pgm available

CONTACT:

Sarosh J. Bharucha
Coldwell Banker Terrequity Realty
211 Consumers Road, Ste 105
North York, Ontario
Canada M2J 4G8
Phone: (416) 496-9220
Fax: (416) 756-3287





For Gara Sarees and Borders

Contact
Hilla Mazda
C/o Perfit
No 53, 4th Main Road
Gandhinagar, Adyar
Chennai 600020
Tel (Off): (044) 412020
(Res): (044) 8272645/8259195

Ratu who had perished in an accident. However it is not recommended for all those bereaved. "Two of the easiest dangers known to automatic writing," cautions Umrigar, are "that of allowing the mind to control the channelling and that of depending entirely on answers from the spirit world."

Recalling her experiences, Umrigar realizes, "Realists will dismiss it altogether as being imaginative and far-fetched. There will be some whose hearts will be touched enough to believe in its authenticity and there will be others who will question its propriety from the spiritual point of view."

An uncanny occurrence of events cease to appear as coincidental after a while.



When taking a break from the reading of the book, an accidental glance at the TV screen shows a jockey being thrown off a horse and instantly images of Karl race past. The first thought that flashes through one's mind is whether we too have

become vulnerable to ominous developments!

"God is kindness, love and understanding," is the message impressed upon his mother by Karl who shows her the pathway to Meher Baba, the redeemer of many who have sought his grace. The haven that is Meherabad, where is Baba's samadhi and the meeting ground for his disciples, the message of this savior, the story of his roots in a simple Zoroastrian household, the travails of his life and his all-encompassing love seep through the pages.

Innumerable are the occasions when Meher Baba was able to help souls in distress, including Umrigar. At other times he seems to keep his distance. Just as we learn in depth of the many ways when he had an occasion to reach out, in all fairness we should have been provided an insight into those days when Umrigar felt she had been deserted and was treading the pathway alone. The rationale for Meher Baba's stand is conveyed by Karl: "We can only make a few helpful changes for you but cannot alter the course of your life's pathway. That is ordained and you have to follow that pathway... All I can do is to clear the pathway of sticks and stones and little pieces of glass that may cut your feet and stop the bleeding, but I cannot send you along another road...you will get stronger and better and be able to see to your life

GLOBE THEATRES Pvt Ltd

Established
April 3, 1915

Pioneers of Show
Business in India for
the last 81 years

We rededicate
ourselves to the ideals
we have cherished and
practised all along --
namely to show

**NOTHING BUT
THE BEST**

to our ever increasing
number of Patrons

Controlling:

**REGAL
BOMBAY**

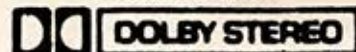
*

**CAPITOL
BOMBAY**

*

**GLOBE
CALCUTTA**

The above three cinemas are
installed with



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



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

We at The Welfare of Stray Dogs have prevented the birth of thousands of such unwanted, ill-treated pups, through mass sterilisation. So far over 6,000 dogs have been sterilised, vaccinated against rabies and tattooed for identification in Bombay and New Bombay.

Help us. Call 2152903 or 2874275 (Bombay). Or mark your cheques/demand drafts to: "The Welfare of Stray Dogs" and send them to Regal Theatre Building, 2nd floor, 41/F Apollo Pier Road, Bombay 400039. You are entitled to tax exemption u/s 80-G of the Income Tax Act.



The welfare of stray dogs

and do your own things and surprise yourself that you are able to do so, for these things come to make you a better person."

That there is life after death, that there are benevolent spirits guiding one's progress, that loving relationships endure beyond one lifetime, that the answer to life's puzzle lies in the collective incarnations of the soul is time and again reiterated in this 247-page book. Priced at Rs 275 it is published by Huma Enterprises, 12 Jaldarshan Apartments, 1st floor, Block 1, 51 Nepean Sea Road, Bombay 400006.

And there was light!

When Bombay was plunged in darkness on the night of February 28, 1997, for varying durations depending on the locality in which one found himself/herself, those considerably inconvenienced were the hosts of social functions. Hotels usually have the facility of a generator but for those partying at Parsi baugs, the scenario was quite different.

At the Jeejeebhoy Dadabhoy Agiary at Colaba as also at Allbless Baug, the Godiwallas were in charge of the catering. According to a report in *The Afternoon Despatch and Courier* of March 2, 1997, at the Colaba Agiary function Tanaz Godiwalla, the young caterer, improvised a firelight dinner. She got firewood from the kitchen, drove the wooden stakes in the ground, wrapped their tops with kerosene soaked gunny bags and served dinner! For added light, three cars were rolled into the dining area and their headlights switched on so that guests could enjoy their meal. At Allbless Baug too the headlights of select cars created an unusual ambience.

SPOTLIGHT

Veteran politician **Homi J. H. Taleyarkhan** has been nominated for the Man of the Year award by the American Biographical Institute, according to a press release. Former governor of Sikkim and ambassador to Libya, Taleyarkhan was conferred this distinction for his "overall accomplishment and contribution to society."

Successfully clearing the online exams conducted by Novell Inc, USA, Mhow's **Rohinton F. Karanjia** was conferred the Novell Authorised CNE certification, states Dhunjishaw Marker, president of the Parsi Zoroastrian Anjuman, Mhow. Novell Education is reportedly geared to train professionals in network design, installation and management skills.

Compiled by Parinaz M. Gandhi



from a
Well-Wisher

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**

"Come to a decision"

The community requires a unitary mandate from scholars and priests, says the Washington Zoroastrian association former president Dinshaw Joshi

Arnavaz S. Mama

"How many translations of the *Gathas* are there? Which translation (would be the best) to follow?"

Dinshaw Joshi, telecommunications consultant with the World Bank and founding vice president of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington Incorporated (ZAMWI), is disappointed that the *Gatha* seminars being held in the US and UK do not provide a guideline for the community through the various interpretations.

Whether other people follow such a guideline or not, he is convinced a concerted opinion could emerge on topics like conversion that would prevent troublemakers from deliberately confusing the layman as is happening on the Internet. Moreover, he feels that these "E-mail controversies are giving Parsis a bad name."

Amid the plethora of religious interpretations ("Seven dasturs gave individual opinions to Neville Wadia. Why couldn't they get together and decide?"), Joshi says he has "told the Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America (FEZANA) to bring together a council of elders and lock them up until they come to a decision." A note of dissent could be permitted, he adds!

Despite recent attempts by some people to enforce a doctrinal orthodoxy on FEZANA and prevent certain opinions and voices being heard — which Joshi thinks is "very wrong" — Joshi believes that the North American (NA) community as a whole is tending to be more liberal. "I don't think it will ever be ultra orthodox. Inter-marriages will lead to tolerance."

Joshi's observation is that the children of Zoroastrians married to members of other faiths are generally being brought up as Zoroastrians. He cites the case of a Parsi lady in Washington married to an American. She wanted a navjote for their child. "A mobed from New York came and performed the navjote." Even late navjotes

are being performed when children grow up and ask for them, he adds.

The Washington community has comprised several Zoroastrian members of the World Bank group, among them Parvez Damri who was vice president of the World Bank under Robert McNamara, Chandi Batlivala who has since returned to the Reserve Bank of India which she had rep-



Dinshaw and Gool Joshi: "Guide the youth, don't patronize them"

resented in Washington, Farida Khambatta of the International Finance Corporation and Armin Choksy, also a World Bank vice president. ZAMWI remains a welcoming body. "We have no restrictions. Everyone comes in and sits... at the jashans," says Joshi, noting how current president Kersi Shroff's American wife works hard to help the Association. Another member is *Gatha* scholar James Lovelace who is married to Rubyna Patel. There are a number of Iranian Zoroastrian members who make it a point to speak

Farsi at home, keep the language alive, unlike the Parsis who have not consciously maintained their Gujarati links. But that apart, there is no infighting at ZAMWI, its former president is both proud and content to note.

Through the Guiv Foundation ZAMWI has acquired seven acres of land and a broken down house referred to as ZAMWI Center, informs Joshi. The Association lacks the funds to construct and maintain a new structure though a local architect has been appointed, he says. Since the property is located in a residential zone the first step is to get the zoning provisions removed for which they expect to enlist the aid of the Korean Christian Church which has been accorded the permission to extend its structure. The ZAMWI Center's hall, as it stands, is large enough for jashans but too small for Pateti and Navroze functions.

Previously, the Washington community depended on Ervads Adi Unwalla and Noshir Karanjia, professional engineers located in Philadelphia, for all their ritual requirements. But now they have an in-house mobed! When World Bank employee Zenobia Panthaky was transferred from Delhi to its Washington headquarters, husband Brigadier Behram Panthaky, a trained mobed, left the Indian army to join his family in the US capital. Panthaky now works with an export-import firm in the area, notes Joshi.

Two sets of religious classes are currently being offered by ZAMWI with Panthaky teaching the children and founding president and retired World Bank director Adi Davar coordinating culture and heritage discussions among the less than 10 adults who attend.

One feature of the ZAMWI constitution is that no one can hold an executive office for more than two two-year terms. The rule was incorporated because "we don't want anyone to capture one post and not move."



MAHENDRA Jewellers

Gold and silver Lord Zoroaster and
Asho Farohar medals available

Gold, silver and diamond exclusive showroom

We also undertake polishing of ses

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

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

Trustees of the Parsee Vegetarian and
Temperance Society intend to bring out a
directory of Vegetarian Parsee and Irani
Zoroastrians residing in India and abroad.

All Vegetarian Parsee and Irani Zoroastrians
are requested to write with bio data at the
following address to:

The Trustees, M/s Parsee Vegetarian and Temperance Society,
Vatsa House (Noble Chambers), 4th Floor, Parsee Bazar Street,
Fort, Mumbai 400001 (India)



22 Carat Guaranteed Gold

KUMAR JEWELLERS

House of Gold, Silver & Diamond Jewellery
Specialist for: Asho Farohar & Lord Zarathushtra
Medals in Gold and Silver

596, Chira Bazar, Near Wadia Fire Temple, Bombay 400002
Tel: 2017707/2011894

We buy old Gold, Silver and Diamond Jewellery

We accept Master, Visa, Diners, BOB & Inter cards

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited by Parsi
Zoroastrian parents of an educated, fair,
good-looking daughter, 26 years, Computer
Engineer (B.E.), working for a reputed
company, earning decent salary, from a boy,
educated, handsome, enterprising,
preferably in the same field, 27 to 30 years,
from Parsi Zoroastrian family. Please apply
with bio data, a recent photograph
(returnable) and family details to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

Always remember



સ્ટીલમાં TATA

બુટમાં BATA

કેટરમાં KHAMBATA

Ketayun & Bomi

22/A, Wellington Terrace
Wellington Street, Bombay 400002
Tel No: 2069636, 2057242
Pager No: 9602-104007

And the same rule has been incorporated in the FEZANA constitution. This results in new blood coming into the executive boards and, in ZAMWI, has explicitly helped the youths to share in the decision making. Joshi's daughter Shehernaz has already completed her stint as president. "Guide the youth without patronizing them. Then they do very well," advises Joshi.

In his estimate "FEZANA is doing very well. If nothing (else), it brings various associations together. People meet and discuss." He is all praise for the *FEZANA Journal* and notes that Rohinton and Roshan Rivetna "work very hard." Joshi was drafted by Rohinton to collect funds from his area for the various appeals received by FEZANA. This year's collection amounted to \$6,500 but he is convinced that a "more systematic approach to charity" is necessary to eliminate the current administrative lacunae. As it is, "the amounts that come are nowhere near the requirements... half the money from small amounts goes into (bank) commissions. We need to organize on a larger basis."

Though he refers to the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) as an "excellent organization... doing excellent work (especially Dinshaw Tamboly — I have the highest regard for him)," Joshi is not a member "because you can't equate an individual to an association." Convinced that such a body "should be a council of federations," Joshi says he has "told Shahpur Captain many times that you must remove that anomaly."

An ex-student of Boys' Town, Nasik, Elphinstone College and the Royal Institute of Science, Bombay and the Poona Engineering College, Joshi was additional and general manager of Bombay Telephones in the course of his long innings (1945-73) with Indian Posts and Telegraphs. After he joined the World Bank's telecom department in July '73, developmental work took him to Nepal, Thailand, Tanzania, Egypt, Kenya, Zanzibar and Indonesia. On some of these stints his wife Goolcher (née Kotwal from Indore) could accompany him. Shehernaz, their only child, was born in Delhi. With a masters degree in international relations, she is occupied as executive coordinator of the international legal studies program at the National Law Center, Washington University. Her Iranian Zoroastrian husband Farhad Verahrami is an electronics engineer at Hughes Aircraft. Cuddling their 14-month-old granddaughter Anahita, Gool and Dinshaw state happily: "We do the baby sitting!"

With Best Compliments From

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

"We question everything"

Ritual practices as well as Gathic philosophy comprise the Zoroastrian faith, believes Khorshed Jungalwala, former president of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston

Amavaz S. Mama

"Tradition plays an important part in religion. You cannot discard rituals. If they are not practical, don't practise them. But you can't say they are irrelevant."

In line with her credo finance management consultant Khorshed Jungalwala, who recently retired as the president of the Zoroastrian Association of Greater Boston, is busy organizing the first North American International Avesta Conference. In contrast to earlier conferences on the *Gathas*, *Yashts*, etc this two-and-a-half-day meet in Framingham, Massachusetts (November 15-17, 1997) will include the whole literature, even the *Shah Nameh*, and rituals, she told *Parsiana* in the course of an interview at the K. R. Cama Oriental Institute library on February 24, 1997. Being held under the auspices of the Zoroastrian Education and Research Society, a distinct body [not to be confused with FEZANA's (Federation of Zoroastrian Associations of North America) Historical Research Committee] co-founded by Sarosh Manekshaw of Houston, scholar Pallan Ichaporia of Pennsylvania and Jungalwala, this conference aims to generate lay interest. "We have to dabble a little bit... try different ways to get the interest of Zoroastrians in North America," says Jungalwala.

A notable intellectual feature in Boston is the Gatha Group established by management consultant Nusswan Dossabhoy in 1994. The group takes up individual verses from the *Gathas*, dissecting word and phrase, referring to all translations and coming up with its own interpretation. "(We are) more or less pretty accurate in what we interpret," says Jungalwala. However, it is not the community that is involved, only people who are interested because "the *Gathas* are so philosophical; you can't expect lay people to take an interest, one has to make the commitment to participate."

There is substantial input from non-Zoroastrians, avers Jungalwala, citing Allan Bailey of the computer engineering department of Massachusetts Institute of



Jungalwala: "any path is the right path"

Technology and philologist Prof Prods Skjaervo whom Jungalwala considers "an authority on the Sogdian language" and who is currently occupied in writing a guide to the study of the Avestan language, among others. The Gatha Group holds a full-day seminar once a year when seven or eight speakers like Dina McIntyre, Dr Jehan Bagli, Prof Kaikhosrov Irani, etc present papers, answer questions. Three such events have been held so far, informs Jungalwala.

Unhappy that "in North America (people are) constantly trying to change the other person's point of view," Jungalwala believes "there should be parallel paths as in every other religion. One should understand that any path (that a person chooses) is the right path... the only way to face outside forces."

According to Jungalwala there are "a lot of traditionalists in FEZANA right

now" who believe that the continental body "should hold a traditional view rather than give in to the 'so called pseudo scholars.'" FEZANA's 1,000 points of light concept (Moving away from the fear of extinction, community leaders in North America are now more enthusiastic and interested in unifying Zoroastrians. The thousand points of light indicated that each individual would be free to follow his dream without acrimony, without knocking anyone down — see "FEZANA annual meet," *Zoroastrians Abroad*, *Parsiana*, September 1996) came about because "we felt that FEZANA was not strong enough, or forceful enough to make associations take certain directions." Jungalwala noted that when some associations had sought guidance from FEZANA they had been "told to take whatever direction you want." This in turn had led the associations to question their membership of FEZANA.

Jungalwala credits Prof Farrokh Mistree of Atlanta for his outstanding ability "to get people together to talk... make people understand each other's point of view." Delegates at the FEZANA annual general meeting were divided into groups to suggest what is important for the community "in the light of our own experience," notes Jungalwala. One suggestion was that leaders of the various settlements all over North America should invite three, four or five families at a time, with their children, big and small, for pot luck and in the course of the evening surreptitiously introduce the topic of the jashan or other ritual and what it is all about. "We must each try to teach and learn; practise what we learned as children; because if we don't, our children will never know. Different groups have focussed on different issues," Jungalwala explains the rationale behind the operation. The reaction and results are to be incorporated at the next AGM discus-

Slim,

Slimmer,



Only a few watch manufacturers in the world can create a movement **TITAN**
as slim as 1.75mm. Titan joins that select club. **Introducing ultra slim watches. S L I M**

•Elegant, classical dials •Exquisite metal or leather bracelets •One year guarantee on gold plating •Longer battery life •Water resistant •Ladies and Gents models •Rs. 1950 onwards.



*Looking forward to the
next 50 years*



ASIATIC TRAVEL SERVICE

The House of Travel

12, MURZBAN ROAD, MUMBAI 400 001 TEL: 207 8151 207 1162 RES: 415 0821
FAX: 287 3355 TELEX: AIRA IN 011-3151. GRAMS: AIRASIA

G-3 KONARK APTS., 175 DHOLE PATIL ROAD PUNE 411 001
TEL: 626 431/621 493/621 746. TLX: 145-472 AIRA IN FAX: 0212-627 934

ATS takes pleasure in taking care of the traveller

sions. Thereafter the delegates will "decide what FEZANA's goal will be on these separate issues" and disseminate the decision to the local associations.

The lady has recently become a member of the World Zoroastrian Organisation because she feels "it is serving its purpose wonderfully... It was founded in London to provide help to needy Iranis and Parsis." But she believes that "we need the World Zoroastrian Council...Some criticism has been levelled against Rohinton Rivetna (former and founding president of FEZANA who has been promoting the WZC) that he wants to be a president with

da. I disagree the WZO take special issues and with other survive, we organizations, she

A graduate political science degree in Poona background in and piano — Trinity College ing two years

University, UK. During her long innings in Boston (27 years) where she deals with company law, insurance and legal contracts, Jungalwala is a Justice of Peace (JP) — one of seven nominated by the State of Massachusetts — and notary public. She has been director of the Third World Scholars Consortium and president of the Framingham Community Concerts Association which is affiliated to the Columbia Artistes Organization, she informs. Married to Prof Phiroze Jungalwala, a neurologist, the couple helped start the Boston Association in 1983 — a very close-knit, helpful community of 70-80 Zoroastrians today. Khorshed credits Phiroze with greater knowledge of the *Gathas* and Pahlavi, "I learn from him, but I'm the one who goes out front... He likes to be in the background."

Professional work and scholastic interest have taken Jungalwala to the Central Asian republics where she has found Mazdayasnan traces in the people's background, but they are not necessarily interested in becoming Zoroastrians, she says. Among her mentors in this field of study are professors Skjaervo, James Russell and Farhang Mehr.

Convinced about the applicability of Zarathushtra's hymns to present day life, the lady refers to herself as a great believer in the *Gathas'* teachings. She qualifies however that "the *Gathas* are not the be all and end all." Despite her "tremendous respect for Prof Kaikhosrov Irani and Adi Davar," she will not categorize herself as a liberal.

Jungalwala's prognosis for the community 20 years hence is that "we will survive and flourish if we let different parts follow their own thinking (rather) than if we try to influence each other's thoughts... The Internet will play a major role. The 16,000 Zoroastrians in North America (Iranians included) will take on a tremendous role in helping each other."

There is a conditional clause attached to Jungalwala's optimism. "We need to respect each other. (We have) so much education, social finesse, (we are) not willing to take things at face value. We question everything. That's where our downfall will come. A certain amount of faith is necessary. A certain amount of respect for the other person is necessary..."

"In North America (people are) constantly trying to change the other person's point of view"

his own agency with that... Let care of the so-the WZC deal mantics." To need both or adds.

in history and nce, Jungalwala required her law along with a music — voice from London's before spend-at Cambridge

With Compliments from



America's No. 1 Engine Oil

Product value flows from corporate values at Tata Tea.



As the world's largest tea company,
we bear special responsibilities.
To set an example. To define standards.
To point the way for the rest of
the industry to follow.
Commitments that we're uniquely
equipped to discharge. With our
operations running from planting
through processing to packaging and
marketing, there's so much we can
do to benefit so many.
For the consumer, the widest range of the
finest teas at the most affordable prices.

For the industry, and indeed for the
nation's economy... new ways,
new technologies, new examples to
help catalyze growth.

For the worker, comprehensive
programmes encompassing housing,
health, education, recreation,
family planning...

There's a vision at work here, extending
far beyond mere commercial obsessions.

A quest for excellence in every area of
operation. A preoccupation not just with
leaf tea and dust tea... but with humanity.



TATA TEA LIMITED
Making a difference.... differently

A question of priorities

A resurgence of joy rather than of thought characterized the Tenth All-India Zoroastrian Youth Seminar

Arnavaz S. Mama

Could this be Bombay? A seminar under a shamiana amid flowering shrubs and twittering trees? Unlimited space to roam, lunching on traditional Parsi fare while playing peekaboo with the afternoon sun? Romancing the highs and lows of Pali Hill, freaking out to the sound swell of Gary Lawyer under the stars?

Such indeed was a part of the menu that the Tenth All India Zoroastrian Youth Seminar (TAIZYS) offered 300 Zoroastrian participants who congregated in the idyllic surroundings of the Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School in Bandra — a coup of sorts in Bombay's cement jungle. Their first sight of the campus was a revelation to many Zoroastrian achievers who had come to speak to the youths when they were conducted through the School's sprawling grounds.

Of the four days of the meet (November 8-11, 1996) the first was devoted to settling the upcountry guests in the School's dormitories, registration and general icebreaking activities, including a jashan, courtesy the Tata Agiary mobeds. The formal inauguration was billed for the second morning followed by two plenary sessions, and plenty of opportunity for the youths (among whom were a few from abroad including Pakistan, USA and UK) to air their views in a plethora of debates and paper presentations, display their wizardry at talent and personality contests and in-house entertainment. The enjoy-

ment and entertainment level was apparently high. The level of intellectual assimilation, gauging from the turnout and participation under the shamiana seemed to be restricted to about 10 percent of the participants [32 out of 300 as per the comments of Holiday Programme for Youth (HPY) Club members who organized and coordinated the event on behalf of the Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations (FOZYA)]. Indeed, the popular night attractions were said to be so gustily patronized that morning starts were delayed. Though this cannot be claimed as a novel occurrence (see following story), the very size of the campus strained the physical resources of the organizers who tried to round up a respectable number in the audience to justify the long haul through the traffic for most south Bombay based professionals invited to speak or judge the various debates and presentations.

The four-day meet is estimated to have cost over six lakh rupees — between Rs 1,000-2,000 per participant though the youth paid Rs 200, just a fraction of the cost to register. The enormous subsidy was provided by donors, notably Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP) trustee Dinshaw Tamboly

and the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) Trust Funds (of which he is managing trustee), and advertisers in the special brochure distributed at the venue which was printed free of cost by Rohinton Chinoy of the Union Press. The flowers that bedecked the venue as also the bouquets presented to winners and guests came free from gold medal horticulturist, Bandra Florist, as informed the event's chief coordinator and HPY stalwart Diana Marfatia. The Gary Lawyer might however cost the organizers nearly Rs 1,50,000, said Marfatia.

As noted FOZYA president Porus Karanjawalla at the inaugural, the Seminar had initially received "very poor response" and registered a "point of debate: is it worth having these annual meets?" On the credit side of the ledger are six marriages over the decade since the first annual meet in Delhi in 1987, as noted Karanjawalla, and a small core of young activists with ever increasing awareness of community needs and problems. For the rest it continues to be an annual subsidized jamboree. "Call it a subsidized holiday package," suggested participant Meher-nosh Mehta in the course of a debate

"Youth seminars—an exercise in futility?" (The proposition was defeated by eight points.)

Community elders continued to encourage the assembled youth. "Remember, we would like to help you... We'll guide you and provide you with the necessary finance to get started (as an entrepreneur)," noted BPP chairman Jamshed Guzder whose well-established Air-freight belongs to the



Karanjawalla's bouquet of thanks to TAIZYS organizers Marfatia and members of the HPY Club

legend of Parsi enterprise. Guzder was referring to the venture capital project that has been on the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India's anvil for some years.

"What is the distinctive thing you will go to Jamshed Guzder with?" asked the chief guest, economist Dr Freddie Mehta. "It's no use rushing in where 2,000 people are already there... Parsis, to survive in India, must be distinctive," advised the chairman of Forbes, Rallis and other Tata concerns. Referring to the Sindhi owned Indus Bank which has amassed deposits of Rs 600 crore in three years, F. Mehta noted, "We can collect Rs 300 crore. Non-Parsis are willing to trust Parsis," he added referring to one Hindu friend who sends his car only to a Parsi garage, another who trusts his precious watches only to a Parsi repairer. He predicted "a bright future for Parsis in India... wait for the good times." Mehta's overriding concern was "the identity crisis in the Parsi community which we have to recognize since we are fading out," resulting from the growing incidence of outmarriage, the choice of many educated women to remain unmarried, and the phenomenon of Parsis who "have refused to recognize they're Parsis to the census (enumerators)... We are collapsing from

within." [Mehta had referred to *Parsiana's* Milestones data in the course of his analysis. This data was later criticized by solicitor and Zoroastrian Studies representative Bapsy Dastur during the plenary session on the religion. "It is a fallacy that the community is declining," she declared, adding that the magazine does not take emigration into account. "(They) put numbers together and then create a fear psychosis. (It is) really not true. There is far greater awareness today." When Adil Tantra from the audience remonstrated that "eminent speakers say this..." Dastur snapped, "Our speakers make uninformed statements. Urge them to provide census data..." she advised.]

With outstanding academic achievements behind him, Mehta acknowledged, "I had 2,700 competitors (in Inter Arts). You are in a different world. The competition you face is multifold." He also put his finger on a major community lacuna. "The Christian woman knows where to go when she's in trouble. We are rudderless. We have great people in their own rights... but where is the body you can go to for your emotional problems, problems of life and death..." None-

Clockwise from top: Enjoying impromptu entertainment; empty chairs at the work sessions; (Left to right) Havov, Karanjia, Sarosh and Nawaz Palkhiwala, Pervez Irani and Ramyar Karanjia; refuelling provided by the Balsara family caterers; lunch in the shade of the trees





Telco

A TATA ENTERPRISE

As tough and rugged as ever. Now with much more comfort.

Introducing the Tata Sumo Deluxe.

The Tata Sumo Deluxe comes with a host of new features designed to make your ride extremely comfortable. Starting with the passenger side bucket seat and new interiors. Factory fitted air-conditioning and tinted glasses to keep out heat and dust.

The power steering promises superb handling and fatigue-free driving. And even as you take on long stretches in its spacious comfort, the Tata Sumo's promise of a vehicle tough enough for any challenge remains intact. Thanks to the integrated body and superior

suspension. And a diesel engine powerful enough to take on rugged terrain.

It has anti-roll bars for super road holding. Powerful brakes add to your feelings of security. The Tata Sumo Deluxe. It comes with a formidable reputation.

**TATA
SUMO
DELUXE**

THE TOUGH ONE

Accessories shown are not part of standard equipment.

For Details Contact:- Mumbai :United Motors India Ltd. Tel:2087611/12/14 Autoriders(I) Ltd. Tel:8722564/4993/4998 New Delhi :Telco Sales & Service Tel:2209267/9268 2209266/2209072/2223026 Telco Car Showroom Tel:3323511 /3724776 Pascos Tel:3232150/3231668/3235963 Chennai :V.S.T. Motors Ltd. Tel:830485/86/87 8522582 Bangalore :Arvind Motors Tel:2237594/2240314/2237585/2243303 Prerana Motors Tel:2271413/2211489/2272446.

SSC & B ° TEL ° 1° 2820

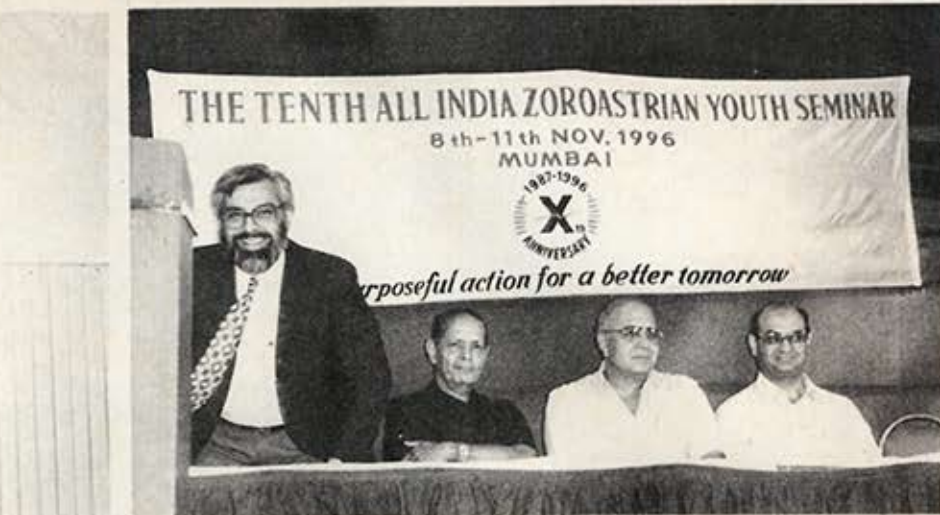


Left to right (top) Tamboly with F. Mehta and with S. Dastur, Modi and Chiniwala; (Below) Udwadia, Karanjia, B. Dastur, Rati Wadia and Dadrawala

theless Mehta pleaded with the young audience, "Don't go away from here (without pledging), 'I am a Zoroastrian and will die a Zoroastrian.' Accept that your life will be blood, sweat and tears," he added, holding out the example of American Jews who he said have won over 60 percent of the Nobel Prizes won by Americans generally

"I am very sure that we Zoroastrians are on the threshold of a golden age. The next millennium promises to be the very best for our community," predicted Tamboly, who shared the inaugural dais with Mehta. "No generation has been as intelligent and as warm as the present generation," added Tamboly, even as he acknowledged the support of Mehta, his "boss in Tata Textiles" and of Guzder "who gave me my first break in life" and praised the projected Seminar's "commendable... effort to discuss and debate diverse issues. Only good can emerge (from it)."

The first plenary session dealt with religion when the youthful principal of the Dadar Athornan Madressa Ervad (Dr) Ramiyar Karanjia stated thoughtfully, "The community is better than what it was five or 10 years back," attributing the change to



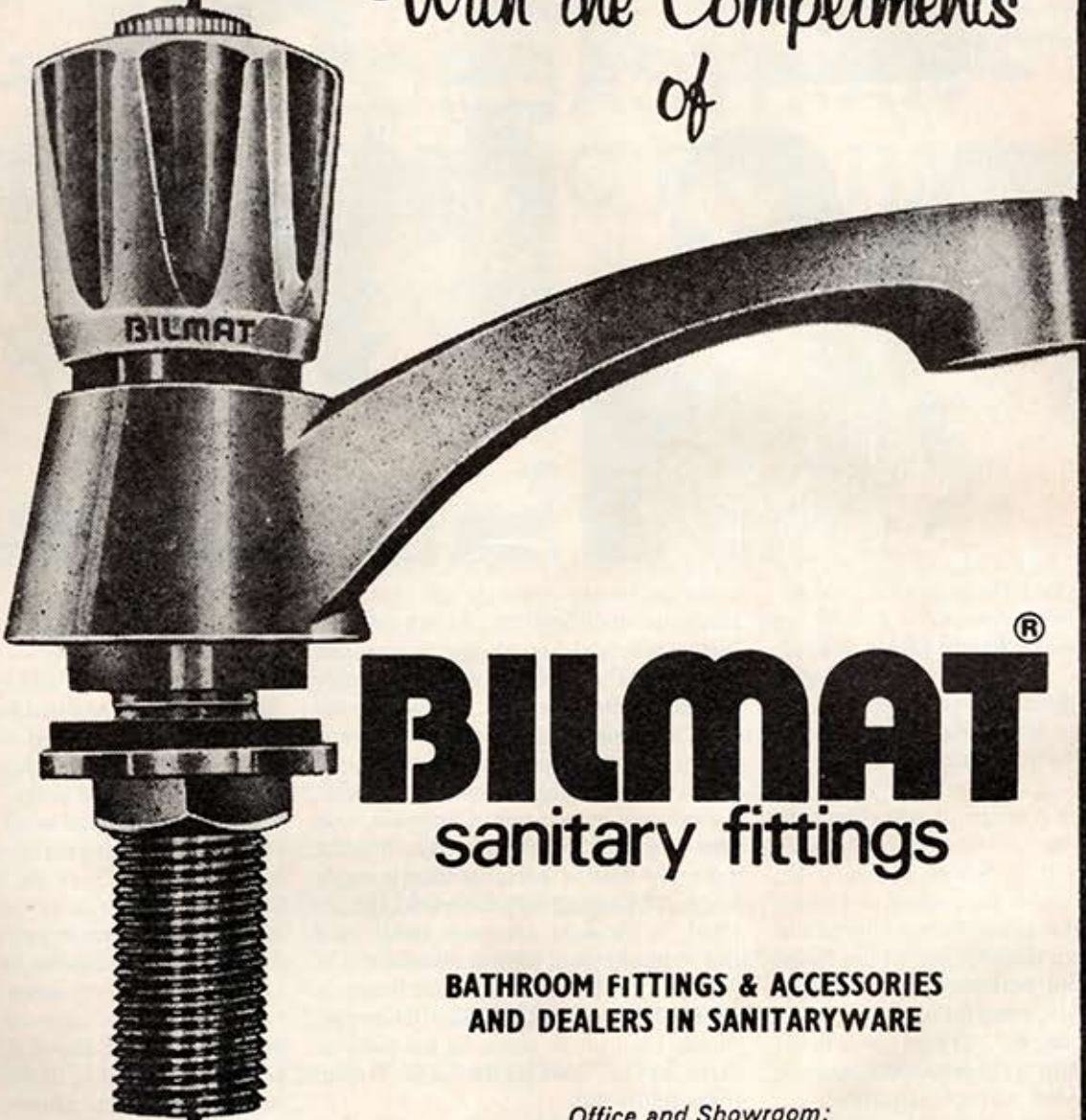
the annual all-India youth seminars initiated by Lt Gen Adi Sethna, president of the Delhi Parsi Anjuman and the HPY. With his penchant for low-key realism, Karanjia noted, "You can't expect Star Plus quality and MTV gloss in our religious functions and education" and urged the youths to "put in something from within... (create) role models."

As always there were queries regarding conversion. "(There is) nothing to stop non-Zoroastrians from understanding our scriptures, our moral and ethical principles. What we are opposed to (are) inauthentic navjotes because (they) dilute our ethnic identity," averred *Deen Parast* editor-publisher Noshir Dadrawala. Khursheed Khurody, who has been studying in North America, informed the house "the queues (at the dare mehrs on special occasions)... are for the fire and not for the Pepsi!"

The second plenary session was devoted to self-employment. Session chairman and management expert Sarosh Dastur, advised the tittering youths, "You can't have fun without money... (so) for the next hour tone down your other skills — like you may be very witty with your repartee — and tone up your listening skills." Dastur, who had started life with Larsen and Tourbo, done a 10-year stint with Philips

before venturing out into marketing encyclopaedias on his own, told the gathering, "Success comes in 'cans.' It doesn't come in 'cannots,'" and urged upon them the courage of conviction: "Think you are worth something but don't be arrogant... Life is a selling game. (You sell yourself) to your spouse, to your parents." It has its ups and downs: "There are days when there's plenty of honey and days when there's only *rotli* (bread) and *pani* (water)." In sum, Dastur declared that an amalgam of self-esteem, self-motivation, dedication and honesty were required to succeed as a self-employed person in the marketing field.

There was a time, according to Dastur when Tamboly (an independent export management consultant recently catapulted to BPP trusteeship in the wake of his dedicated social service in conjunction with the WZO) had been the Dadar Parsi Colony's star cricketer: "Some bats he broke with sixers, some by standing on them!" While reiterating his earlier rosy prognosis Tamboly emphasized, "Nothing short of achieving excellence will suffice. It cannot be inherited. It can only be achieved by one percent inspiration and 99 percent perspiration." He noted that despite the high literacy, the plethora of trust



*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.



Left to right (top) The prize distribution: Kersasp Daruvala from Katie Mehta; Veera Udwadia to Burzin Mehta and Zelda Mistry (below) Marfatia, Khurody, Behram Laskari, Silloo Kavarana, Dinshaw Mehta and Sheroo Master

funds and the prestige of many an individual achiever, the community's "economic health is in dismal decline... (Do we) take our rights for granted and forget our duties? Has complacency blunted our edge? Jamsetji Tata looked to the future and a strong infrastructure for an independent India. How many (of us) have tried to follow his example?... (There needs to be) a quantum jump in academic performance, advanced studies and specialization."

Viraf Chiniwala, proprietor of Veldon Coats, a firm specializing in the renovation of multi-storied buildings, described himself as one who repeatedly failed the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam, learned to repair radios and tape recorders, and wanted to go to Dubai. While readying for the trip he learnt of the demand for certain spare parts and started an import business. That was a long time ago but the experience taught him not to expect a fixed income as a self-employed person, nor to

count on breezy evenings off; that only academic qualifications do not suffice; "some practical knowledge is required. You need to be employed even if it be only for six months or a year, to learn on the job;" that service, after-sales service and quality are the tripod of entrepreneurial success. Claiming to have entered the building industry by accident, Chiniwala, who now employs 750 people, says that for those who wish to specialize there is ample scope for bagging sub-contracts. He advised "a focussed approach (and) once you've made your choice, always aim at the top. You'll be successful; the bottom's crowded!" According to Dastur, Chiniwala "doesn't tell of the sweat he has put into social service," earning the Lions' Melvin Jones fellowship.

The panellist who most captivated his audience however was the Bombay High Court's senior counsel Nadir Modi. Effortless quotations, tongue-in-cheek humor on practised leash, a lifetime of courtroom advocacy behind him, Modi asked his audience if the high noon of Parsi achievements had been "just an accident." Answering his own question, he added, "It's due to our qualities, our *Parsipanu*, (of) one who searches for excellence — Ashoi — in whatever you think, say and do."

Giving a different slant to the concept of self-employment, Modi described it as part of human destiny — "we are self-employed since birth" adding that Dr Homi Bhabha and Field Marshal Sam Manekshaw were also self-employed individuals "because their whole self was employed in whatever they were doing. How much of your self is employed in what you do?" he challenged. Quoting the Persian poet Rumi, Modi advised, "'Seek the force within...' Why don't people do it?" He attributed the lack of self-reliance in today's Parsi youth to the over solicitousness of parents which pushed "self-growth under a bushel."

Using Polonius' advice to his son Laertes in *Hamlet*, "This above all to thine own self be true/And it must follow, as the night the day/Thou canst not then be false to any man," Modi asked, "Do you have a driving desire to do something in spite of others saying not to do it?" To the young people looking for big money in an increasingly competitive world Modi suggested, "Be muscular in your work." Citing the horse race principle ("he wins by a nose or a length") to edge ahead only by quality, "you will have to slog," said Modi, substantiating with H. W. Longfellow's words, "The heights of great men reached and kept/were not attained by sudden

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**

*Wishing you
all a Happy
New Year from
Oliaji Duke-Hotel*

Duke Hotel

Estd 1936

**Doshabhai
Nariman Oliaji**

President

**Daman Parsi
Jarthosti Anjuman**

Devka via Daman 396210

Tel: 02636 34251

flight./But they, while their companions slept, were toiling upward in the night."

Focussing on his own field, Modi assured the listeners that there is "tremendous scope in law," for though there are lawyers aplenty, it is "easier to find a good husband or wife" than a good lawyer. "Law is a hungry field. There are clients running after lawyers... Lawyers earn from Rs 1,000 a month to Rs 10 lakhs a month" and for those who are afraid of speaking there is "fabulous income" doing what solicitors do without ever speaking in court. He moreover reassured those who may be lured by the subject yet be uncertain of their prowess with words: even a halting speaker could make a good lawyer for what matters "depends on the truth of what you say."

Another aspect of the profession Modi highlighted was that a lawyer does not necessarily need an office of his own. "When (former Bombay High Court) chief justice, the late Ramanlal Kantawala was appointed judge, he didn't have one," said Modi, noting how lawyers often work from

the High Court Library. Briefly addressing the question of corruption's hydra head, Modi suggested one fights it "by not being corrupt yourself. We are known to be eccentric. Part of our eccentricity is our honesty," he declared. But because society itself is corrupt with its "*chalta hai, hota hai* (laissez-faire)" attitude, occasionally one might "have to be corrupt," he added a little lamely.

Six debates had been planned to be held

simultaneously in various parts of the School. All the cajoling of the organizers however could not produce participants for more than three. The panel of

**"Success comes in
'cans.' It doesn't
come in 'cannots'"**

nine judges assembled for the afternoon were therefore divided into two groups (one set of judges heard two debates). Their task was to select the best speakers in each subject and, in the process, the debates were not decided by a floor vote but according to the aggregate points of each team.

Arguments favoring the proposition "Youth seminars — an exercise in futility?" ranged from a distracted, uncaring

Wishing All Our Patrons Navroze Mubarak

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



S.A. Conti-Lines N.V.

CONTI ASIAN SERVICE, ANTWERP-BELGIUM

Breakbulk Service From

ANTWERP - MUMBAI - SOUTH AFRICA - ANTEWERP

&

Container Service To

EUROPE / SOUTH CENTRAL AMERICA



جرين اميراتس للملاحة والسفريات

Green Emirates Shipping & Travel

DUBAI

To GULF — U.A.E. — YEMENI PORTS.

GULF ORIENT LINES

INCORPORATED IN GREAT BRITAIN



GREAT BRITAIN

EUROPE — FAR EAST — INDIAN SUB-CONTINENT

K.C.DAT

(S) PTE. LTD.



SINGAPORE

FAR EAST CONSOLIDATION

AND THEIR AGENTS:



Prudential Shipping Agencies Pvt. Ltd.

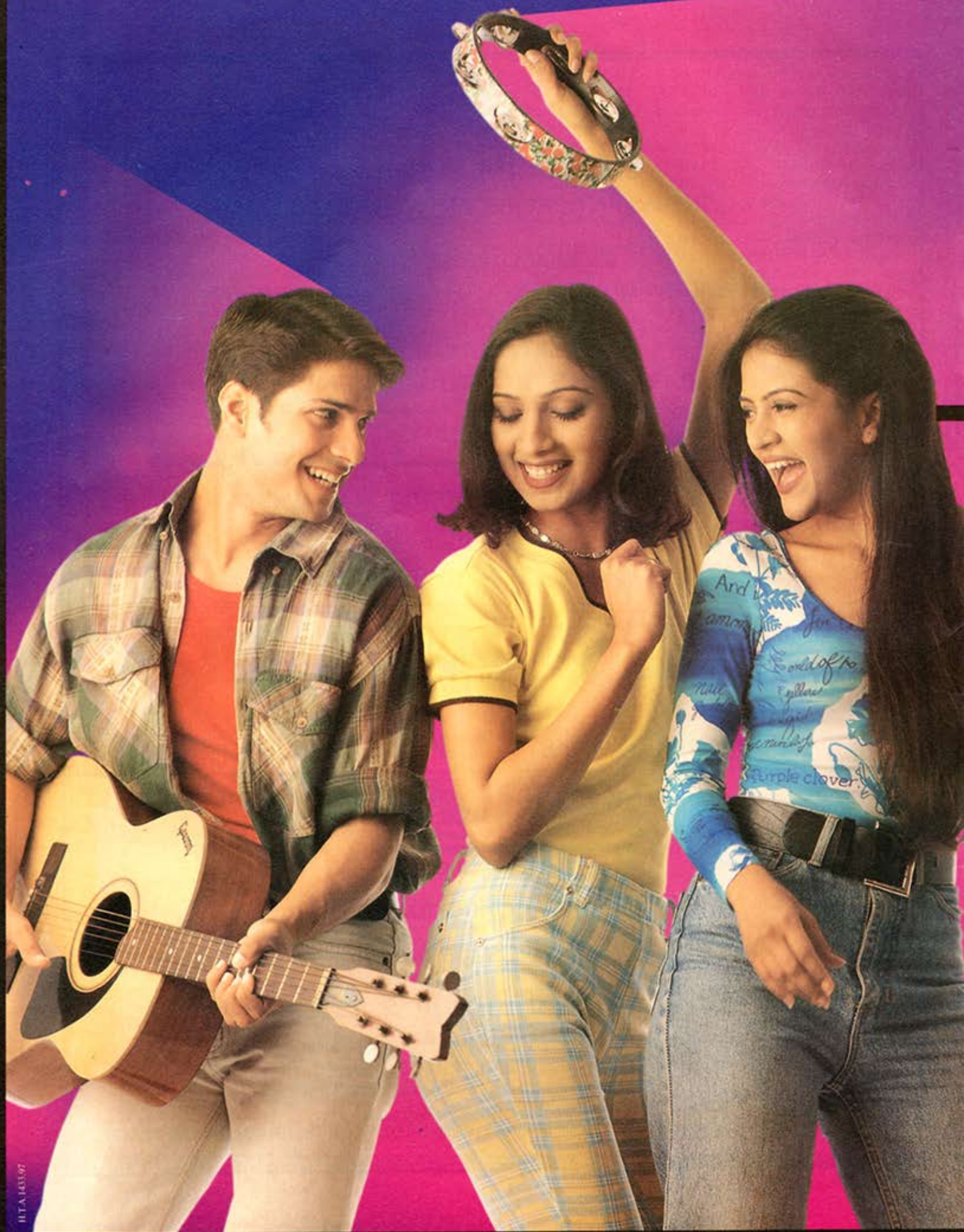
55A-63A, Walchand Hirachand Marg, Opp. GPO, Mumbai-400001, INDIA

Tel: 2692787 (10 Lines), Fax: 2652841, Tlx: 11 82307 PSAB IN

E-Mail: X.400 S=bom / g = prudential / prmd = elnet / admd = vnsi / c = in

INTERNET: Prudential.bom@elnet.ems.vsnl.net.in

Registered Office: 77, Mint Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001, India. Tel: 2694203, 2659055, 2658396



Guess who's taking over Godrej?

Even as you read this, a new mindset is taking over Godrej - the mindset of the future. To bring the fruits of 21st century technology to your doorstep. From new-generation refrigerators and home appliances to office equipment and computers; from soaps and insect repellents to the finest in cosmetics and foods.

This 'take-over' is not new. It has been happening in Godrej for the past 100 years. From time to time, new and often revolutionary ideas in technology and management practices are introduced. Helping the group change according to the needs of a changing environment. Keeping it young, dynamic, modern and always relevant.

In this, our centenary year, you are looking at a new-generation Godrej. Responding to a new-generation you.



A hundred years into the future.

The Godrej logo, written in a large, stylized, cursive script font. The letters are white with a slight shadow effect. A registered trademark symbol (®) is located at the bottom right of the logo.

Godrej®

Dorrabji's JERROZ HOTEL

Under Cliff
Ring Road
Panchgani
412805

Phone:
(91) (02168) 40238

audience and lack of follow-up action, to calling it a subsidized holiday package costing six to eight lakh rupees which could be put to better use. Conversely, it was argued that the platform for youth interaction, intermingling and exchange of ideas lead to increased awareness and hence the seminars proved an "enriching time" for the participants; provided an opportunity to find Zoroastrian marriage partners; showcased Zoroastrian talent; bred a macro spirit and a national voice; established a network for common interests and aspirations; enabled individuals to develop socially, helped strengthen individual personalities...

The second topic — "Parsi girls are more educated and enterprising compared to Parsi boys: fact or fiction?" — was even more vehemently argued. Though largely debated along sexist lines, there were a few boys who spoke for the proposition. While enthusiasm was high and good-natured slanging the order of the day, "to be successful in a debate you have to prepare. It is not good enough to refute extempore," Ms Dolly Edulbehran, director of the Lilavati Podar High School, noted on behalf of the judges. "Something that's not relevant goes at a tangent be-

cause of lack of preparation," she observed, as the arguments had boiled down to such statements as "If women make you dance to their tune, you're dancing. So what does it show?" "Boys have the sense of humor and presence of mind to reply to ribbing from non-Parsis." The proposition won 557 points against 372.

In the third debate, held in the School hall it was the opposition that scored the winning 166 points, against 154, laying to rest the proposition "The seniors of our community are solely responsible for the lack of religious fervor in the youth today."

The last day took the tardiest start. "This is what we have to live with. That's our Parsi youths for us," noted the dedicated Marfatia in an anguished aside, unhappy to keep waiting the panel of distinguished professionals who had honored her invitation and arrived on time. There were five different subjects on offer. Three had to be scrapped for lack of participants. The two that did find speakers: "The image of a Parsi through the eyes of a non-Parsi" and "Purposeful action for a better tomorrow."

According to the speakers, other communities tend to see us as foreign looking



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

To our dear Parsi Patrons



Saal Mubarak

from

*Croissants
etc.TM*

ANDHERI
MANU BHARATI HSG. SOCIETY,
NEXT TO SHOPPER'S STOP,
ANDHERI (WEST)
PHONE: 6210231

SEVEN BUNGALOW
3, SEAGREEN APTS,
RAHEJA COMPLEX,
7/BUNGALOWS, VERSOVA,
ANDHERI (WEST)
MUMBAI-400061
PHONE: 6340218

LOKHANDWALA
SHOP NO.7,
SUNNY SIDE BLDG.
LOKHANDWALA COMPLEX
MUMBAI-400058
PHONE: 6261832

BANDRA
NO.5-6 PLUTO, PERRY ROAD,
BANDRA, MUMBAI-400050
PHONE: 6425702

PEDDAR ROAD
KIRAN VILLA, 30 PEDDAR
ROAD, GROUND FLOOR,
MUMBAI-400026
PHONE: 3893434

NEW JUHU
SHOP NO.2, JUHU PRINCESS,
JUHU ROAD MUMBAI-400049
PHONE: 6142503

OLD JUHU
SHOP NO.4, FLONA APTS., NEXT
TO SEA PRINCESS HOTEL
MUMBAI-400049
PHONE: 6104252

CHEMBUR
SUSWAGATAM, OPP.
DIAMOND GARDEN, CENTRAL
DIAMOND GARDEN,
CENTRAL AVENUE ROAD,
CHEMBUR MUMBAI-400071
PHONE: 5581679

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

CHOWPATTY
39/A, SEAFACE, NEXT TO
LONDON PUB, CHOWPATTY .
MUMBAI-400007
PHONE: 3690104

MALAD
OSCAR CLASSICS, SHOP NO.3,
40, LAURDES COLONY,
ORLEN-MALAD MUMBAI-400064
PHONE: 8619406

CHURCHGATE
AT KAMDARS, INDUSTRIAL
ASSURANCE BLDG.
CHURCHGATE, MUMBAI-400020
PHONE: 2821066

WARDEN ROAD
BEACH VIEW BLDG.,
93, WARDEN ROAD, D
MUMBAI-400036
PHONE: 3643797

LINKING ROAD
MANGAL BHAVAN BLDG.,
BEHIND SATGURUS,
14TH ROAD,
KHAR MUMBAI-400049
PHONE: 6431506

BORIVALI
SHOP NO.2, CHURCH VIEW
CO-OP HSG. SOC., LIC COLONY,
BORIVALI (WEST)
MUMBAI-400103
PHONE: 8955358

SAVE.

INTERESTING WAYS TO MULTIPLY YOUR MONEY

- DEPOSIT REINVESTMENT CERTIFICATE SCHEME
- SURAJ JAMA YOJANA
- UNIQUE DEPOSIT SCHEME
- CUMULATIVE DEPOSIT SCHEME
- ANUKUL JAMA YOJANA
- STOCKINVEST LINKED DEPOSIT SCHEME
- MONTHLY INCOME SCHEME
- RETIREMENT BENEFIT SCHEME
- MANCHALI JAMA YOJANA
- CASH CERTIFICATE SCHEME

Contact your nearest branch for further details :
UNION BANK OF INDIA
Good people to bank with.

IT PAYS.

RB/UB/96/10A

upwardly mobile, pretty eccentric, honest, good-natured, fun loving, reliable. The community was also perceived as localized and insular, frail and sickly, basking in past greatness, loud, foul-mouthed, cantankerous and ultramod. According to Kainaz Pooniwalla, some non-Parsis wondered "how the past stalwarts could belong to the community they knew." In an oblique reference to Parsi ignorance of the rationale behind their practices, one speaker noted, "Other communities are curious and (as) we don't have logical answers, they feel we have something to hide." The ban on non-Zoroastrians' entry into fire-temples, three calendars and the feeding of *chasni* (consecrated food) to thanstarving hupsects they found plain. While the speakers repor- with humor and others were up- by the image of as purveyed by

Among the outstanding both of whom word for the youth. Surgeon referred to con- had with emi- Palkhivala and Manekshaw. "When did they reach eminence? They don't really know," reported Udwadia, adding, "Don't belittle yourselves. You will, you will achieve."

Gynecologist Nozer Sheriar recounted how he had been stopped for a PUC (pollution under control) check by the cops on the road. Though he was unable to produce the certificate every motorist must display on demand, he said he was waved off when he responded "yes" to the officer's query, "Are you a bawaji?" "We still have three calendars. So what? Why are we worried about Bollywood? We laughed at (ourselves) when Adi Marzban and Jimmy Poncha (depicted the same mannerisms) on stage," he reminded his coreligionists.

"Remaining well integrated (with) our national identity and having the highest indices of socioeconomic development... I am sure that the shining example of Parsis for the transformation of our country to a secular and modern entity will be worthy of emulation by other communities," Vice President of India K. R. Narayanan had stated in his message to FOZYA as published in the brochure. "This small community has made great contribu- tions to the economic and social progress of the nation and specifically to the building up of the cosmopolitan character of the city of Mumbai," Maharashtra governor Dr P. C. Alexander had further attested. At the end of the four-day seminar politician Homi Taleyarkhan, who had been the conduit for these congratu- latory messages, noted, "We are nationally and internationally integrated... (We) believe in spreading happiness among others also. You have a great responsibility for tomorrow. No man is an island. Each man is my brother..."

Recalling how Jamshedpur had been an "arid rock" and the Institute of Science at Bangalore, whose alumni have spread all over the world, had been founded by the visionary Jamsetji Tata in the face of persistent advice that "it would be a losing venture," Dr Farokh Udwadia counselled the departing youth, "Make a road for yourself wherever you see it..."

"Where is the body you can go to for your emotional problems, problems of life and death...?"

animals rather mans were as- difficult to ex- majority of the ted their findings a pinch of salt, set, particularly the community Bollywood.

judges were two young doctors, had a reassuring community Rushad Udwadia versations he had nent jurist Nani Field Marshal



Gwalior Distillers Ltd.

Dedicated
to
connoisseur's
taste

A division of "BAPUNA GROUP"

A decade of discussions

The Pune-based author and FOZYA vice president recapitulates the high points of the 10 all-India youth meets

Sarosh Palkhiwala

The first All India Zoroastrian Youth Seminar (AIZYS) was held in Delhi in 1987 and attended by about 60 to 70 delegates. This conference itself met its aim of youth interaction because it united a girl from Agra and a boy from Pune.

The second AIZYS in Calcutta in 1988 drew about 200 delegates. It was really very well organized and though they didn't receive any correspondence from Pune they arranged for accommodation and food at short notice. More than 50 percent of the delegates were housed at the Calcutta Parsee Dharamshala. Being the first conference for many delegates, the attendance at lectures was very good indeed. The delegates were transported from the Dharamshala to the Olpadwala Hall and back by a private bus. Therefore the question of not attending the working sessions did not arise. One problem discussed here was the disposal of Zoroastrian remains, there being few birds and no khandhias available.

At the after-dinner get-togethers delegates cracked jokes, sang and entertained each other. Strict instructions were given to delegates not to wander out late at night as it was very dangerous. Apart from the lectures there were sports tournaments like basketball, volleyball and table tennis between teams consisting of delegates from various cities. Crazy games (pagal olympics) were also organized. A sight-seeing tour by bus (without getting down anywhere) was provided. At this conference the youth of Pune and Hyderabad came very close to each other.

At the third AIZYS in Pune in 1989 the delegates were accommodated in the J. N. Petit Institute hostel in two big dormitories (one for the girls and the other for the boys). The seminar was held in the same venue in the hall below and the trend of sports tournaments, pagal olympics, etc

continued. The delegates were taken to visit the National Defence Academy. As friendship among the youth delegates grew they started going out for late night walks and on shopping sprees, resulting in declining attendance at the lectures.

At the fourth AIZYS in Hyderabad/



At the Fozya AGM at Ahmedabad in 1992 were (L to R) Palkhiwala (Pune), Porus Karanjawalla (Ahmedabad), Jehangir Bisney (Secunderabad), Mehernavaz Parekh (Hyderabad), Porus Debara (Agra) and Homi Gandhi (Delhi)

Secunderabad in 1990 the delegates were housed city-wise in the Secunderabad dharamshala and sight-seeing provided. The lectures were held in the same venue. With increasing interaction at night, attendance at the lectures suffered. Moreover the venue being in a central locality, the delegates were also tempted to go shopping. It was at this conference however that the concept of an all-India youth body was conceived.

The fifth AIZYS was in Nagpur in 1991. At this conference the delegates were housed in the MLA Hostel. The lecture venue was at a different place. Initially the organizers tried to mix the delegates from different cities in each room, but the Pune and Secunderabad delegates

preferred to stay with their own folks. The same trend of late nights followed with depleted attendance at the lecture sessions. Here the Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations (FOZYA) was formed with Jehangir Bisney from Secunderabad as president, Porus Karanjawalla of Ahmedabad as vice-president, Mehernavaz Parekh of Secunderabad as the honorary secretary, and Sarosh Palkhiwala of Pune, Porus Debara of Agra, Rukshad Bhagwagar of Nagpur and Homi Gandhi of Delhi as committee members.

In 1992, the delegates were kept in the St Xavier's College hostel in Ahmedabad which was the venue of the sixth AIZYS, the lectures being held in a shamiana on the grounds. The 300 delegates included representatives from the smaller towns and cities of Gujarat

but there was no participation of delegates from Hyderabad and Calcutta. There was increased stress on religion, the delegates were required to be children of both Zoroastrian-parents, and wearing the sudreh and kusti was made compulsory. Conversion and intermarriage were subjects of heated arguments. The discussion on religion went on very long and Ervad (Dr) Rooyintan Peer was again called in the evening to answer queries raised by the delegates. However, the trend of late nights and shopping continued. The profits earned at this conference were passed on to FOZYA.

The organizers of the seventh AIZYS at Dahanu in 1993 issued strict instructions to the delegates to behave and maintain discipline. Religion was further stressed, wearing sudreh and kusti was compulsory and smoking was banned on the campus. The delegates were quartered at the Sea-Breeze Hotel. The venue for the lectures was nearby. Lights out was enforced by 10.30 p.m. or 11.00 p.m. Even the gates of the Hotel were closed, with a watchman

*With Best
Wishes From*



8/36, GRANTS BUILDING, ARTHUR BUNDER ROAD, COLABA, BOMBAY - 400 005.
TEL : 204 2543/ 204 7318 • FAX : (022) 282 8490

restricting the entry. As the delegates could not have late nights and Dahanu not being a very big city, the problem of dwindling attendance at the Seminar was to a very large extent reduced. Apart from lectures there were pagal olympics and a picnic was organized to see the Bahrot caves. Here the delegates had the unique experience of travelling to the foothills by truck followed by a three to four-hour trek to reach the Bahrot caves through rough terrain. They were lead by the local adivasis and those who were not in the habit of trekking had a really tough time. A group of 22 delegates even lost the trail but eventually managed to come down. The delegates who reached the top had the pleasure of taking photographs of the place where our ancestors had kept the sacred fire safe during a turbulent period of history.

Though initially the organizers had a tough time collecting funds, they ended up with profits, some of which were given to FOZYA.

Entrepreneur Parvez Damania undertook the responsibility of holding the eighth AIZYS. The most luxurious conference ever held was mainly organized with the help of the Zoroastrian staff of Damania Airways, many of whom had come from Bombay for the purpose. The delegates were accommodated in good hotels with

attached bath and toilet. They were transported to the venue of the seminar by a private bus. Besides the lectures there were trips to the Tanks Museum and a fort and, on the last day, a wonderful display of fireworks. Ahmednagar not being a big city the idea of going for shopping did not arise though walks late at night continued.

At the FOZYA annual general meeting in Ahmednagar, Baroda agreed to host the next conference but withdrew the offer after six months. In May 1995 Nauzer Kasad, president of the Zoroastrian Youth League of Surat (ZYLS) took up the challenge of holding the ninth All India Zoroastrian Youth Conference at Dumas and the Surat Parsi Panchayat (SPP) agreed to help them financially to some extent. Due to some differences, on November 1995 the SPP refused to help and due to lack of support from the other youth members of ZYLS the question of holding the annual conference was in doubt. With 15 days' notice Kasad convened the conference in Dumas in January 1996. This was a unique event. There were only 70 to 80 delegates as most youths were very busy with either college or work. The last minute decision left many delegates without enough time to plan. Many could not get leave. Delegates were received at Surat station as they arrived and assembled at the Surat

dharamshala. Then, in the late evening they were taken to the Dumas sanatorium which is approximately 25 to 35 km from Surat. Due to lack of volunteers the delegates had to help themselves, make their own beds and fetch water from the well for bath and toilet. Bath water was heated in an enormous container and the delegates had to avail of it as required. Even the entertainment and crazy games were planned by the delegates themselves and, the number being limited, there was more interaction among youths from different cities. In short, this was the most interactive and practical conference ever. A part of the profits of this conference was again given to FOZYA.

The 10th AIZYS was the first conference to be held under the FOZYA banner with the help of HPY (Holiday Programme for Youth) Club, Bombay, and the involvement of FOZYA committee members. Being the 10th conference it was really done on a grand scale. In Bombay the

continued on page 82

Left to right (top): The organizers at the inaugural in Calcutta (1988) and Pune (1989). Below: FPZAI honorary secretary Keki Gandhi addressing the youths at Ahmednagar (1994) and young Dahanuites who entertained delegates at the seventh seminar (1993)



50 Years Selvel 1945 to 1995

IN MEMORIAM



MR SORAB K. NICHOLSON
FOUNDER OF SELVEL
PIONEER IN OUTDOOR ADVERTISING IN INDIA



OUR LATE DIRECTOR
PADMA BHUSHAN, GAURAV PURASKAR
AIR MARSHALL **MINOO M. ENGINEER**
PVSM, MVC, DFC

HEAD OFFICE:
RAVINDRA MANSION ANNEXE, 194, DINSHAW VATCHA ROAD, BOMBAY 400020

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

Which way to the 21st century?

A recap of what the youths have been saying and doing in India and North America for the past decade

Arnavaz S. Mama

Was 1987 the year of the youth? Or of the resurgence of Zoroastrian fervor? Or of both?

The mayor of Los Angeles declared September 5-7 "Zoroastrian youth congress days" in deference to the first such event in North America (NA). On October 23, then President of India R. Venkataraman received the Zoroastrian youths of Delhi and 79 others from all over India attending the first All-India Zoroastrian Youth Seminar (AIZYS) to tea at Rashtrapati Bhavan. On December 6, the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO) hosted a one day seminar in Bombay, similarly attended by the youths of India. Since then the Zoroastrian Youth Congress has developed as a biennial conference in NA and the AIZYS as an annual meet in India. What have these institutionalized events achieved?

Some parallels have emerged. In NA the first youth congress mooted the establishment of the Helping Hands committee which was thereafter incorporated as the Federation of Zoroastrian Association of North America's (FEZANA) standing committee on youth and social service affairs. India witnessed the establishment of the Federation of Zoroastrian Youth Associations (FOZYA), the youth affiliate of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India (FPZAI), at the fifth seminar meet in Nagpur in 1991. In both fora the community's ailments have been dissected and efforts are being made to identify the path to future development. And in both geographical areas, youth and adult perceptions differ.

The 1996 seminar in Bombay attended by more than 300 youths (see "A question of priorities," page 61) is a vantage point from which to review the achievements of the past decade in India: The birth of FOZYA, about a dozen marriages, a little camaraderie and exposure to contempo-

rary Zoroastrian achievers are some prominent achievements. The youths have also been made aware of the community's current flaws. The yearning for security as against the entrepreneurial guts of earlier generations is revealed in the attachment to community housing, safe jobs and the

opportunity to voice their concerns. The packed agenda of the panel sessions where there was time for only a few questions to be asked and a few views to be expressed resulted in prolonged after-dinner discussions where community stalwarts like Rustom Anklesaria, then chief executive

of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP), Keki Gandhi, honorary secretary of the FPZAI, and the late Prof Noshir Kaikobad, sociologist and the BPP's social services coordinator, sat with the youth on the carpeted floor of the shamiana, listening, enlightening and encouraging the outpouring of interest and concern from the youth until the early morning hours.

Subsequent meets have largely rehashed the subjects and information provided in Delhi. There has been a retreat towards an orthodoxy of com-

pulsory sudreh-kusti (at Dahanu), a mindset of "Parsi first, Zoroastrian second and Indian last" (at Poona) replacing the national thrust of the Delhi meet at some of the later events. The fourth meet at Secunderabad was the only one that began with a rendering of the national anthem. The proclivity of the host city was reflected in the choice of speakers and subjects so that in Calcutta K. Kiash, a volunteer pallbearer, could frankly discuss the state of the dokhmas and the problems of disposal of the dead — a topic not found on later agendas. The conservative panel on religious issues was unable to satisfy the questing youths at Ahmedabad in 1992, leading to near pandemonium.

The trend in India has been towards delegates sticking with their home groups or, in the case of regular attendees, those with whom rapport was established earlier. Also, on each occasion after the first, the delegates concentrated on the social and entertainment aspects of the event with flagging interest and depleting attendance at the plenary sessions, workshops



At the First World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in California in 1993

comforts of megapolitan Bombay, and cited as the main cause of the community's declining financial and social status.

The number of delegates has risen substantially since the first meet in Delhi when Zoroastrian youths were formally, officially, introduced to the religious, social and legal parameters of their existence in India. In the context of the diminishing community presence in politics, in the civil and armed forces, the manifold opportunities in these fields were revealed. The delegates became conscious of the virtues of comparative religious study. The problems of intense competition and drug addiction were discussed. The Parsi laws of marriage, divorce and succession were explained and questions of intermarriage, conversion, the status of an "adopted" child, et al, were touched upon.

An outstanding feature of the Delhi meet was the effervescence of the youth who had been given their first official

Linens...

Designed to Fit Perfectly Everytime



Production Facilities

The Symbol of Quality & Craftsmanship
at affordable prices

PEGASUS PRODUCTS INC.

34 Columbia Road
Somerville, NJ 08876
Telephone - (908) 707-1122
FAX (908) 707-1575



and debates, to the despair and disappointment of the organizers. FOZYA founding president Jehangir Bisney has recorded that it was a "daunting task" to wake the sleeping delegates ("Seminar strains: accord and discord," *Parsiana*, November 1992).

The organizers of the seventh seminar in Dahanu in 1993 made a herculean effort to break up delegations from each city into competing teams, each of which had to synchronize the ideas of its members on various subjects and be represented by a single speaker on each topic on the agenda. This was the only occasion when the blending of delegates from various areas was rigorously enforced.

Only 93 of the 600 delegates who had attended thus far responded to a FOZYA questionnaire in 1993, aimed at eliciting the views of the participants. Some of their comments, as published ("Signals for seminars," *Parsiana*, January 1994), noted: "The first festival for me was very nice ... Everything was new and refreshing. The second one ... was an eye-opener. It made me realize I was never going to another one again!" "Once a topic started, there was no end!" "Topics are often boring and involve a one-sided conversation."

To date nothing has been done to break the intellectual monotony of the seminars. The topics of demography, entrepreneurship and religion are staple fare, largely addressed by senior members of the community. The liberal intellectuals are concerned at the community's declining numbers in India. The orthodox diehards refuse to accept the evidence. No individual or group has been appointed to chalk out a strategy for survival. Exhortations not to marry outside the community and to procreate two or more children, abound. Entrepreneurs speak of declining entrepreneurship and risk-taking attitudes in the community but after a decade have not yet created (or adapted from those available in the cosmo-

politan arena) any programs designed to promote attitudinal change among the community. Lectures on religion continue to be the same vague, off-the-cuff generalizations on e.g. sudreh-kusti, covering the head, etc. Can the youth not get to the nitty-gritty of learning and seeking to understand what a particular yasht/nyaish/verse of the *Gatha* says, how it can be interpreted and how it can apply to today's

In NA where the youths do the talking — the adults generally enjoy "observer" status at the youth congresses — the issues they have identified include the Parsi-Irani divide, the confusion of differing religious interpretations, the need for a central global leadership... Of great concern is the community's stand on conversion and intermarriage.

September 4-6, 1993 NA hosted the

First World Zoroastrian Youth Congress in Los Angeles. The heavily packed three-day schedule was successfully pursued and the organizers held a post-Congress meet with some of the delegates to ensure that the issues discussed find their way out into the community. Within a few weeks of the Congress the first world Zoroastrian youth directory with 800 entries had been published. By about six months, an emergency blood data bank of world Zarthushtis was being run from Los Angeles and the Zoroastrian Youth Religious Education Program had begun to be developed by the executive board of the Congress. A detailed audit was conducted at the end of the Congress to evaluate what they had set out to do and where and how their performance could be bettered in future, including the location and sponsoring of speakers, the quality of papers submitted, advertisements, souvenirs,

hospitality, food, transportation, etc.

At an "interactive seminar" designed to help young adults and community seniors to understand each other, seven representative young voices were selected from 40 individuals across the continent because they had something worthwhile to say on the designated areas of developing meaningful doctrinal, physical, social and community infrastructures; the bridging of the Parsi-Irani, orthodox-liberal divides; and guidance through the confusion surrounding identity, culture, rituals, etc. The seminar was the brainchild of adults who had guided and goaded the youths into conceiving and projecting ideas that resulted



Above: Youths engaged in informal discussion in Delhi, in 1987, seen here with demographer Ava Khullar (extreme right)

Below: A section of the audience at the WZO Seminar, also in 1987

circumstances? Would it be utterly impossible for 19-40-year olds to concentrate on understanding the Parsi Marriage and Divorce Act vis-à-vis the Special Marriage Act and how each would impact their lives? Could no project be conceived to involve Parsi youths in the betterment of their locality so that their presence is regarded as an asset by the neighborhood and not merely condoned or tolerated?

With Best Compliments From

HILLA BUILDERS PRIVATE LIMITED

144 Perin Nariman Street
Fort, Bombay 400001
Tel: 2699399, 2657599 Fax: 2691492

Do you have a G6PD enzyme deficiency?

The G6PD enzyme deficiency, common among the Parsis, makes them highly susceptible to certain drugs. The deficiency may cause jaundice in the newborn and severe hemolytic crisis (destruction of red blood cells) in adults. Ask your family doctor to arrange for a blood test to detect whether you have G6PD enzyme deficiency. If you happen to be a G6PD-D patient, it is essential that you carry your card at all times so that in any emergency you would receive appropriate treatment.

*Analgesics: Acetanilid, Acetylsalicylic acid, Aspirin, Acetophenetidin (Phenacetin), Antipyrine, Pyridone.

Sulfonamides and Sulfones: Sulfanilamide, Sulfapyridine, N2 Acetylsulfanilamide, Sulfacetamide, Sulfisoxazole (Gantrisin), Thiazolsulfone, Salicylazosulfapyridine (Azulfadine), Sulfoxone, Sulfamethoxypyridine (Kynex).

Antimalarials: Primaquine, Pamaquine, Pentaquine, Quinacrine (Atabrine).

Nonsulfonamide antibacterial agents: Furazolidone, Nitrofurantoin (Furadantin), Chloramphenicol, Para-aminosalicylic acid.

Miscellaneous: Napthalene, Vitamin K (Water soluble analogues), Prodenecid, Trinitrotoluene, Methylene blue, Dimercaprol (BAL), Phenylhydrazine, Quinine and Quinidine; Sulpha containing compounds including Septran, DDS and Daraprim; Nitrofurantoin, Nalidixic acid including all derivatives of this group, Antistine, Diphenylhydramine, Pronestyl, Nitrites; Large doses of Chloroquine, Chloromycetin, Vit. C and Vit. K.

Published in the public interest by *Parsiana*

in seven mature, original presentations ("Mixed messages," *Parsiana*, November 1996).

In Delhi, authoress Piloo Jungalwalla had defined a Zoroastrian as "one who has studied the practices and precepts of Zoroastrianism." At the WZO seminar in Bombay the late Dastur Navrooz Minochehr-Homji had commented, "It is easy to sing 'Chhaiyyé hamé Zarhosti,' it is difficult to sing 'Thaiyyé hamé Zarhosti.'" The venerable priest had earlier noted (in Delhi) in the context of good and evil, "My mind is my liberator or the agent of my doom." So far, in India, the youths continue to sing "Chhaiyyé hamé Zarhosti." Is there a way to change the Indian-Zoroastrian mindset?

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited from qualified, good-natured, cultured and well-settled boys up to 37 years from India and abroad for a qualified, extensively travelled, caring and sensitive girl of 28 years. Reply with returnable photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/13-97)
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

A DECADE OF...

continued from page 76

delegates were kept at the Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' School and lectures were conducted in a shamiana on the School campus. On the very first day there was a jashan in the evening after which there were icebreakers. For the first time there were delegates from Pakistan, United States and London. Due to reasons known only to the youth of the cities of Secunderabad, Ratlam and Jamshedpur, there was no representation from their end. The highest attendance was from Ahmedabad and Pune. Initially there was a restriction on the number of delegates from different areas which was later withdrawn. At the mega city the delegates had a gala time shopping. Though there were restraints on late nights (entry and exit were restricted), some of the delegates managed to break through. Hence the attendance during lectures was very low. Here, besides the lectures, pagal olympics and crazy games were organized. There was a sight-seeing program and on the last day they organized the Gary Lawyer show.

In sum, every conference had its merits and demerits. But the lure of meeting our fellow Zoroastrians draws delegates like us to the AIZYS every year.

Jals'

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. Cash and valuables escorts, dog squads with handlers for land-patrolling, etc. Well trained, disciplined and experienced staff. Reasonable rates, round the clock services.

Contact:

Office: Jer Baug, 293, 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

TGI FUNTOURS

Simply the Best

Europe & UK • USA
Turkey - Greece - Egypt
Thailand - Singapore



FREE !!
FABULOUS GOA
HOLIDAY
ON ALL
FUNTOURS

**GREAT
GETAWAYS**

Independent
holiday
packages
overseas.

**24 CARAT
INDIAN
HOLIDAYS**

Holiday
packages all
over India at
unbeatable
prices.



COSMOS

Low cost quality tours in
Europe, UK & USA.

Wow!
BEST VALUE
BEST PRICES
BEST SERVICE

OVER A
100
TRAVEL OPTIONS
JUST
ONE CHOICE

TGI

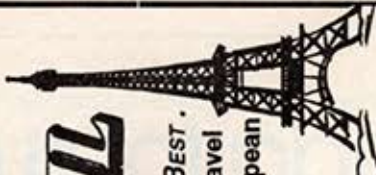
CALL US TODAY!

Travel Corporation (India) Ltd. Mumbai : Chander Mukhi, Nariman Point, Mumbai 400 021. Tel: 2021881/8142. Fax: 2029424. • Chennai: Tel: 5229634/5242521. • CBD Belapur: Tel: 7576502 / 5409. • Pune: Tel: 628872 / 625271. Fax: 622050. • Goa: Tel: 223754/222502. Aurangabad: Tel: 483864/67. Or any of our 27 offices in India. Subject to RBI/GOI rules & regulations

PAYABLE IN
RUPEES

EURAIL

TCI KNOWS EURAIL BEST.
Unlimited budget travel
throughout 17 European
countries.

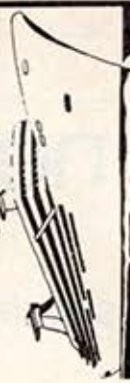


JAPAN RAIL PASS
Unlimited rail travel throughout
Japan.

GREYHOUND

Unlimited coach travel in USA,
Canada & South Africa.

FUNCRUISES



Cruise vacations all around
the world.

ADVERTS

We need an agenda for survival

Parsis are modernizing, globalizing and secularising themselves to extinction, says the author

Fredie A. Mehta

Nearly 50 years ago, the great demographer Prof A. D. Glass of the London School of Economics used to say that there is one infallible index to determine whether or not a society genuinely treats its women on a footing of equality. If it does, then for every 1,000 males there will be a higher number of females. Right now, in India as a whole, for every 1,000 males, we have 932 females, a statistic too devastating to call for further comment. Happily, the pre-1991 census figures tell a different story for our community.

If a society genuinely treats its women on a footing of equality, not merely for the purpose of poetry or rhetoric or religious incantations, but in actual practice, then women will almost invariably outnumber men. Is it not significant that Kerala is the only state in the whole of India in which women outnumber men (1,042 females to 1,000 males)? And perhaps there is no religious community in the whole world in which females outnumber men as they do in the Parsi community (1,082 females to 1,000 males). It proclaims that women are as much prized in our community as men, and for this credit must go as much to our great religion as to our great 19th century reformers.

So much has already been said of our past achievements that it is necessary to italicize what (respected jurist) Nani Palkhivala has said on previous occasions: Of the four great emblems of our Indian nation, as many as three have been given by the Parsi community.

•Our slogan for independence, summed up in the magic word "*swaraj*," was coined by none other than Dadabhai Naoroji, and when the great Tilak proclaimed that "*Swaraj* is my birthright and I will have it," he went out of his way to express his gratitude to Dadabhai for giving him this one-word slogan.

•Likewise, when it comes to our national flag, with the exception of Ashoka's *chakra* the flag was the handiwork of the

great revolutionary, Madam Bhikaji Cama. •Again when it came to the industrial renaissance of India, it was of course the immortal Jamsetji Tata who made steel, power and science the three symbols and spearheads of the resurgent Indian economy he envisaged.

•The fourth symbol of our nation, namely, our national song, was of course written and set to music by the immortal Gurudev Tagore. It is therefore conspicuous that three out of the four national emblems of India have been contributed by a community of which Gandhiji truly said that "in numbers, it is beneath contempt, but in contribution, beyond compare."

The past can incite, illuminate, inspire, but it must not lure us away from the tasks of the future. When by 2040 India will have the largest population in the world of around 1.6 billion, we the Parsis of India will, at the present rate of growth (or extinction!), be no more than 20,000 to 25,000. Maybe, there will be far more Parsis living outside India than in India. But the fact is that in India the environmentalists will at least have protected wild life — the tigers, the lions, the elephants etc — but there will be nobody to protect us from virtual extinction.

The forces of modernization, globalization and secularism (MGS) are all conspiring to wipe out our community, but our reactions to these phenomena must not be hysterical at one end nor defeatist at the other. It is necessary to get the right perspective in these areas.

Every society in the world, once it has achieved high incomes, high levels of literacy, and high levels of aspiration inevitably witnesses a sharp decline in the growth of its population. We Parsis may be only an intensified example of this phenomenon. Barely 50 years ago, the fertility rate per married woman in Spain was 5.4 children; it has come down drastically to 1.25 today — and this in a largely Catholic country. Likewise, the fertility rate per

married woman in Singapore 30 years ago was 4.5 children; it is now barely one child. Lee Kuan Yew, who used to preach the gospel of birth control, is now opening matrimonial clubs to persuade young educated women to marry!

And so it is in our Parsi community that out of every 100 women between the ages of 19 and 45, roughly 30 percent do not marry at all, 20 percent marry outside our religion, and out of 50 percent who marry (within the community), the total number of children they breed do not exceed their own numbers. More graphically, six women who even in the normal process should have given birth to at least 12 children, give birth to only three children (100 years ago, they would have given birth to at least 30 children!).

The second factor which is actively at work is the scattering of our community in various parts of the world — wrongly described in colloquial literature as the "Parsi diaspora." Roughly, 15,000 to 20,000 Parsis today live outside India and Pakistan. The first generation may still recollect (and perhaps even revere) the Lord Zarathushtra; the second generation, less so, and perhaps the third generation, not at all. In several advanced countries of the world where we have migrated, we are witnessing the phenomenon of what (president of the Zoroastrian Association of Metropolitan Washington) Keki Shroff so aptly terms, the "24-hour Zoroastrians" — children whose navjote is performed, but who the very next day put aside their sudreh and kusti, a phenomenon so common in Canada, America and Great Britain, and now, alas, beginning to be common in India itself!

The third factor that is decimating, disintegrating and destroying the Parsi community are the forces of secularism. Here one has to note that with very honorable exceptions, the great majority of our Parsis who opt for secularism, opt for what may be called the Western pattern of secular-



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

ism under which religion plays little or no influence, as distinguished from our Indian pattern of secularism in which one's own religion is extremely important but combined with respect for other religions. Thus, it has been said in Germany that "we Germans practise Christianity-on-wheels; at birth we are taken in a pram to the church to be baptised; at marriage we go in a limousine to the church to get married; and at death we again go to the church for the third time in a hearse."

It is clear that much of our Parsi secularism is patterned after this Western model and with the retreat of religion as an active dynamic force, uniting and inspiring our community, we have either a total indifference to religion or an outward "Zoroastrianism-on-wheels" approach to religion. Almost all the great leaders of the Parsi community in the past were fiercely patriotic but even more fiercely dedicated to our religion. Can we today name a single leader of our community, if at all we have him or her, to whom religion is so precious as to be assigned the highest priority for our survival and growth? Our leaders and our *sethias*, to whom our community and our religion meant so much, have virtually disappeared, leaving a very great vacuum in the field of our religious education and our philanthropic activities.

While the forces of MGS are making their inroads in all societies of the world (Islamic fundamentalism notwithstanding!), in our very small community they threaten its very survival.

We have either a total indifference or an outward "Zoroastrianism-on- wheels" approach to religion

Anecdotes from the life of Mahatma Gandhi indicate his great respect for Sir Pherozeshah Mehta, in whose honor we have held this Seminar. In his autobiography, *My Experiments With Truth*, he had stated, "Sir Pherozeshah had seemed to me like the Himalayas, Lokmanya like the ocean. But Gokhale was as the Ganges." I recall too the reverence in which Gandhi held our beloved Ardeshir Framji Khabardar whom he described as "the Kalidasa of the 20th century." This bard, whose poems are sung even today in the remotest parts of Gujarat, devoted no less than four years of his ailing life to write a 800-page opus on the Zoroastrian

religion.

Why do we mention only the great Parsis of Bombay? Let me tell you of two remarkable coincidences in the lives of our great Parsi heroes:

•Who was and is the Father of modern Bombay: Sir Pherozeshah Mehta. Who was and is the Father of modern Karachi: Mr Jamshed Nusserwanji Mehta. What a remarkable coincidence of Mehtas!

•But an even more remarkable coincidence emerges when I recall the two great saints that we Parsis have produced in this 20th century. We Parsis have produced many saintly souls — there are six names which would come unbidden to our lips, but saints in almost the true sense of the word, I can think of only two. One, obviously, is Jamshed N. Mehta of Karachi and the other Jamshed K. Mehta of Allahabad. Jamshed Mehta of Karachi was a veritable jewel — a brilliant administrator and yet a virtual saint, a multi-millionaire who gladly parted with all his wealth to lead the life of the poor; a man before whom hundreds of families put forward their disputes and abided by his judgement, for he was greater than any law court that one could think of.

The other, Jamshed K. Mehta of Allahabad, was also a divinely inspired personality. A great economist who in the company of Joan Robinson invented a

With Compliments From

Victory Theatre

2429 Gen Thimayya Road
Camp, Pune 411001



Readymoney Bldg No. 1, Sir Ratan Tata Marg, Tardeo Road, Bombay 400034

Tel: 4944616, 4921255 Telefax: 4930283

Distributors / Agents for

- | | |
|---|--|
| 1. Atul Ltd (Dyestuffs Div) | : Novatic, Procion, Dispersol, Sulphur, Naphthols/Bases and Tulasteron Dyes |
| 2. ICI India Ltd | : Textile Auxiliaries & Speciality Chemicals |
| 3. Vam Organic Chemicals Ltd | : Polyvinyl Acetate Emulsions, Polyvinyl Alcohol Powder, Acetic Acid & Pigment Binders |
| 4. Pidilite Industries Ltd | : Pigment Emulsions, Binders, Polyvinyl Acetate Emulsions |
| 5. Birla 3M Ltd | : Scotchgard Protective Finishes |
| 6. BASF plc/(Zeneca Colours) - UK | : Textile Dyes |
| 7. ICI Surfactants (UK) | : Textile Auxiliaries & Speciality Chemicals |
| 8. The Nutra Sweet Kelco Co./ Monsanto plc (UK & USA) | : Alginates, Alginic Acid, Xanthan Gum & Gellan Gum for the Textiles, Food, Drinks, Beer, Ice Cream, Pharmaceutical and other industries |
| 9. Dr. Th. Bohme (Germany) | : Flame Retardants and Speciality Sizing Agents |

AHMEDABAD OFFICE: 59 Manek Baug Society, Surendra Mangaldas Rd, Ahmedabad 380015 Tel: 403201

With Best Compliments Of

HOSHANG J. BUCHIA & CO
ENGINEERS & CONSTRUCTORS

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

APPOINTED
VALUERS OF JEWELLERY
TO THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

GAZDAR
PRIVATE LIMITED

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

major concept in modern economics, but of whom Gandhi said that if you understood the economics of Jamshed Mehta, you would have understood his Gandhian economics. Here again, was an eminent economist leading a life of virtual poverty, practising ayurvedic medicine to help the poor so that on his death the whole of Allahabad stood still. Even today, there must be at least 50 economists who revere his memory but who is totally ignored in the current literature about our Parsi community.

The past is glorious for the Parsis but we must now seriously debate about our future. We are not to think only of "quick fixes;" the community and its leaders must now debate how best to gain from modernization, globalization and secularism without embracing their kisses of death.

An eminent Jewish rabbi of America has said that the Jews of the world have faced two holocausts during their lifetime: the holocaust perpetrated by Hitler on the Jewish people, and the holocaust perpetrated by the modern Jews themselves due to the loss of their faith and subsequent loss of their identity. In their case, at least there is the mighty little state of Israel.

But we Parsis have no such state to preserve our identity. Are we prepared to resurrect our faith and fire? Else be prepared to die out in the coming decades, unwept, unhonored, unsung. The evolving tragedy is compounded by singing our praises for the past, but having no comprehension of the perils of the future, leave aside solutions for them. Future generations will not condemn us for perpetrating this holocaust because there will be no future generations in the first place. Even today, it may not be too late for the Parsi community to give itself a "wake-up call;" too much of what we are doing today resembles the discussion of a lunch menu on a sinking Titanic.

Edited text of a speech delivered at the valedictory session of a two-day national seminar on "The contribution of the Parsi community to western India between 1818-1920" hosted by the Bombay

University under the auspices of the Gulestan and Rustom Billimoria Trust, February 15 and 16, 1997.



Dr. Fredie Mehta, is chairman of the Forbes group, director of Tata Sons and an economist of repute.

Our World of Vacations - 97

Destinations	No of Days	Rs	+	US \$
Far East				
Thailand	7	15,950	+	250
Thailand & Singapore	8	19,950	+	500
Thailand & Hong Kong	8	24,950	+	500
Thailand, Malaysia & Singapore	11	21,950	+	800
Thailand, Singapore & Hong Kong	10	25,950	+	700
Singapore & Malaysia Cruise	6	19,950	+	600
Thailand, Singapore & Malaysia Cruise	11	19,950	+	850
Thailand, Singapore, Malaysia Cr & Hong Kong	13	25,950	+	1,030
Thailand, Tokyo & Hong Kong	11	33,950	+	1,250
Thailand, Japan & Hong Kong	13	33,950	+	1,950
South Pacific				
Australian Trail	12	45,950	+	1,500
New Zealand Discovery	14	55,950	+	1,600
Australia & New Zealand	16	65,950	+	2,000
Africa				
Mauritius	8	17,950	+	525
Seychelles	7	15,950	+	795
Kenya	8	19,950	+	750
South Africa	7	45,950	+	1,050
Egypt & Nile Cruise	9	29,950	+	1,200
Europe				
Glimpse of Europe	10	42,950	+	840
European Experience	15	42,950	+	1,200
Europe at Leisure	21	42,950	+	1,470
Grand Europe	26	42,950	+	1,820
Scandinavia	12	42,950	+	1,140
Greece & the Aegean Cruise	11	42,950	+	1,130
North America				
Eastern Triangle	8	47,950	+	670
Eastern Wonders	12	47,950	+	1,095
California Adventure	11	59,950	+	780
Western Wonders	13	59,950	+	1,050
Western USA & Canada	19	61,950	+	1,485
Canadian Rockies	13	59,950	+	1,020
Alaska	12	64,950	+	1,750
Hawaii	14	59,950	+	1,440
South America				
South America	14	93,950	+	1,050
South American Odyssey	19	1,07,950	+	1,630

Also tours within India & Nepal

For details contact:



H. K. Lala & Co.

Capitol Cinema Bldg., Opp. New Empire Cinema
Murzban Road, Fort, Mumbai-400001
Tel: 207 5094/5744/3006. Fax: +91-22-207 6925

The sacred sojourn

Many Zoroastrians proceeding to Udvada are more mindful of their physical comforts than spiritual salvation

Rustam S. Sidhwa

A good samaritan — a dear old friend — called on me on the eve of his Haj pilgrimage. He wanted me to forgive him for any trespasses he may have committed, as he did not want to leave without being rid of this burden, which would oppress him if he did not square his account with me. He also said that he would pray for my welfare and that if I had any special wish he would beseech Allah and his holy Prophet to grant me that grace. As he was such a pure soul whom I thought had never hurt or annoyed a fly, I assured him that he had not sinned against me at all, that he should consider himself forgiven for all apparent and latent trespasses and that I hoped his pilgrimage would bring him all the blessings he desired. I also asked him to pray for certain favors which he promised to do.

As he was leaving, I asked him to tell me something of his intended trip, his ideal, his *tariqat* (manner), the method of his prayers and salutations to Allah and his holy Prophet, and how he would seek forgiveness and blessings for himself and his friends.

"Well," he said, "I am first seeking forgiveness from all friends and foes for any trespasses committed by me against them because I do not want to face Allah and the holy Prophet without being rid of burdens which make my presence unclean and impure.

"I won't trouble you with a recital of my different visits to different places and my formal practices there. About my ideal," he mused aloud, "I want to be animated with the spiritual grace of Allah and His Prophet Muhammad throughout the trip, from the

time I leave my hometown to the time I return, and particularly during the period of my sojourns at the places of pilgrimage. I shall shave my head and wear my *ehram* (white cloth which they wear on haj pilgrimage) when I start from my house as a mark of humility, to remind me that I am now on a mission of spiritual purification. And I will try to keep away from all unclean and worldly desires that may beset me on the way. I shall be constantly under *vazoo* (ablution) and keep myself physically clean so that I can constantly recite my *tasbeih* (rosary) while taking His name."

"What about your prayers?" I interjected.

"Well, I shall attend all five *ba-jamaat* (congregational) prayers, as far as possible. If I miss any, I shall make it up later. Do you know, it's only in *ba-jamaat* prayers that we find real unity, for to be spiritually one we must offer prayers together. For don't forget that the purity of thoughts and emotions of a hundred souls strengthens the spiritual aura and grace of

the prayers not only a hundredfold, but are compounded to rise steeply to multidimensional levels. After these *farzi* (obligatory) prayers, I shall recite other prayers depending upon time and circumstance, according to the guidance received from my parents, my religious preceptor and spiritual guide. Finally, after each prayer session, I shall send *salaams* (greetings) and *darood* (peace) to Allah, then to Prophet Muhammad, thereafter to his immediate family members and noble companions, and finally to the spiritually advanced souls who gave their lives in selfless service to Islam."

"But what about Allah's grace — beseeching His favors for yourself, family and friends?" I just wanted to remind him of the main reason for the pilgrimage.

He looked at me steadily. "Dear friend, that is last attended. After the above salutations, I shall first pray for the unity and solidarity of the Muslim *ummah* (community), for world peace and for the progress of my country. Then I shall place the

favors and wishes placed in my custody by my friends before Allah for His special dispensation and implore Him to grant all their requests. Then finally I shall place my wishes and desires and those of my family members for similar grace. In *sijdah* (obedience), I shall cry out and beseech Him to help all nations and people in distress, those in the throes of war, genocide, terrorism, polarized discrimination and sectarianism; and those in poverty, hunger and misery. For it is not till we have compassion in our own souls, and desire that those in distress be freed

"SO... HOW WAS YOUR PILGRIMAGE TO UDWADA?"

"SIMPLY FABULOUS! WE HAD MILK PUFFS, TARELI BOI MACHHIS, CHAR-EDA-NO-PORO AND ALETI-PALETI FOR BREAKFAST... THEN DHANSAK FOR SOME LIGHT LUNCH, FOLLOWED BY....."



**There is someone
in this world
who cares enough**

to make an air conditioner to keep

families in England cool not cold ...

a microwave to dish out pizzas just the way

the Italians love them ...

a washing machine that won't let

the Indian housewife worry

about drying clothes after

it has washed them ...

and to bring to India an environment-

friendly, CFC -free refrigerator

**to give you a better
world.**

Just like 120 countries across the world.

NOW IN INDIA



We understand you better

from their miseries, that the true blessings of Allah can crystallize in our hearts."

For days I kept thinking of my friend, comparing his attitudes and ideals with those adopted by me on a pilgrimage to Udvada. Had I been on a pilgrimage, or to a 'Euro-Disney' or 'Indian Disney' show? Had it been undertaken for spiritual purification, or as a prayer-cum-pleasure tour? What had been my ideal? What had been my *tariqat*? What physical purification had I maintained during my pilgrimage? What greetings and salutations had I offered Ahura Mazda, my holy Prophet Spitama Zarathushtra, and to the spiritually advanced Zarathosti souls? What honor had I paid to the *din dasturs* who were looking after Shri Iranshah? Or to those souls among them who had retired under the pressure of disease and old age and were without help or succor?

One thinks of Udvada in order to place oneself at the feet of Ahura Mazda, in custody of His Prophet Spitama Zarathushtra and the spiritually advanced Zarathosti souls. A visit after *navjote* and marriage are considered to be of cardinal importance. Other visits on holy days, festival days, etc are considered beneficial. No spiritual preparation is deemed necessary, but some souls do take to heart

the following admonitions: "Be sure to take that train." "No, no, take a taxi." "Don't worry, air-conditioned buses go early morning on Hormazd, Ardibehest

Had I been on a pilgrimage, or to a 'Euro-Disney' or 'Indian Disney' show?

and Behram *roj* to Udvada and bring you back late at night the same day." "And don't forget to take a hamper along — nice parathas with omelettes or kebabs and goodies from the Parsi Dairy Farm if you're taking your car." So, a good spiritual journey must be preceded by a good tuck-in, lest listlessness and hunger destroy the mood for communication with the gods! Perhaps *pet ni pooja* is a good starter for *dharmic pooja*?

A happy breakfast is a happy start. Woe to those parsimonious hoteliers who miss out on all the goodies — fried bois, milk puffs, *niroo*. A once-in-many years' trip must include gourmand feasts for those

souls who desire His blessings!

At last one is in the precincts of Iranshah. Poor Parsis waiting to sell sandalwood, agarbattis, garlands and other knick-knacks infest the visitors with their presence. Some trade having been accomplished, one proceeds to the ablution chamber, where after *padayab/kusti* one enters the holy of holies. If you are a new entrant, a number of old mobeds — patriarchal remnants of a once thriving lot — will accost you for any prayers you may want to be performed for a small fee. Those already acquainted with mobeds during earlier visits, may find the same aging souls ready to take up their duties, if not already engaged with a heavy load on behalf of others. However much one may desire to establish a direct rapport with his Maker and his Prophet, he must find a *din dastur* to be his medium for that grace, otherwise he may miss this benefit. For their service, a *littlenazarana* (ashodad) is a mark of civility.

Having offered sandalwood at the atash dadgah, atash adaran and the holy of holies, the Iranshah atash padshah saheb, one bows in *sijdah* at each of these places at the feet of Ahura Mazda, there to beseech Him, His holy Prophet and/or holy souls, depending upon the spiritual education received by the supplicant, for His and

With Best Compliments From

PENOSH

94-A, M. G. Road, Pune 411001

Tel: 645162-65

Fax: 645166

Telex: 145-7418



PHEROZE FRAMROZE
AND COMPANY (Registered)

Kalpataru Chambers, 6, Nanik Motwane Marg (Opp. Bombay University), Fort, Bombay 400 023.
TEL : 2671566, 2671432, 2671452, 2666529, 2666530, 2666531 FAX : 2624837

EXCHANGE BUREAUX IN BOMBAY

BOMBAY AIRPORT, Sahar (International) Tel : 8326444 Fax : 8224532
BOMBAY AIRPORT, Santacruz (Domestic) Tel : 6183321
BOMBAY DOCKS

EXCHANGE BUREAU BRANCHES

GOA	No 119, Hotel Fidalgo, 18th June Road, Panjim, Goa 403 001. Tel : 220129, 226291-9 Ext. 119 Fax : (0832) 220129
NEW DELHI	GF 9-11 Indraprakash Bldg., 21 Barakhamba Road, New Delhi 110 001. Tel : 3352547, 3310028, 3352548 Fax : (011) 3724008
BANGALORE	G-2 Richmond Plaza, Richmond Circle, Raja Ram Mohan Roy Road, Bangalore 560 025. Tel : 2227194, 2211025 Fax : (080) 2211064

Get good value
for your money

Visit
**RAILWAY
HOTEL**

Railway Hotel Building
Charni Road Junction
Bombay 400004
Telephone: 3851028

**Beer Parlour/
Permit Room/
Homely Comforts**

With Best
Wishes From

**THE PLACE
TOUCHÉ
THE SIZZLER**

Clover Centre
7, Moledina Road
Pune 411001
Tel: 634632

their grace and blessings.

After giving instructions to his allotted mobed for recitation of special prayers — whether in honor of a spiritual hierarchy or a living soul or one who has passed over — the pilgrim settles down to his compulsory prayers and some others. These accomplished, he again bows in *sijdah* and beseeches Ahura Mazda and other members of the spiritual hierarchy to grant special favors and kindnesses. In the meantime, his allotted priest, having finished the contracted jashan or prayers, recites the *Doa Tandarosti* in a loud voice, as a farewell blessing to his patron.

But everything said and done, I still feel we are missing out on many things. Before setting out on a pilgrimage, should we not meet our family and friends and seek their forgiveness for any trespasses committed against them? Should we not ask them if they have any wishes to be placed at the feet of Ahura Mazda for His acceptance?

Before setting out, should we not undertake to remain constantly under *padyab*, to remain physically clean, recite the *farzi* prayers in each of the five *gahs* and recite the names of Ahura Mazda constantly, as time and circumstances may permit? Here the *farzi* prayers may be reduced to *kusti*, 101 names of Ahura Mazda, *Sarosh Baj* and *Din-no-Kalmo*.

On our trip, should we not forget the desire for lavish food and treat the journey as one intended for spiritual purification, rather than for touristic pleasure?

When in Udvarda — within the radius of the holy of holies — should we not continue under *padyab*, recite the prayers and the names of Ahura Mazda constantly? Should not our *din dasturs* establish our *farzi* prayers at fixed times in each of the five *gahs* in rotation, so that all persons residing within the vicinity of our temples and those visiting them can attend such group prayers and establish the unity of the Zarathosti *umma*?

When presenting ourselves before the atash padshah saheb, should we not first tender greetings to Ahura Mazda, then to our holy Prophet, then to his family members, the spiritually advanced Zarathosti souls and lastly to the departed members of our family?

Should we not beseech forgiveness for our sins, express remorse for our evil acts and offer *tobah* (repentance)? Should we not surrender ourselves, body, mind, soul and spirit, with humility, with offerings of flowers and good thoughts, good words and good deeds, to the safe custody of Ahura Mazda, to be guided by Him within

the canopy of His grace. Should we not pray for world peace, for the unity and solidarity of the Zarathosti *umma*? Then place the wishes of friends and relatives which we've promised to convey to Him at His feet for acceptance? And finally place one's own there, for similar grace.

Should we not show compassion and respect to our *din dasturs* who maintain our various atash padshah sahebs, by not cribbing about their faulty practices, or their desire for lavish remuneration, but by raising our own spiritual levels bring about the necessary changes to establish higher standards? We must not forget that when they strove for high standards in the throes of poverty, we did not support them. The trustees were too stingy, the community too pathetically parsimonious to increase their *akhyana* (money and corn presented to a priest) by more than an anna! The trusts had lakhs of rupees to support bricks and mortar, but nothing to support our spiritual guardians! Thus, whilst the community prospered, the *din dasturs* suffered. Today we pay for our sins.

Spiritual levels are not raised by financial benefits, though these may remove some of the irritants. But grace complements grace. Our own spiritual evolution can bring about the necessary changes in the mental and spiritual levels of our *din dasturs*. Other methods cannot change them. A spiritually advanced *din dastur* is born after a lapse of many years to enhance the growth of his Prophet's *umma*. Apart from such an exception, the spiritual fibre of our *din dasturs* will have to be raised by our own spiritual growth, assisted by the grace of Ahura Mazda and our holy Prophet.

As I pen these personal thoughts, I seek no circle of friends to found a new religious group, or to start new spiritual practices. I only implore all pious souls to maintain their faith. They should constantly seek something higher, something which will raise their spiritual levels. By so doing, we will be spiritually stronger and bring about a general revival to meet the challenges of the new millennium. The spiritual hierarchy responsible for us is looking after us. It only wants amenable souls prepared to act as good channels, so that it can work through them.



The author Rustam Sidhwa, a retired judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, passed away on March 31, 1997. He had also served as a judge on the United Nations International Criminal Tribunal for the former Yugoslavia.

NESCAFÉ®

THE WORLD'S FAVOURITE COFFEE



100% PURE
INSTANT COFFEE

"Don't knock your brother"

Respect for other viewpoints and tolerance are the marks of a worthwhile existence

Shanoor Forbes

In this busy, competitive life of ours, with its perennial lack of control over one's own time, I choose to sit back and put thought to paper (or rather on my personal computer which I affectionately call 'Haroun'). When I contemplate the world from a calm vantage point, it seems to be in great turmoil. In the name of religion, terrible atrocities are perpetuated in Bosnia, Rwanda, Israel and Palestine, India and Pakistan, Ireland and Iran — in fact all over the globe. In pursuit of power and greed men seem to lose all sense of ethics, humanity and compassion.

So I wonder, what constitutes a worthwhile human being? What are the markings of a good person? And I come up with the word 'tolerance.' Among other things, tolerance means freedom of thought; it does away with bigotry. It means: "Don't knock your brother — your neighbor — don't knock anyone because he looks, thinks, eats, loves, worships or hates differently from the way you do all those things yourself."

To begin with, our thoughts and beliefs are shaped by our upbringing and cultural background, then later by our education and our own individualistic thinking. Each individual differs from another and as long as he's not harming anyone (by fundamentalistic, superstitious or bigoted actions), one must respect his individuality, his values and beliefs and let him live in peace. Similarly, one expects one's own ideas to be respected, whether agreed with or not. I contend this kind of thinking alone can bring harmony to this world.

As for me, as an individual participant of the human race (and an interested reader of *Parsiana*), I have been brought up to be an atheist-humanist by example, having been born in a Zoroastrian family which encouraged freedom of choice. No views were ever forced on me, but I was encouraged to read and think and decide for myself the spiritual path I'd

like to follow. And from my readings I learned that while many religions of the primitive type tried to bind men to external regulations and observances, Zoroaster's pioneering wisdom showed the path to moral choice which is freedom from blind obedience to meaningless injunctions and from a multiplicity of shrines.

This philosophy of freedom of choice, that I imbibed from my parents and other close family members, encouraged the policy of 'live and let live.' Just because my parents did not give much importance to ceremonies and organized ritualistic prayers, it did not mean they prevented other members of the family from believing in such things. They encouraged us always to take full responsibility for our actions and to follow the maxim, "It is better to (unconditionally) love and serve the living than the dead." Life is meaningful, I learnt, when lived charitably and well here on this very earth without nursing expectations about a future nirvana in the heavens above. We live in our children, and because of them can never entirely die — therein lies our immortality.

I do not personally believe in a conventional God with bushy eyebrows and beard, holding court in the sky, who determines one's fate or grants one's wishes when prayed to. However, I do believe in God with a double 'o', as in 'good': the goodness in people, in animals, in birds and plants and trees. I believe one must be in tune with nature and not get out of synch with it. I'm firmly against bigotry, fundamentalism, superstition and dogmatic beliefs, rituals and doctrines. From my learning and interpretation of Zoroastrian thought I believe one should be non-judgmental, kind to others and compassionate towards people and ideas differing from one's own, and my faith (Zoroastrian in origin and beliefs) is a religion only of the living, by the living, for the living. Life is a fight for existence. Enjoy it! Relish it!

Zarathushtra the man (not the deified God that men have made him into) loved life. His was an immense affirmation of life. So is mine. I have faith in the human spirit which is unquenchable. The God that is spoken of is the good in each one of us (in our hearts), ever ready to come forth and help others. I have no other dogmas or rituals, believe in no fasts or penance. Ours is a religion of happiness and laughter which expects its followers to eat, drink, create wealth honestly and be joyful. Its foundation rests on the three pillars of good thoughts, good words and good deeds, bound together by the stipulation that happiness comes only to those who give happiness to others.

I believe that religion was made to serve man and man was not created to serve religion. So long as he serves his fellow men, there is no need for him to follow the rituals and sacrifices of so-called godmen. We must take our cues from the universe which buzzes with life. Sing with the trees! Dance with the stars! Love without jealousy and live without competition. Accept everybody without judgment. And then there is no need for a god. Or for paradise.

In short, let us all follow the doctrine of Zarathushtra. He is quoted as having said: "The mind is the most important part of the body. Develop it. Sort out the good from the evil and follow the path of goodness. At the same time expose the evil. Fight evil and destroy it." By living up to our wise ancestor's doctrine of good thoughts, words and deeds, we follow the most basic tenets of human coexistence.

I try to follow the path. Like all frail humans, I often fail and try again!



Shanoor Forbes, is a literature graduate who enjoys writing, theater, music and animals.

Sun-N-Sand and Jewel of India
wish their Parsi Patrons
a Happy Jamshedi Navroze

With the compliments of

SUN-N-SAND HOTEL

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

MINOO D. KATPITIA: GENERAL MANAGER

AND

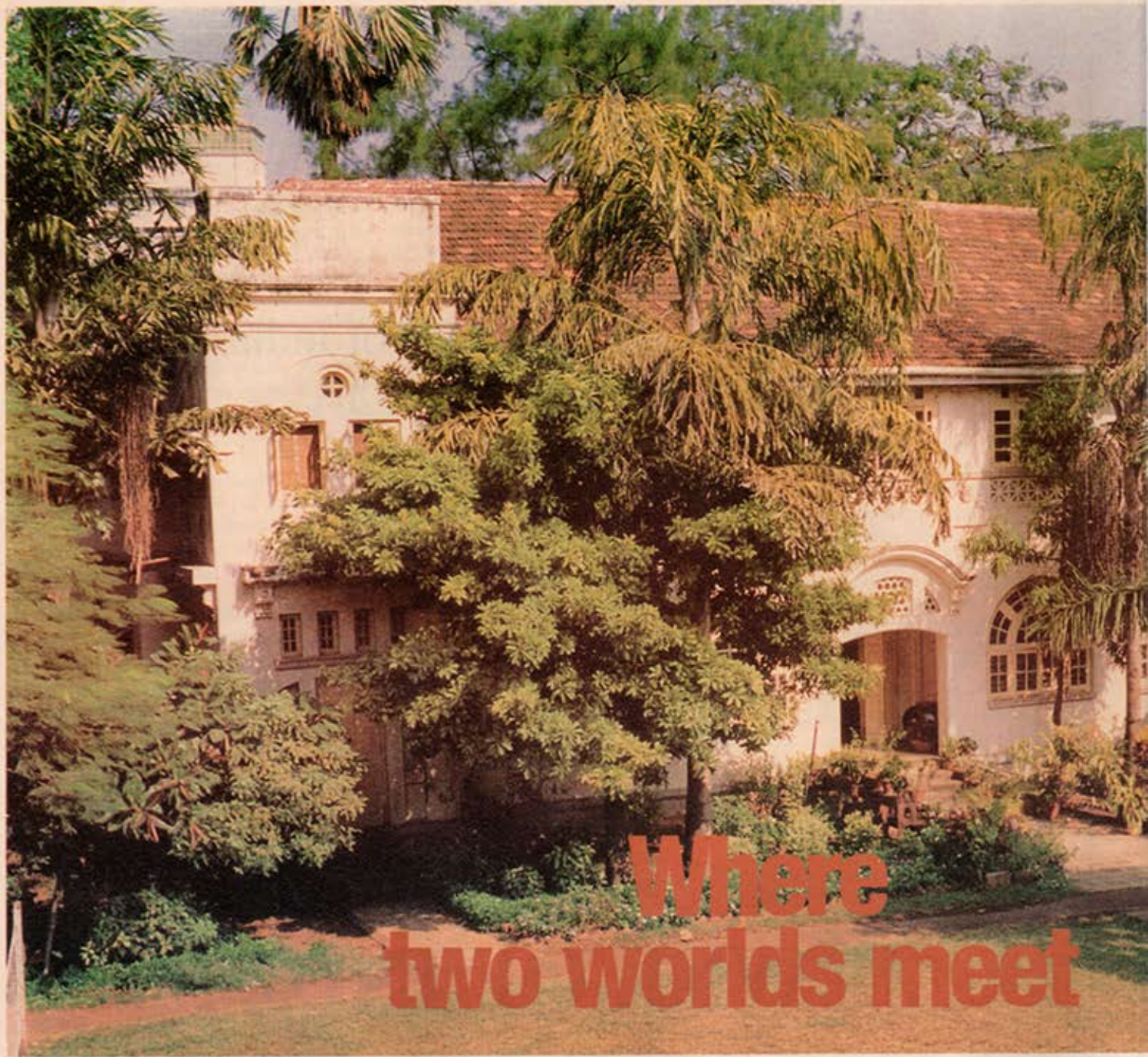
JEWEL OF INDIA

AND

JADE GARDENS

Nehru Centre, Worli, Mumbai 400018
Tel: 494-9206/9214/9586/9217

ZARIR P. KERA WALLA: GENERAL MANAGER



Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School has changed over the years from an orphanage to one of Bombay's elite schools

Text by Arnavaz S. Mama • Photographs by Homyar Mistry



The sprawling grounds, the driveway, the well, the pillared and porticoed main structure with its gracious stairways, stained glass and beautiful Grecian statue neath Avabai Petit's thoughtful visage strategically facing the entrance — few Zoroastrians are aware of the magnificence of the heritage Hamabai Mehta created. Separate structures house different

classes or groups of classes. During the monsoon, class changes require umbrellas and raincoats. An endemic complaint is that the school bell could not be heard!

Sir Dinshaw Petit (fourth baronet, personal name Nusli) gropes for memories of Hamabai Mehta, his father's paternal aunt (*fui*), the formidable lady who inherited her mother's jewels together with an injunction to found an orphanage for Parsi

girls. "She sold everything and started the school in the name of her mother (Avabai)," attests Petit who recalls her as an animal lover maintaining 30 to 40 dogs. "A wonderful woman, extremely kindhearted (though) overbearing for a five or six-year-old boy," Petit is unable to account why he knew her as Batloobai.

Fortunately for the community, the edifice has been enriched by the principals



Clockwise from top left: The principal's residence; side view of main building accommodating the principal's office, computer room, etc; independent structures housing class rooms with pre-primary playground; and Avabai

who have presided over the institution through its 84-year existence, zealously maintaining traditions like *chawk* (rangoli) on the floor, flowers and diva gracefully held aloft in the statue's marble bowl on festive occasions. The ritual is especially poignant for the resident Zoroastrian girls who step out to answer their secondary school certificate (SSC) examinations bolstered by a breakfast of *ravo* and *dahi* and "*tillina sagan* (auspicious adornment of a red mark on the forehead)."

Lodged on a promontory of Bandra's Pali Hill, abutting the Arabian Sea, Bai Avabai F. Petit Girls' High School has a unique combination of functions. By virtue of its location its 955 day-scholars (in March 1997) are among the most affluent

in Bombay; by dint of its trust deed, its boarding section (totalling 175 in March 1997) is restricted to Parsis, the majority of them from among the poorest rural sector of the community. Bridging the two worlds has tried the mettle of the ladies who have presided over the institution — and of the management that must steer its course between the demands of state educational policy and loyalty to the objects of the founder.

Their combined objective, as enunciated by its principal Rhoda Doctor is to "try to see that the difference between day-scholars and residentials is not that marked." To that end, she says that the boarders receive uniforms and shoes, extra coaching in Marathi, Hindi and Maths, a

non-vegetarian diet that includes a mid morning fruit and evening snack.

There was a time when the residentials were required to do a lot of work on the campus like cleaning doors and windows, weeding the grounds, etc. A more compassionate policy has now reduced their work load to cleaning up after breakfast, cleaning rice and vegetables by rotation, for, says Doctor, "we want them to come up academically," and for that they must have time to study. The Petit trust subscribes to *The Times of India*, *The Asian Age* and *The Bombay Samachar* to enable its wards to keep abreast of current affairs. A table tennis table, TV (a cable connection has just been sanctioned), skates and bicycles are provided for the girls' recreation.

Only 15 percent of the boarders pay full fees (Rs 1,200 per month), says Dolly Chacha, long-standing secretary and accountant of Petit Charities. The majority pay less than Rs 100, she adds.

The profile of the residential girls has changed over the years. Earlier, those granted admission were generally navjote age children. Now they are accepted from the nursery (approximately, three-year-olds). And when school counsellors have recommended cases, neither trustees nor principal has flinched from "turning the School into a creche," as notes Doctor. In one case she related a toddler who was not even potty-trained was accepted by the trustees because the counsellor feared that she might be sold off by her drug addicted parents. In another, a blind child was referred by the principal of the blind school. The matrons were upset and the older girls used to carry the very young from one part of the grounds to the other, related Doctor adding, "There are not too many such cases, but we have risen to the occasion..."

This change in the resident scholar's profile largely reflects the changes in the community. About 18 years ago there were 290 boarders, says Chacha. Long-time physical culture coach Moti Irani remembers that "only three out of five sisters used to be admitted. Two had to go elsewhere. Now there's a maximum of three sisters in one case. Otherwise, it's only two," she says. Today no Parsi girl seeking admission to the School is denied, and yet the numbers are diminishing.

Nor are they all poor orphans as the old name of the institute implied. While many are indigents from remote areas of rural Gujarat, there are now several whose parents reside in cramped accommodation in

Bombay or whose families have disintegrated under the stress of current lifestyles and their problems need a different approach. For those who have seen only poverty, "money can be a source of temptation or bitterness," especially when they see so much of it among day-scholars. Having grown up in a family of limited means, Doctor has been at pains to teach the boarders not to resent wealth ("you wouldn't die if you didn't eat one day") and the day-scholars not to flaunt it. It irks her that "because the trustees are doing so much some parents are taking it as their right... What (the school) gives is 100 times more than I had from my family,"



Clockwise from top left: Doctor, Madan, M. Irani and Ferreira

she notes matter-of-factly.

To illustrate the trustees' approach to the residential children Doctor recalls the time when she took over as principal. The former incumbent Shobha Dean, who had met with a fatal accident, "had failed 19 children (all boarders) in standard nine so as not to bring down the standard of the School" at the Secondary School Certificate (SSC) exam the following year. This had upset the trustees who said they were not interested in cent percent results, recalled Doctor. Their concern was that "the School should not contribute more problems (to those young lives)" and requested Doctor to promote them. The trustees' faith was fully justified when the 19 girls cleared the SSC exam the next year, said Doctor. Even in 1996 the trustees were more delighted by the residentials who scored 80 percent results than the day-scholars who scored in the 90s, she adds.

Another facet of school life that has changed under Doctor is discipline. Hav-

ing been a college professor before she took over as principal, Doctor's approach is rational, tolerant. During school hours discipline is not a problem, but for the residentials school is also home. "A little indiscipline can't be helped. A finger on the lips (kind of) discipline even the convents don't have. If you don't permit them to let off steam, they'd be suffocated!" The trust had tried to enable the boarding staff to adjust to the changed concept of campus discipline by sending them for counselling and seminars, says Doctor who recalls, "Hun tau Inter Arts *vèr dhumola khainé motti thayéli chhèun* (I used to be thrashed even when I was in Inter Arts)." She re-

members the resentment she felt and is chary of inflicting such indignity on any child. She believes that "the greatest discipline comes from within, as Gandhi said." If an erring student is aware that the principal has noticed the misdemeanor, Doctor rarely feels the need to confront the culprit. "If (the act) not repeated, I've achieved my purpose," she maintains. The practical

impact of Doctor's accommodating ways is that students of standards VIII, IX and X are allowed to study late in the night for their exams whereas previously it used to be dinner, prayers and sleep by 10 p.m. The matrons protested, but Doctor says she convinced them that there are people who study better at night than in the morning and they should be allowed to do so. Doctor's only reservation about Sir Dinshaw Petit's grant of a cable connection is that she is afraid that the girls will tune in to Hindi music programs rather than enriching ones like those on the Discovery Channel.

Principal and trustees alike would be happy if the boarders shed their attitude of taking things for granted and use the opportunity they have to prepare for the rat race that awaits them. The Bombay Parsi Punchayet's school counselling program, to aid academically weak students perform better, has helped them improve, though its effectiveness is limited because of frequent changes of personnel, the maximum duration of a counsellor with the School being two years, they note. Nevertheless Irani agrees with the principal that the children are "more forward today," more in tune with their social environment.

The majority of residential students opt for a commerce college when they finish school, says Doctor. Many have become air hostesses. One even became a chartered accountant. Several get married early.

STERLING AND WILSON ELECTRICALS PVT LTD

Leading Electrical Engineers & Contractors

City Office

Esplanade House, 2nd Floor
Hazarimal Somani Marg
Fort, Mumbai 400001
Telephone: 2074177, 2071882
Fax: 2073741

New Delhi Office

Flat No 202-205, G K House
187/A Sant Nagar, East of Kailash
New Delhi 110019
Telephone: 6233381, 6236320
Fax: 6486282

Bangalore Office

183/C K H B Colony
5th Block
Koramangala
Bangalore 560095

Registered Office

70, Nagindas Master Road (Medows Street), Fort, Mumbai 400023
Telephone: 2653287

Freny, Neville & Tanaz Godiwalla

**Wish All Parsi Patrons
A Very Happy Jamshedi Navroze**

**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



With the Compliments of

**TATA CHEMICALS
LIMITED**

(The Company that cares)

An annual feature of the School was a jashan and navjote on Founder's Day (March 13). Nowadays the navjote is no more on the agenda for two reasons. "(The mobeds of the) Panthaky and Tata Agiaries (located in Bandra) now flatly refuse to do the navjote of children of non-Parsi mothers," says Doctor. Also, a lot of other organizations have started arranging the navjote of indigent children, providing clothes not only for the child but also for the parents. As "we only (only) provide for the child," parents prefer to go elsewhere.

The transformation

It was Mani Bharucha the school's longest serving principal, who persuaded the trustees to change the institution from an orphanage into a public school in 1962. By opening its gates to day-scholars of all communities the institution provided its young wards contact with the world around them. Septuagenarian Shirin Irani who now looks after the kitchen, had entered the orphanage as a child of seven when the total strength of the institution was 300. She remembers Ms Pathak who was the headmistress and matron Ms PestonJamasp. They could only study on the campus up to standard eight. After that they had to go to St Joseph's Convent. Their daily diet was a breakfast of bread and a banana, dal, rice and potatoes being staple fare for the other meals. With the coming of Ms Vivarhurst and Ms Banaji they started getting eggs and better food, recalls Shirin Irani.

In those days the baths and toilets were in a separate block outside. Where the primary school stands today, there were fields and cattle sheds. "All the buildings were built by Mani Bharucha. She worked very hard. She had a lot of power in her hands," recalls Shirin Irani of the 5'2" bundle of authority before whom the parents quailed! A master of arts in French, always well coiffed and accoutred, Bharucha on her rounds was a source of trepidation for students and teachers alike during her 17½ years in office. And yet, even 25 years ago, disciplinarian though she was, the students' interest was Bharucha's primary concern. A child psychologist was a permanent staffer and — she tried her utmost to educate the parents on child psychology, hygiene, etc by organizing documentaries and talks by profes-

sionals. Even Doctor admits that the grounds are no longer as colorful as they were in Bharucha's time. Petit takes a different perspective: "The School's ambience started with Bharucha. It fell after she left (in 1979). It came back with Doctor (in 1985). I hope the new incumbent will continue with the way the School runs and has been a success." (Doctor's acute

higher than (that of) other SSC schools."

While most senior school teachers have been around for more than 10 years [Some like Moti Irani and Khorshed Elavia have completed 19 and 18 years respectively and Fay Ferreira, wife of the redoubtable billiards champion cum-lawyer Michael, into her 35th year as music teacher, says, "Hun bhi ardhi Parsi chhèun (I'm half a

Parsi)!"] There are a lot of changes among the primary staff, admits Doctor, attributing the difference to their being "basically young, coming immediately after their BEd."

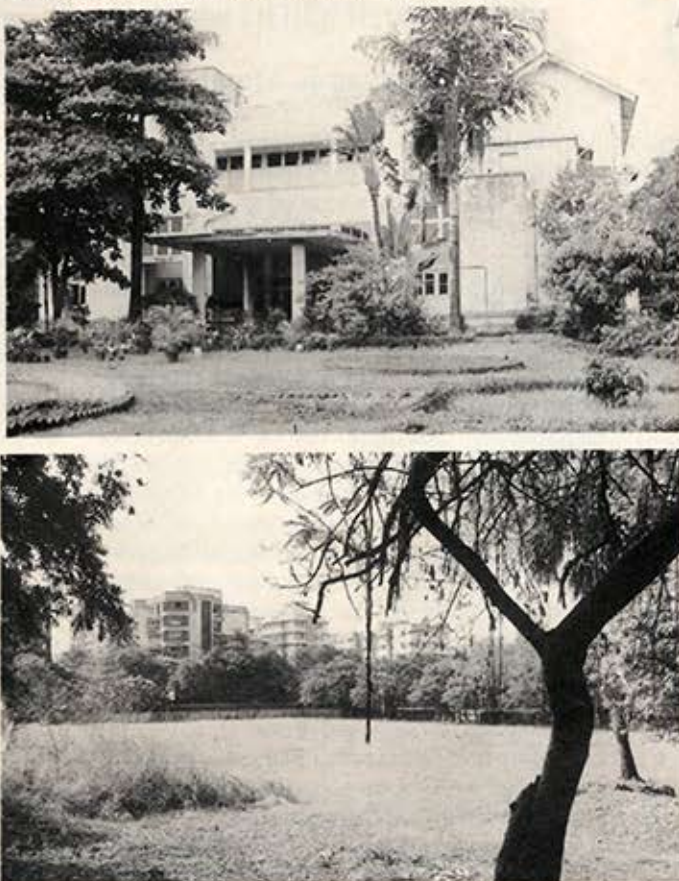
In the primary section parents tend to interfere with the working of the school while the secondary school children try to keep their parents out, observes the principal. She is deeply appreciative of the parents' involvement with shows (including an anand mela) that the school organizes and the sale of raffle tickets, which are annual fund gathering events. In the earlier years there used to be a seven-day fete open to the public but the practice has been discontinued since Bombay's communal riots in 1992. All amounts collected, nearly 8 lakh rupees, go to the trust annually, informs Doctor. Though the annual sports on Founder's Day are held on their own hockey field, the shows are held at the new Rangsharda auditorium at

Bandra Reclamation. An aptitude for marching and calisthenics has distinguished the institution over the years.

School trips to various parts of India and Asia are an ongoing activity and parents in the travel trade get the business. Doctor records the social commitment of non-Parsi students who donate their entire wardrobe when they finish school for the use of residential students.

The trustees decide on nursery admissions each year. There is tremendous demand for the 70 seats in two divisions informs Petit Charities' chief executive Ratan Lalkaka. Children of ex-students, sisters of children already in school and children of the locality get preference, he says. An audiovisual room has been added to the School's facilities and computer education is compulsory for standards five to seven. "After that there's a choice bet-

continued on page 152



Particoed main entrance and hockey field

arthritis has impelled her to seek retirement from June '97. Dr Hutoxi Driver, principal of Surat's J. J. School is expected to take over.)

"We laugh a lot and when we laugh, the problem disappears!" says Doctor. "Even the education department inspector noted that the children are so happy, so cheerful," notes junior school headmistress Ratan Madan who says she had helped set up the TELCO school in Jamshedpur and had worked for a while at Queen Mary's in Bombay before joining Avabai. She says when Queen Mary called her back she refused because she had fallen in love with the Petit campus. According to Madan, "Today's children are very bold. We've not tried to curb them. They blossom — that's what we want." She assesses the school's standard in languages as "slightly

"This business of charity"

The Petit family's many charities respond to the needs of a changing world

Arnavaz S. Mama

"One thing my family has done brilliantly. On all our campuses, we have given space for the children to breathe," says Sir Dinshaw Petit (fourth baronet, personal name Nusli). The great great grandson of the legendary Sir Dinshaw Manockji Petit (first baronet) describes himself as a "pseudoeconomist." He believes that "children don't need only academic studies. They need to know how to battle as a team, know how to lose and how to win, with due respect to the loser."

Petit heads the board of trustees of two educational establishments — Bai A. F. Petit Girls' School in Bombay which began as an orphanage for girls and the J. N. Petit Institution in Pune which had been established as an orphanage for boys in Lalbaug, Bombay. When that locality deteriorated into a mill area, Petit's father, Fram, bought over the enormous grounds at Pune's elite Bund Garden Road from Victor Sassoon. While the day-scholars at Avabai "have no time for sports, like to run away home," Petit is happy that the Pune boys — boarders as well as day-scholars who largely come from working class homes — make good use of the grounds. He is "very sad (however) that Parsi boys are few and far between at the prize givings, have a lackadaisical attitude to education. The prizes go to other community students (because) ours don't come up to scratch. We are willing to do everything for them but they must show the willingness to learn and to fight."

When a "poor child... lacking a lot of things" is first interviewed for the boarding section, he/she is "dead scared in front of us trustees... You see the same child six months later and there's a total change — that is my reward," says Petit. Another reward for Petit is when ex-students who have made good, come back to donate to the school funds.

Having been educated abroad, Petit says he didn't have much interaction with the

community in his early years. He remembers his grandmother Dinbai, the dowager Lady Petit, who used to tell him stories. His grandfather Jijibhai (Sir



Dinshaw Petit, second baronet), said to be a very strict individual, had died before Nusli was born. Petit believes that "not many can do this business of charity unless you start very young." He was inducted on the board of Petit charities at the age of 18 where he listened to his father and other trustees, like "grand old man"

Nusserwanji Sethna and Naval Tata but felt he "would do things differently when called upon to do so." He recalls how most of the trusts, initially well endowed, had seen their money value eroded by inflation. When he found most of the money tied up in two and three percent Zamindari bonds when banks were giving 13 or 14 percent, he opted to withdraw the capital, losing some but making up for it by higher interest. "I have to run my charities as a non-profit business," he adds.

Petit has a number of projects on the anvil, with a corresponding need for funds. The Petit Sanatorium at Kemp's Corner has a very low income. "One of the most beautiful buildings in Bombay," it needs new roofing and wiring. To meet the increasing demands on it from Zoroastrians seeking accommodation, Petit is planning to add another wing and remodel the existing structure internally to create self-contained units with toilet, shower and kitchenette.

On the Bandra grounds, adjacent to the A. F. Petit School, is the prime project of a hostel for girls to supplement the facilities of the Gamadia and Mody Hostels. Two other pet projects which he is keen to see fructify concern a home for the men-

tally impaired and a home for old people of means. Petit had "never seen a more degrading place" than the mental asylum in Yerwada, Poona. He said he was mentally affected for two to three days by the "filth and deprivation" in which the inmates languish, and "decided that if I have the money I will buy land in a rural area where non-violent Parsi patients could live with animals and grow vegetables. Here they are getting madder because there are only mad people around them." Of about six Parsi inmates at Yerwada, Petit was particularly saddened by the fate of an 80-year-old man who, he says, was signed in by his family which had then taken his property, though "he was epileptic, not insane... I spoke to him. He was absolutely normal — epilepsy is containable." Petit is angry that "we have people in the community who do this!"



Petit: "Space to breathe"

The old peoples' home he envisages would target well-to-do Parsi males and females living in large flats which they can no longer maintain. Based on the European concept, Petit would like to provide them individual rooms with attached toilet and bath, a common sitting room where they can meet, read, converse, play cards, a common kitchen and gymnasium. These and

other conveniences that old people need would be available on payment.

The Dinshaw Petit Building at the Sakarbai Petit Veterinary Hospital also needs to be restored. It's a heritage structure that is in danger of collapse and the Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals (SPCA) is trying to gather funds.

Petit says he doesn't believe in doing things on the cheap. "I am not going to put up something that needs maintenance in a year's time: (it is) something my family name would be part of..." To generate funds Petit had proposed the construction

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: 2670999/2676412

WITH BEST COMPLIMENTS FROM

**JAMES MACKINTOSH
& COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED**

(Regd. Office: 231, Dr D. N. Road, Mumbai 400001)

**SHIP OWNERS, SHIP AGENTS
CHARTERERS, SHIP BROKERS
P & I CORRESPONDENTS**

Administrative Office: "DARABSHAW HOUSE," 3rd Floor
Shoorji Vallabhdas Marg, Ballard Estate, Mumbai 400001
Cable: "MACKINTOSH," Telex: 11-82413/11-84896 JMCO IN
Tel: 2610161 (6 lines) Fax: 91-22-2615725

MATRIMONIAL

Handsome, tall, Parsi boy, 34 years, working as a Finance Analyst in ESPN. Very good income, ACWA, very clever, conscientious, industrious and of excellent character. Girl should be highly-educated, cultured and home-loving. Please reply soon with recent photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/11-97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial correspondence invited from Zoroastrian boys prepared to settle in USA for a 27-year-old professionally qualified girl, green card holder. Write with photograph to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/7-97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited for Parsi boy, 35 years, 5'4", BSc degree educated, lives and works in UK. Seeking good natured Parsi girl between 25-32 years also living in UK. Please send detailed information with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/8-97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Parents of educated daughter, 29 years, well domesticated, residing in UK, invite matrimonial correspondence from educated, Zoroastrian men with outgoing and friendly personality with a view to settling permanently in UK.

Apply with photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser
C/o 16, Haydon Park Road, Wimbledon,
London SW19 8JY, England

of cosmopolitan ownership flats in a part of the Sanatorium property. The project was stalled when Bombay Parsi Punchayet trustee Dinshaw Mehta appealed to the charity commissioner to prevent the flats being sold to non-Parsis. In a subsequent agreement to prevent "things getting



Lalkaka: "Too many living in one small place"

What's the harm in selling flats outside and taking in money to benefit the community?" he asks. He is angry that "do-gooders... insinuate that we were trying to get our hands on the money! My hands are clean. I will never touch money for the poor."

Jobs which the Petit Charities have recently completed include the replastering and painting of their two widows' homes at Fort and Thakurdwar, informs the Petit Charities' chief executive Ratan Lalkaka. Their sanatorium at Bordi — a sea resort close to Gholvad — has been restored and renovated and is now well patronized. And 13 buildings on Bombay's Balaram Street house 110 families in 750 square-foot flats, paying a rent of Rs 30 [the original rent was eight annas (50 paise)]! Most of them are kept comparatively clean, says Lalkaka who is distressed however at all the trash that the families throw into the rear gullies which get blocked with filth despite the trust repeatedly spending large amounts to keep them clean.

Lalkaka, whose 35 years with Burmah Shell had required him to travel to various parts of the country, recalls that the liquor shop, petrol pump, cinema and hotel in small towns often had Parsi owners, the sons of Bombay based families. He compares them with the case of a Parsi youth of his acquaintance who recently refused a transfer from his company to Madhya Pradesh "because it's too hot there." The youths today "prefer to live in a dingy house and fight with the family. Because there are so many living in one small place (in Bombay), it is a breeding ground for quarrels and fights... leading sons to throw their parents, brothers and sisters out," he says, tracing the genesis of the housing problem in Bombay to the

E. A. Chindhy

INDUSTRIAL & DECORATIVE PAINTERS

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

**DON'T WAIT
UNTIL DARK!**
UP TO 2000 KVA



LEAVE THE REST
AND INSTALL THE BEST



POWERED BY

CATERPILLAR ENGINES
CUMMINS ENGINES

G. D. ANKLESARIA & CO.

HEAD OFF: Post Box No 1, New Road
RATLAM 457001 (MP)
PHONES: (07412) 35109, 36809, 33209
FAX: (07412) 33909 Gram: "ANKLESARIA"
BRANCH: 1 Ambar, 13/2 M.G. Road
INDORE Ph 524981
WORKS: 12 Danudyog Industrial Estate
SILVASSA-396230 (D.N.H)

*Wishing all our Parsi patrons
a very happy & prosperous
Jamshedi Navroze*

Toast it with Sikkim liquors!
Sikkim paan liqueur is being exported
to the U.S.A. and will be available
in the American market.

With compliments from

**SIKKIM DISTILLERIES LIMITED
AND
SIKKIM AROMATICS**

Rangpo 737132 Sikkim

London accommodation

The accommodation is on the first floor of a Victoria house, situated in a quiet residential street in the centre of LONDON. It comprises of a self-contained 'TWIN BEDROOM' with an attached bathroom and toilet. It has all the facilities of a hotel but surrounded by the informality of a home from home.

We are very close to several means of public transport. The nearest underground tube station, called ROYAL OAK, is only two-three minutes walking distance and the nearest buses just five minutes away. There is a choice of supermarkets mostly open from 8 a.m. to 10 p.m., seven days a week. Our area also boasts a beautiful shopping mall called "WHITELEYS" which has a variety of shops all under one roof, including the well-known store, MARKS AND SPENCERS selling food and clothing. There are several exchange bureaux, including THOMAS COOK and AMERICAN EXPRESS. Within the shopping mall there are many excellent restaurants, which are in addition to a large variety on two nearby streets, QUEENSWAY and WESTBOURNE GROVE. They offer food from all over the world, the most popular being INDIAN and CHINESE. All restaurants offer a take away service and some even offer home delivery service.

Our accommodation includes the use of a colour television, electric kettle with complimentary tea, coffee and milk, a refrigerator and a microwave oven for the purpose of warming food only. No cooking is allowed in the room and no meals are served, except continental breakfast, if ordered in advance. There is a Telephone in the room. Calls can be made STD and ISD and will be charged at relevant rates. There is also available the facility of a FAX, to receive and transmit at relevant charges.

Rates: £50 per day for TWO persons. Supplement of £15 per day for one extra person. SINGLE occupancy rate is £40 per day. Up to TWO CHILDREN from two to 12 years can be accommodated at £5 per day for one child and £15 per day for two children. There is NO CHARGE for children under two years.

CONTINENTAL BREAKFAST: £5 per person per day extra. (Half price for children). At least 50 percent deposit required on arrival. Cancellations of less than 48 hours notice will incur a charge of £50 to be payable in London.

DISCOUNTS: 20 percent off between October 1 — February 28. Weekly rates available, on application, for bookings of three or more continuous weeks.

We promise to give you warm hospitality and hope you will have a very enjoyable and comfortable stay with us, be it for business or pleasure.

THE ABOVE RATES ARE APPLICABLE FOR 1997.

Mrs Khorshed D. Bhote

"Sorab Lodge", 24 Westbourne Park Villas, London W2 5EA, England, U.K.
Tel/Fax: +44 171 229 9445

boys' refusal to seek fresh pastures elsewhere. Another offshoot of the housing problem produced by this concentration in Bombay that Lalkaka identifies is the tendency to break into flats where a single aged person has just died. Arguing that the community basically needs employment and residences to produce larger families, Lalkaka believes that Parsis should leave Bombay for small towns in India because Bombay is "too expensive a place for poor people."

Petit's analysis of the problem is that Parsis "rely too much on charity, think it is their bloodright." In the concern for job security Parsis are "losing that great thing: entrepreneurship... A person with money may think twice but a person who has nothing, can't lose very much," he reasons. That is why he is even more con-

"Why subsidize rich Parsis? What's the harm in selling flats outside to benefit the community?"

cerned that they receive all-round education (which would) teach them to go out and fight the competition.

Petit's two sons, Jehangir and Framji are already involved in charity work. Like his father Petit lives half the year in Europe, half in India. The family's annual migration was a source of considerable anguish for their Bombay-based Labrador. "I used to feel so bad the way he looked at us when we left." So when the old dog died, Petit got eight pariah pups, five of them from the animal hospital. In two mutually antagonistic groups the now grown dogs police the front and rear of the Petit bungalow, a new continental style structure that has been their home since the magnificent old Petit Hall was demolished. "They love us while we're here and don't mind when we go," says the animal lover who claims he gets violent when he sees children stoning dogs and is appalled by all the cruel things humans have done to the animals. On the other hand the touching sight of a poor woman whom he sees coming regularly with food for the neighborhood strays and a cameo of two kids and a dog sharing a meal on a city street have made a lasting impression. Another memory he shares is of a wild bison he had encountered, barely 15 m away. "He looked at us like little twirps. Then walked majestically away..."

With hard work, honesty and zeal, let our tiny Parsi Zoroastrian community make its presence felt in all walks of life. Wherever it may be, in any part of the world. Amen.

'Jamshedi Navroz' Mubarak to all dear readers of *Parsiana*



J. R. DASTUR AND COMPANY

(A member of the Council for Fair Business Practices)

Arvind Colony, Near Police Commissioner's Office, Shahibaug, Ahmedabad 380004

Phone: Off: 5622167 Res: 5621910 Fax: 5621910



ACC



Authorised Stockists:

All types of roofing sheets, all types of roofing accessories, all types of plain sheets, all types of gutters and accessories, radial exhausts, air extractors

TATACHEM Shudh Cement, OPC-PPC SLAG-Masonry, Shrinkkomp Grout, for machinery foundations, all types of refractories

Punjab Steel Rolling Mills (Baroda) Ltd, Torsteel 40-50, with TOR mark

L & T Cement

Recipient: C.F.B.P. Jamnalal Bajaj Award First Prize 1988

ENRICH THE ENVIRONMENT
THE TATA ELECTRIC WAY
PLANT ANOTHER TREE
AND NURSE IT EVERY DAY

TATA ELECTRIC COMPANIES

Bombay House, Homi Mody Street, Mumbai 400001

Surfing surnames

Zoroastrian surnames provide an invaluable insight into the community's roots

Depending on our forefathers' place of origin, vocation, characteristics, leanings and description we derive our surname, whether we like it or not. Very few take the trouble to amend unsuitable surnames. For most, it is a tag that will probably remain with them for the rest of their lives and even with the coming generations. Females though can always hope that their husbands will have better sounding surnames.

Read through the list to see the range of surnames adopted by Zoroastrians. Inspired by the list of 750 surnames compiled by Goolcher D. Coyaji and carried in the *Jam-e-Jamshed* of March 21, 1984, Burjor M. Daboo of Ahmedabad, has painstakingly

made a more comprehensive list, his "labor of love," which he furnished to *Parsiana*. Of the total number of 1,173 surnames available, maximum entries, 132, are found under the alphabet M, and the minimum, only one, for the letter Q. There appear to be no Zoroastrian surnames starting with the letters X and Y.

Dedicating this work to the community, Daboo writes, "If there is some mistake in the spellings, please bear with me as most of these are taken from the obituary columns of the *Jam-e-Jamshed*. I hope my untiring efforts... will be appreciated and used constructively."

A	Andaz	Bahrasa	Behramkamdin	Bhoot	Camakaka	Chinoy
Aacharya	Andhyarujina	Bailiff	Behrana	Bhohti	Camakhan	Chinwala
Aadariyan	Anjeerbaug	Bajan	Be-Keri	Bhot	Canteenwala	Chitalwala
Aakolawala	Anjeerbaugwala	Bajina	Belgaumwala	Bhujwala	Captain	Chivalwala
Aamin	Anklesaria	Bakshi	Benti	Bhura	Cardmaster	Chor
Aarasiwala	Antalia	Bala	Bhabha	Bhurekhan	Carpenter	Chothia
Aaraswala	Antia	Balaji	Bhada	Billia	Chacha	Chowkidar
Aasha	Appu	Balaporla	Bhagal	Billiardmaker	Chaina	Chowksy
Abuvala	Arethna	Baldawala	Bhagalia	Billimoria	Chaiwala	Chowna
Achadwala	Arjani	Baliwala	Bhagat	Bilpodiwala	Challa	Chunawala
Acidwala	Arya	Balsara	Bhagawagar	Birdie	Chamarbaugwala	Clubwala
Adagra	Asana	Bamanbehram	Bhaijina	Bisni	Chanda	Coachbuilder
Adajania	Ashburner	Bamboot	Bhaimunshi	Boatwala	Chandabhai	Coachman
Adajanwala	Asli	Bamji	Bhaisa	Boda	Chandana	Colabewala
Adarianwala	Aspandiar	Bana	Bhajiwala	Bode	Chandar	Collector
Adenwala	Aspar	Banaji	Bhakka	Bodhanwala	Chanduwadia	Colombowala
Aderbadan	Asundaria	Banatwala	Bhamgara	Boga	Chargeman	Commissariat
Aderbahman	Atalia	Bandorawala	Bhandara	Bokdawala	Chariwala	Confectioner
Aga	Athooger	Bangali	Bhandari	Bokra	Charna	Constable
Aibara	Austin	Banker	Bhanja	Bolton	Chasniwala	Contractor
Ajmerwala	Avari	Bankwala	Bhapla	Bonesetter	Chavda	Cooper
Akhuna	Avasia	Bapuna	Bhapoo	Boocha	Checker	Cowjina
Akolawala	Ayerton	Bardoliwala	Bharda	Boochia	Chesan	Coyaji
Alamsha		Baria	Bharucha	Bookbinder	Chhapgar	Crawford
Allbless	B	Barsiwala	Bhathela	Boomla	Chhapkhanawala	D
Alloo	Baalpurwala	Barton	Bhathena	Boomlakhaoo	Chhayel	Daamkewala
Alloona	Baam	Basag	Bhathna	Boosa	Chhayla	Dabdi
Alpaiwala	Baapaasola	Basla	Bhatporia	Borka	Chhibber	Dabhoiwala
Aluwalli	Baaziz	Bastawala	Bhavnagari	Bottlewala	Chhindiawala	Daboo (Dabu)
Amalsadi	Babayoon	Batki	Bhaya	Botu	Chhipa	Dabri
Amalsadiwala	Bacha	Batliboi	Bhedwar	Boyce	Chhoga	Dadabhoy
Amalsadwala	Badhni	Batliwala	Bhesadia	Boywala	Chhoi	Dadachanji
Amaria	Badhniwala	Battiwala	Bhesania	Bucham	Chhor	Dadiburjor
Ambapardiwala	Badshah	Batty	Bhikhaji	Buhariwala	Chhubb	Dadimaster
Amin	Bagla	Baugwala	Bhiladwala		Chichgar	Dadina
Amra	Bagli	Baumdawala	Bhiwandiwala	C	Chikhliwala	Dadinath
Amrolia	Bagwadia	Bava-Adam	Bhojai	Cabinetmaker	Chindhy	Dadinanatha
Amroliwala	Bagwala	Baxter	Bhola	Cakewala	Chinimini	Dadiseth
Anchor	Bahadurji	Behramfaram	Bhomisa	Cama	Chiniwala	

WE CARE

With Best Compliments From
Kiwi TTK Limited



PERSONAL CARE
Brylcreem, Aquavelva



SHOE CARE
Kiwi Wax Rich Shoe Polish,
Kiwi Sneaker Cleaner, Kiwi Classic Instant Shoe Polish,
Kiwi Shoe White Canvas Cleaner



HOUSEHOLD CLEANERS
Dranex, Flush Kleen Liquid Toilet Cleaner,
Flush Kleen Continuous Toilet Cleaner



91, Santhome High Road, Madras 600 028.

Dadisethna
Dadrawala
Dadrewala
Daftary
Dahiawala
Dahna
Daji
Dalal
Dallas
Damania
Damri
Dandiawala
Dangor
Dantra
Dapoliwala
Dapotawala
Darbari
Dariyasha
Darji
Daroga
Darukhanawala
Daruwala
Dastoor
Davar
Daviewala
Debara
Debu
Dehgamwala
Dehnugara
Delwadewala
Demeri
Deputy
Desai
Devadhwala
Devgadhwala
Devlaliwala
Dhaamniwala
Dhabhar
Dhabliwala
Dhala
Dhaloo
Dhamodiwala
Dhanapatel
Dhanbhura
Dhandadina
Dhandy
Dhanidaduna
Dhanjibhoy
Dhapla
Dhatigara
Dholu
Dhondy
Digara
Digaria
Dik
Disawala
Ditya
Divecha
Diventri
Divitre
Divwala
Doctor
Dodhi
Dokawala
Dolaasa
Dollykuka
Doloo
Doodha

Doodhmal
Doodhwala
Dordi
Doriawala
Dotiwala
Driver
Dubash
Duggan
Dukandar
Dukanwala
Dumasia
Dumlavwala
Dundass
Dungaji
Dupattawala
Dutia

E

Edibam
Edulebram
Eduji
Edukkaka
Elchidana
Electricwala
Ellis
Engineer
Entee
Eski

F

Fanibanda
Faramna
Farzandi
Fatakia
Feniwala
Fitter
Forbes
Fozdar
Francis
Frazer
Frenchman
Fulpandewala
Fulwadiwala

G

Gaamwala
Gaarda
Gaariwala
Gabba
Gabbar
Gabra
Gachcha
Gadiwala
Gagrat
Gai
Gaiwala
Gaji
Gamadia
Gamir
Ganaa
Gandabhai
Gandevia
Gandhi
Ganjima
Gatta
Gazder
General
Ghaaswala

Ghadiali
Ghadoliwala
Ghamat
Ghambhir
Gharda
Ghati
Ghazi
Gheewala
Ghobhai
Ghodawala
Ghogha
Ghoghawala



Ghorkhodoo
Gilder
Gimi
Ginwala
Gista
Goawala
Godha
Godiwala
Godrej
Goiporia
Gokul
Golakheri
Goldworthy
Golwala
Gonda
Gondalwala
Gookhaoo
Gora
Gorana
Gordon
Gorimar
Gorkhaoo
Gospi
Goti
Gotla
Gotlaseth
Govekar
Governor
Govewala
Govadia
Gowal
Grant
Green
Guard
Gulestan

Gyara

H

Haathi
Haathidaru
Haathikhanawala
Haathiram
Haayvaay
Hadalila
Hadvaid
Hakim
Halvadwala
Hamawala

Hansotia
Haradhwala
Harda
Harsolwala
Hasantampal
Hataaria
Havaiwala
Havaladar
Haveliwala
Havewala
Heera
Hillu
Hilluwaala
Hilluwalia
Hiranank
Hirjibehdin
Hirjikaka
Hojerwala
Homavazir
Homyar
Hongkongwala
Hotelwala
Hozdar
Hyderabadwala

I

Ichhaporia
Ijner
Ilavia
Illaowala
Indorewala
Inspector
Irani
Italia
Izadyar

J

Jaagirdar
Jaagos
Jaaina
Jalnalwala
Jaamaspasana
Jaamboodiwala
Jaamina
Jaamshetwala
Jaavat
Jaavra
Jabbar
Jadashapur

Jafrabadwala

Jailor
Jamadar
Jamboosaria
Jamoji
Jamoola
Jangbari
Jaorewala
Jariwala
Jasapatel
Jasumani
Javanmard
Jeejibhoy
Jesia
Jesporewala
Jesung
Jhaabwala
Jhabuli
Jijicowna
Jijina
Jilla
Jithra
Jivasa
Jogi
Jogina
Jokhi
Josafsethna
Joshi
Jungaawala
Junglewala
Jussaawala
Juvanwala

K

Kaalaabhai

Kaalaagopi
Kaandawala
Kaanjaanwala
Kaaraapatel
Kaathawala
Kabir
Kabiraji
Kabuli
Kachholiwala
Kadiyanyala
Kadodwala
Kadva
Kajanwala
Kaka
Kakai
Kakalia
Kalantary
Kalapesi
Kaliyariwala
Kalliawala
Kalvachwala
Kalyaniwala
Kamdin
Kamod
Kanga
Kapadia
Kappawala
Karaawala
Karadia
Karai
Karaka
Karani
Karanjawala
Karanjia
Karbhari
Karkhanawala
Karkaria
Karmaa
Karmau
Karnaark
Karsho
Karwa
Kasad
Kashinath
Kateli
Katgara
Kathan
Kathok
Katila
Katki
Katpitia
Katrak
Kavarana
Kavasmanek
Kavina
Kekobad
Kekuna
Kelawala
Keni
Kermani
Kewala
Khaadiwala
Khaandeshwala
Khaari
Khaariwala
Khabardar
Khajotia
Khajurina

Khalifa
Khambatta
Khan
Khanbata
Khandalawala
Khandhadia
Khansaheb
Kharaadi
Kharaas
Khareghat
Kharikhao
Khasimai
Khasusa
Khatau
Khergamwala
Kheswala
Khodaiji
Khodana
Khodiyari
Khokhri
Khor
Khot
Khursigara
Khusara
Kika
Kirolwala
Kodia
Kodoma
Kohinoor
Kohiya
Kohiyar
Kohla
Kolsawala
Korkhaoo
Kothawala
Kotkriwala
Kotwal
Koyna
Kuchbhiyogi
Kudianewala
Kuka
Kumana
Kunthan
Kurlawala
Kutar
Kyas

L

Laher
Lahewala
Lakdawala
Lakka
Lal
Lala
Lali
Lalinwala
Lalkaka
Lalsodagar
Lam
Langrana
Lashkari
Latiwala
Latth
Lavangia
Lawyer
Lehwala
Leninwala
Lentin



ASSOCIATED BREWERIES & DISTILLERIES PVT. LTD.

Bakhtawar, 12th Floor, Backbay Reclamation Scheme Block III,
Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

Tel.: 287 1516 / 287 1125, Fax: 2871121

Makers of



MAHARAJA
PREMIUM
LAGER BEER



LP. Live it up!!!

Librarian	Major	Mariwala	Mediwala	Minocherhomji	Mokhdiwala	Nagarporewala
Lichmore	Majra	Marker	Mehellapatel	Minwala	Moki	Nagarwala
Lilaowala	Maju	Marodia	Mehellasa	Mir	Moogana	Nagla
Limathwala	Makati	Marolia	Meherhomji	Mirai	Moogaseth	Nagpurwala
Limboowala	Makhania	Marshall	Meherji	Mirza	Moos	Nagvaswala
Limdina	Makoojina				Moosa	Naigamwala
Limjarwala	Makoona				Morawala	Najmi
Limji	Maktawala				Morena	Nakra
Limki	Malaowala				Mori	Nalaawala
Lodhawala	Malati				Morris	Namvar
Lord	Malbari				Mota	Nanabhai
	Malbarwala				Motafaram	Nanakuka
M	Malbatt				Motasha	Nanavati
Maakihatana	Malcolm				Motashapur	Nandbarwala
Maakihatatu	Malegam				Motavara	Nandodwala
Maanegar	Malegamwala				Mothwala	Nania
Maapla	Malesaria				Motigaanwala	Nanji
Machhi	Maloo				Motisha	Nanporia
Machhiwala	Malwa				Motiwala	Napolean
Machhliwala	Malya				Motorwala	Nargolia
Macknight	Mama				Mugol	Nargolwala
Madhiwala	Mamlatdar				Mukadam	Nariawala
Madon	Mana				Muljana	Narielwala
Madonwala	Manager	Masalawala	Meherjirana	Mistry	Mullafiroze	Narsang
Madraswala	Manderoina	Masalewala	Mehervaid	Mithaiwala	Mullan	Nasha
Madreswala	Mandroi	Masani	Meherwanji	Mithawala	Munsaf	Nasikwala
Magol	Mandvewala	Masina	Mehenti	Mobed	Munshi	Nava
Magra	Mandviwala	Master	Mehta	Mobedji	Myra	Navdar
Mahableshwarwala	Maneckshaw	Mavawala	Mengoosi	Mobedjina	Mysorewala	Naverawala
Mahalaxmiwala	Mani	Mavji	Merchant	Mody		Naver
Mahimwala	Maoo	Mawalwala	Messman	Moglai	N	Navsariwala
Mahudawala	Marawala	Mazda	Mevawala	Mogrelia	Naarawala	Nazar
Mahwa	Marazban	Mazgamwala	Minbattiwala	Mogul	Nadiadwala	Nazir
Majaina	Marfatia	Medhora	Minina	Mohalledar	Nadiwala	Nekoo



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

Touching life with our chemistry ... in a hundred different ways



Colour-Chem, the name behind some of India's most trusted brands, plays a silent part in your life everyday. Through the paint on your walls .. or currency notes that are printed with inks that use some of our organic pigments. Or through our fine chemicals which are key ingredients for the pharmaceutical, agrochemicals and pigment/dyestuffs industries.

We also bring to the Indian market a wide spectrum of industrial products from Hoechst AG and its associates.

Colour-Chem Limited

Organic Pigments & Fine Pastes
Dyestuffs, Pigment Emulsions, Binders &
Speciality Chemicals
Leather Chemicals & Auxiliaries
Fine Chemicals, Polymers,
Laminating Adhesives

Hoechst AG (Germany)

Hoechst Celanese Corp. (USA)

Organic/Inorganic Chemicals
Fine Chemicals, Auxiliaries, Synthetic Fibres
Plastic Films, Printing Plates
Photoresists, Reprographic Chemicals
Organic Pigments/Preparations
Synthetic Resins, Dyestuffs, Pigments.

Diafoil Hoechst (Japan)

Polyester Film

Riedel-de-Haen AG (Germany)

Industrial Chemicals
Laboratory Chemicals
Preservatives for Paint and Leather
Photographic Dyes
Phase Transfer Catalysts

SGL Carbon GmbH (Germany)

Graphite Electrodes
Carbon Blocks
Cathode Blocks

Poly Plastics Co. (Japan)

Engineering Plastics

SKW Trostberg AG (Germany)

Dicyndiamide, Calcium Cynamide
Cyanuric Chloride, Thiorea.

Dyneon GmbH (Germany)

Fluoropolymers

Société Française Hoechst (France)

Glyoxal, Glyoxylic Acid

BK Ladenburg (Germany)

Dental raw material, Phosphates

Meggle GmbH (Germany)

Lactose Specialities

Novacrome SpA (Italy)

Coloured Masterbatches for Polyolefins

Eckart Werke (Germany)

Metal Pastes and Powders

Hoechst Sara (Italy)

Polyesters for Powder Coatings

Herberts GmbH

Laminating Adhesives

Colour-Chem

Subsidiary of Hoechst AG

.... More than a colour company

Hoechst 

For details contact:

Colour-Chem Limited, Marketing Division, Khetan Bhavan, 198 Jamshedji Tata Road, Churchgate, Mumbai 400 020. Tel: 2830882 Fax: 2876095
Registered Office: Ravindra Annexe, Dinshaw Vacha Road, 194, Churchgate Reclamation, Mumbai 400 020.

Neralwala	Pandey	Pleader	Raagina	Sabawala	Shahukar	Solan
Netarwala	Panthaky	Plumber	Rabadi	Sachinwala	Shahuna	Somar
Nicholson	Panveliwal	Pocha	Raja	Sadarwala	Shahuraja	Songadhwala
Nikorawala	Parabha	Pochara	Rajkotwala	Sadri	Shapurji	Soonawala
Nilgiri	Parbhu	Pochkhanawala	Rajwadewala	Sagar	Sharaf	Sopariwala
Nilgiriwala	Pardiwala	Pohwala	Rana	Sagdiwala	Shastri	Spencer
Nimachwala	Parekh	Polard	Randeria	Saher	Shaw	Subedar
Nirawala	Pastakia	Polishwala	Rangoonwala	Sahiwal	Shekdar	Sui
Noble	Patalwala	Polson	Ranikhetwala	Sahiyar	Shenoy	Sukhadia
Nogaama	Patel	Poonawala	Ranina	Sahuna	Sherdiwala	Sukhadwala
Nogaamna	Pathan	Popat	Ranji	Sakhidas	Shigara	Sukheshwala
Nogaamwala	Patiwala	Popatwala	Rao	Saklat	Shikara	Sukhia
Noria	Patloo	Porbandarwala	Ratnagar	Saklatwala	Shikari	Sultan
O	Patrawala	Postmaster	Ravji	Sanga	Sholapurwala	Sumaariwala
Ogra	Patuck	Postwala	Ravtewala	Sanjana	Shroff	Sundri
Olia	Patvi	Powwala	Readymoney	Santok	Sidhwa	Suraliwala
Olpadwala	Patwa	Press	Registrar	Sarkari	Sidikaala	Suratia
	Paul	Printer	Reporter	Sarondawala	Siganporia	Surti
P	Pavri	Pucca	Ripon	Sarsi	Singapurwala	Surveyor
Paartoshi	Paymaster	Pudumji	Roamer	Satarawala	Singpurwala	Sutaria
Pachnigara	Pech	Puncholwala	Rogers	Sattha	Sinor	Suvaliwala
Padar	Peddar	Pundole	Roowala	Satthavwala	Siodia	
Padder	Peer	Punegar	Ross	Savai	Sipai	T
Padshah	Peerbhai	Punewala	Rudibaina	Screwala	Sirwala	Taantra
Paghdwala	Pesikaka	Puniwala	Rudina	Secretary	Sivoi	Tabak
Painter	Pesina	Punjiaji	Rupa	Seervai	Sodawater-	Tachakra
Pajnigar	Pestanjamasp	Purveyor	Rupala	Segwewala	BottleOpenerwala	Tadwala
Palamkot	Pesuna		Rustomkhan	Sena	Sodawater-	Tafti
Palia	Petigara		Rustom	Seth	Bottlewala	Tahela
Paliwala	Petit		Ruttondaru	Sethna	Sodawaterwala	Talati
Palkhiwala	Photographer			Sesanwala	Sohrabkhan	Talavia
Palsetia	Pilcher	Q	S	Shah	Solai	Talukdar
Panarwala	Pithawala	Quettawala	Saasuri	Shahna	Solaina	cont. on pg 128
		R				
		Raagi				



(A.M.A.)

Federal

PROTECTION & INTELLIGENCE SERVICES

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

Shura 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. Halaria

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



Complete joy.



THE COMPLETE MAN

Raymond
SINCE 1925



MADRAS MILESTONES



Zoroastrians from all over participated in the bicentenary celebrations of the community's existence in the city and the Dar-e-Meher's 85th anniversary

Parinaz Gandhi

Around 1795, the first seven Parsis known to have settled in Madras took up residence at Royapuram. Two hundred years later, the community, now increased in strength by almost 45 times, assembled in the same locality to celebrate the bicentenary of their existence in the city. After all, it is in this very locality wherein are situated all the fixed assets of The Madras Parsi Zarthosti Anjuman (MPZA): Jal Phiroj Clubwala Dar-e-Meher, Phiroj Clubwala Memorial Hall, dharamshala,

burial ground, besides other conveniences and residential properties.

The nucleus of their activities may be Royapuram but their sphere of influence has extended considerably beyond. As acknowledged the then Governor of Tamil Nadu, the late M. Chenna Reddy, in his message carried in the *Celebrations Souvenir*: "Some of the Parsis in Tamil Nadu have worked very much for the social, cultural and economic development of the State... The Parsis in Tamil Nadu have

retained their cultural identity and at the same time integrated themselves with the sociocultural mainstream..."

At the two-day celebrations on December 23 and 24, 1995, the *Souvenir* as also the special commemorative coin in silver were released at the hands of the former President of India, R. Venkataraman. Referring to the Parsis as the "most law abiding citizens" for whom he has "always had the highest regard and admiration," Venkataraman stressed, "The most impor-

tant thing that India needs today is tolerance and a friendly attitude for people of all denominations." In a lighter vein he referred to the wrong impression that he had that "all the members of the Parsi community are Tatas — very rich, very enterprising," a misconception that had to be set right by Lt Gen Adi Sethna of Delhi who informed him that there are a large number of young people in the community who are struggling for existence and for whom the community feels responsible to give them a good start in life.

"We are shrinking in numbers, our youth are losing interest in our religion, there is a growing dearth of priests..." the president of the Madras Anjuman, Nariman Mogrelia, put the problems in another perspective. His welcome speech was addressed to the Zoroastrians of Madras as also those who had gathered from different corners of India to participate in the executive council meeting of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India hosted by the Madras Anjuman.

There was yet another event — the 85th anniversary of the Jal Phiroj Clubwala Dar-e-Meher to make the Anjuman herald the occasion as cause for a three-fold celebration. The year 1995 also happened to be the 65th anniversary of the Madras Parsi Association (MPA) that caters to the "social and cultural interests" of the members of the Anjuman. The two-day celebrations started with a group photograph and jashan, and ended with the Dance of Creation and a community dinner.

The jashan was led by Dastur Hormazdiar Noshirwan Dastur, the High Priest of Poona, Deccan, since the Clubwala Dar-e-Meher comes within the purview of his nominal ecclesiastical diocese. The first day also saw the opening of The Exhibition on Parsi Entrepreneurs (see "They made it their business," page 118) at the hands of Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the Bombay Parsi Punchayet, who seemed to take an infinitely long time to cut the ribbon, immersed as he was in silent prayer. The Exhibition offered an insight into the different products, services and amenities offered by the Parsi businessmen and businesswomen of Madras.

Recreation on the first day came in the form of a Mini Revue produced by Noshir Ratnagar in a span of less than two weeks. The fare that included songs, dances and farces to amuse the spectators set the pace for the *chhaton pani* and *chagarwanu* (the popular terminology for drinks and eats, as used in the *Souvenir*) that followed.

As compared to the fun and



first day, the second day's entertainment program depicted *Bundahishn*, the Zoroastrian story of creation, conceived and directed by Perviz Dara Bhote. The 20 strong cast of players portrayed the cosmic struggle between Ahura Mazda and Ahriman, the divine play of the Amesha Spentas and the advent of Zarathushtra, the savior.

Among the members of the celebrations committee who had been singled out for "significant contribution" were Mog-

Facing page: Community enthusiasts outside the Clubwala Dar-e-Meher on December 23, 1995 following the all India Federation meet

Top: Venkataraman releasing the commemorative coin with (from left) Mogrelia, Guzder, Jehangir Clubwala
Second row: Celebrations committee members (from left) Parakh, Madan, Bahadurji and Mani Clubwala
Last row: A scene from the Pahlavi text, Bundahishn



Left: Mahbanu Mogrelia presenting memento to Dastur

Right: Anahita Irani receiving award from Venkataraman

Below: Jashan on the occasion of the bicentenary celebrations

relia, Jehangir Clubwala, Dorab Madan, Keku Parakh, Darius Bahadurji, and of course Mani Clubwala, "the motivating force behind these celebrations," each of whom was presented with the commemorative coin encased in acrylic frame that was specially designed for the occasion by Kali Billimoria.

The coin bore a portrait of Zarathushtra on one side and the MPZA celebrations logo on the other — the same that appeared on the cover of their *Souvenir*, their letterheads and banners. A take-off on the Asho Farohar, the lower portion of the logo denotes the constitution of man and the constitution of spirit with the years 1795 and 1995 written on either side of the outstretched arms. Substituting the bust that originally appears in the farohar is the inscription "200 years of Parsis in Madras."

Sacred mission

Religion has always been accorded priority by the community which boasts of the only atash adarian in south India. Ever since the Dar-e-Meher was built in 1910 under the supervision of Hormusji Nowroji, the then president of the Anjuman, periodic repairs and renovation have helped retain the fire-temple structure although the priests' quarters had to be demolished and built afresh when funds permitted in 1992.

Even before the consecration of their adarian the Anju-

man had engaged the services of a priest thanks to the impetus provided by Phiroj Muncherji Clubwala who donated a sum of Rs 2,000 following the death of his young son Jal in 1906. For nearly 10 years prior to this gift the Panchayat (as the MPZA was then known) had been striving to augment its meagre fund through monthly subscriptions. A donation of Rs 3,600 from Sir D. M. Petit, and of Rs 1,000 from Sorabji Framji enabled the purchase of a piece of land whereon to consecrate an atash dadgah. The plot being located at a distance of only 50 yards from the aramgah, the plans were abandoned and search resumed for an alternate site.

Once again an incentive was provided by Phiroj Clubwala. For the construction of an atash adarian he offered a building in Royapuram, fully equipped, on condition that the Anjuman collect Rs 30,000 for its maintenance. He further gifted a block in the agiary compound to serve as the priests' residence.

The Dar-e-Meher was consecrated

on August 7, 1910 with Ervad Hormasji Adarji Gai being appointed its first panthaky. Later, three generations of the Daji family, Rustomji, his son Tehmuras and grandson Peshotan served the Dar-e-Meher for 70 years after which there have been a succession of priests who have come and gone. At the golden jubilee celebrations of the Dar-e-Meher in 1960 Peshotan Daji was named the first recipient of the

sified a danger zone with people evacuating the area; yet young Peshotan stayed on all alone to tend the fire, as reported in the *Souvenir*.

The latest recipient of the F. B. Taraporewala Award is Katy Engineer for her significant achievements in the field of beauty care, as mentioned at the bicentenary celebrations. Outstanding gallantry, excellence in education, sports and other activities qualifies a Zoroastrian for this Award. The second award presented during the celebrations was the Khodabux K. Razi Scholarship to Anahita Irani who secured the highest aggregate marks among Parsi students in Madras at the 1995 school leaving examinations. Yet another award instituted in Madras was the Hormusji Naoroji Scholarship to assist poor Zoroastrian boys under 20 years of age wishing to pursue technical and industrial education.

Managing their affairs

The activities of the MPZA are administered by a seven-member executive committee elected every three years. Presently serving on the committee are: Mogrelia as president, Minoo Siganporia as vice president, Mahiar Shroff as honorary secretary, Pesi Munshi as honorary treasurer, Jamshed Patel and Noshir Choksi as members at large, and Zarin Mistry, the honorary secretary of the MPA. Dorab Madan is the honorary patron.

In addition to the Anjuman Bagh property, the MPZA also manages the Clubwala Bagh at Royapuram which it had purchased and dedicated as a memorial to their long-standing benefactor Phiroj Clubwala. Since the old Memorial Building had become dilapidated the new Phiroj Clubwala Memorial Hall with a seating capacity of 300, was rebuilt in 1980. The mezzanine floor accommodates a billiard and table tennis room and there are also facilities for indoor badminton. The year



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"

when the old Memorial Building took shape, 1930, was also the year when the MPA was formed to promote greater interaction among the Parsis through social and sports activities. Some of the members would frequent the "club" as it came to be known almost every evening until the outbreak of World War II compelled them to close down the Hall. It took several years for the Association to resume its activities — monthly dinner programs, annual ghambars and picnics, social service activities, religious education programs. The MPA, with Zenobia Choksey as president, continues to function as an indepen-



Top right: Memorial pillar erected in honor of the Anjuman's founders Dharamshala (alongside) and cemetery (above)

dent body and organizes monthly functions and entertainment programs.

The MPZA came to acquire its name only in 1900. Prior to that, when the Parsi resi-

dents of Madras formed themselves into an association in 1876 it was known as the Madras Parsi Panchayat with Edulji Dinshaw Panday as the first president.

Eighty years before the constitution of the Panchayat the first Parsis are known to have arrived in Madras, according to the historical account related in the bicentenary *Souvenir*. When Heerjibhai M. Kharas came on a mission from the Rajah of Coorg, he was accompanied by Framji E. Rudibaina, Mobed Ruttondaroo, Mobed Jamshedji F. Aderbadan, Sohrab M. Mehta, Bhiccaji Botu and Jamasji. They bought a plot in Royapuram opposite the present Mada Church and resided there.

On Jamasji's death the following year, he was buried near their residence and the grave enclosed by a wall. Soon after this Kharas bought the adjoining plot of land and built a dokhma thereon which never

came to be used as according to custom the first body to be placed in a dokhma has to be that of a child or an elderly person. Subsequently other Parsis who died were also buried and so the dokhma was dis-



mantled. With the community increasing in strength, its leaders sought to acquire property by obtaining lands on lease from the United Company of Merchants of England. Within the next 100 years the ownership of these lands came to be vested in the community as lands leased by the East India Company for a term of 99 years were deemed to be the property of the lessees. "And so, on these modest beginnings did the Parsis thrive and prosper," remarked Mogrelia.

Extending his "heartfelt salutations to the first Parsi families who landed on the shores of Madras," Sardar Hormazdiar Dastur mentions in his message, "Since then the Parsi community has added to the commercial and industrial prosperity of the state of Tamil Nadu...I am sure that for centuries to come the Parsis will be an integral part of the city of Madras." Com-

mitted to furthering the cause of the Anjuman, the Association and the Da'e-Meher, those currently at the helm expressed their optimism, "We hope that... the up and coming generation will follow the footsteps of our forefathers and steer the affairs of the three institutions with harmony, care and responsibility."

They made it their business

"We can only imagine what Madras must have been 200 years ago. But we do know that under the patronage of the first families who arrived here, the Parsis in Madras have flourished and prospered," mentions an article in the bicentenary *Celebrations Souvenir* tracing the history of their settlement. "We are proud to say that in spite of our small numbers (approximated at 310), we have about 30 Parsi entrepreneurs, both men and women, in almost every field. Our community can also boast of professionals and executives."

The Exhibition on Parsi Entrepreneurs in Madras, conceived and coordinated by Mani Clubwala, joint honorary secretary of the celebrations committee, was inaugurated on December 23, 1995 by Jamshed Guzder, president of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India. The various displays provided an insight into the wide range of business activities launched and managed by different individuals. The A to Z of the spectrum ranged from Aspy Litho Works to Zoro Garments Private Limited, offering different products, and from Aspi Beauty Parlour to Zen Global Finance Limited, providing varied services.

The information presented by *Parsiana* was furnished by the different entrepreneurs and procured at our behest by Clubwala and Mistry. The enterprises have been listed in chronological order depending on the year of establishment of the business (the first business, if the family has diversified commercial concerns). Companies whose dates of establishment are not known to us have been listed towards the end.

One of the oldest businesses which is still flourishing today is Dorab B. Madan's shipping agency. A year after he started D. B. Madan and Company in 1946, they were appointed direct shipping agents for all Russian vessels. Again in 1990, he floated another company, Madan Shipping Private Limited, which entered into a joint venture enterprise with shipping companies in Russia and Singapore. His son Khushru is the proprietor of Overseas Shipping Agencies, established in 1971, and of

Residential flats for needy
and deserving Parsi/Irani
Zoroastrians in Bombay

**PERSEPOLIS
CONSTRUCTION
COMPANY PRIVATE LIMITED**

Developers for Salsette Parsis Association
Andheri (East), Bombay

Proudly announces the successful completion of
192 flats in building Number 1 and the
commencement of the next phase of construction
of four more buildings to help the community
solve its housing problem

K. D. Madan and Company. He is also partner in D. B. Madan and Company and a director of Madan Shipping. While Dorab Madan topped the highest income tax payers' list for the assessment years 1980-81, 1981-82, 1982-83 in the category of individual businessmen, Khushru Madan won the best income tax payers' award for 1994-95 in the same category.

Among the major civil engineering contractors in India are M/s Tarapore and Company, founded by the late Jehanbux

H. Tarapore and now owned by Keku Parakh and his family. Originally the main sub-contractor handling transport for the different projects of Tarapore and Company, Parakh subsequently became partner in 1972 and owner in 1988. He additionally serves as chairman of Tarapore Constructions Private Limited and managing director of Narbod Constructions Private Limited, besides being trustee of the J. H. Tarapore Foundation and on the board of several reputed companies.

The family business of Aspy Litho Works (established in 1948 by the late Arjasp F. Taraporewala), which specializes in printing cinema publicities in various languages throughout the country, is now managed by Byramshaw Pervez Byramshaw. He is also in charge of M/s Perina Printers. Additionally Byramshaw is director of Shaw Exports and Imports, exporting spices to various countries, and managing director of M/s Shaw Garments Private Limited in which his wife too is director and an active participant in their business of exporting high fashion garments.

Another very old and successful business is run by the Irani family. Cafe Na-

tional was opened in the late 1940s by Behram Irani who was later joined by his son Marzban. This was followed by the first Cafe Irani in 1953 and today the chain consists of 12 tea and snack outlets. Products are supplied to all outlets from their headquarters, Bazile Bakers. Now the younger generation — Boman, Behram and Noshir Irani — run the popular cafes. Boman Irani recently opened Sweet Corner, a house of speciality milk sweets.

Sigcil India Limited is the largest manufacturer and supplier of carbon dioxide in the country today. Started by Loveji Dadabhoy in 1952, the five-factory strong company is now headed by his son Farooque. Besides producing high purity, oil-free liquid carbon dioxide, the company also offers prompt and efficient consultancy and operational services throughout the year. It has been nominated a member of the Indl Gas Sectional Committee of the Bureau of Indian Standards.

The 44-year old Jal Phiroj Company, launched by the late Phil Nogi Clubwala, is currently being managed by 22 year-old Maneckshaw Dastur. The Company is a Bharat Petroleum gas station cum automo-

Commemorative silver coin.

Top row (L to R): Members of the celebrations committee -- (sitting) Rutty Rajamannar, Keku Parakh, Katy Madan, Dorab Madan, Nariman Mogrelia, Mahbanu Mogrelia, Meherji Cooper, Mehru Belgamvala, Rusi Dastur, Dilla Nalladaroo; (standing) Pesi Munshi, Jehangir Clubwala, Mani Clubwala, Jamshed Madan, Perviz Bhote, Minoo Siganporia, Tehnaz Bahadurji, Darius Bahadurji, Zarin Mistry, Byramshaw Byramshaw, Freney Byramshaw, Jamshed Patel
Bottom row (left): Madras Association executive committee members -- (sitting) Zarin Mistry, Zenobia Choksey, Freney Byramshaw; (standing) Mahiar Shroff, Dhun Dalal
Bottom row (right): Madras Anjuman executive committee members (sitting) Zarin Mistry, Minoo Siganporia, Nariman Mogrelia, Mahiar Shroff; (standing) Jamshed Patel, Noshir Choksi, Pesi Munshi



With best compliments from

KND Engineering Technologies Ltd



An ISO -- 9001 Company

Ideal Plaza N-410, 11/1, Sarat Bose Road, Calcutta 700020
Dial: 033-247 8375 (8 lines), Fax: 033-240 6604
E Mail: kn detl @giascl 01.vsnl.net.in

**Design and Contracting Services
in Foundation Engineering including
Civil Construction work**



Madras entrepreneurs
(Top row, from left):
Farouk Irani, Darius Bahadurji
(Second row, from left):
Darius Belgamvala, Jamsheed Billimoria, Feroza and Jersheen Madan
(Bottom row, from left):
Khushru Madan, Maneckshaw Dastur, Hormaz Belgamvala



The first Zoroastrian family in Madras to make a foray into the garment industry, in the manufacture and export of readymade garments, make-ups and fabrics, are the Mogrelias, Nariman and his wife Mahbanu, who established Zoro Garments Private Limited in 1972 and now have four Zoro Group companies dealing in garments. They have recently diversified into aquaculture with their new company, Zoro Aqua Marine, a shrimp hatchery. It is equipped with the most modern technology and has a trained and experienced work force.

Dealing in building material and corrosion resistant coating chemicals, is the firm of M. K. Belgamvala and Company, started in 1973 by Minoo Belgamvala and after his demise in 1995, managed by his son Hormaz. Their main line of business is Kringlas, a translucent, shatterproof decorative material that they mar-

ket for industrial and domestic applications.

The pioneer and managing director of First Leasing Company of India, Farok Irani is credited with having introduced corporate leasing to India in 1973. He was also instrumental in founding the Association of Leasing and Financial Services where he is currently chairman, and has been invited to address leading international seminars dealing with leasing.

Katy Engineer is the proprietrix of Aspi Beauty Parlour which, in 1974, when she took over the business, was one of just two beauty parlors in the city and has over the years continued to retain her celebrity customers. Besides training many beauticians, Engineer has conducted innumerable demonstrations and was in charge of the hair-styling and make-up for the Co-optex and Leather fashion shows in Madras. In 1995 she was conferred the Udyog Excellence Award for her contribution to beauty care.

Adi and Darius Kabrajee are also in the garment business. Since its inception in 1978, Kabrajee Garments, an apparel manufacturing company has acquired more than 200 state-of-the-art machines and employs over 350 people to export brands to Europe, USA and Australia.

In 1978, Rohinton J. Mehta started Dyna Technologies Private Limited, with two friends. The company's area of activity is in the heavy earthmoving industry. It develops import-substitution products, manu-

bile repair garage. To Dastur, automobiles are not only a business but hobby too. Recently he won the R. DeSouza Memorial Trophy for the most promising rider at the 39th All India Motor Race Meet and McDowell Grand Prix organized by the Madras Motor Sports Club.

Great Western Steels Private Limited, a proprietary concern established by Perin and Ness Pesikaka in 1962, manufactures alloy steel pipes for engineering. With a work force of more than 90, Pesikakas' core industry has the leading automobile manufacturers on its customer list.

In 1965, Moti and Soli Daruwala began one of the first art galleries in the city which is today the oldest gallery in South India. They also introduced specialized picture-framing to the city. Sarala Art Centre has held numerous shows of leading Indian artists. Helping them now with the

management is their daughter Sarala and her husband Biswajit Banerjee. Sarala's, the leather boutique, was established in 1965 by Fersos Daruwala, who is now assisted in the business by his wife Kashmira. Theirs is a SSI (small scale industry) unit doing wholesale and retail business, and exporting all kinds of leather and leather goods.

Under the banner of BEL Refrigeration Company, established in 1969 by Darius Belgamvala, the firm has been marketing and manufacturing refrigerators, air conditioners, deep freezers, bottle coolers, automatic voltage stabilizers. The sister concern, BEL Music Salon, are marketers and distributors of amplifiers, loudspeakers, record players, reel and cassette tapes, gramophone records, etc. They have also been manufacturing and exporting motor cycle crash helmets, PVC pipes, etc.

**NOW, YOU DON'T NEED RICHARD BURTON'S VOICE.
OR IACOCCA'S PRESENCE. OR CHURCHILL'S WIT.**



**Godrej draws upon
the world's best talent
to enhance your
presentation skills.**

Godrej Prima Division brings you a range of sophisticated presentation equipment sourced from all over the world. To enhance your communication skills. And ensure that your presentation leaves a lasting impression.

Unforgettable presentations in a snap : The Direct Projector by PLUS Corporation, Japan, lets you project books, magazines, printed documents... with the same ease as transparencies in a single presentation.

A new generation of lighter and brighter overhead projectors : Sourced from Anders+Kern of Germany, these OHPs offer brilliant optical quality and project uniformly sharp pictures.

Larger than life Ideas preserved forever : Panaboard — the Electronic Print Board manufactured by Panasonic, Japan, is an exciting new communication tool which can copy anything that is written or drawn on it.

Computer images projected on the big screen : Now, you can project information directly from your computer or VCR with the Powerbeam LCD Projector and LCD Panels from Davis, Norway.

Godrej

PRIMA DIVISION

Prima Division, Godrej & Boyce Mfg. Co. Ltd., Plant 6, Pirojshahnagar, Vikhroli, Bombay - 400 079 Tel : 5171166/77 Fax : 5172232

For further details please call or fax on the following numbers: **Bombay:** Tel: 2049661 Fax: 2846056. **Maharashtra:** Tel: 5171166/77 Fax: 5172247. **Pune:** Tel: 641740 Fax: 650861. **Ahmedabad:** Tel: 831545/49 Fax: 830336. **Rajkot:** Tel: 24919/27289 Fax: 33297. **Bhopal:** Tel: 572228 Fax: 550029. **Indore:** Tel: 539076 Fax: 533735. **Jabalpur:** Tel: 314321 Fax: 311776. **Delhi:** Tel: 6921071 Fax: 6841482. **Chandigarh:** Tel: 709461 Fax: 703047. **Faridabad:** Tel: 216415 Fax: 212861. **Jaipur:** Tel: 514731 Fax: 515496. **Kanpur:** Tel: 293550 Fax: 256520. **Lucknow:** Tel: 218826 Fax: 221671. **Calcutta:** Tel: 3370895/99 Fax: 3378271. **Bhubaneswar:** Tel: 405082 Fax: 220832. **Guwahati:** Tel: 32901 Fax: 43466. **Patna:** Tel: 225886 Fax: 222579. **Madras:** Tel: 6258804 Fax: 6257155. **Bangalore:** Tel: 2271480 Fax: 2279312. **Hyderabad:** Tel: 202894/5 Fax: 203587. **Visakhapatnam:** Tel: 545262 Fax: 545878. **Cochin:** Tel: 319461 Fax: 371838. **Trivandrum:** Tel: 461649 Fax: 75935. **DEALER ENQUIRIES ARE SOLICITED.**



(Clockwise from top left) Gudder inaugurating The Exhibition on Entrepreneurs; Freny and Byramshaw Byramshaw; the Shroffs of Khushnum Enterprises; Katy and Dorab Madan; The Limathwallas; Katy and Dadi Engineer; Nariman and Mahbanu Mogrelia; Keku Parakh

Create a fine feeling. Everyday.

Hear the laughter of the leaves
And see cheerful faces around you.
Listen to the whisper of flowers
And let your Soul soar high.

PREMIUM
ROOM FRESHENER
Inspired by nature



Rose Dew • Jasmine Desire • Fresh Bouquet • Sandalwood Spell • Brut Passion • Musk Moments • Lavender Lace



J.K. Hathi Limited

factures replacement spares, services earthmoving and hydraulic equipment and undertakes earthmoving contracts with a fleet of six bulldozers and two excavators.

Firdaus Patel is into sound recording and he commenced operations in 1983 with Rappaport Systems. His business now functions under the name Digitrax, specializing in digital and analog mastering and digital editing for audio companies like Magnasound, Inreco and other big names in the music industry. His wife Gulnar is a Shahnaz Husain-trained beautician and has been running a beauty parlor at her residence since 1987.

Twelve-year-old Vantage Advertising Private Limited, an outdoor advertising company is the brain child of Darius Bahadurji who as managing director leads a staff of nearly 150. Vantage is currently involved in introducing state-of-the-art digital technology to print large-scale images on outdoor boards to match world standards. A relatively new enterprise is Trigon Advertising, started three years ago, to offer its customers international quality vinyl glow signs and digitally composed images. Neon signs, glow signs, advertising campaigns and conventions is

the speciality of Trigon where Bahadurji serves as director.

Nuved is a marketing firm launched by Cawas Mistry in 1985. Besides distributing the popular soft drink concentrate Rasna in the state of Tamil Nadu, it also distributes products of Merind Limited and Vam Organic Chemicals Limited.

Janzen Castmetals Limited (JCL) is a public limited company incorporated 10

**"We are proud
that despite our
small numbers
we have about
30 Parsi
entrepreneurs"**

years ago where presently Nariman Mogrelia serves as chairman. The company manufactures value castings, pump castings, heat resistant castings, earth moving equipment casting and special

conversion resistant super alloy castings. It has its factory at Malur near Bangalore. JCL's customers include L&T McNeil, Fischer Xomax, Audco, and further exports its products to Kawasaki Japan and Velan Values, USA. The company shares are listed on the Madras Stock Exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange and the Bangalore Stock Exchange.

Barely nine years ago Jamsheed Panday entered the finance industry with his firm Zen Global Finance Limited (ZGFL) where he now serves as chairman and managing director. The company has a network of 23 branches/franchisees spread all over the country and has been ranked 69th in the Super 100 Non-Banking Finance Companies in the country. Zen Shares and Securities Limited (ZSSL) is an associate company of ZGFL. A member of the National Stock Exchange (NSE), ZSSL's turnover on the NSE is one of the largest in Madras. The shares of the parent company (ZGFL) are listed on the Madras Stock Exchange, the Bombay Stock Exchange, the Ahmedabad Stock Exchange and the NSE.

Kamerad Advertising was co-founded in 1989 by Kali Billimoria. Growing from strength to strength, it now has an office in

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

*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 compliments of

ADI B. SAGAR & CO.

ELECTRICAL
CONSULTANTS
ENGINEERS
AND CONTRACTORS

BOMBAY

Bangalore as well and employs over 60 persons. Currently a public limited company with Billimoria as its managing director, Kamerad has BPL, Amalgamations Group, India Pistons, Coffee Day and others as its customers.

With an eye for beauty, but in a different way, is Jamsheed Billimoria who, in 1989, established his studio, Jamsheed Creative Photography, when he was barely 21. Using sophisticated equipment, his clients constitute reputed leather and jewelry business houses. Among those who commission his services regularly are Hindustan Thompson Associates (Madras), BPL (Kamerad News), Signora Sarees.

In the publishing line are the sister-team of Feroza and Jersheen Madan who launched Ferheen Publications in 1990. Appealing to the younger generation are their story books and *Funtimes*, a tabloid with a print run of 1,50,000 brought out periodically to interest school children across the country. *Funtimes* is distributed free of cost to children in 250 schools in 14 cities all over the country.

The latest addition to the list of Parsi enterprises is the firm Bilimoria and Associate, started a year ago by Neville Bilimoria. Young Neville's concern specializes in immigration to Australia, New Zealand and Canada. It liaises with commercial consultants and solicitors in all these places.

Functioning as sole distributors in India for select products, is the firm of E. H. Turel & Company. Among the companies with which they have an exclusive agreement are Singer Nikko Company Limited, Japan, Singer Needles, Germany, Naomoto Steam Pressing Equipment, Kansai Special Industrial Machines, Naga Shing Washing Equipment and Durkopp Adler Ag.

Also into ladies' hair styling and beauty care is Dolly Limathwalla, assisted by her husband Dinyar. Together, they have managed to establish in a very short span of time, a chain of five beauty parlors at prime locations in the city and Dolly's beauty salons are extremely popular in the city.

For decorations and display work at corporate houses like Air-India and Singapore Airlines, as also for weddings and navjotes, it is invariably Aspi Billimoria whose services are solicited. Five star hotels, showrooms, exhibitions and fairs too provide an opportunity for Billimoria to express his creative genius. Billimoria is particularly known for his backdrops done with fresh flowers.

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. Halo: 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

SURNAMES

cont. from pg 112

Talyarkhan
Tamboli
Tambuwalla
Tamna
Tampal
Tangri
Tarapore
Taraporewalla
Tarmaster
Tarwalla
Tata
Tattari
Tavadia
Tavakkali
Tavaria

Tehsildar
Tengra
Thacker
Thanewala
Thuthaji
Thuthi
Tijoriwalla
Timberwalla
Tirandaz
Titina
Todiwalla
Tolat
Toorki
Topchi
Treasurywalla
Tristin
Tukdewala

Tukina
Turel
Turner
Tutna

U
Udachia
Udhnawala
Udwadia
Ukaji
Ukerji
Umarkhariwalla
Umarkhedwalla
Umarsariwalla
Umrigar
Unani
Unwala

Ustad

V
Vaachha
Vaachhagandhi
Vaadewala
Vaasania
Vadoliwalla
Vahanvatia
Vahavatia
Vaid
Vajifdar
Vakharia
Vakil
Vandrewala
Vania
Vankadia

Vanskooiwala
Variava
Varma
Varoo
Varvatwalla
Vasaigara
Vatarawala
Vatsa
Vazir
Velati
Velayatia
Velvan
Vesavewala
Vesmawala
Vesugara
Vesuna
Vesuwala

Vevai
Vevaina
Vevalwalla
Vikaji
Vikes
Vimadalal
Virji
Virjivira

W
Wadhawala
Wadia
Wadiwalla
Wagh
Waghchhipewala
Waghmar
Waghmaroo

Wallace
Wara
Warden
Wasikusi
Watchmaker
Wellington
Winemerchant
Workingboxwalla
Writer

Z
Zaigar
Zaiwalla
Zarku
Zarolia
Zaveri
Zek

MATRIMONIAL

Matrimonial alliance invited for a slim, fair, pretty girl, 38 years, MBA, medium height, earning a five figure income per month, from gentlemen well-settled in a permanent job preferably in UK or USA. The gentlemen should be gentle, noble, good-tempered and affluent. Please apply with recent photograph (returnable) to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/12-97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

MATRIMONIAL

Alliance invited from decent, home-loving Parsi girls for graduate son, aged 26, serving in a reputed bank in Fort, earning Rs 5,500 p.m. and having own accommodation. Apply to:

The Advertiser

Parsiana, Matrimonial (Feb-Mar/10-97)*
GPO Box 892, Bombay 400001

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

Statement of Ownership & Other Particulars about Parsiana: Form IV (See Rule 8)

Place of Publication: Bombay
Periodicity of Publication: Ten issues in a year
Printer, Publisher, Editor: Jehangir R. Patel
Nationality: Indian
Address: 285, J. Dadaji Marg,
Bombay 400007
Proprietor: Parsiana Publications Pvt Ltd,
39, A. K. Nayak Marg, Bombay 400001
Shareholders holding more than one percent of
the total capital: Jehangir R. Patel, Veera J. Patel
and Simin J. Patel, address same as above.

I, Jehangir R. Patel, hereby declare that the
particulars given above are true to the best of
my knowledge and belief.
Sd. (Jehangir R. Patel) 1 March 1997

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.



1916 to 1997

81 years of
quality and service

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Princess Street, Mumbai 400002

PARSI DAIRY FARM

Tilak Bldg, Dadar, Mumbai 400014

PARSI DAIRY FARM DAIRYLAND

Nariman Nagar, Talasari 401606

A life on the edge

Action and experience have reinforced
Burjor Mehta's dedication to his fellow men

Mehroze N. Pochkhanwalla

One day in August 1970 a man was witness to a savage road incident: a young girl was being mercilessly stabbed by an assailant while a crowd of about 200 spectators watched, spellbound, the horrible scene. Burjor R. Mehta acted instinctively. He grappled with the assailant at the risk of his own life, disarmed him, and took the girl to hospital in his car, thereby saving her life.

For Mehta this was merely one more call for help which he answered to the best of his ability. There were other incidents on roads and elsewhere that he responded to in similar fashion and such acts of courage weren't overlooked either. He was awarded the prestigious Jiv Raksha Medal by the former President of India V. V. Giri, in the year 1972 at the Rashtrapati Bhavan in New Delhi, along with a certificate of appreciation for his bravery.

Burjor Mehta believes that "to serve is divine." Bombay will perhaps never forget the horrendous dock explosion of 1944. Mehta, who had joined the Parsi division of St John Ambulance Brigade in 1935, was entrusted with the relief operation at Masjid Bunder. A number of houses had collapsed, several buildings were ablaze, and the injured were everywhere. The Ambulance Brigade lost two of its own officers, colleagues of Burjor. It is believed that time is a great healer, but even today Mehta remembers the incident with moist eyes. His bravery, sound judgement, training and mental poise boosted the morale of the juniors who worked with him during the successful operation which saved lives as well as property. This earned Burjor great respect and honor among his colleagues, as well as with the public. Round the clock he supervised relief patrols which rendered first aid at site, and removed casualties to

various hospitals. With great zeal he dedicated himself to the task at hand, in the best traditions of the gallant brigade.

Born to humble Zoroastrian parents, Mehta's dedication to service was inherent in the man. It took but a span of 10 years to



Mehta: 'healthy and spry'

prove his courage in battling for the lives of others, and earned him the appreciation of higherranking officials, which culminated in the award of the Queen Victoria Medal in 1946. In the year 1950, he was requested to serve the Western Railway, appointed divisional secretary in 1961 and divisional superintendent in 1964.

Challenges came to him from unexpected directions. In the years 1959, 1969 and 1970, the river Tapti wreaked havoc with the port city of Surat in Gujarat and its surrounding areas. Burjor was deputed to the site to assist the local authorities and doctors in organizing relief work in the flood affected areas. For his efforts he was awarded the prestigious Mahatma Gandhi Seva Medal twice. His deep love for members of his own community surfaced when he helped to rehabilitate a number of Parsis and Iranis after the floods. Twice he bagged the Muncherji Running Shield for humanitarian service. For his courage during the riots in 1953, and again for saving a drowning boy

in Girgaum in 1984, he was congratulated by the commissioner of police for Greater Bombay.

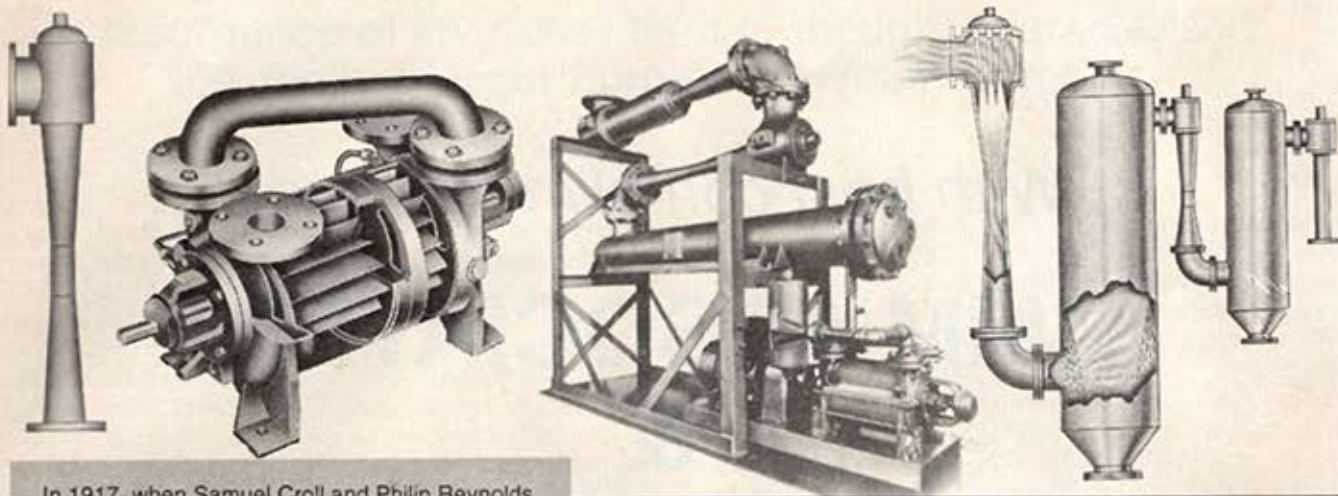
As an outstanding officer in the St John Ambulance Brigade, Mehta devoted much of his time and energy to training civil defence volunteers. During the Second World War, he was deputed to the Bombay area for imparting first aid training to a number of citizens. During the Chinese invasion in 1962 and the three Indo-Pakistan Wars, he served as a sector warden and personally trained over 7,000 volunteers.

After retirement, Mehta was deputed as divisional superintendent by Maharashtra's deputy commissioner at the Chowpatty first aid post in 1975. Later he was transferred to the Cosmopolitan Ambulance Division as a supernumerary divisional superintendent. Then he was back in the Parsi Ambulance Division from 1977 to 1980. Mehta was recommended by the commissioner of Maharashtra, District 3 and promoted to district officer, administration. He served till 1986, when he resigned due to painful osteoarthritis in his knee joints.

Today at a very ripe age Burjor Mehta is still healthy and spry. He seems to be thriving on the good wishes he earned during his lifetime from the people he served and saved. He is actively involved in various community development programs. He is also a life member of the SEM (Special Executive Magistrates') club. His neighbors count on him in times of need. Serving people brings him great satisfaction.

Leading a simple life in his ancestral home at Grant Road, Mehta believes in exercise to keep fit. Health care is important to him, as are praying and helping others. Long may he remain with us, to guide and inspire our youngsters.

Its CROLL-REYNOLDS all the way!



In 1917, when Samuel Croll and Philip Reynolds founded Croll-Reynolds, they made a commitment to quality, dependability, innovative research, design and, above all, to customer service. Today, a third generation of management working together with a team of experienced engineers continue to serve the Process Industries with the same personal pride.

Each Croll-Reynolds unit is performance tested to ensure quality and dependability. Indeed, Croll-Reynolds' commitment to its customers does not end with the installation of its equipment. Croll-Reynolds maintains an archive which provides detailed records of every installation including alterations and upgrades. This enhances response time and ensures quality replacement parts whenever the need arises.

Our record of 75 year of technological advances in the Process Industries is a significant milestone. Our experience is your assurance of continued dedication to quality engineering and manufacturing.



MAZDA MANUFACTURES CROLL - REYNOLDS PROCESS VACUUM SYSTEMS, INCLUDING :

Evactors®

single or multi-stage ejectors - gas, liquid, steam or vapour motivated - energy efficient and pretested. Available in sizes from 1 inch to 10 feet in diameter.

Vacuum Pumps

liquid ring mechanical vacuum pumps. Only one moving part ensures reliable operation.

Rotajectors®

combination ejectors/liquid ring high-vacuum systems

Thermocompressors

for recompression and reuse of spent steam.

Chill-Vector®

evaporative cooling systems.

Scrub-Vector®

oil vapor recovery systems.

Speciality Eductors/Ejectors

Tank circulators, fluid mixers and product conveyors - steam, gas or liquid motivated.

Liquid heaters - open or Jet-type syphon eductors.

Turbine Bypass Valves/Systems

for utility and industrial power plants.

Automated Valve Packages

Pressure reducing stations, Desuperheater, Safety relief valves and steam Refromers.

Mazda House, Panchwati 2nd Lane, Ambawadi, Ahmedabad 380006. INDIA.

Phone : 408014, 408967, 6447004, 408654 Fax : 079-6565605 E-Mail No. mazda @ad1. vsnl.net. in

With best compliments from

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

Chinoy's pressing role

Union Press proprietor Rohinton Chinoy is gearing the 140-year-old establishment to cope with the changing technology

Parinaz M. Gandhi

If in search of a house, Zoroastrians will first approach the Bombay Parsi Punchayet (BPP). When on the lookout for religious artefacts the unwarranted advice freely circulated in the community is, "Enquire at the Union Press." Not surprisingly the 140-year-old Union Press has a legitimate claim to fame as a community institution, observes proprietor Rohinton Chinoy. In February 1997, the Karnataka State Printers Association felicitated Chinoy on behalf of the Union Press for leading the oldest existing commercial printing establishment in India. While he is happy to entertain queries regarding availability of calendars and prayer books and invitation cards (which is in the nature of his business), or sale of religious publications and tickets for community events (which he undertakes as an act of social service), he loses his patience when people even come to the doorsteps of the Press in the expectation of finding sudreh-kustis, he confesses.

Not only does he have to oversee the jobs undertaken at the Press, ensure that his machinery is optimally utilized, liaise with demanding customers but as joint secretary of the All India Federation of Master Printers and of the Mumbai Mudrak Sangh (MMS) he has to coordinate the interests of the member establishments at the national and regional levels. And if he is due to receive new equipment (as was the case on March 17, 1997) it is almost a certainty that he will have little time for anything else because of which the *Parsiiana* interview had to be deferred to March 28, a bank holiday when he hoped

to be relatively free but when too there were at least half a dozen interruptions in the first 30 minutes until he gave his assistant instructions to ward off all visitors and incoming telephone calls.

During the course of four years when

what are the small things that help in one's growth. In short, business contacts *wadhé* (increase)." He is a member of The Bombay Master Printers' Association (BMPA) too but is not very involved in its working because this body deals with big presses and Union Press, in Chinoy's rating, is of average size.

Among the other well-established printing establishments run by Parsis, Chinoy lists Jak Printers, R. Nowrojee and Company, Kaiser-E-Hind (15th oldest in India, according to *BMPA News*). "There is scope for professional printers and supervisors. *Pun koi Parsi aavtaa nathi* (no Parsis are coming in)," laments Chinoy. "Parsis need to know that the print industry is developing, and there is scope for new entrants."

Sure this is a capital intensive industry, but even with a few machines you can earn much more than from a salaried job, asserts the businessman. "You have to make a start somewhere," he says recalling his own experiences with obtaining loans from the Zoroastrian Co-operative and Credit Bank "which has always patronized me..."

"It is compulsory for every individual who wants to survive in this industry to upgrade his machinery every five or six years," declares Chinoy. "If you don't change with the times then you are not supposed to stay in this line. You have to give your workmen the best machines," he continues. His latest investments include a two-color and a single color Heidelberg printing machines, and a programmatic



Chinoy: "You have to change with the times"

Chinoy served as joint secretary of the MMS, he has had to look into members' grievances, labor problems, find ways to settle issues which sometimes may pend for years, organize monthly meetings...At the all-India level they monitor issues like excise and customs policies, problems concerning small scale industries, availability and price of paper, negotiating on behalf of the printers with paper mills and the government, organizing seminars. Pressures of work notwithstanding, Chinoy will stand for reelection to the all-India body in 1997, his rationale being, "You come in good contact with people, government officials. You come to know the world; where we stand in the industry,

cutting machine. Purchase of a scanner (an electronic machine that facilitates registration of photographic images for the computer) as also their own plate-making department is what Chinoy is contemplating, but presently space is a constraint for him, points out the printer who says he operates from around 1,500 square feet in the prime locality near Horniman Circle. He has bought property at Wadala's Shri Ram Industrial Area from where his wife Dinaz operated for a short while. They are hoping to expand once their daughters Meher who is in her first year of BCom at the Podar College, and Kainaz who is in her first year of

demand by both Parsis and non-Parsis, particularly establishments dealing in sandalwood, jewelry and other items commonly used by the community. For invitation cards, 95 percent are Zoroastrians who approach him. "Printing of *chithis* (invitations) has grown 10-fold," points out Chinoy, "possibly because of the better designs we offer or faster service or competitive rates." Actually this part of the business keeps their old letterpress ma-

boards. Yet another project aims to bring out a small booklet on the Union Press. The Parvez D. Chinoy Memorial Trust, a charitable body founded in his father's memory, which is at the registration stage, is meant to help the poor and the needy of the community. In June or July 1997, a ghambar has been planned at Nowroz Baug ("I'm a product of Nowroz Baug," explains Chinoy) when 1,200 to 1,500 people are expected to participate. Sports activities within the community

too is Chinoy determined to promote: a volleyball tournament at the Dadar Parsi Colony where he presently resides, the all-Parsi sports meet which was held in Bombay in February 1997 when Union Press was one of the sponsors, an inter-collegiate volleyball tournament. Does Chinoy have time for any sports activities?

"*Havé to gili danda* [(now it is only *gili danda* (a pastime for street urchins who play with fragments of wood)]," he jests but in his younger days he was into athletics, judo, table tennis.

Just as he is keen to promote sports amongst the community youth, Chinoy is also eager to inculcate in the youth a spirit of enterprise and impress upon them the need to launch their own business. "Our youth should wake up," he feels. "Other communities are going ahead very fast. *Jaldi potana pag par oobha thai jaaich. Parsi bachhao méhnet karé to éla ooper aavi jaay* (as compared to other communities where the youth soon become self-supporting, Parsi children are not working as hard to raise their standards). We are not doing anything. Among Parsis, because parents are salaried, children also tend to look for jobs instead of business prospects... Our youth need to be persuaded, guided, and luckily there are organizations like the World Zoroastrian Organisation (WZO)" which encourage self-motivated youth.

Ever willing to share his own experiences with family, friends and outsiders, 47-year-old Chinoy remembers, "In our case, *badhu maar khainé sikhé la*, we had to learn everything the hard way, before coming to this chair." His swivelling chair in his tiny cubicle faces a desk which looks cluttered but where Chinoy was obviously able to access all the papers and peripherals he needed, whether an eye glass to



junior college, studying arts at the Sophia College, join the business.

Calendar printing constitutes a major share of their work. With the steady flow of work from the Bombay Stock Exchange, the Tata Share Registry, printing of annual reports and publicity materials for companies like Binani Metals, Bharat Bank, Zoroastrian Co-operative Bank, Chinoy is currently satisfied: "I don't have any competitors. So long as my machines are running, I am happy with the work on hand." But with the additional machinery installed he anticipates that he will need new customers.

In the case of English (Gregorian) calendars, 95 percent of his clients are non-Parsis; for Parsi calendars, there is a good

Chinoy with daughters Kainaz (left) and Meher. Inset: wife Dinaz

chines running.

Printing the *Khordeh Avesta* in Gujarati and English is an expression of Chinoy's "love for the community and something that has to be done because nobody else is doing it. It is practically a loss making business."

As part of the Union Press' 140th-year celebrations, Chinoy will distribute free copies of the *Khordeh Avesta* to all the fire-temples in India during Pateti time. The condition is that the old tattered copies have to be surrendered to him in exchange for the new copies. This is to ensure that the new copies don't lie locked in cup-

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

check on the color proofs, a ruler to measure the length of the envelopes they were printing, or a calculator to ascertain the costing. After some years of study at the Antonio D'Silva High School Chinoy went to the Dadar Parsee Youths Assembly High School from where he completed his matriculation before joining the Government Institute of Printing Technology near VT in Bombay, he says. On technical aspects he has learnt most things from the hands-on experience, and for managerial functions, he gives credit to BPP trustee Dinshaw Tamboly for goading him to go easy with his workaholic ways and for guiding him to be more accountable in business.

He refers to the printing institute at Panvel which is being built by the MMS and is now nearing completion. They will be offering courses for small printers, for offset printing... "It would be an ideal opening for small businessmen." The stereotypes associated with technical jobs, "the thought of wearing short pants and getting their hands soiled is possibly a deterrent factor for many Parsis," he observes. Not expecting graduates or undergraduates to show any interest, he offers, "Even if there is a school dropout, I am willing to train him." But so far there have

been no takers. His workforce of around 21 includes three Zoroastrians who are all doing white-collar work. He makes it a point to refer to the assistance of one of his staff members Hoofrish Daruwalla, stating that her involvement and concern has been instrumental in the expansion of the

Printing the *Khordeh Avesta* is something that Union Press has to do because nobody else is doing it

Press. Most other Parsis seeking employment are generally concerned about leaving at the stipulated hour and being assured of holidays on Saturdays and Sundays, states Chinoy who is usually available at the Press until 9 p.m.

Every Behram *roj*, Chinoy is found visiting the Iranshah at Udvada. "God has helped me at all times. *Ghérna* (domestic) problems, *Pressna* (labor) problems. He

has given me more than what I wanted," says Chinoy who has been going there every month ever since the first strike at his Press 19 years ago. He leaves the previous evening by train, catches a public transport bus from the station to the town instead of paying the exorbitant rates charged by the rickshaw drivers at night.

There are many like him who feel the need of a limited hours' stay lodging house in Udvada, he has realized. Considering that there are several Parsi-owned houses in Udvada, lying unoccupied, or which after the demise of the occupant are left for the *foolwala* (florist) or *goswala* (butcher), as has been brought to Chinoy's notice, he hopes that one such will be made available at reasonable cost for the project that he has in mind: a lodging house to accommodate passengers "absolute free of cost" for a maximum duration of 24 hours. If they want to stay for a longer period then they can avail of the services of any of the hotels or dharamshalas in the area. If the manager is inclined, he can offer meals at reasonable rates. This is not meant to serve as competition for the hoteliers in the vicinity, but just making a trip to Udvada affordable for poor Parsis who would like to visit the atash padshah. Just as this undertaking would create "an opportunity

Makers

of fine

jewellery

since

1936



Introducing

exquisite

handcrafted

readymade

jewellery



Pestonji
& Co.

296, Raja Rammohan Roy Rd, Bombay 400004 Tel: 3611121 / 3677844 FAX: 91 22 8366384

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 Merchant Exporters**

Phone: 462236, 463476, 461078 Fax: 91-212-467923
Gram: Filter Pads

*There's
something
so real
in the
taste of life*



for industry," a transport service to and from the town to the station by a mini bus run by a Parsi who should charge not more than five rupees per passenger is another venture that Chinoy feels is worthy of support.

Substantially involved in charity work in Udvada, Chinoy says there are about 30 Parsi households surviving in miserable conditions. When he goes to distribute foodgrains, he has realized that they don't even have any surplus vessels in which to receive the grains. "The more you travel, the more you get to know people, their difficulties," states Chinoy who ensures that his children too accompany him on such trips because "they should know what poverty of foodgrains at one's chawl is they have been years now."

Such philanthropy being under-much prior to with the WZO where he presides to our committee is "doing excellent work," Chinoy's opinion in support of the body's decision to non-but according of 10 they are things, what is porting that?" have non-Parsi

fact marriages between Parsis can end in divorce, has been Chinoy's observation who is personally against intercommunity marriages saying, "Kaum maathi kella sara bachaa chali jaich. Dharam tori ne javanu su jaroor che" (So many outstanding children are getting lost to the community. What is the need to forsake one's religion when getting married)?...

"Anything good I can do for the community, I'm available," asserts Chinoy. Very often he prints invitation cards free of charge for customers who cannot afford his rates. Sometimes he volunteers to print even major assignments at his cost like in the case of the souvenir brought out on the occasion of the Tenth All India Zoroastrian Youth Seminar which meant that Chinoy had to expend Rs 80,000-90,000 from his own pocket. To any cause that he feels is worthy of support, Chinoy willingly extends his cooperation.

As a practice, he does not take any advance payment from Zoroastrians. Barring one or two customers at the most (per season) who may not pay up after the job is completed, Chinoy says, "I have faith in my community. I am proud that the community is so honest." This year there were no defaulters, he clarifies. Not surprisingly, even the community feels free to approach him for all kinds of printing favors. For the *Avan mah* parabh at the Radio Club (the day following the interview) when Dastur Kekobad Dastur of Udvada was to be felicitated, Chinoy's assistance was sought — to print five copies of the day's program for the dignitaries! Yes, he promised, he would deliver the job on time.

**"Parsis
need
to know
that the
print
industry is
developing,
and there
is scope
for
entrants"**

his association India body entirely serves as member, he res- query. The WZO lent work," in ion. He may not of the London to permit mem- Parsi spouses, to him when "out doing nine good wrong in sup- In London, many spouses and in

thropic work was taken by Chinoy his association India body entirely serves as member, he res- query. The WZO lent work," in ion. He may not of the London to permit mem- Parsi spouses, to him when "out doing nine good wrong in sup- In London, many spouses and in

Best Compliments From

BUILDTECH INDIA

Engineers and Contractors

For Restoration, Renovation, Rehabilitation,
Waterproofing, Guniting, Grouting, Epoxy
Treatments, Polymer Treatments, Plastering,
Plumbing and Painting of Multistoried
Buildings and Structures

27, Kailas Darshan, 7th Floor, Kennedy Bridge,
Nana Chowk, Mumbai 400007

Office Telephones 3890912, 3890913
Fax 3893364

With Best Compliments From

UNIPHARMA GLASS

PRIVATE LIMITED

AMPOULES  **DUBASH** **CONTAINERS**

Manufacturers of Machine-made Ampoules & Vials

Victoria Building
S. A. Brelvi Road, Fort , Bombay 400001

Phones: 2660069/2660130 Fax: 91-22-2660427



The Printers' Vision

The Bombay Master Printers' Association, under president Fred Poonawala, succeeded in organizing a unique exhibition of print suppliers

Parinaz M. Gandhi

"In the marketplace you will find competitive, cut-throat business. Yet on matters concerning the trade there is cohesiveness and cooperation from like-minded people." President of the Bombay Master Printers' Association (BMPA), Fred Poonawala describes the scenario wherein their organization serves as a common platform to bring together over 300 members to further the interests of the print industry. The BMPA is "one of the premier institutions in the country consisting of some of Bombay's leading printing houses," he mentions.

Seminars on computerization, on the crisis in the print industry, on proofing specifications...have been an ongoing feature during Poonawala's tenure as president which ends in September 1997. The highlight of the year's activities though would be Print Vision, "a unique exhibition held for the first time in India (in March 1997) where not the usual printing machinery was on display but where print-

ers and print suppliers and processors and ancillaries were showing their services," says the president. "We were not sure whether it would succeed there being resistance from printers to participate. Marketing for printing today is done on a personal basis (where customers approach printers known to them)," explains Poonawala. Even then, with around 40 participants and "an overwhelming response," he is confident that "the following years should see double the participation now that we have laid the foundation for something very new."

One year as president is the unwritten time frame prescribed for this post by the BMPA. "We like to circulate and have new presidents," says Poonawala. "Let the burden fall on everybody," he adds, describing his duties as "quite time consuming." We assume that must be so as great persistence was required of us to reach him on the phone at his office at Comart Lithographers Limited where he is general man-

ager; unfortunately, our attempts coincided with his preoccupation in organizing Print Vision. Just when we were about to give up hope for an interview appointment after almost a fortnight, we were surprised to hear Poonawala's relaxed and disarming voice on the line extending to us his utmost cooperation for the meeting scheduled for April 12.

Probably the youngest president in the 41-year history of the Association, 36-year-old Poonawala contacts his BMPA office to get details of other Parsis who have headed this body. On learning that there have been six others, R. N. Cama, P. S. Jhabvala, Brig J. S. N. Vakil, H. A. Guzder and G. D. Karkaria, Poonawala asked his assistant with his characteristic subtle humor, "Are you sure this is the BMPA office and not the Parsi Punchayet?"

However, it is to the credit of Poonawala that the BMPA was able to computerize the functioning of their office during his term. Now that they have access to Internet, members seeking information on the Web can come to the office for directions and obtain guidance from people with expertise. The Association's magazine, *BMPA News* which was recently published on the Web, is probably one of the first Indian print magazines to be so featured, states Poonawala.

"Computers are changing the world," declares Poonawala. "Now publishing is not only restricted to printing on paper but has become a reality on your computer screen. Publishing on the Web is one of the fastest growing businesses in the world. It is bound to have its impact on us. With the introduction of digital scanning and digital printing the role of prepress (the work that is done to ready the image and text for printing) is changing radically, dramatically. The traditional concept of prepress has shrunk considerably and new possibilities have come into the world," stresses Poonawala. Process houses such as Comart prepare the film which is later transposed onto plates at the printing press and the plates are then mounted on the printing machines. The postpress procedures are cutting, binding, stapling, etc.

Further, personalized printing can cater to the customer's limited needs. Earlier, even if a client required just one or 10 copies he was bound to bear the cost of a minimal print run of 1,000, reveals Poonawala. With personalized printing you can get brochures with your name inscribed on it, shopping catalogs geared to

a customer's interests and demands... the possibilities are endless.

India too has kept pace with global technological developments, asserts Poonawala. At exhibitions like Drupa in Dusseldorf, Germany, where print machinery is on display, one of the largest contingents is from India. "Manufacturers (of print machinery) take Indians quite seriously. They see a lot of potential in India," he points out.

Handicapped by government policies that did not allow free import of capital goods, Comart's expansion was initially restricted. "But with liberalization in the '80s we were able to keep abreast of technological developments in the world. We have the same equipment as any good reproduction house would have anywhere in the world," claims Poonawala. Their latest investment is in a wide format printer which makes possible the printing of huge posters (4'x infinity). The walls at Comart are covered with posters that bespeak the organization's ability to lure customers to

products bearing a near perfect finish; all blemishes and distractions removed, all plus points made more attractive. In the case of models, every pimple and wart is painstakingly covered up; for monuments, all unseemly projections or broken window panes are touched up. Armed with four scanners, two computers reserved for retouching and giving finishing touches, two dedicated as page makers where the artist decides on the layout for the mix of text and graphics, one digital printer which gives an indication with 98 percent accuracy of what the final printed copy would look like without the cost of separation films, Comart reserves one half of the third floor that it occupies on its premises at Prabhadevi for its computerized work; the remaining floor space continues to be occupied for its traditional functions of making positives and proofs for clients. Commercial Art Engravers (Comart's parent company) which was started in 1934 by Fred's paternal grandfather Faramroze Poonawala as a block making concern, a laborious job that required considerable art skills, has since seen substantial metamorphosis.

Though color reproduction, touching and distortion is all in the nature of their

work, their specialization is "high quality reproduction for advertising agencies — which are usually the most demanding of all customers — for publications, art institutions and museums. Whether it's artpulls for agencies like Hindustan Thompson Associates, Ogilvy and Mather, Mudra, or brochures for the Lalit Kala Akademi or the National Museum, or proofs for



The Poonawala clan from left: (top row) Arnavaaz, Bichoo, Dadi, Arja, Cyrus, Roxanne and Dinaz; (middle row) Carsten, Shernaz, Neville, Ava and Burjor; (bottom row) Fred, Meher, Rehan and Khurshed

specialized magazines like *Marg*, "our standards are as good as anywhere in the world," maintains Poonawala. "We should be concentrating more on exports but our government's customs rules and regulations are not conducive."

With about 130 people presently in employment, Comart is all set to open a new division in Bangalore. From the Poonawala family itself there are six members involved in the business. There is Fred's father Dadi and his paternal uncles Burjor and Cyrus who are the three directors. The next generation includes Burjor's son Khurshed and Cyrus' son Neville. Initially Fred's brother Eddie and cousin Shernaz too were involved. His mother Arja (from Finland) has been a considerable source of "inspiration and encouragement" for him, acknowledges Fred.

"I had no choice but to join," says Fred Poonawala recalling the time in 1982 when 90 percent of the staff were on strike and

the management was functioning with just a handful of employees. "Every member of the family had to pool in his energies" including Fred who had no technical qualifications and had to learn the ropes on the job itself. Fred's academic background was laid at the Campion School after which he completed his commerce graduation from Lala Lajpatrai College and studied law at the Government Law College. "Hard work, attention to details, timely deliveries, right choice of hardware, well motivated staff and good quality control," are the facets Fred Poonawala has learnt to value. "It's either right or wrong; there is no *chalta hai* (acceptance of mediocrity) attitude here," reminds Neville Poonawala. "One full stop missing and a job can get cancelled."

Parsis should be encouraged to venture on their own and start a business, advocates Fred Poonawala. The print industry though is "a very specialized line" which may not be suitable for newcomers "unless you know what you are doing. The

present scenario is much more competitive." News of successful Parsi entrepreneurs makes Poonawala happy although "I don't think there are enough of them. (Most Parsis) seem to be happier with 9 (a.m.) to 5 (p.m.) jobs." In his case, he has to put in at least 12 hours of work each day, "looking after everything in the business, including production, clients' servicing, purchases, human relations. Looking after any single aspect of business would probably bore me to hell," he confesses. It is apparent that even his cousins turn to him to resolve complex issues and difficult customers. While the interview was yet not over, there were already others vying for Poonawala's attention; not that he had begun to dismiss our queries but it made us wary of encroaching further on his time.

The community's ability to laugh at itself and the disproportionately large impact it has created on the country despite being small in numbers are the assets Poonawala feels are worth commenting on. "Today housing is one of the main issues for survival in Bombay," he believes. Unless you have housing you won't have a community. Our folks have vision

continued on page 152



With the Compliments of

**THE
EASTERN
ELECTRIC
LIGHT &
POWER CO.
PVT. LTD.**

Alli Chambers, Ground floor
4-B, Homi Mody Street
2nd Cross Lane
Mumbai 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*

The Abode For The High Fliers.

BOOKINGS
NOW OPEN



Glen Eagle

Tata Housing's 'Glen Eagle' is a premium project in the heart of the metropolis of Mumbai. A marvel of modern architecture, Glen Eagle offers much more than you could ever imagine.

Consider for instance, its strategic location at Parel, in the heart of a green oasis of peace and tranquility, its well developed and ideal neighbourhood and the manifold advantage of moving into a prime, well settled residential complex.

Within the same complex, is an already completed 24 storeyed tower 'Falcon's Crest'. The project has convenient access from central and western areas of the city. And to top it all 'Glen Eagle' is a short 35-40 minute drive away from the central business districts.

This 18 storey tower has a total of only 34 flats. And with only two flats per floor, complete privacy and comfort is guaranteed. The hallmark, as in all Tata Housing projects is the assurance of the best in modern living. The various ultra modern and luxurious amenities provided

are: ♦ Landscaped gardens with fountain ♦ Swimming pool ♦ Separate utility room with attached toilet ♦ Car park ♦ High speed lifts ♦ Modern fire alarm system ♦ 24 hour water supply ♦ Fitness Centre. 'Glen Eagle' is really a deserving abode for people who have reached a high in life!



**Tata Housing
Development Co. Ltd.**

34, Ch. Shreeji Maharaj Marg, Apollo Bunder, Colaba,
Mumbai 400 059. Tel: 2885757. Fax: 2822625.

Family fun

Yazdi Karanjia and his theater group from Surat help to keep alive Parsi Gujarati comedies

Hilla P. Guzder

A framed, garlanded portrait of Lord Zarathushtra stood on the entrance wall, a thick *toran* of lilies and roses was strung across the bedroom door, the *sagan-ni-ses* with coconut, rice and *kunkun* (vermillion) lay ready on the table to provide a tradi-

my laboratory and the audience my certificate," says Karanjia who founded the Yazdi Karanjia Group way back in 1959 under the guidance and inspiration of his late father, Naoshirwan. Another cause which inspires Karanjia is charity. His troupe has



tional welcome to the expected visitors — it was the perfect setting for a Parsi household. But this was a Parsi home created in minute detail on stage at the Bharatiya Vidya Bhavan in Bombay where Yazdi Karanjia and his troupe from Surat were performing their play *Chhoopo Rustom* in aid of the Youths' Own Union (YOU) scholarship fund on February 1, 1997.

As the waves of laughter rippled through the auditorium, Karanjia and his band of artistes carried the audience through two hours of fun for the family. They acted with naturalness and ease of experience, combined with a slick sense of timing and co-ordination as innocent gags followed each other in quick succession.

"Experience is my teacher, the stage is

Yazdi Karanjia (right) with wife Veera and brother Mehernosh Photos: Hilla P. Guzder

travelled all over India, performing their Parsi comedies and variety revues at the invitation of Zoroastrian associations in Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Secunderabad, Hyderabad, Nagpur and Poona, besides Bombay and Surat. As the Calcutta Parsi Association put it during their visit to that city in 1990 — "they travel by second class (rail), suffer personal inconveniences and hardships and charge no fees." States Karanjia, "We charge only out-of-pocket expenses." In Surat itself, the Leprosy Hospital, School for the Blind, Remand Home for Women and the Cancer Detection Centre have been some of the benefi-

ciaries of their charity shows, declares Karanjia. On the rare occasion they do not give the show totally free, they return the amount by way of donations to a worthy cause. In March '97, they performed *Chhoopo Rustom* as part of Surat's Baag-e-parsa Adarian's centenary celebrations and also donated over Rs 12,000 from the Yazdi Karanjia Group. In earlier years they have contributed to the funds of the two *atash bahrams* in Surat.

For Karanjia, acting is very much a family affair. His life partner Veera (they were married in 1961) is also his partner on stage, his two daughters Binaifer Navroz Dabu (a computer consultant now living in the US) and Mahrukh Zubin Chichgar (who studied law and is married in Surat) have won state level prizes in acting and have been a part of his troupe. Son Shehzad is studying for his final CA and is an enthusiastic participant in the plays, taking a sabbatical only at the time of exams. Yazdi's brother Mehernosh, whom he describes as his right hand man, acts and co-directs the plays with him. "Mehernosh is part of my heart," asserts Yazdi with obvious affection. "He takes 70 percent of the load away from me. It is very rare to have so many members of the same family acting in the same group." Mehernosh's wife Parin has also participated in their comedies. Another brother Rohinton was posted in Ahmedabad and was able to work only briefly with the Group. All three brothers now live with their families in the same ancestral home in Surat.

Karanjia acknowledges with gratitude the support of close friends who have guided his footsteps through the years. Dr Ratan Marshall of Surat is the president of the Yazdi Karanjia Group and has written plays for them. The late Phiroze Antia gave him the script for his first three-act-play, *Vah ré Behram*, states Karanjia, as also the script for *Behram ni sasoo* which has now seen 150 performances! The late Eruch Pavri, the late Adi and Sylla Marzban, Dinshaw Daji, Bomi and Dolly Dotivala, and the doyens of Gujarati theater, playwrights Paramsukh Pandya, Dhansukhlal Mehta and Chandravadan Mehta have encouraged him immensely in his endeavors, declares Karanjia. Averaging 40 shows a year, the troupe's more popular presentations are *Behram ni sasoo*, *Bicharo Burjor* (written by Dhansukhlal

Mehta and Ratan Marshall and performed 88 times), *Dinshawji na dabba gool* (script by Adi Marzban, 80 performances), *Ghar ghoongro né ghotalo* (writer Dorab Mehta, over 50 shows) and the variety revue *Bè ghadi mauje* written and directed by Yazdi and Mehernosh Karanjia. "We retain the Parsi flavor in our plays as we do not want people to think that Parsi theater is no more," notes Karanjia.

Comedies by the group are not confined to the stage alone. Ahmedabad TV has relayed his serial *Jara hasai to hasiye*, Bombay Doordarshan has presented his one act plays, and the Baroda, Ahmedabad and Bombay stations of All India Radio have broadcast almost 200 radio plays written by him and the man he describes as an "international authority on drama," the late C. C. Mehta. Their series *Tapi taté Tapidas* (Tapidas on the banks of the river Tapi), with over 150 episodes proved very popular, declares Karanjia.

His commitment to Gujarati theater won Karanjia the coveted Gujarat Gaurav Award from the government of Gujarat for best contribution in the field of art and drama for 1994-95. He has recently been appointed a member of the prestigious Gujarat Sangeet Natak Academy, which entails trips to Ahmedabad to participate in its sessions. "It's physically very tiring, but mentally satisfying," he asserts. Karanjia had earlier served as a member of the Film Board of Gujarat and was felicitated as a worthy son of Surat by the Surat Municipal Corporation on the occasion of its silver jubilee celebrations in 1991. The Rotary Club of Surat Round Town and Rotary Club of Udhna presented him the Best Vocational Service Award in '94 and '95, he states.

Karanjia's first exposure to acting was at the age of six when he played the role of Krishna, his *gopis* (Krishna's playmates) being other little Parsi boys! The action song ended in his dissolving into tears, in spite of which he received lusty applause, narrates Karanjia with a twinkle in his eye.

While he was studying in the Sir K. P. College of Commerce at Surat, he represented Gujarat University at the inter-state university drama festival in 1958, he says, winning the best actor award from among 40 colleges for his role in *Moongi Stree*.

Today, Gujarati theater is flourishing, asserts Karanjia. He believes his is the only Group which performs Parsi Gujarati plays on a regular basis in his home state. "Performing comedy is very difficult," explains Karanjia. "A drama may have suspense or thrills, but comedy requires on-the-spot response, a feel of the pulse of the audience. Even when an actor is himself unwell or unhappy, he has to

Cambay Institute of Commerce in Surat, founded by his father in 1931 with "one writing table and one typewriter." All Zoroastrian students study free at his Institute. "Not one rupee is taken from them," he states. There are 1,800 students on the rolls this year and they come in batches from 6 a.m. to 9 p.m. to study shorthand, typewriting, accountancy and other commercial subjects. "There are many non-Parsi students who also study free if they are from an economically weak background," notes Karanjia. He mentions that he served as the Chief Conductor of Typewriting and Shorthand at the Baroda SSC (Secondary School Certificate) Board from '75-'78 and has been a member of the Textbooks and Syllabus Committee of the Gujarat government from '88-'90. In 1989, he was invited



make people laugh." He narrates how he and his wife went through with a scheduled performance even when his mother-in-law was seriously ill. "Your heart may be crying, but you have to give laughter." On another occasion, he relates, he found he was losing his voice in the midst of a show at Bombay's Tata Theatre (where the audience sits in close proximity in a half-circle around the stage), but completed his act nonetheless without the audience realizing that much was amiss. "We love to perform at Tata Theatre," he opines. "It is a wonderful theater."

There is yet another love in Karanjia's life (besides theater and his family) and that is teaching. "Drama is my hobby, teaching is my profession," he maintains. He has been principal since 1966 (brother Mehernosh is joint principal) of the

Yazdi Karanjia savors his moment as Tipu Sultan; the troupe with veteran actor Dinshaw Daji

to the first International Conference of the London Chamber of Commerce where he read a paper on accountancy, he relates.

Now a spry 59, Karanjia's zest for theater still takes him from city to city performing his comedies. His motto in life — to create laughter, he says. "Laughter is good for health. We give you laughter and therefore we give you health. *Maaré loko né élla hasavanch ké loko kahé ké hasiye Yazdi baniné aa duniya ma janam lidho ché* (I want to make people laugh so much that they will say that laughter has come into this world in the form of Yazdi)," maintains the teacher/comedian.

FAG

FAG Precision Bearings Limited

Best Compliments

Head Office & Works :

Maneja, Vadodara-390 013, Gujarat.

Tel. : (0265) 442651-2-3-4-5, 443551, 443751, 444953

Telex : (0175) 6280 FAG IN Fax : (0265) 442197 Gram : FAGBEAR

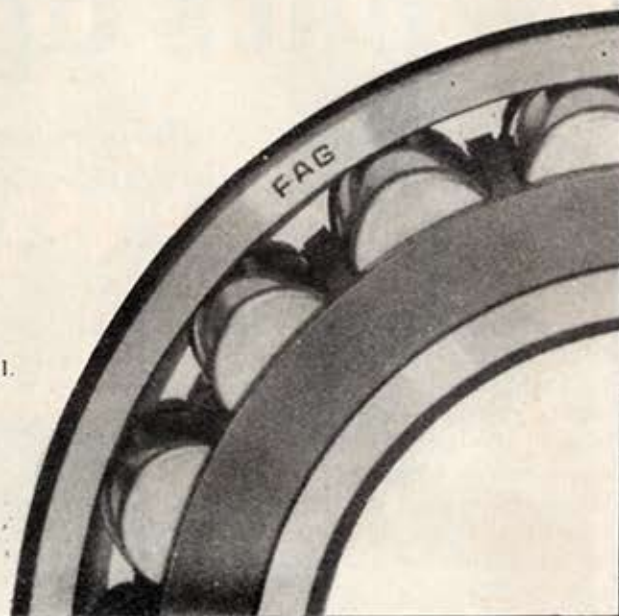
Registered Office :

Nariman Bhavan, 8th Floor, 227, Backbay Reclamation, Nariman Point, Mumbai - 400 021.

Regional Offices : Calcutta, Madras, Mumbai, New Delhi, Pune

Resident Offices : Bangalore, Coimbatore

A Member of the FAG Kugelfischer Group



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, 1st Floor, Unit No 1, R. C. Marg, Chembur, Bombay 400074

Tel: 5555425, 5519359

Branch: BARODA: Tel No 329924, 329818

What's up his sleeve?

Joining the ranks of reputed magicians, Rutton Bharucha was recently conferred the Merlin Excalibur Award

Parinaz M. Gandhi

A rabbit hopping out of a black cap beckons us to meet the gentleman. That's our first acquaintance with Rutton Bharucha — on the visiting card. We then get to see him on the TV screen, dressed in spectacular costumes to amuse the audience with the tricks of his trade. And finally, we get to meet the 77-year-old rotund magician who is reportedly the first Indian to have been conferred the Merlin Excalibur Award by The International Brotherhood of Magicians (USA).

This honor "is in recognition of 50 years of his steadfast adherence to the highest standards of magic," writes Minoo Polson, president of the Eddie Joseph Ring No 67 of The International Brotherhood of Magicians. Across the globe "there could be not more than 10 recipients" of this Award, in Bharucha's estimate, despite there being over 1,400 active members and 319 rings (magic clubs) affiliated to this world body. Since Bharucha was unable to visit the USA to receive the Award in person, the certificate along with a 14 carat gold badge was posted to him by registered airmail.

Not only overseas travel but commuting within the busy metropolis of Bombay too is proving difficult for Bharucha. The frequency of his magic shows therefore has substantially declined as he now has to refuse offers to perform in the suburbs where reside the majority of his Gujarati, Marwari and Punjabi clients who invite him to birthday parties. Lest the suburban functions be dismissed as insignificant events Bharucha details the expenditure incurred at such receptions where "the chairs invariably have velvet upholstery and fashionable Gujarati girls wearing

gloves come to serve sumptuous eats." Were he to quote a rate of less than Rs 1,000 for his magic show in such social



Bharucha: "Learning is a life long process"

circles, the value of his art would be considered worthless, he has learnt.

Very seldom do Parsis invite him to perform as the spending capacity of the community is limited, states Bharucha. There was a time however when his magic show was a regular event at navjote functions. And the magician recalls encoun-

tering varied Parsi clients like one hostess who, not realizing the importance of the apparatus to the magician, requested him to bring scarves of a different variety from the one she had seen at an earlier demonstration! At almost every program Bharucha displays scarves that change hue and pattern when passed through a golden or silver colored tube or record jacket.

The opening item for Bharucha's performances invariably displays his prowess with the pompoms dangling from both ends of a rod that appear to be connected and yet are not. Speaking slowly and forcefully in his childlike voice that reaches out to all audiences, Bharucha informs us that his "present apparatus (constitute) collector's items, quite costly and not available easily." Among his other popular tricks are the Chinese chow chow where he consumes fragments of paper which later come out through the mouth as one continuous strip as he pretends to wind his ears. In another, he only has to fan the conical cup as he pours milk into it, and promptly the milk disappears leaving small balls therein which he removes patiently. The first trick that he learnt and which he performs to this day concerns an egg that vanishes from a bag and may be located in the cap of an interested onlooker.

Not surprisingly, Bharucha is very particular about handling his tools. Even his family "is not allowed to touch this apparatus," he confesses, and therefore insists on doing his own packing and unpacking each time. The time and effort involved is considerable. Almost half an hour goes into systematically assembling

With Best Compliments From

SELVEL

**SELVEL MEDIA SERVICES
PRIVATE LIMITED**

D8/1, Okhla Industrial Area, Phase-I
New Delhi 110020

Phones: (+91 11) 6810342, 6810344 (Fax)

Registered Office:

Selvel House, 10/1B, Diamond Harbour Road
Calcutta 700027, India

Phone: (+91 33) 4796795, 4797075, 4795342, 4799734

Telex: 021-8107 SELL-IN Fax: (+91 33) 4795365



the contents in the bag, an additional half an hour each on setting up the apparatus on stage and dismantling the gadgets after the show, and yet another half hour in emptying the bag. He vividly recalls the day when he was invited to perform a charity show for an organization when after laying out his equipment on the table, the organizers told him to keep it down on the floor as they required the table for the chief guest. This scant respect for his time and tools made him determined not to perform for free thereafter. "What is free, no one values," he emphasizes. As compared to that when hosts have paid for a magic show, they come umpteen times and enquire, "Aay joiékh ké? Pélu joiékh ké? (Do you want this? Do you want that?) And (also) check on your convenience," has been Bharucha's observation.

His most prized possession though are his playing cards, more than 500 varieties of which he has collected since he started this hobby in 1951. Bharucha claims to own the world's smallest playing cards (3/8" x 7/16"), the world's largest playing cards (14" x 9"), unusual shaped cards, convex, concave, barrel, zulu shield; historical and souvenir cards; tarot and fortune-telling cards; Indian round playing cards (*ganhifa*); cards displayed with pin-up girls. Ask for the variety of your choice — birds, boats, flowers, monuments, museums, paintings — and chance on collections of great entertainment and educative value. While most of his acquisitions have

come through exchange with others pursuing the same hobby, he has also purchased some like his latest acquisition from the Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, where the box of two packs costing \$55 depicted the Egyptian mummy on one side, and gods and goddesses on the other. Dependent as he is on postal services to send and receive packs there is always the risk of cards arriving in a soiled condition or with one pack missing. Bharucha relates the perils of his pursuit. In need of money, there were some packs that he sold a couple of years ago to a collector whom he doubts has even looked

isn't able to demonstrate with ease now ever since he injured his wrist following a fall from a bus.

Certain tricks he may have discontinued performing but there are always new ones to learn. Referring to himself as an amateur, Bharucha says, "Learning is a lifelong process." He still recalls the first magic show that he saw by the visiting magician Mighty Chang at the Excelsior Theatre and learning his first tricks from Minoo Cooper who was the first president of The Society of Indian Magicians which Bharucha joined in 1942. Another tutor of his was Eddie Joseph after whom has been named one of the magic rings in Bombay of which Bharucha is a charter member. Thereafter Bharucha also served as president of The Society of Indian Magicians. His association with the Eddie Joseph Ring requires him to attend monthly meetings where members discuss magic and demonstrate new techniques that they might have learnt. Earlier they even taught magic to enthusiastic amateurs who wished to pursue magic as a hobby or profession.

To Bharucha, magic has remained a hobby while he continued with his salaried job at the Imperial Tobacco Company of India (since renamed India Tobacco Company) where he worked in the purchase department. He declines to furnish further details regarding his job just as he declines to divulge information concerning his education, maintaining he has obtained "knowledge without college."

Family support for Bharucha has come from his wife Sheroo who formerly worked at the government secretariat and had also served as personal assistant to Vijaylaxmi Pandit (sister of Jawaharlal Nehru). Their two daughters Kashmira Kolah and Pervin Sarkari assisted Bharucha on stage in their younger days when he had to perform before large audiences.

He would not describe himself as being "particularly religious minded," confesses the magician, and is in fact "very averse to old Parsi *dhakharas* (notions)." He is surprised that many Parsis have faith in 'Babas' and Christian Science because of their purported miracles. As far as he is concerned, "There is nothing like miracles. It is all magic. And magic is entertainment."



With his prized playing cards. Daughter Pervin Sarkari used to help her dad in the shows

at them after the purchase. For the rest, neither is he interested in ascertaining their value, nor is he interested in selling them. He would be content to share his wealth by permitting those interested to glimpse his collection were he to find a suitable sponsor and avenue to exhibit his possessions which would require mounting before display, he explains.

Besides owning rare cards, Bharucha also enjoys the distinction of being the only card stylist in India, evidence of which can be had at his magic shows when he expertly handles them. Single-handed fans, two-tiered fans, giant two-tiered fans are but an indicator of the deft movement of his fingers. His shuffling of cards — Chinese shuffling, Russian shuffling, waterfall shuffling, atomic shuffling — that had earned him invitations to perform overseas in countries like Ethiopia, is a skill that he

With Best Compliments From

ANTELEC Limited

Experienced turnkey Electrical Engineers and Contractors executing prestigious projects as per Indian and international standards for the last 27 years in India, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Nigeria, Yemen, UAE, Oman, Nepal and Sri Lanka.

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

Registered Office: 73 Jolly Maker Chamber No 2, Nariman Point, Bombay 400021
Tel: 2021067/2850383/2020563 Fax: 9122-2021040

Branch Office: 802 Chiranjiv Tower, 43 Nehru Place, New Delhi 110019
Tel: 6417345, 6217662 Fax: 9111-6463974



Manufacturers and Exporters of

**"CHAMPION"
BRAND**

Asbestos/Non-Asbestos, Fibre Jointings Sheets,
Cloth, Packings, Seals, PTFE Spiral Wound Metallic
and CAF Gaskets

CHAMPION JOINTINGS LIMITED

15, Parsi Panchayat Road, Andheri (E), Bombay 400069.
Gram: "Cafjoint" Andheri • Telex: 011-79003 FIRE-IN
Fax: 091-22-8370247, 091-22-8381447 • Tel: 8321071, 8367311-15

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

THE PRINTER'S VISION

continued from page 142

and a lot of sense. They have sense not to propagate unless they can be assured of some place for their children...

"Since religion was never forced on me, and that's probably the right thing to do, I am not at all religious," says Poonawala. Besides work and the family that includes wife Dinaz who gave up her career as a chartered accountant to look after their two young sons Rehan, four and a half years old, and Armand who is two, Poonawala has little energy to pursue other interests although he enjoys travelling, swimming and watching television.

"As soon as the rush is over I'm going to have a nervous breakdown. I worked for it; I owe it to myself; and nobody is going to deprive me of it," reads a wall plate at Poonawala's office. Whether the rush will ever be over seems doubtful especially since the ambitious team is planning to offer more services in the chain — "forward and backward integration," in Poonawala's words — so as to live up to the company's catchwords: "prepress and beyond."

WHERE TWO WORLDS MEET

continued from page 101

ween home science and computers. More students are opting for computers," he notes. To meet the rapid changes occurring around us, one priority is to improve the system of teaching at the kindergarten level. Hence preprimary teachers are being sent for courses, informs Lalkaka. Efforts are on to introduce girl guiding and hockey and to revive basketball and the School has hired a coach for athletics, says Lalkaka.

Before she died settlor Hamabai had "asked father [Framji, Sir Dinshaw Petit (third baronet)] if he would take the orphanage under the wing of Petit Charities and look after it," informed Petit. Fram accepted the responsibility, chairing the School's board of trustees, visiting it often, increasing the area of the grounds by buying up adjacent plots.

Proud as he is of the family's many institutions, Nusli Petit is aware that there is much work yet to be done to improve the gymnasium, the laboratories, etc and determined: "I don't want any student to say to me, 'I went to your school and it was lousy.'"

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

Jeena House, Plot No 170, Om Nagar, Off Pipe Line Road,
Andheri (East), Bombay 400099

Cable: AIRJENA Phone: 8218360, 8214093, 8213718, 8341023

Telex: 79234, 79456 Fax: (22) 8363253

Branches

New Delhi, Calcutta, Madras, Bangalore, Pune, Cochin and Hyderabad

What the Magi Knew

"Light attracts light, fleeing from the dark,
that is why you come to me,"
said the Parsi priest
as a bright sun set over Bombay,
distinguishing benighted
millions in its rays.
India Gate caught the evening light,
and the sky caught fire as we
discussed what may be
the oldest faith held anywhere on earth,
Zoroastrianism,
what the magi knew.
The two of us took tea together:
an old man pale as parchment,
wearing white linen
and dressed in the cloth of his belief;
and his foreign visitor,
dressed in ignorance
and the clothes of another climate,
bearing a consular note
of introduction.
"The closest thing we find in nature
to divinity is light,
and its form is fire,"
continued my aged host, a man
learned in prophetic texts
and commentaries,
"yet mere flames are not what we
revere;
they are an image of God,
a divine idea."
Beyond the roof where we were sitting,
past Victoria Station
and across Back Bay,
the lights in the British Residence
on top of Malabar Hill
came on one by one
and shone on a windowless stone shape
that stood in stark silhouette
on the ridge below.
The curiosity that brought me
made me ask, "Tell me," I said,
"about the tower."
"The light must not be mixed with
darkness,"
replied my tutor, shifting
in his seat, shifting
his regard to gaze out at the sea,
out towards the ships that make
the city what it is.
"For this reason, we do not mix with
Hindu; for this reason we
do not burn our dead.
And it is not right to put sickness
in the soil, so we do not
put our dead in earth.

Instead, when the light has left the eyes,
and the soul has flown out of
the body, we take
our dead to the tower of silence."
The old Parsi sipped his tea,
returning his eyes
to me. "But always there are fewer,"
he said. "We are less each day,
and those most in need
of an introduction to our faith
are our own people, our young.
Each day we are less,
and we do not practice as before.
Our ceremonies require
an eternal flame,
but these days the scented woods are
rare,
and many cannot afford
sandalwood and teak;
so it is that we must worship God
with whatever can be found,
refuse from Bombay."
Palladian dilapidations
seemed to comprehend his words,
architectural
reminders of a state in decay,
the state of empire dissolved
in monsoons and gin.
Beyond Back Bay, the stone shape grew
dim,
dissolving with the daylight.
The shape lacked a roof,
strange in a city with so much rain.
"Tell me," I said, "what happens



inside the tower."
Jamshid Cawaji Katrak, a man
who knew what the magi might
have known, weighed his words.
"Purely a sanitary measure,"
he said after a pause. "Why
must you know these things?
When I am dead, those who love me
best
will bear me to the tower
and place my body
on a slab of marble to await
the birds of death, offering
my corpse to the sky.
When the elements and the scavengers
have done their work, when ravens
have picked my bones clean,
what remains, and it will be little,
becomes part of the tower,
put into its walls.
Afterwards, the ones I love will burn
incense in the temple fire,
giving my soul life."
Around the rooftop where we conversed,
the night advanced. The sun lay
hull-down in the sea,
and twilight introduced its shadows
into each face and window.
"Will you have more tea?"
asked Jamshid Cawaji. "Then go,
please.
It grows late, and nowadays
I tire easily.
Tonight, I compose an article
concerning the marriage rites
of ancient Persia.
Arabic scholars have accused us
of practicing bigamy,
as they do themselves,
but I shall demonstrate otherwise;
their own lies will refute them.
Dark gathers darkness,
which is why we fled Arabia.
Go now. What more would you know?
Take my thoughts with you:
our days are as a fire before God,
and though the image dwindles,
the idea remains."
Go, he said, and I did, descending
through the black streets of Bombay,
pursuing my way
into other cities, carrying
those bright words and walking with
darkness all my days.

George Bradley
from *Terms To Be Met* (Yale: '86)

"Caught between two natures"

Zoroastrians in Britain by John R. Hinnells. Published in 1996 by Oxford University Press, Walton Street, Oxford, OX2 6DP. Pp: xv+336. Price: £40.

"Anyone who has lived within a Parsi setting is inevitably and forcefully impressed by the tenacity and courage with which Parsis consistently fight for what they believe to be right, as warriors for what they perceive to be the truth... This dogged determination has caused untold troubles within the internal history of the London Zoroastrian community, past and present. It has equally characterized the political campaigns of all four Parsi politicians (Dadabhai Naoroji, Muncherji Bhownagree, Shapurji Saklatvala, Zerbano Gifford)." So writes John R. Hinnells in *Zoroastrians in Britain*. In the course of the Ratanbai Katrak Lectures delivered by Hinnells in 1985, one of the subjects dwelt on his research on the British Zoroastrians which he felt justified compilation into a book, a compendium that he has dedicated to Dastur (Dr) Kaikhusro JamaspAsa, High Priest of Bombay's Anjuman Atash Bahram and Dastur (Dr) Sohrab Kutar, the late High Priest of the Zoroastrians of Europe.

The contents of this book reflect on the historical and contemporary issues that concern British Zoroastrians as indicated by our two reviewers, Dr Huzan Kharas-Daver and Farrokh Vajifdar, both of whom have personally been exposed to the community settled in Britain. Further insights into the book can be gained from certain passages that we are reproducing from different sections of the book.

Under the head, "Transmitting the Tradition: The Social Context," Hinnells writes, "One of the most common topics of Zoroastrian humor is food and rarely does a successful occasion pass without a meal. If a researcher on the Zoroastrian community thinks that food is an unimportant subject, it shows beyond doubt that he or

she has not begun to understand the community! The menu associated with a function always figures prominently in the newsletter publicity... In the survey respondents were asked which features of the heritage they thought it most important to preserve—religion, music, language, dress and so on. The majority of all ages listed food as a priority (overall 96 percent identified food as important, 94 percent religion)."



Hinnells: insights and knowledge

In the same chapter "Approaching the Third Millennium" where Hinnells touches upon "Does being Zoroastrian Conflict with being British?" he quotes some responses: "A Karachi-born Zoroastrian commented: 'I am not totally British in attitude and thinking. But when I go to Pakistan I don't understand their everyday life, then I am stuck in limbo. I ask myself "where do I belong?"' A 34-year-old lady said: 'My mind says I should behave like a Zoroastrian... but I have western attitudes.' One lady in her late twenties with a Parsi father and an Anglo-Saxon mother replied: 'Not caught between two cultures. Caught between two natures. There is definitely the English and the Parsi side of my nature. I do have more of a Parsi temper—fiery, argumentative. I have a very enquiring mind. All these Parsi attributes I suppress in Britain.'"

The political philosophies and personal credos as narrated in "Zoroastrians in British Politics" convey what goes into the making and unmaking of people in position and power. Reproduced are Naoroji's prophetic words: "What I want to point out is that the rising generation of Indians may not be able to exercise that patience which we of the passing and past generations have shown. A spirit of discontent and dissatisfaction is at present widely spread among Indians in India, and I wish our rulers to take note of that fact and to consider what it means. An Empire like that of India cannot be governed by little minds..."

Excerpts from diaries of certain well-known names are carried in "Early Zoroastrian Arrivals in Britain." One such comments on the British lifestyle and hobbies and the inability to comprehend why "gentlemen should dig the ground with their own hands, and in fact go through all the duties of a gardener merely to pass away their time." Nor could they see why people enjoyed ballet, commenting after a visit to the theater that the famous ballerina (Taglioni) was paid highly 'to stand for a long time like a goose upon one leg... Had we not seen instances that convinced us the English were clever people, we should have thought them very foolish indeed thus to pay a dancing puppet.' They also questioned the integrity of the Press noting how a newspaper would change its position on an issue, and they regretted that 'the public mind should be excited daily with strong and inflammatory language.'"

The modern diaspora

Dr Huzan Kharas-Daver

Prof John Hinnells has had a close relationship with the Zoroastrian community in various diaspora around the world for over 20 years. His insights and knowledge on the social, political and religious nuances in the community are therefore accurate, probably second to none in the world of Western academia.

Hinnells records that his research on "how Zoroastrians have been faring in the modern diaspora, far from either of their homelands of Iran and India," involved him in almost 100,000 miles of travel with over 1,700 responses yielding 80,000 pages of computer printout. His current book *Zoroastrians in Britain*, deals with information on the British community and the data he found in the attic in Zoroastrian House in London. According to Hinnells, British Zoroastrians are probably the largest Zoroastrian community outside Iran and the Indian subcontinent. The book has fascinating information on the history of Zoroastrians in Britain and facts related to their present lifestyle, and discusses contemporary issues affecting them.

A world renowned scholar on Zoroastrianism, Hinnells taught for several years



RALLIS INDIA LIMITED

The chemical leader with a history of strengths

Manufacturers

Fine Chemicals, Pharmaceuticals,
Pesticides, Fertiliser Mixtures

Distributors

Fertilisers, Pharmaceuticals,
Chemicals, Household Pesticides, Tanning
Materials and Ayurvedic Health Rejuvenators

Exporters

Garments, Chemicals and Marine Products

**A GOVERNMENT RECOGNISED
TRADING HOUSE**

Group Headquarters

21, D. Sukhadvala Marg, Mumbai 400001

at the Department of Comparative Religion at the Victoria University of Manchester. At present he heads the Department for the Study of Religions at the reputed School of Oriental and African Studies, University of London. Under his direction the study of Zoroastrianism continues to grow and for this, among other things, the community owes him much.

Hinnells utilizes various research tools such as questionnaires and structured interviews to gather material directly from Zoroastrians. Secondary sources, based on an extensive study of archival material, have also been used. In the first chapter of his book Hinnells gives a brief overview of Zoroastrian history and then continues to examine immigration policies and trends, particularly of South Asians to Britain, post 1945. In the next chapter he recounts the perspectives of Zoroastrian communities on their history and on Anglo-Zoroastrian contacts.

The chapter on "Early Zoroastrian Arrivals in Britain" is engrossing. According to Hinnells, the history of Zoroastrian travels to Britain dates back to the early 18th century. Thereafter, the main reason for them coming to Britain was education, initially informal education, to see how British industry worked. The first recorded Zoroastrian was Ardashir Wadia who vis-

ited Britain in 1840 under the auspices of the East India Company to acquaint himself with the latest developments in marine engineering. The first Indian firm to be established in England was started by the Cama brothers and Dadabhoy Naoroji in 1855. Most of the early settlers were single

'My mind says I should behave like a Zoroastrian... but I have western attitudes'

men, but many came with their wives and families. From 1858 to 1868 there were several instances of Parsi women who travelled not just to Britain, but widely around the world.

The history of various Zoroastrian associations in Britain is considered in the next chapter. Hinnells provides interesting information on the establishment of the first association in London in 1861. The size and number of associations increased through the years. Hinnells goes on to elaborate on the workings and activities of the association in London. He finds the London community unique in its percep-

tion of itself as having an international and not simply a local role. He accurately states that "one aim which has not been consistently realized is to live in harmony with one another." He makes a reference to the tensions between British Zoroastrian groups from different countries such as Iran, East Africa, Pakistan and India. "Power struggles and structures are crucial features in the evolution of any ethnic minority community."

Hinnells also reviews the life of eminent Zoroastrian personalities of the past in Britain such as Dadabhoy Naoroji, Muncherji Bhowmaggree, Shapurji Saklatvala and more recently, Zerbano Gifford. Finally, Hinnells examines demographic data and contemporary subjects such as racial prejudice, gender issues, generational differences and attitudes to British society and the "old country." In his opinion, Zoroastrians have a different demographic profile from other South Asians.

Religion plays an important role in the lives of Zoroastrians in Britain although Hinnells confesses that how religion is perceived varies, there being a complex range of factors which affects the extent and ways in which people assimilate or preserve their traditions. These are some of the factors: where they came from (Bombay, Karachi or East Africa, rural or

*With Best
Compliments
From*

**SEALOL
HINDUSTAN
LIMITED**

- * 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

**With
Best
Wishes**

**From An
Anonymous
Well-Wisher**



Expertise in speciality chemicals reaching you through...



Textiles



Petrochemicals



Paints



Fertilizers

For over 3 decades, we have been at the forefront of speciality chemicals in India. Serving you with surfactants, sizing agents, textile auxiliaries, antistatic agents, spin finishes, polyols, quaternaries, pour point depressants, de-emulsifiers and polyacrylamides.

Our edge in speciality chemicals enables us to achieve expertise that high performance products demand. Reason why we're a sought after name in textiles, paints, petroleum production, pesticides, refining, synthetic lubes, etc.

Our collaborators, Dai-ichi Kogyo Seiyaku Co. Ltd. - Japan and Matsumoto Yushi Seiyaku Co. Ltd. - Japan are leaders in speciality chemicals, sizing agents and spin finishes, while Baker Hughes Inc., USA, is a Fortune 500 company in the oilfields industry.

- We are pioneers of India's first High Molecular Weight Polyacrylamide powder plant. This has revolutionised industries such as mining, collieries, effluent treatment, etc.
 - We are also the first to manufacture spin finishes in India, thereby increasing capacity to 5000 TPA.
 - Our R & D centre at Hyderabad will pave the way for our foray into fine chemicals and bulk drugs.
- Small wonder, then, that leading industrial giants see us as vital to their growth.



DAI-ICHI KARKARIA LIMITED

Regd Office : Liberty Building, Sir Vithaldas Thackersey Marg, Bombay-400 020.

Tel. : 201 5895, 201 7130 • Tlx. : 011-83222 DHUN • Fax : 022-208 2113 • Grams : NONIONIC

30 years of high value-added performance

THE ZOROASTRIAN CO-OPERATIVE BANK LIMITED

(Established 1927)

We welcome you to

- Fully Computerised Operations
- Extended Business Hours
- Prompt Personal Payments on Teller
- Courteous and Efficient Service
- Higher Interest Rate on Deposits
- Competitive Interest Rates on Advances
- Banking Facilities for all Communities

We invite you to give us an
opportunity to offer you our modern
and efficient services and facilities

So come Bank with us

**"A Bank that is Big on Tradition
and Trust"**

For opening new accounts
please contact us at:

Head Office

Zoroastrian Association Building, 16, Horniman Circle,
Fort, Bombay 400023 Tel 2665617/2665937

Tardeo Branch

Gamadia Colony, Tardeo, Bombay 400034
Tel 4927173

Bandra Branch

9-Pluto Coop Housing Society Ltd, Master Vinayak Road,
Bandra, Bombay 400050 Tel 6456244/6456992

Andheri Branch

Shop No 2, Parisian Coop Housing Society, V. P. Road,
(Off S. V. Road), Opp Fidai Baug, Andheri (W),
Bombay 400058 Tel 6238237

**Shortly opening branches at
Dadar (East) and Pune**

urban areas); the date of migration (1960s or 1990s); the reason for migration (for perceived self-benefit or under the threat of persecution); who they came with (as part of extended family or as individuals); at what stage of their lives they came (before or after schooling); (to a center or to Zoroastrians); ter settling (education, marriage and the preservation of old country), etc.

Hinnells shared value legiance to the his interviewees.

**"Power
struggles
are crucial in
the evolution of
any ethnic
minority
community"**

where they came live as isolated what they did af-cation, career, having children, of links with the

found a strong structure and al-Prophet among He sums up by

saying: "The religion not merely survives but is actually an increasingly important part of the process of communal preservation... continues to be a binding force in the community and for many is an important part in the quest for self-understanding... To describe British Zoroastrianism as syncretistic is to recognize it as a dynamic process."

In the 21st century the Zoroastrian community faces new challenges particularly as it continues to spread to different parts of the western world. From the Indian subcontinent and even Iran, new immigration continues in countries such as Canada and Australia.

It is important for our community leaders to examine the data Hinnells has collected on Zoroastrians globally. For any progress to take place, "leaders" need updated data. Information used with foresight could be the key to facilitate our community's survival, and for this reason alone Hinnells' work has significance and lasting value.

Identity in jeopardy

Farrokh Vajifdar

John Hinnells' book is a reliable base for the exploration of the history, socioreligious organization, community concerns and demographic analyses of Parsi Jarthostis and Irani Zartushtis. The handling of the enormous range of written source material by the good Professor is hugely impressive and frighteningly accurate. Documentary precision usually suffices for most academic productions; Hinnells, though, has gone further and provided us a thought-provoking series of set pieces based on his personal encounters with both British Zoroastrians and the home-grown varieties.

Close encounters are not always conducive to objectivity, and parts of the volume occasionally betray a too heart-on-sleeve attitude. Once among Parsis, closeness to some entails distancing from others; in this book it has occasionally resulted in a lack of balance in its argumentation.

Reservations must be expressed on Prof Hinnells' resume of our religious beliefs. The Amesha Spentas were never "always seven in number." This number was not fixed in the *Gathas*, where that collective term never occurs, nor in the *Haptanghaiti* where it does. Do we not pray to even 33 of them? It is also most unpleasant to read in various places that we worship a deity who is less than all-powerful, does not possess full control, and worst of all that He, Ahura Mazda, is not all-good! Why, then, did Zarathushtra trouble to emphatically assure us that Ahura Mazda was his only deity, all-seeing, greatest among all, most bounteous, mightiest, strongest, most powerful, Best One, Creator of everything?

With the compliments of

N. S. Guzder & Co. Ltd.

Neville House
Ballard Estate
Bombay 400038

Seven well-planned chapters, including Introduction and Conclusion, provide a very readable spread. The comprehensive Index proves indispensable. Finely produced as is this volume, we must cavil at the typographical errors which mostly affect personal names.

Prof Hinnells has a disciplined tendency towards statistics, ratios and percentages: at best these can only highlight contemporary trends. On occasion we meet a slew of percentages that deal with the larger question of the achievements of ethnic Indians in the UK vis-à-vis the host community.

However, prolonged stay, changing lifestyles and new generations quickly tend to upset these carefully worked ratios in whichever direction they are applied.

The World Zoroastrian Organisation has, through its own failure to promote its solid achievements and balanced perspectives, allowed its mention in this book solely through mouthpieces of the Zoroastrian Trust Funds of Europe, and at best emerges in an indifferent light. It is seen as "self-appointed."

For chapters 3 and 5, on "Early Zoroas-

trian Arrivals in Britain" and "Zoroastrians in British Politics," we have but one word: excellent. The protagonists move with purpose, if a little stiffly, over the reference-studded pages.

Chapter 6, portentously entitled "Approaching the Third Millennium" — not the fourth for us Zoroastrians? — follows the line and direction of a recent work by his research assistant and remains similarly anecdotal and speculative. It is nevertheless worth careful study. Chapter 7, "Conclusion," is in fact inconclusive. Parsis have ever been non-conformists and cannot be cred-

ibly typecast amidst diaspora patterns.

We are no nearer knowing whether we are meant to cringe under an identity crisis or smile through an identity conflict. To the anguished 17-year-old who lamented, "We feel foreign wherever we are... Where do I belong?" should not we say: "We Parsis are true cosmopolitans: we are unhappy everywhere?" It is Hinnells who explains: "their sense of self-identity is often expressed in negatives."

This rich book finds gems embedded in some unexpected places. They are some-

times couched as asides. On harmony: "One aim which has not been consistently realized is 'to live in harmony with one another.'" On religion, we find "Religions, like chameleons, change color as they move from one color of environment to another to harmonize with it."

Scintillating sixer

Homi J. Rogers

Six Appeal: On Scoring Sixes and Lusty Six-Hitters by Kersi Meher-Homji. Published in 1996 by Kangaroo Press Pty Ltd, PO Box 6125 Dural Delivery Centre, NSW 2158, Australia. Pp: 160. Price: Australian \$ 16.95.

Matched Winners by Sujit Mukherjee. Published in 1996 by Disha Books, an imprint of Orient Longman Ltd, 3-6-272 Himayatnagar, Hyderabad 500029. Pp: 195. Price: Rs 115.

More thunder from Down Under! For his seventh book, Kersi Meher-Homji goes down on his back foot — literally! — and skies a sixer. After bagging a hat trick with his trilogy over the past three years by documenting the stumbling blocks of the game — the batsmen out for a duck, or in their nervous nineties, or as victims to that rare bowling phenomenon of a hat trick,

*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

**BORN 1822
STILL GROWING
STRONG**

**THE
OLDEST NEWSPAPER
IN ASIA**

**THE
KEY
TO
BETTER
SALES**



*Advertisers prefer
the Oldest Newspaper*

THE BOMBAY SAMACHAR

Meher-Homji cuts away stylishly. He sweeps the reader with that 'ultimate in excitement' in cricket: he writes a book on sixes, recording those brief moments of



triumph and portraying the dazzling gallery of those who star in it.

Six Appeal is a panoramic look at cricket's big hitters in the past century, more precisely in the past 85 years, as "before 1910...only a huge hit right out of

the ground, which happened rarely, was awarded six runs." The book cannot and does not claim to give a complete record of all the sixes hit, simply because record-keeping on sixes has not been very accurate in first class cricket, let alone in minor encounters. But with his usual meticulous research Meher-Homji manages to cover almost all the lusty hitters, and especially those hits which have in some way become part of cricketing lore. Thus we have accounts of those fine innings where the winning run was scored by a batsman hooking the ball for a six, and the instances when it was not. The latter in fact was the cause of a mega-furore between New

Zealand and Australia which even had the Prime Ministers of both the countries chastising Australia's captain Greg Chappell, who for fear of New Zealand scoring a six off the last ball and tying the match, instructed his brother Trevor to bowl an underarm grubber to the New Zealand tail-ender.

We are also treated to the feats of those brave bats who completed their century with a mighty six. Meher-Homji lists in the appendix some 38 occasions when this feat was achieved, starting coincidentally with Joe Darling who exactly a hundred years ago brought up his century with a hit right out of the ground, as necessary then to be credited with a six. Only two players to date — Ken (nicknamed Colonel) Barrington and P. A. (Aravinda) de Silva — have achieved this feat thrice, though the current Indian skipper Sachin Tendulkar stands a fair chance of joining their ranks, having already achieved it twice over in the past three years.

In the midst of his profiles of batsmen with 'six appeal,' Meher-Homji takes time off to explain to the reader why many big names in cricket are not lusty six-hitters. The legendary willow-wielder Sir Donald Bradman hit only six sixes in his entire test career. Even *aapro* Farokh Engineer, who in 1966 almost made history by nearly

hitting a century before lunch, grafted his runs by smacking fours (18 in this case in a score of 109) in front of the wicket, and no sixes. The reason is that a sixer being a skier is liable to get the batsman out if it lands into the hands of a fielder, whereas a ball smacked to the boundary but along the ground ensures the batsman of his stay at the crease minus just the two additional runs. Indeed, Meher-Homji informs us of a proposal pending with the Australian Cricket Board to increase the value of six to 10 runs ("after all, when an umpire signals a six, he raises 10 outstretched fingers above his head, not six") to inspire the four-stroking batsman to strive for a six and "get 150 percent higher yield than just the 50 percent currently received," to balance out the risk of getting caught.

Yet, as Meher-Homji's buccaneers from Arthur Wellard to Steve Waugh (including Doug Walters — do the Ws have natural 'six appeal'?) have shown, there is an aura around hitting a six. "It is like a goal in soccer or a try in rugby — only taller, rarer and often close."

Walters' six scored when on 97 during the 1974-75 Ashes series at Perth had Meher-Homji go through two red lights and made "tens of thousands in Sydney homes go berserk with excitement" as it brought the batsman a century in a session

With Compliments Of

Manizé

Estd: 1959

Ladies Department Store

JEUNESSE: Total beauty care and hair dressing

Cumballa Hill Flyover, Bombay 400036

Telephones: Shop: 3877833, 3869855. Resi: 2151900

and

Spin Weave Textiles

Philco Industries

HO: Piramal Mansion, 235, D. N. Road, Bombay 400001

Telephone: 2616781 Fax: 2611744

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

Jamshedi Navroze Mubarak

Interested in buying old garas, borders, zari sarees, shawl, kerba beads, old coins and notes, picture postcards, clocks, watches, carpets, chinese vases, marble and bronze statues, silver items, lamps, carved furniture and all other antique items.
Maximum price paid.



Please contact:
Rayomand F.
Workingboxwalla
6, P. C. Shroff Bldg
Gamadia Clny (Ground Floor)
Tardeo, Mumbai 400007
Telephone: 4966679

off the last ball. Wellard, ranked as the Daddy of Sixers, scored an amazing 25 percent of his runs (12,575) in first class cricket between 1929 and 1949 with the help of sixes (561 sixes). In four of the six seasons from 1933 to 1938 he exceeded 50 sixes every season: a feat without parallel. Waugh, featured so befittingly on the book's cover hit a six with what Ray Robinson (cricket writer) had almost prophetically described some 13 years before the event as "such pinpoint accuracy that not even a cricketing gun-layer from the garrison artillery could achieve." Waugh unleashed a thundering straight drive that hit the Mercantile Mutual Corporation (MMC) sign, and as per the contest introduced by MMC, made him and his New South Wales teammates richer by \$ 140,000: the richest six in history.

Not all big hits though have left the player or their teams rich. On the contrary, as Meher-Homji recounts, there have been many instances where a six has left the player/team poorer by having to pay the cost of a broken window or, worse still, an injured head and even lawsuit expenses. In

a chapter, "Sixes in Court," Meher-Homji writes about some memorable sixes that resulted in injuries and property damages, including an ironic story about Charles Lyttelton (later Lord Cobham) who drove a ball right over a huge concrete stand to shatter the windscreen of his own car parked outside.



Meher-Homji: panoramic look

Members of the Zoroastrian community too have been lusty hitters of the ball. Meher-Homji describes the feats of Dady Havewala, a hurricane hitter who in 1933 slammed 515 runs for BB&CI Railway against St Xavier's — a record score higher than even Briara Lara's current

record-holding ton if the match had been given first class status. Eighty percent of Havewala's score came from boundaries: 32 sixes and 55 fours. Meher-Homji also recounts the huge six hit by Faram Pavri in 1917 off a ball from Dossu Bulsara, who the following day brought along several peons from the Bombay Municipality to have the hit measured. "Would Pavri have hit that shot if I was not bowling?" he asked.

Other Parsis who make it to Meher-Homji's work are Polly Umrigar, nick-

With compliments from

B. B. GARDA & SONS

10 B. J. Road
Poona 411001

GHARDA'S R&D

IN THE SERVICE OF SOCIETY



Gharda's strength lies in its R&D - over 150 scientists devoted to the development of high quality products through innovative research and superior manufacturing processes which has resulted in group sales of Rs. 440 crores.

Winner of six National Awards, Gharda has indigenously manufactured vital agrochemicals, veterinary products and intermediates - saving the country hundreds of crores in valuable foreign exchange.

That is not all. Gharda's philosophy of "converting knowledge into wealth for the benefit of society" has helped establish hospitals, schools and vocational training institutes, with mobile libraries and dispensaries catering to the poor in rural areas. A non-government organisation to focus on social causes and upliftment has recently been set up, called The Gharda Foundation.

Gharda continues to grow from strength to strength, with its people, for the people of the country.



GHARDA CHEMICALS LTD.



THE GHARDA FOUNDATION

Regd. Office : 5/6 Jer Mansion, W.P. Varde Road, behind Copper Chimney, Bandra (W), Mumbai 400 050 India
Tel: 91-22-6452492/93, 6405466/2415, Fax: 91-22-6404224

Sardar Dastur Schools' Trust

runs three renowned schools right from pre-nursery to SSC, imparting high level of education through English medium, with separate hostels for boys and girls, and best mess facilities (veg and non-veg). The school has an excellent record in the field of academics including computers, as well as extra-curricular activities like karate, Indian and western music. Students are sent up for Hindi, Marathi and Drawing government exams.

Special concession to deserving Zoroastrian students may be considered. Parents desiring to enrol their wards in the schools' hostels are requested promptly to write to or contact

The President

Sardar Dastur Schools' Trust
2 Lt Col Tarapore Road
Poona 411001
for the hostel prospectus.

named 'Palm Tree Hitter' in the West Indies after his tall scores in 1953 and 1962; and Diana Edulji, who with the probable exception of S. Rangaswamy, is the only Indian woman to hit a six in women's test matches.

Amongst Meher-Homji's recent works, *Six Appeal* is the only one that is not encyclopaedic — its very theme deters it from being so. The avid cricket buff may hence find some of his favorite cricketers, or some of the sixes he considers memorable, missing from the book. One Indian batsman overlooked by Meher-Homji is Yashpal Sharma, a *desi* alter ego of Ken Barrington, who is more known for stodgily keeping his end going than for slogging those big ones. Yet, in 1980-81 in the company of the acknowledged six-smiter Sandeep Patil (the only other cricketer in the world beside Sir Garfield Sobers to hit six sixes in an over in first class cricket), it was Sharma who hit 201 not out against Victoria at Geelong (Australia) with three sixes to enable India to post a 10-wicket win. Also, it was Sharma who drove fast bowler Willis for an astonishing six in a whirlwind 61 that had India defeat England in the semi-final match for the 1983 Prudential Cup.

In contrast to Meher-Homji's free flow of strokes which include several delightful

turns of phrase, is Sujit Mukherjee's rather plodding flourish of facts, *Matched Winners*. Yet for the true-blue cricket buff, who can take in a fine dosage of statistics blended felicitously with facts, *Matched Winners* is an informative book on Indian cricketers of yesteryears. Mukherjee, a cricketer himself like Meher-Homji (though, unlike Meher-Homji, he has played first class cricket) has focussed on pairs of batsmen, bowlers, fielders and wicket-keepers in this book, to set off one's career against another, though never passing a verdict on who was the better player of the two. The book compares and contrasts the styles of Sunil Gavaskar and Gundappa Viswanath, the father-son duos of Lala and Surendra Amarnath and Vinoo and Ashok Mankad, Venkatraghavan and Chandrasekhar, amongst others.

Of interest to the Zoroastrian reader would be the chapter on the twin careers of India's two star wicket-keeper batsmen, Farokh Engineer and Budhi Kunderan, reviving memories of the days when cricket matches meant six days (five days plus a rest day) of excitement and entertainment. For most Parsi youths to whom Engineer was an icon, and literally a role model (for years together he was associated with Brylcreem), *Matched Winners* could have some surprises in store, as Engineer enig-



For Pure Diamonds

K. WADIA

JEWELLERS

324, Grant Road, Bombay 400007. Telephone 3099648 Fax 3073483
APPOINTED VALUERS BY THE GOVERNMENT OF INDIA

HOMA ENGINEERING WORKS

ENGINEERS, SHIP REPAIRERS AND MARINE
CONTRACTORS AND SHIPPING AGENTS

*Winners of International Trade Fair Gold Medal
in 1983 & Diamond Studded Award in 1984.*

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

HEAD OFFICE
Trapinex House
5th Floor
Room No 504/506
15, Sholapur Street
Bombay 400009
Tel No: 3772452,
3730166
Telex: 011-76643
HOMA IN
Fax: 3739378

DOCK OFFICE
Opp P & V Docks
Clock Tower
Manson Road
Bombay 400009
Tel Nos: 3427765
3401432

WORKSHOP
147, Tokersey Jivraj Road
Cotton Green
Bombay 400015
Tel Nos: 4131065, 4131871
Cable: "FASTREPAIR"
Bombay 400009

Managed personally by Senior Partner Mr H. B. BENGALI

"SHIP REPAIRING IS OUR LIFE AND PART OF IT"

With Best Compliments
From

FORBES GOKAK LIMITED

Registered Office:
Forbes Building
Charanjit Rai Marg, Fort
Mumbai 400001

matically flip-flopped on the Indian team.

The next time rain plays the spoilsport and denies one the pleasure of watching/televiewing a match, cuddle up with these two cricket books. Together, they are match(ed) winners, even if it is Meher-Homji who, like the sixer, makes for greater excitement.

A celebration of love

Between Two Worlds by Maia Katrak. Published in 1996 by Writers Workshop, 162/92, Lake Gardens, Calcutta 700045. Pp: 42. Price: Rs 60 (hardback, limited edition) and Rs 50 (flexiback, popular edition).

"Screw the sages/and the lovers of life/and the answers wise men have known/I'll make my own rules/alone."

This is exactly what Maia Katrak does in her first volume of verse, and emerges an absolute winner. Daughter of Usha and Kersy Katrak, Maia seems to have followed in the footsteps of her famous father, an advertising wunderkind and a poet to boot, judging by her *Between Two Worlds* and a slew of award-winning yet product/service-selling advertisements written by her over the past few years. And though treading on familiar filial ground, she brings an abounding freshness to the content and style of this slender but moving collection of verse.



Katrak: freshness

Between Two Worlds is a veritable tour de force, which should appeal both to the poetry lover and the layman, who might otherwise shy away from such expressions of creativity. Katrak, who herself strides the two worlds of creativity and commerce, has not written a simple 'love-poems' kind of book. The collected verses here are her experiments with meter and metaphor, style and syntax, though the theme is constant: that of seeking love and finding happiness in its quest and receipt. *Between Two Worlds* is hence not an anthology of sad songs of forsaken or unrequited love, but a celebration of amour that leads her to discover herself in a variety of ways, from "surrendered my identity/and won in return myself" to an even more unabashed "the more I try to be you/the closer to myself I come."

Interestingly, Katrak who begins her journey 'between two worlds,' gently evolves a blissful satisfied world within the covers of the book. It is an interesting progression, and achieved very smoothly,

rather rare in a book of collected verse. So, while in *Freedom* (the third poem in the book), "between two worlds/I scampered, out of breath/...accepting both my fates," in *Mirtola*, April 1995 (the third poem from the end) "mind gone quiet/heart in place/ in the temple/your face/ three times a day/dark drum beat/this love offered/at your feet."

The rhythmic effect and tugging emotions of *Mirtola*, so evocative of the place and her love for the man in her life, are created by Katrak with as much facility as she crafts blank verse: "my soul/growing in his care./My heart/fertile in his hands." The book hence offers a treat to those who still like their poetry as written by the classicists; as well as to a more contemporary readership that would find the sparse style of, say, *The Tao of Love* appealing. Sometimes though, Katrak's blank verse seems too close to prose ("Within the close boundary/of your arms/this girl finds her home"), but is compensated for by the imagery she conjures up unfettered by the restrictions of meter or rhyme.

Katrak's verbal imagery borrows heavily (and sometimes repetitiously) from the natural world: "flower in the seed planted/here grow seeds of redemption, red earth/wet green stalk/here one day/you will walk; my heart fertile in his hands." But she truly pleases as she innovates with unusual juxtapositioning of different sensory perceptions:

"the steady whisper of her smell;" "the sound of broken images;" "the stench of isolation;" "benign heat," etc.

The major strength of *Between Two Worlds* is in its content. Katrak's is a welcome voice that finds happiness in love and radiates this feeling to her readers, in contrast to the angst-and-anguish formula adopted by most women writers of the day. The poems are iconoclastic, but once again not in the accepted sense of the word. On the contrary, with tongue firmly in cheek she derides feminism as understood today: "It is true/I am guilty of ignoring completely/that much explored literary universe:/ A Woman's Lot" thus taking a snide dig at women's writing as currently practised.

Thank you, Katrak, for the freshness and joie de vivre of your verse. Our only complaint is that with just a little over 25 poems, the book is too slender. Here's hoping that Maia, who we are informed in this book was named after the Greek goddess of fertility, will write again. H.J.R.

With best
compliments from

**DINSHAW
&
DINSHAW**

**ENGINEERS &
CONTRACTORS**

390/286, Bootee Street
Poona 411001

**B. Jamshedji
Jivanji**

**Goldsmith &
Manufacturing
Jewellers**

Estd 1901

**Opp Mumbadevi
Zaveri Bazar
Bombay 400002**

Phone: 3427464

MILESTONES

This issue of *Parsiana* presents data for the months of February and March 1997.

The age of Zoroastrian brides (as listed in this issue) ranged between 18 and 51 years, the arithmetic mean (the total number of individual ages divided by the total number of brides) being 26 years. The corresponding figures for the grooms were 24 and 71 years, averaging at 31 years.

There were 29 births as against 168 deaths in Bombay during the two month period. Heart disease was the major killer claiming 57 lives, of which 23 were 80 years and above. The other major killers were cancer (16), brain disease and old age/general debility (14 each) and pneumonia/lung disease (13). Eight victims each fell prey to hypertension and kidney failure, six to diabetes and four each to asthma and septicemia. Urinary tract infection, anemia, hemiplegia (paralysis of one side of the body), hypertrophy (increase in the size

of tissues or structures) and liver disease took a toll of two lives each. The 11 isolated cases registered for February-March were: bronchitis, toxemia (a generalized poisoning of the body by the products of bacteria or damaged tissue), tuberculosis, peritonitis (inflammation of the serous membrane which lines the abdominal and pelvic cavities), Alzheimer's disease, dehydration, accident, fracture of the neck and femur, uremia, Parkinson's disease and burns. "Dissection of the aorta" was mentioned as the cause of one death. A pair of twin girls were lost to the community. The youngest to die was a 45-year-old male as compared to the oldest: a 101-year-old lady. The Zoroastrian life expectancy at birth, in Bombay for the two month period was 76 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: we are unable to carry data from areas where the anjumans do not furnish the particulars; the birth figures for Bombay are supplied by four hospitals — births in suburban hospitals and private nursing homes are not included unless individuals send us information together with a copy of the birth certificate. There may be an inadvertent repetition of names in the marriage list when a civil marriage precedes a religious ceremony. In the breakup of deaths according to illnesses, especially of the elderly, death is often due to a combination of several diseases.

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

Zubin Nariman Patel; January 25
 Poruchisti Hormazed Bharda and Yazdi Burjor Randeria; January 26
 Keshmira Homi Messman and Hormaz Pesi Aria; January 27
 Shiraz Maneck Bhathena and Sarosh Sam Cooper; January 27
 Nergish Homi Khergamwalla and Hormazd Sorab Irani; January 28
 Benafsha Rohinton Zandbaf and Saharukh Jal Irani; January 28
 Farida Dinyar Bhathena and Neville Faramroz Patrawala; January 28
 Farah Kaikaus Mistry and Percy Fareedoon Amrolia; January 30
 Lily Cyrus Rabadi and Behram Fali Antia; January 30
 Naheed Phiroze Kharas and Rushad Dinshaw Divecha; January 30
 Pinky Rusi Khambatta and Yezdi Dara Bamji; January 31
 Khushnuma Khurshed Karkaria and Rohinton Rusi Dastoor; January 31
 Bapsy Hormazed Khandhadia of Thana and Minoo Kaikhushroo Gadiwalla; February 2
 Farzana Nadar Dastoor and Nevil Pesi Mistry; February 2
 Armin Ronny Master and Percy Phiroze Mehta; February 3
 Arnava Burjor Billimoria and Minoo Keki Udawadia; February 3
 Yasmin Rusi Rao and Cyrus Edul Karkaria; February 4
 Tanaz Jehanbux Mistry and Cyrus Dinsha Sidhva; February 6
 Meher Behram Sorabji and Anosh Kersi Munshi; February 8
 Pervin Perviz Mistry and Eric Ratan Dabdi; February 10
 Aaban Nariman Attai and Noshirwan Dinshaw Irani; February 10
 Khorshed Rutton Tata and Khushroo Aspy Bulsara; February 11
 Keshmira Kersi Bodhanwala and Rumi Tehmuras Patel; February 11
 Roshni Behram Dastur and Gaeve Phiroze Wankadia; February 11
 Havovi Rustom Kohina and Sharukh Rustom Mistry; February 13
 Kaiser Behram Irani and Marzaban Aflatoun Khairabadi; February 14

AHMEDABAD

DIED
 Hoshang Ghamat (48), son of Perinbanoo and Framroze on February 4, 1997

BANGALORE

DIED
 Silla Bomi Sidhwa, mother of Homai Fareedoon Anklesaria; February 14

BARODA

BORN
 A boy, Manneck, to Hutoxi and Powrus Vesuna, brother to Ashtad; January 25

BILIMORA

DIED
 Hormusji Burjorji Keeka (Kalyaniwala) (86), Roop Manzil, Navapura Street, 396321; February 11

BOMBAY

BORN
 A boy, Jamsheed, to Tanaze and Rashid Khusrowshahi; December 25, 1996
 A boy, Jehan, to Diana and Yezdi Bhagwagar; January 11, 1997
 A boy to Khushnuma and Gilan Ferzandi; February 1
 A boy to Zenobia and Edmund Gomes; February 4

A boy to Naznin and Shapoor Shokrekhdia; February 6

A boy to Farzana and Adil Cooper; February 11

A boy to Percis and Neville Mehta; February 12

A boy to Ghaver and Gave Palkhiwala; February 15

A girl to Ainee and William Rego; February 17

A boy to Pervin and Vistasp Sopariwalla; February 18

A boy to Anahita and Noshir Colah; February 19

A girl to Armin and Cyrus Wadia; February 27

A girl to Binifer and Sunil Kaushal; February 28

A girl to Shenaz and Kersi Bhesania; March 1

A girl to Navaz and Porus Disawalla; March 4

A girl to Tanaz and Freddy Karbhari; March 4

A girl to Coomi and Cyrus Pardiwalla; March 4

A girl, Jezreen, to Naazneen and Mehernosh Deboo; March 7

A girl to Rozbeh and Adil Patrawala; March 8

A boy, Stivant, to Farzeen and Xerxes Cama; March 9

A girl to Navaz and Darayus Bacha; March 15

Twins, boy and girl, to Khurshed and Darayus Mistry; March 15

A girl to Nilufer and Neville Patel; March 18

A boy to Mehrangiz and Kaiwan Bhangara; March 20

A girl to Farina and Mehli Mistry; March 21

A girl to Shirin and Cyrus Gazder; March 21

A boy to Hutoxi and Porus Kateli; March 22

A boy, Yohan, to Kamal and Hosang Pavri; March 25

A boy to Shiraz and Kerman Rana, brother to Vanaaz; March 26

A boy to Khurshid and Kurush Vazifdar; March 29

A boy, Zreh, to Sheetal and Cyrus Sahukar; March 30

MARRIED

Tushna Sohrab Divecha and Rustom Kersi Kapadia;

January 10
 Shernaz Nariman Kapadia and Kurush Hoshang Dariwala;

January 20
 Kamal Perviz Pithawala and Firdosh Nawroze Bhada;

January 24
 Farzana Dinyar Tirandaz and Sorab Homi Madan; January 24

Jasmine Paurusasp Dabdi and Yezdi Minoo Vakharia;

January 24
 Farzana Vispi Lavangia and

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

Avān

Soft Drink Concentrate

FlavorBöy

For exquisite Food Flavouring & Essences



Avan: For Quality Soft Drink Concentrates. Giving you refreshing Soft Drinks in 11 different flavours for Aerated Waters, Syrup Manufacturers, Caterers & Hoteliers.

Also Manufacturers of Instant China Grass & Jelly Crystals

For Further Details & Requirements for exports & Dealers:

Contact:

Feroze Foods & Flavours

403, Central Tin Estate, D. Kondeo Marg, (Sussex Road), Byculla, Bombay 400027. Tel: 3729724/3640341 • Fax: 3640341

Armin Kersi Shroff and Neville Minoo Mistry; February 15
 Khurshid Ardeshtir Umrigar of Thana and Godrej Phiroze Wankadia; February 16
 Meher Shahrookh Pestonjamas and Ratan Rustumji Bharucha; February 17
 Niloufer Fali Arestani and Adil Jamshed Tamboly; February 17
 Meherengiz Adi Bharucha and Boorzin Parvez Vankadia; February 20
 Homai Sam Patel and Zubin Sheheriar Mistry of Jalgaon; February 22
 Nina Kersi Bhagalia and Kayomurz Pervez Taraporewala; February 22
 Yasmine Noshir Toddywalla and Burzin Parvez Dubash; February 23
 Meher Jimmy Dandiwalla of Valsad and Farrokh Minoo Mirza; February 23
 Sina Jehangir Afkham and Fardin Merwan Tirandaz of Poona; February 23
 Arnaz Jamshed Kothavala and Percy Dara Vesuna; February 23
 Hoofriz Homi Todiwalla of Surat and Roozbeh Rustum Balsara; February 24
 Hootokshi Nadir Mehta and

Zarir Adi Confectioner; February 24
 Gulshan Viraf Mistry and Roomie Russi Karai of Jamshedpur; February 25
 Khurshid Firoze Jilla and Rohinton Homi Daruwala; February 27
 Khushman Khushroo Irani of Golvad and Ruzbeh Sheriar Irani of Devlali; February 27
 Afrouz Dinyar Khosraviani of Tehran, Iran and Lohrasb Jamshid Izdian of Ontario, Canada; February 27
 Simeen Jimmy Motewalla and Burgess Pesi Colabawalla; February 28
 Pearl Rustom Palsetia and Jimmy Soli Driver; February 28
 Naazneen Fali Anklesaria and Burzin Jal Katrak; March 1
 Vinifer Minoo Mistry and Cyres Kaikhusru Mehta; March 1
 Monaz Pervez Daruwala and Rohinton Aspi Khambata; March 2
 Monaz Khodi Driver and Mehernosh Kersi Mistry; March 3
 Meher Pirojshaw Motiwalla and Adil Sorab Mogrelia; March 4
 Pearly Phiroz Mugaseth and Fardun Burjor Dastur; March 5

With Best Compliments From

DINSHAW SHAPOORJI & COMPANY

414/3, Kasarwadi, Bombay-Poona Road
 Pimpri, Pune 411034

Pimpri Phones 778373, 778055
 Fax (212) 779656
 Telex 0146 204 DIN IN
 Poona Phone 662052
 Poona Grams "Truck"

Branch Office 92C Mohamedali Road, Bombay 400003
 Phone 3432497, 3423977, 3435392
 Telex 011 76597 DSA IN
 Bombay Grams "Motor Truck"

TRANSPORT CONTRACTORS
LUXURY COACH & STAFF BUS OPERATORS

With best compliments from

**M. N. DASTUR & COMPANY
LIMITED**

Consulting Engineers

Calcutta, Mumbai, New Delhi, Madras, Hyderabad,
Bhubaneswar, Bangalore

'The Gourmet' Restaurant

Buffet Breakfast from 8 a.m. to 10 a.m.	Buffet Lunch from 12.30 p.m. 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

Armin Bomi Irani and Hormuz
Adi Kermani; March 5
Zarine Jivanji Tadwalla and
Rohinton Nanabhoy Elavia;
March 6

Persis Pervez Mehta of Thana
and Vispi Dhanjishaw
Fanibanda; March 6

Shireen Jehengir Kharas and
Yazadi Adi Irani; March 7
Anahita Marazban Toddywalla
and Kairus Hosi Hansotia of
Thana; March 9

Havovi Dara Vasania and
Kaivan Pesi Antia; March 10
Ashish Jamshed Irani and Zal
Homi Irani of Australia;
March 14

Amy Darayus Bhagwagar and
Berziz Vispy Meher-Homji;
March 14

Hutoxi Piroze Khan and
Kayomarz Pesi Sidhva;
March 14

Monaz Maneck Shroff and
Neville Rustomji Daruwalla;
March 16

Binaifer Hosi Hansotia of
Thana and Neville Tehmurasp
Kapadia; March 16

Kaiummi Rohinton Khadiwala
and Freddie (Francis) Kersi
Mistry of Poona; March 17

Farida Sam Choksey and Jimmy
Minocher Tata; March 17
Khushnuma Minoo Damania and
Hoshedar Pesi Bamboat;
March 20

Gulshan Fram Sunavala and
Neville Rohinton Dossabhoy;
March 20

Amaz Kersi Bilimoria of
Bilimora and Sarosh Dhunjishaw
Vatcha of Jamshedpur; March 21
Diana Rohinton Daruwalla and
Kaizad Burjis Vesuna; March 22

Kashmira Firoze Mistry of
Poona and Kurush Jahangir Aga;
March 23

Kamal Savak Merchant of Thana
and Fârokh Fali Daruwalla;
March 23

Anaita Behram Falahati and
Hormazd Aspi Irani of Thana;
March 30

Jasmine Marazban Dastur of
Valsad and Hormaz Jal Kasad of
Navsari; March 30

Dinaz Dhunji Jeejeebhoy and
Gev Framroze Engineer;
March 31

DIED

Gool Naval Saher (74) residing
at, 7, Sethna Bldg, Wadia St,
Tardeo, 400034; February 1

Burjor Framji & Company

Licensed Plumbers
Sanitary & Drainage Contractors

Marine Mansion, 1st Marine Street, Bombay 400002

Tel: 2083207

With Best Compliments From

R. NOWROJEE and Company

Specialised in
MICR Cheques
Public Issue

and

Multicoloured Offset Printing

Pallonji Compound
Dadoji Kondev Cross Marg
Victoria Garden
Bombay 400027

Tel: 3745863, 3722550, 3745825

Those magnificent men and their cleaning machines!

1923-1997
Seventy-four years of
clean service!

DIANA-ECLIPSE

For all your carpet and upholstery cleaning

☐ "Parag" 27, Peddar Road, Bombay

Tel: 4941987, 4945302

Dhunnai Minocher Wankadia (90), 4, Sanjukta Cross Lane, Off S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400050; February 1

Gool Jal Lala (75), Karim Manor, 8, Owen Dunn Rd, Gamdevi, 400007; February 2

Homi Naoroji Surty (80), 4/58, A. H. Wadia Baug, Parel Tank Rd, 400033; February 2

Mani Fredoon Bavaadam (75), Nazveen, 74, Dhondy Rd, Devlali, Dist Nasik, 422401; February 3

Homi Faramroz Manecksha (79), Banaji Hse, Contractor Baug, Mahim, 400012; February 3

Banoo Jimmy Printer (79), Jehangir Mans, 77, Hughes Rd, Opp Sukh Sagar, 400007; February 3

Hirabai Minocher Sethna (93), 816, Mistry Bldg, Jame-Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 3

Jerbanoo Jehanbux Vatcha (96), 3, Tafti Bldg, South Frere Bridge, 400007; February 3

Cooma Manchershaw Dastoor (84), C/o J. A. Parelwalla, Khurshed Hse, Lady Jehangir Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 4

February 4

Perin Bomi Dubash (68), Sagar Villa, 38 B. Desai Rd, 400026; February 4

Phiroze Nusserwanji Mehta (62), 184/2, Rose Co-op Hsg Soc, Village Ward, Old Kurla, 400070; February 4

Ratansha Hormusji

Taraporewalla (72), D. Bhiwandiwalla Ter, Trinity St, Dhobitalao, 400002; February 4

Sheroo Eruch Golla (62), Ratan Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; February 5

Khusroo Godrej Irani (61), Old Chinoy Bldg, 275/E, Tardeo Rd, 400007; February 5

Motlan Framroze Bapasola (80), 9/Q, Dalal Est Apts, Opp Bombay Central Stn, 400008; February 6

Dina Edulji Taraporewalla (67), 4, Dr Daji Bldg, Stn Rd, Mahim, 400016; February 6

Rustomji Jamshedji Adajania (93), 5/6, Cavas Turner Bldg, Gamadia Clny, Tardeo, 400007; February 7

Dolly Eruch Kapadia (72), Dubash Mans, Walton Rd, Colaba, 400005; February 7

Firoze Framji Mukati (88), C/o

*With Best Wishes
from*

Mr Rusy M. Shroff, M.B.E.

and

Mrs Purviz R. Shroff

Viraf Bhandari, 22/23, Purshotam Bldg, 230/4, Pathe Bapurao Marg, 400004; February 7
Khorshed Adi Tantra (58), 645, Najoo Villa, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 7
Perin Hormaz Aresh (83), Queen's Chmbs, 89, Queen's Rd, 400020; February 8
Fali Nusservanji Chinoy (79), Goolestan, Cuffe Parade Ext, 400005; February 8
Jaloo Dinshaw Deboo (76), B/20, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; February 8
Nargis Ardesher Ichhaporia (64), 71, Kashinath Bldg, Balamiya Lane, Mahim, 400016; February 8
Jal Feroze Laskary (85), 522/C, Madhu Villa, Adenwalla Rd, Matunga, 400019; February 8
Irach Fardoonji Patel (82), 760, Soban Bhavan, Vimadlal Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 8
Hilla Navroji Writer (85), 623, Marker Mans, Lady Jehangir Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 8
Hormusji Maneckji Cooper (89),

B/4, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; February 9
Nariman Edulji Daruvala (84), 22, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; February 9
Fali Fardoonji Vakharia (83), 503, Green Gates, 693, Perry Rd, Bandra, 400050; February 9
Minoo Eruchshaw Kapadia (84), C, New Doctor Bldg, Chikalwadi, 400007; February 10
Marzban Manekshaw Morena (58), G/1, Godrej Baug, Off Nepean Sea Rd, 400026; February 10
Homi Nanabhoy Sethna (79), 275/C, Chothia Bldg, Chikalwadi, Tardeo, 400007; February 10
Kavas Ranaji Vazifdar (84), 790, Krishna Nivas, Jame Jamshed Rd, Parsi Clny, 400014; February 10
Nariman Jamshed Irani (68), Fairy Manor, 13, Rustom Sidhwa Marg, Fort, 400001; February 11
Roda Minoo Netarwala (73), 112, Mehrdad, 64, Cuffe Parade, 400005; February 11
Banu Jamshedji Patel/Driver (60), 26/46, Maryland, Dr

Thadani Rd, Worli, 400018; February 11
Jamshed Kaikhushroo Vakil (83), 280-C/9, New Sitaram Sadan, Princess St, 400002; February 11
Dina Keki Malaowala (86), L/9, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; February 12
Pesi Cawasji Mevawala (86), 7, Sumangal, 13, Ridge Rd, 400006; February 12
Minoo Eruchshaw Chinoy (60), 3, Prem Milan, 87/B, Nepean Sea Rd, 400006; February 13
Sheran Jehangirshaw Kasad (82), R/9, Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012; February 13
Minoo Dhanjishaw Patel (75), 1/11, Sir Ratan Tata Clny, Tardeo, 400034; February 13
Peshotan Faramarz Peer (72), 23, Police Court Lane, Fort, 400001; February 13
Nergish Faredoon Postwalla (79), 2/6, Panthaky Baug, Andheri-Kurla Rd, 400069; February 13
Khorshed Ardesher Buzorg (78), H/1, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; February 14
Rustom Dadabhoy Madon (81),

44, Rehem Mans No 2, Colaba Causeway, 400039; February 14
Dinamai Noshir Vajifdar (82), 15, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; February 14
Hilla Minocher Pardiwalla (85), C/o Behram B. Gandhi, B/2, Ginwalla Bldg, Captain Clny, Tardeo, 400034; February 15
Banu Kaikhushru Antia (87), 28, Hughes Rd, 400007; February 16
Homai Raj Matlu (70), Queens Chmbs, Queens Rd, 400020; February 16
Bachan Darabsha Mullan (74), 170/D, Amtobai Blocks, S. V. Rd, Bandra, 400050; February 16
Rustomji Dossabhai Pithawalla (81), 3/33, Patell Apt, Jambli Naka, Thane (W), 400601; February 16
Parvez Cawasji Sui (70), F. S. Parukh Dharamshalla, Hughes Rd, 400007; February 16
Minoo Hormusji Guard (86), 659, Keki Hse, Rd no 12, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; February 17
Goolbai Fardoon Irani (87), C/o Sorab F. Irani, 8/A, C. M. Banaji Bldg, Forjett Cross Lane, 400036; February 17

Every flower is pretty but the arrangement is beautiful



There is a moral to be learnt from a simple flower arrangement. Every rose, chrysanthemum and orchid is an identifiable and beautiful flower. And yet they blend harmoniously with each other to form a gorgeous arrangement or bouquet.

To live together is really not so difficult. You don't have to give up your individuality and neither do you have to impose your will on another. When the blue print of an industrial India was being drawn, a great man, J.N. Tata, wrote to his sons. "Be sure to lay wide streets planted with shady trees, every other of a quick growing variety. Be sure that there is plenty of space for lawns and gardens. Reserve large areas for football, hockey and parks. Earmark areas for Hindu temples, Mohammedan mosques and Christian churches." This was his dream in 1902.

We can live it and our India will be as beautiful as any flower arrangement.

TATA
ENTERPRISES

Under the auspices of the **MAZDAYASNIE MONASTERIE** and the **ALL INDIA SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY** (for Scientific and Educational Research)

The one and only

in the world

ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE

Correspondence address: Mustafa Building, (2nd floor), Sir Pherozeshah Mehta Road, Bombay 400001, India, Tel: 2660214 2662950 after hours: 3644737

Fax: Bombay India 022-2662735-A/c 121 and 3634274 A/c 141

YOUR GENEROUS SUPPORT REQUESTED

ALL DONATIONS ARE TAX EXEMPT UNDER SEC, 80G

of the I.T. Act. Cash or Cheque in favour of **SHAH BEHRAM BAUG SOCIETY** only. Tax Exempt Donation receipts are issued to all Donors. YADGARI DONATIONS OF Rs. 10,000/- and over upto Rs. 1,00,000/- entitle the Donor to have his/her name inscribed on the ROLL OF HONOUR along with the name of the person in whose YADGARI the Donation is given.

DONATIONS ARE EARN-ESTLY REQUESTED FOR THE MAINTENANCE & RUNNING OF THE COLLEGE & FULFILLMENT OF COMMITMENTS.

THE COLLEGE THANKS ALL ITS PATRONS, WELL-WISHERS & DONORS, WHO HAVE CONTRIBUTED GENEROUSLY IN THE PAST DECADE, & REQUEST THEY WILL CONTINUE TO REMEMBER & SUPPORT THE ONE AND ONLY ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE IN THE FUTURE.

WE SPECIALLY THANK OUR MAIN PATRONS — **THE ZARTOSHTY BROTHERS MEHRABAN & FARIDON** Dr. **SIEGFRIED HERMERDING**, MASDASNANS OF GERMANY, Dr. **BEHRAM-SHAH PITHAVALA**, Dr. **JEHANGIR MEDORA**, Mr. **BYRAM AVARI**, Mr. **BEJI SHROFF** & PARSEES OF CUSROW BAUG, BOMBAY, INDIA, SINGAPORE, HONG KONG, U.K., U.S.A., PAKISTAN, & ALL OUR WELL-WISHERS.



NAVROZE MUBARAK To All Our PATRONS, WELL-WISHERS, SUPPORTERS

You will be pleased to know that PHASE "A" of the Zoroastrian College Building construction work, commenced in October 1987, was completed during the past year. MONTHLY SEMINARS & TRAINING COURSES are conducted at the College Building with its Research Library, through its FOUR DEPTS:

1.) AVESTA & SCRIPTURAL STUDIES DEPT:



2.) HOLISTIC HEALTH MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA DEPT:

Dr. SHASHIKANT & Mrs. SETH, Dr. Mrs. PERVIN BHAMGARA, Dr. HOSHANG DARUWALLA conduct the Free Clinic for the benefit of several hundreds of local residents, with kind co-operation of Mr. Rohinton & Mrs. Bapsy Davierwalla, every month at the College Building. Residential Seminars on Alternative Medicine subjects are also

conducted monthly, by Mr. Thornton Streeter of U.K. Dr. Mrs. Shyamala Chandran & others.

3.) **ASTROLOGY & ANCIENT COSMIC WISDOM STUDIES DEPT:** In charge of Dr. Harishbhai Dhutia — regular monthly lecture.

4.) **INTER-FAITH PEACE DIALOGUE DEPT:** In charge of Rev. Fr. ALBERT NAMBIARPARAMBIL, conducts Conferences every year emphasising Peace between living religious communities and faiths of India.

5.) **ECOLOGY & ENVIRONMENTAL STUDIES DEPT:** The Agricultural Research Centre & College Garden at Sanjan are conducted under this, in accordance with Vendidad teachings, and playing Music and Avesta Manthras to the plants and trees.

Top Left: Dr. SHASHIKANT SETH & Dr. Mrs. PERVIN BHAMGARA conducting Free Health Camp at the Zoroastrian College Building at Sanjan.

Top Right: Dr. MEHER MASTER-MOOS, in the Prayer Room of the Zoroastrian College during the Fravardegan Ceremonies.

Bottom Left: ZOROASTRIAN COLLEGE MAZDAYASNIE RESEARCH LIBRARY — Section donated by ZARTOSHTY BROTHERS in Memory of MANEKJI LIMJI HATARIA of IRAN.

MIDDLE: First floor Library & Seminar Hall with the Students & Dr. MEHER MASTER-MOOS & Dr. SHASHIKANT SETH.

Bottom Right: MEDICINA ALTERNATIVA JUBILEE YEAR WORLD CONGRESS at Russian Cultural Centre, 10th - 12th Jan. 1997, with Lord Dr. Prof. ANTON JAYSURIYA, Dr. SHASHIKANT SETH, Dr. M. MANMOHAN, Dr. & Mrs. JAYABAL & OTHERS.



Jal Faredoon Irani
(Khoramshai) (75), D/11,
Nowroz Baug, Lalbaug, 400012;
February 17
Khurshed Darabshaw Katrak
(73), Rati Hse, 17, Gola Lane,
Fort, 400001; February 17
Najamai Pestonji Chinoy (93),
Room no 77, 189, Petit Bldg,
Opp Grant Rd Stn, 400007;
February 18
Daulat Shapur Irani (86), 27,
Cooper Bldg, Marzban Clny,
Dr A. Nair Rd, 400011;
February 18
Behram Rustomji Khumbatta
(78), 784/B, Readymoney Bldg,
M. Joshi Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar,
400014; February 18
Framroze Rustomjee Meherjee
(84), Contractor Bldg,
Kashinath Rd, Tardeo,
400034; February 18
Freny Hormusji Khergamwalla
(74), G/5, S. B. Bharucha Baug,
S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
February 19
Homi Dinshawji Kotwal (67),
Mary Villa, Manjrekar Wadi,
Kurla Rd, Andheri (E), 400069;
February 19
Hiraji Dosabhai Patel (84),
Bhesania Bldg, 327, S. B. S. Rd,
Fort Market, 400001;

February 19
Homi Kaikhushroo Talyarkhan
(74), TELCO Bglw, Lulla Ngr,
Poona, 411001; February 19
Ratanmai Minocher Amrolia
(91), M/24, Nowroz Baug,
Lalbaug, 400012; February 20
Vicaji Edulji Kanga (90), 28,
Nirmal Nivas no 2, Tejpal Rd,
Gowalia Tank, 400036;
February 21
Najamai Darabsha Wadiwalla
(75), C, 511/512, Rajshivam
Apts, Shiv Vallabh Rd, Dahisar
(E), 400068; February 21
Faramroze Behramji Dastur
(74), 738, Shirin Villa, Dr
Ghanti Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar,
400014; February 22
Janshed Shapurji Elavia (62),
604/E, Wadia Bldg, 285, S.
Gandhi Marg, 400002;
February 22
Banoobai Hormasji Patva (76),
9, Parsi Punchayet Qrts,
Doongerwadi, A. K. Marg,
400036; February 22
Darabshaw Bomanji Sidhwa
(91), 347/C, United Chmbs,
Near Shalimar Cinema, 400007;
February 22
Cooma Bomanshah Billimoria
(85), 275/Q, Tarachand Bldg,
Zoroastrian Clny, Tardeo Rd,

400007; February 23
Minoo Eruchshaw Malu (71),
2/9, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd,
Byculla, 400027; February 23
Sherbanoo Sorabji Spencer (97),
9, Jaiji Ter, Sleater Rd, 400007;
February 23
Framroze Naoroji Bharucha
(81), 306, Balsara Hse,
Thakurdwar, 400002;
February 24
Roshan Sam Bilimoria (49), 5,
Savannah, Irvine, California,
92620, USA; February 24
Keki Nadarsha Sanjana (72), 7,
Contractor Chawl, Sussex Rd,
Byculla, 400027; February 24
Banoo Khurshed Khasimai (75),
621, Khush Villa, Khareghat Rd,
Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014;
February 25
Dolly Nariman Mistry (83), G/5
C, Rahul Dream, Bhayandar (E),
401105; February 25
Tehmina Janshedji Modawala
(87), 6/A, Maqbool Bldg, Hill
Rd, Bandra (W), 400050;
February 25
Doliba Rustomji Pithawalla
(77), Patanwalla Mhl, E. S.
Patanwalla Marg, 400027;
February 25
Aloo Adi Todiwala (82), 11/16,
Mody Block, Gamadia Clny,

Tardeo, 400007; February 25
Dhunnai Jalejar Cooper (83), 8,
Ropa Lane, Chandanwadi,
400002; February 26
Roshan Behram Irani (70),
Savta, Dahanu Rd, Dist Thane,
401602; February 27
Tehmina Lovji Jasumani (77),
5/2, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd,
Byculla, 400027; February 27
Manie Eruchshaw Kasad (71),
P/15, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S. V
Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;
February 27
Putla Khershedji Sarkari (77),
103, Manorama Sadan, M. M.
Chotani Rd, Mahim, 400016;
February 27
Erach Cawasji Kasad (81), 17,
Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd,
400007; February 28
Fali Jehangir Kavarana (69),
4/B, Pallonji Mans, 43, Cuffe
Parade, 400005; February 28
Ratamai Faramroz Patel (75), 6,
Patel Hse, L. T. Rd, Mulund (E),
400081; February 28
Tehmina Fakirji Daruwala (76),
10, Old Khareghat Clny, Hughes
Rd, 400007; March 1
Mithan Minoo Gagrati (85),
Sleater Hse no 2, Sleater Rd,
400007; March 1
Eruch Ardeshir Tampal (58),

With Best Compliments From

LEACH & WEBORNY

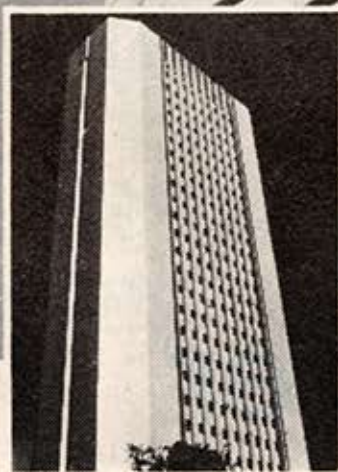
When in Bombay Contact

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

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.

40/9, Navjivan Soc, Bombay Central, 400008; March 2
Rustomji Bhikhaiji Andhyarujina (93), 2, Panchsheel, 53, C Rd, Churchgate, 400020; March 3
Rati Jamshed Hakim (70), E/49, Jer Baug, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Byculla, 400027; March 3
Najamai Ratanshaw Patel (90), B/46, Meenakshi Apts, Dockyard Rd, 400010; March 3
Nargish Homi Daruwalla (73), Yusufi Bldg, Balaram St, Grant Rd, 400007; March 4
Homi Burjor Mehta (80), Ali Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; March 4
Pesi Jehangir Shroff (81), Mahomedbhai Mans, 7, N. S. Patkar Marg, 400036; March 4
Dinyar Jalejar Keravalla (68), E/4, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; March 5
Shera Darabshaw Golwalla (74), 17/A, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; March 6
Eruch Cawasji Havewalla (79), L-1/33, Cama Park, M. Cama Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; March 6
Bachan Navroji Kanga (74), Jemi Lodge, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 6

Bapuji Manekji Pastakia (81), 6, Pushpa Niwas, Uranwalla St, Grant Rd, 400007; March 6
Yezdi Jehangir Irani (58), Shirin Mans, Grant Rd, 400007; March 7
Shapoor Khodadad Kasmabadi (Irani) (55), 530, Sanghvi Sadan, Chira Bazar, J. S. S. Rd, 400002; March 7
Dhunnai Burjorji Mirza (95), 643, Gulshan Ter, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 7
Phiroz Burjorjee Aibara (86), Elysium Mans, Walton Rd, 400001; March 9
Soona Dara Ghadially (84), 257, Botawalla Bldg, Thakurdwar Rd, 400002; March 9
Dadiba Fakirji Patrawalla (67), 23, Nana Bldg, Below Tardeo Bridge, 400008; March 9
Jimmy Sorabji Pooniwalla (69), B. B. Merwan Bldg, Opp Grant Rd Stn, 400007; March 9
Jaiji Darabshaw Katrak (92), Rati Hse, Gola Lane, Fort, 400001; March 10
Franroz Rustomji Porbunderwalla (83), G/6, S. B. Bharucha Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058;

March 10
Banoo Nariman Seervai (89), 625, Nariman Bldg, Dhobitalao, 400002; March 10
Adi Dinshaw Davierwalla (54), C/o Coomi D. Dhabar, Dhun Bldg, Opp Ranjeet Studio, Dadar, 400014; March 11
Shirin Khudabux Raisi (70), 4, Rajsi Mans, 4th Pasta Lane, Colaba, 400005; March 11
Twins (girls) of Meherzin Cyrus Turel (stillborns), P/42, Cama Park, Andheri (W), 400058; March 11
Byranji Dosabhai Laher (79), 206, Fly-over Apt, Andheri (E), 400069; March 12
Tehmi Darab Wadia (80), C/o Sorab Gandhi, 804/A, Ghamat Lodge, Dr Ambedkar Rd, Dadar, 400014; March 12
Dara Dinshaw Desai (77), 12, Tarachand Bldg, Khareghat Clny, Hughes Rd, 400007; March 13
Rusi Cawasji Baria (68), 10/6, Tata Blocks, Tardeo, 400034; March 14
Khorshedbanu Rashid Irani (90), Parsi Fire-temple, Panchgani, 412805; March 14
Manijeh Manekshaw Wadia

(87), A-1/8, New Khareghat Clny, Babulnath Rd, 400007; March 14
Dolly Jehangir Ranji (77), 24, Ali Bldg, Wadia St, Tardeo, 400034; March 16
Nadir Fakirji Udwadia (66), 764/E, Umrigar Bldg, Parsi Clny, Tilak Rd, Dadar, 400014; March 16
Hoshi Burjor Karanjia (66), 2, Laxmi Bldg, D. P. Ngr, North Avenue, Santacruz (W), 400054; March 17
Khorshed Pirojshaw Driver (72), United Chmbs, Grant Rd, 400007; March 18
Dorabji Hormusji Variava (82), 5/1, Malcolm Baug, Jogeshwari (W), 400102; March 18
Soonamai Maneckshaw Daver (101), B/13, Ginwalla Bldg, Captain Clny, 27/A, Tardeo Rd, 400034; March 19
Nariman Edulji Gariwala (88), 275/M, Damania Bldg, Chikalwadi, Tardeo Rd, 400007; March 19
Daulat Mehervanji Korkhau (72), Niamat Bldg, 23, Prof Almeida Rd, TPS 4, Bandra (W), 400050; March 19
Cooverbai Dadabhai Mehta

From a Well-Wisher

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

(96), 23/10, Sir Ratan Tata Bldg, Sir Ratan Tata Rd, Tardeo, 400007; March 19
Katayun Hormusji Cama (89), G/54, Cusrow Baug, S. B. Rd, 400039; March 22
Dina Rustom Khambata (83), 39, Sister Bglw, Khurshed Bhabha Rd, Bandstand, Bandra, 400050; March 22
Jimmy Merwanji Surty (76), 106, Mehta Court Annexe, Gilder Lane, Lamington Rd, 400008; March 22
Shirin (Shirinbai) Behramshaw Chothia (80), 729, Jehangir Vimadlal Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 23
Putla Navroji Mehta (80), Navroze Mans, Tardeo Rd, 400007; March 23
Pervez Jahangirji Engineer (70), Dadachanji Bldg, Murzban Clny, Lalchimni, Agripada, 400011; March 24
Lovji Sorabji Kapadia (82), 33, Sagar Tarang, Bhulabhai Desai Rd, 400026; March 25
Eruch Nadirsha Kavarana (77), 129/B, Bakhtawar Bldg, Nagar Rd, Poona, 411001; March 25
Coomi Keki Mulla (81), 10, Gulab Hsg Soc, Carter Rd,

Bandra, 400050; March 25
Khorshed Burjorji Contractor (84), Yasmin Lodge, Lallubhai Park, Andheri (W), 400058; March 26
Jamshed Pestonji Mistry (59), 8, Bora Masjid St, 400001; March 26
Coomi Rusi Mothwala (74), 764/F, Sarosh Court, Tilak Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 26
Soonamai Burjorji Bachana (86), 221/C, Tata Blocks, S. V. Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; March 27
Jer Kaikhushroo Choksi (89), 12, Florencia, 299, off Turner Rd, Bandra (W), 400050; March 27
Dali Ardesher Fitter (60), 676/D, Fareedon Ter, Katrak Rd, Wadala, 400031; March 27
Farokh Hormusji Irani (55), 12, Star Bldg, Uranwala St, Grant Rd, 400007; March 27
Rusi Ardesher Devitre (64), Railway View, Uranwala St, Lamington Cross Rd, 400007; March 28
Mehra Navroji Kotwal (92), 663, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 28

Rohinton Mahiar Mandviwala (45), 7/D, Safna, Vrundavan Park, Sama Rd, Baroda, 390008; March 28
Mehra Ardesher Mistry (88), B/1, Rustom Baug, Victoria Rd, Byculla, 400027; March 28
Noshir Framroze Avari (67), Alpaiwalla Bldg, M. M. C. Rd, Mahim, 400016; March 29
Dadiba Manchershah Satarawalla (80), 727, P. A. Hormarjee Bldg, Vimadlal Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 29
Roshan Minoo Shroff (69), F/16, Shapur Baug, V. P. Rd, 400004; March 29
Dhunjishaw Sorabji Doctor (74), 431, Parijat, Vishnu Baug, S. V. Rd, Andheri (W), 400058; March 30
Noshir Pestonji Ghiara (53), 12/A, Alka Soc, Caesar Rd, Amboli, Andheri (W), 400058; March 30
Farokh Darabshaw Kapadia (58), 691, Albless Bldg, Dinshaw Master Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 30
Sorabsha Hormusji Karanjia (91), B, Yusuf Mans, 204, Khetwadi Back Rd, 400004; March 30

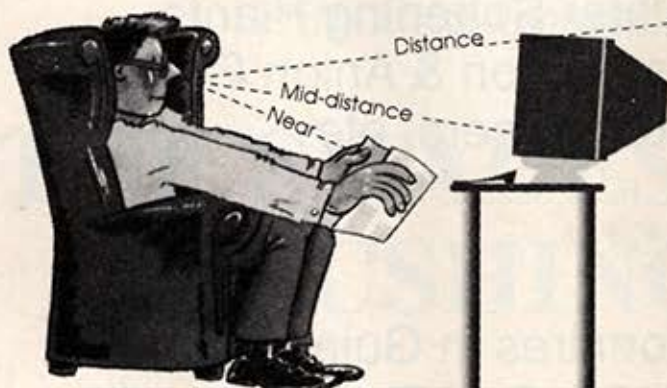
Mani Pesi Mehta (76), C-9/4, Godrej Staff Qtrs, Lalbahadur Shastri Marg, Vikhroli (W), 400079; March 30
Khorshed Khurshedjee Mistry (86), Shanti Niketan, 11, Padamjee Rd, 400004; March 30
Pesi Maneck Shaw (62), 640/B, Khorshed Villa, Khareghat Rd, Parsi Clny, Dadar, 400014; March 30
Bano Kekhusroo Choksi (74), B, Ness Baug, Nana Chowk, 400007; March 31
Kawas Hormusjee Karanjia (87), 153/A, Cozymore Bldg, A. K. Marg, Cumballa Hill, 400036; March 31

CALCUTTA

DIED

Sarosh Kaikobad, husband of Jeroo and father of Pervez and Gaver Partha; February 9
Homai Rustom Saklat, mother of Aban Fredoon Hormasji, Freny Russi Bilimoria and Katayun; February 13
Homi Hiraji Hiranek, husband of Khorshed and father of Shahrugh, Armaity, Minoo, Khushrav and Meher; March 3

Progressives



The lens for uninterrupted vision at different ranges distance, mid-distance & reading.

Progressives are multifocal lenses without the tell-tale lines of bifocals.

Progressives need professional care.

For the best results come to **Baliwalla & Homi**.

One of the finest optometrists & contact-lens practitioners in the country.

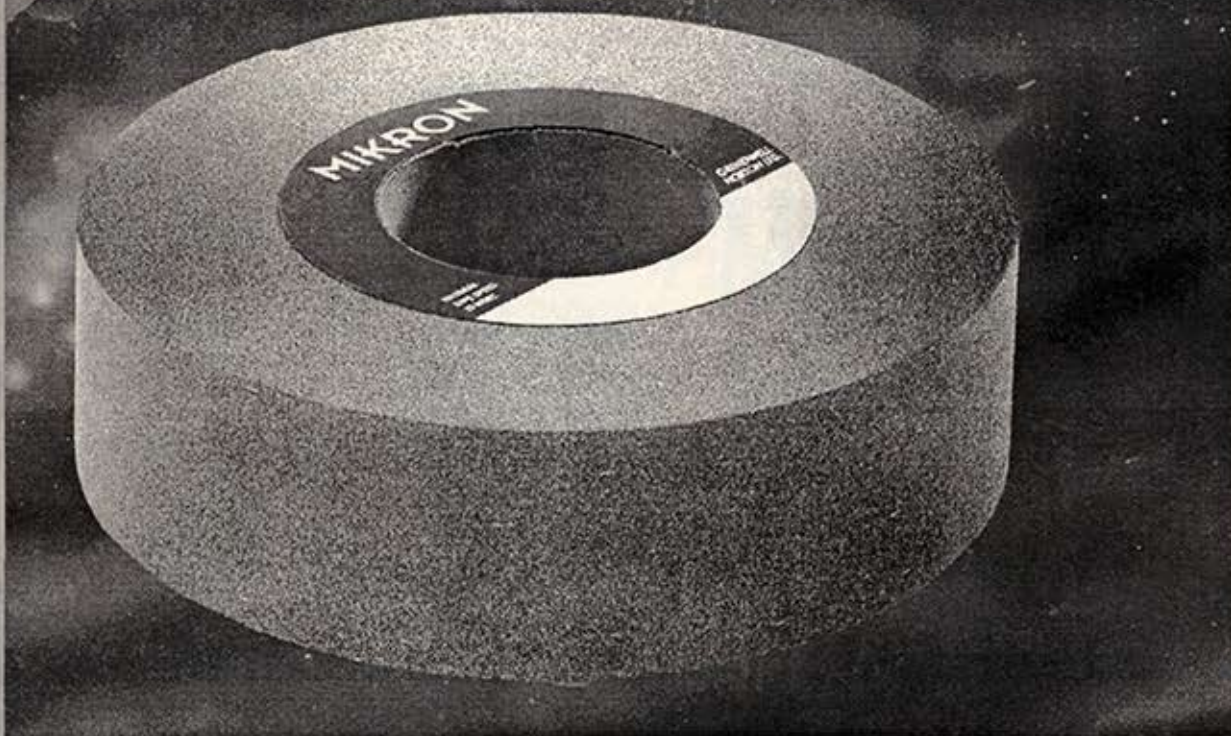


Baliwalla & Homi
Private Limited

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
 Parel: J. Merwanji Street, Parel, Bombay 400 012 Tel: 412 6051

NEW

MIKRON CENTRELESS WHEELS



Versatile and Superior Grinding Performance

Grindwell Norton presents the MIKRON range of wheels for Centreless Grinding. Mikron wheels provide **superior grinding performance** across a wide range of materials — from cast iron to bearing steels, allowing you to handle all your centreless jobs with fewer wheels, resulting in a substantial saving. You spend more time grinding parts and less time changing the wheels and setting up the grinder.

Mikron Centreless Wheels is a unique formulation of a **versatile abrasive A** — an abrasive that is best suited for improved performance on harder-to-grind materials and an **advanced Vitri-fied Bond VCN** — a bond which is known for its exceptionally free-cutting, anti-loading and longer form-holding properties.. All this means:

- **Longer wheel life and higher productivity.**
- **Reduction in dressing tool costs**, resulting in less down-time for dressing and longer tool life.
- **Better geometry, size control and less rejections.**
- **Fewer rejections** on account of burns and thermal damage.
- **Elimination of in-process gauging and frequent wear compensation.**

MIKRON

Super Edge, Super Grinding.

NORTON

ARMY & NAVY BUILDING, 148, M. G. ROAD, BOMBAY 400 001.
TEL: 2844727 TELEX: 011-82840, FAX: 022-2023711

**GRINDWELL
NORTON LTD.**

HUBLI

DIED

Hormusji J. Belgamvalla (64), husband of Zarine and father of Tanaz and Sherie; February 24

HYDERABAD

BORN

A son, *Shayan*, to *Hoofrish* and *Jehangir Bisney*, brother to *Arnaz*; March 15

KANPUR

DIED

Noshir Nanabhoy Byramji (Mehta), husband of late *Coomi* and father of *Aadil*, *Feroza Gidwani* and *Rashna Sorab Patel*; March 17

NAGPUR

BORN

A girl to *Perveen* and *Shahrukh Cassad*; March 5

DIED

Gool Keki Unwala (80), sister of *Firozeshah*, *Shirin Russy Aihara* and *Adi*; February 8

NAVSARI

DIED

Tehmina Hormusji Mehta (75),

Parsi Infirmary, *Rustomwadi*, 396445; February 3
Shirinbai Pestonji Bhoot (86), *Mullavad*, *Mohta Falya*, 396445; February 7
Cooverbai Maneckshah Mistry (84), mother of *Noshir* and *Dorab*; February 28

POONA

BORN

A girl, *Rhea*, to *Ruehingize* and *Rayomand Palkhiwala*; January 30

DIED

Banu Khodabaksh Irani (90), 6, *Ardeshtir Baug*, *Nanapeth*, 411002; January 16
Dhun Dhanjishah Bharucha (80), 5/5, *Elphinstone Rd*, 411001; February 1
Nariman Nusserwanji Lakhdawalla (82), 1988, *Convent St*, 411001; February 8
Kiki Nusserwanji Mistry (82), 241, *M. H. Rd*, 411001; February 17
Soli Dhanjishah Patel (76), 404, *Mir Apts*, *Bhairobana*, *Sholapur Rd*, 411001; February 18

Jaal Jamshedji Bokhdawalla (81), 2414, *Khorshid Lodge*, 411001; February 23
Dogdo Rusi Mehta (72), A/10, *Green Park Apts*, *Salisbury Park*, 411037; February 28

SURAT

DIED

Jehangirji Hirjeebhai Pithawalla (Haladhrwawalla) (85), father of *Burjor*, *Dolat* and *Zarine*; February 1
Marzban Behramshaw Bharucha (95), *Parsiwad*, *Rander*; February 14
Shapurji Palanji Karkaria (86), *Nariman Home and Infirmary*, *Shahpore*, 395003; February 20
Shapurji Fakirji Vahan Vatia (70), *Nariman Wad*, *Navsari*, 396445; February 23
Tehmina Darabshaw Kapadia (78), *Nariman Home and Infirmary*, *Shahpore*, 395003; February 25
Hosang Darabshaw Patel (32), *Village Vesu*, *Taluka Choriassi*, *Dist Surat*, 395003; February 13

VALSAD

DIED

Nariman Nowroji Adagra (72),

C/o Makkamai Adagra, *Mohta Parsi Wad*, *Dastur Mohalla*, 396001; February 7

AUSTRALIA**Sydney**

MARRIED

Meaghan Harris, daughter of *Maureen* and *Malcolm*, and *Cyrus Katrak*, son of *Gool* and *Dinshaw*; January 5

CANADA**Ontario**

BORN

A girl, *Darya*, to *Mehmaz* and *Feraidoon Khosravi*; March 9
A boy, *Jake Ryan*, to *Meher* and *Ronnie Langdana*, brother to *Ashton*, March 24

Toronto

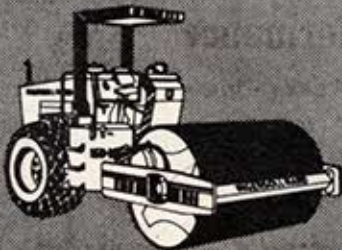
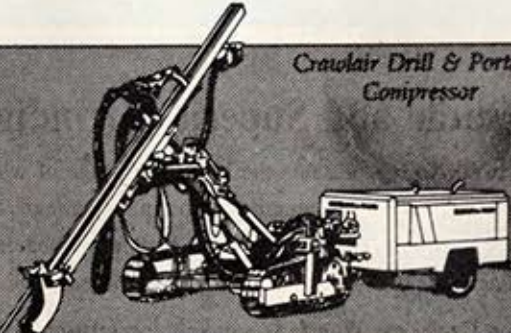
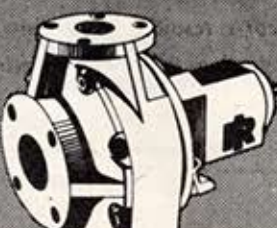
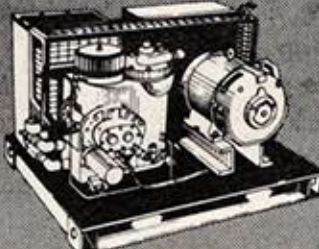
DIED

Mehroo Sam Pulsetia (62), mother of *Jimmy* and *Jesi*; March 29

Vancouver

MARRIED

Azita Darabian, daughter of *Pouran* and late *Esfandiar* and *Thomas Fry*, son of *Hazel* and

Vibratory Compactor 	Crawler Drill & Portable Compressor 
Chemical Process Pump 	Rotary Air Compressor 

Air and Gas Compressors
 Chemical Process Pumps
 Construction, Mining &
 Waterwell Drilling Equipment
 Aircraft Ground Support
 Equipment

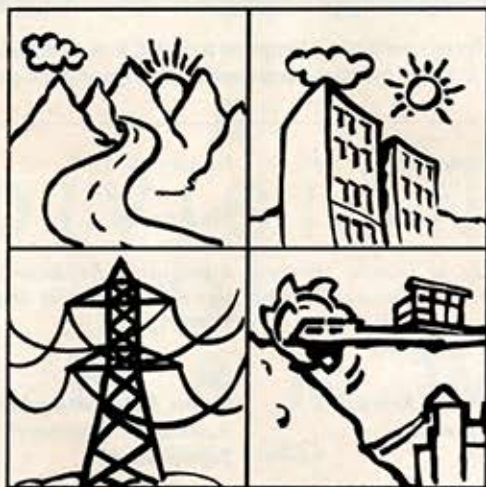


Ingersoll-Rand (India) Limited, Rhone-Poulenc House, S K Ahire Marg, P O Box No. 9138, Bombay 400 025. Tel: 4936765. Tlx: 011-71395. Fax: 022-4950516.

INGERSOLL-RAND

Adfactors-Quantum Direct/IR/94-929

WEALTH CREATORS TO THE NATION



Since 1957, Krupp Industries India
has been at the forefront of
infrastructure building in India.

Contributing immensely to core sector
industries and generating infrastructural
wealth for the nation.



KRUPP INDUSTRIES INDIA

(An ISO 9001 Company)

KRUPP INDUSTRIES INDIA LTD.

Pimpri, Pune 411 018 INDIA. Phone : (0212) 774461, Fax : (0212) 771150

Tom; February 8

DIED

Sarv Alghabi (84), mother of Khodadad and Rustom; February 20

HOLLAND

Amsterdam

DIED

Coomi Rustom Dantra (91), mother of Shirin and Yanrustom; March 4

PAKISTAN

Karachi

BORN

A girl, *Friya*, to *Dilnawaz* and *Eruch Malbari*; December 12, 1996

DIED

Rustom E. Kalapesi (74), January 9, 1997
Keki Tehmulji Unvala (78); January 11
Jamshed Eruchshaw Shroff (83); January 30
Mehru Homi Rustomjee (67); February 11
Humayun Aspendiar Irani (68); February 12
Shirin Rointon Mirza (48); February 15
Hilla Eruch Pavri (72); February 26
Perin D. Bhagaria (85); February 28

UK

Blackburn

BORN

A boy, *Kayomaz*, to *Bapsy* and *Cyrus Bharucha*; September 6

Coventry

DIED

Cawas Sorab Lala (72), 580, Kenilworth Rd, Balsall Common; July 16

Edinburg

DIED

Aloo Jehangir Fitter (70), Flat 1B, Silverknowes Newk, EH4 5QA; January 5, 1997

Essex

DIED

Jemie Minoo Dinshaw (45), 184, Gants Hill Crescent, Gants Hill, IG2 6TR; September 30, 1996

Fife

DIED

Jehangir Rustomji Fitter (79), husband of *Aloo* and father of *Dinaz Manekshaw* and *Freida*

FIGURES AT A GLANCE

	Bombay			India			World		
	This issue	1996	1997	This issue	1996	1997	This issue	1996	1997
BORN									
Boys	18	98	27	2	8	3	7	34	3
Girls	14	118	19	2	4	2	8	38	6
MARRIED									
Parsi	78	193	107	—	6	1	3	19	—
INTERCOMMUNAL									
Males married out	—	25	—	—	3	—	1	2	1
Females married out	—	20	—	—	2	—	1	7	1
DIED									
CONSIGNED									
Males	81	457	119	16	98	25	12	68	9
Females	86	502	139	10	89	23	15	48	11
CREMATED									
Males	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Females	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—

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.

Udwadia; September 29, 1996

London

BORN

A girl, *Shiraz*, to *Jasmine* and *Neville Vapiwala*; October 25
A boy, *Royintan*, to *Natasha* and *Peeran Dhatigara*; October 29
A boy, *Xarius*, to *Xenobia* and *Rumi Jasavala*; November 20

MARRIED

Shirin Modarai of Ealing, London and *Farrokh Dinyarian* of Germany; August 31
Kermin Sethna of Kent, daughter of *Banoo* and *Noshir*, and *Heroiyce Patel* of Bombay, son of *Dhan* and *Navroz*; December 7

DIED

Kaikhushroo Boman Irani (62), 62, Macfarlane Rd, W12 7JZ; September 14
Rusi Ardeshtir Pocha (67), 4A, Lingfield Rd, Wimbledon, SW19 4QA; November 3
Perin Rustom Kumana (83), 7, Broad Walk, E18 2DJ; December 7
Deena Dinshaw Adenwalla (92), 6, Drummond Hse, N2; December 11
Tehmina Ardeshtir Dinshaw (90), 52, Mersham Drive, Kingsbury, NW9 9PN;

January 18, 1997

Manchester

MARRIED

Arta Rustom Keyanian of Iran and *Kurosh Rustom Mehrabani*; May 11, 1996

DIED

Noshir Bahadur Kavina (59), Atwood Rd, Didsbury; September 12

Middlesex

BORN

Twins (boys), *Rustom* and *Sohrab*, to *Veera* and *Rohinton Kaka*; October 28

DIED

Curshed Naoroje Wadia (77), 108, Watford Rd, Wembley, HAO 3HF; December 15

Nottinghamshire

DIED

Freany Cawas Bam (75), 20, Chatsworth Avenue, Radcliff on Trent, NG12 1DE; October 14

Surrey

BORN

A girl to *Mahzaver* and *Minoo Mistry*; January 16, 1997

DIED

Parin Rustam Talati (64), 190, Tamworth Lane, Mitcham,

CR4 1DE; September 21, 1996

Wiltshire

DIED

Pesi R. Karanjia (56), 165, Queens Crescent, Chippenham, SN14 0NW; January 11, 1997

USA

Kansas

BORN

A girl, *Nooshin*, to *Mina* and *Koorosh Shahdari*; August 17, 1996
Triplets (girls), *Shiva*, *Mojan* and *Manijeh*, to *Behin* and *Siroush Felfeli*, sisters to *Shirin*; February 5, 1997

Los Angeles

DIED

Naval Bomanshah Sidhwa (67), husband of *Parviz* and father of *Farokh* and *Rashni*; February 11

Michigan

BORN

A boy, *Xerses*, to *Roxane* and *Coover Chinoy*; February 20

Oklahoma

DIED

Mani Edalji Anklesaria (79), mother of *Maneck* and *Dhun*; February 8

Compiled by Roxana A. Driver

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**

Missionary Modi

Parinaz M. Gandhi

Died: Davar Kavasji Tehmuras Modi, 74, seniormost trustee of the Surat Parsi Panchayat, and president and managing trustee of 39 community trusts or funds including Surat's Sheth D. N. Modi Shenshai Atash Behram and Goti Adarian Trust Fund, on December 19, 1996 following cardiac failure.

When the history of Surat is written, and the contribution of Parsis acknowledged, Modi's name will surely feature prominently, mentioned Dr Sam Bhacca, president of the Surat Parsi Panchayat (SPP), of his co-trustee at a condolence meeting convened by the Panchayat on February 23, 1997.

Modi's eagerness to be of help to society, his persistence, determination, punctuality, his preference for cooperation rather than confrontation, were some of his many virtues recalled at the meeting. His contribution was acknowledged by the representatives of different organizations: Rotary Club of Surat of which he was a member for over 50 years, The Anti Tuberculosis Hospital and Perinbanu Anti Tuberculosis Clinic where he was treasurer since 1973, the Athornan Behtari Mandal where he was president and managing trustee, The Parvatibai Leper Infirmary and The Lady Wilson Leprosy Clinic where he had been serving as honorary secretary, treasurer and trustee for almost four decades, The Countess of Dufferin Dispensaries Society S. M. V. Hospital of which he was vice president for nearly two decades, the Surat Officers Club of which he was founder member, the Remand Home and Nanavat Urban Cooperative Credit Society Limited where he was associated as managing committee member. "His absence will be felt in public life as he was a reliable guide as far as trust, income-tax laws, land regulations, acts relating to villages, Bombay Public Trusts Act, etc were concerned," stated his

colleague Dr Ratan Marshall.

"He was a great son of our Parsi community and his... meritorious and yeomen services to the community will be long remembered," wrote Jamshed Guzder, chairman of the Bombay Parsi Panchayat in his condolence letter to the family. Besides his involvement with the SPP, Modi was active in the working of almost all the religious institutions of Surat and the neighboring areas. He would frequently visit the villages around Surat, rendering relief measures as per their needs and requirements, said Marshall, referring to Modi as "the accepted head of the Godavara Parsi Anjuman."



Davar: representative of a gentler era

Many a times at the executive council meetings of the Federation of Parsi Zoroastrian Anjumans of India where he represented five anjumans, Modi would advocate the need to shift fires languishing in villages to more populous areas where they could be better maintained. As managing committee member of the World Zoroastrian Organisation, London as also India, Modi took a keen interest in its project for rehabilitating the poor farmers of south Gujarat.

"A propounder and practitioner of trusteeship in management of many benevolent and charitable institutions and trusts, he was a noble human and visionary who cared for society and humanity, providing loving and tender care," noted a tribute in *Sudarshan*, December 25, 1996, the weekly bulletin of the Rotary Club of Surat. "He was kind, soft-spoken, courteous and helpful. He won the hearts of the people he came in contact with and enjoyed the confidence of one and all," stated the condolence resolution from The Parvatibai Leper Infirmary. As noted one of his relatives Cyrus Kapadia, "I have never known anyone in the family regard him as anything but a true and sincere friend... He has left a high benchmark for the rest of us to

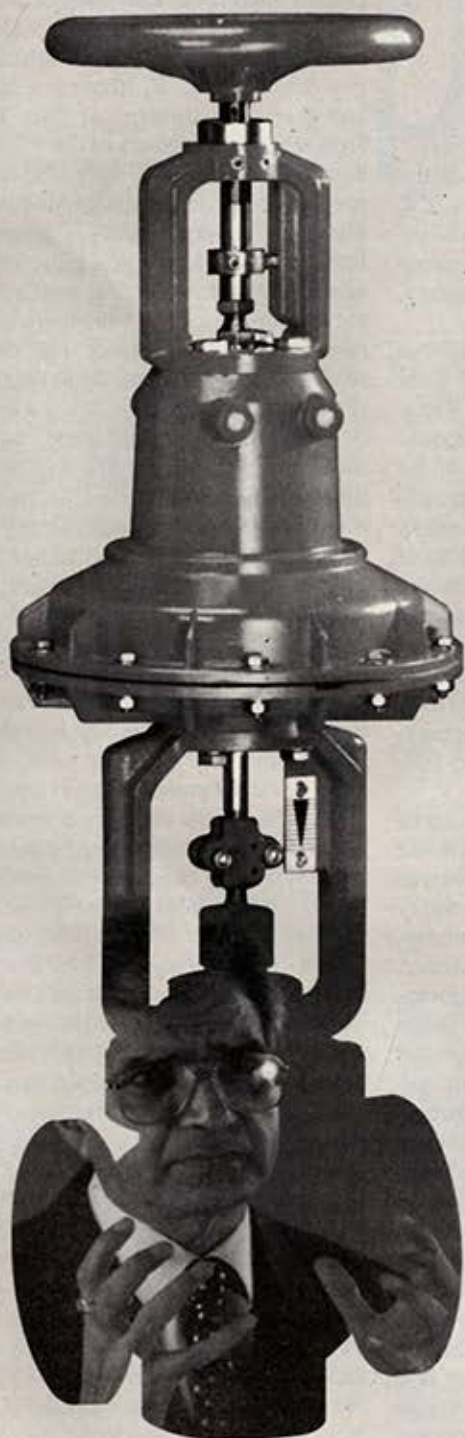
attain in our own lives." His cousin, Justice Dorab Patel, former judge of the Supreme Court of Pakistan, who died within three months of Modi's demise, had written in his condolence letter, "He was such a good man, but the leaves of autumn must fall to make way for the buds of spring."

The hereditary title of Davar, devolved on the family by the British who granted them authority to adjudicate on certain issues concerning the Parsis, was appended to Kavasji's name following the demise of his father Tehmuras who was a barrister, an MLA, and principal of the local law college. Kavasji, the 15th Davar, was also a qualified advocate, while his brother Darius who now inherits the title holds a doctorate in pharmaceuticals from the University of London.

Kavasji's schooling was at Bombay's Cathedral and John Connon. His college days were spent in Surat, graduating in arts and law. After passing his bar council examination from Bombay, he took to business. He was an agriculturist, a partner in a tube well drilling business, and also ran a stone quarry. Besides serving as chairman and director of several public limited companies including the Gujarat Safe Deposit Company Limited, he made time for his social work, labor welfare, youth encouragement, travelling and sports activities, according to his life sketch. He enjoyed the distinction of being the only non-official member of the Surat District Leprosy Society in Gujarat. As mentions Marshall, "The scenario of the Bombay state completely changed during the Davarship of Kavasji. A separate state of Gujarat came in the picture. The considerate Kavasji adapted very well to the changed circumstances and continued the good work in the interest of society in the traditional way of the Modis."

"Davar saheb was one of the last few representatives of an era that was kinder and gentler and, for me, a window to that nobler past. His passing away has robbed many of the opportunity to associate with class, grace, culture and erudition... I remain deeply beholden to him for a better understanding of my responsibility to God, society, organization and self," noted a condolence letter from Mir Maqbool Alam Khan from the Nawab's Palace, Surat.

Modi is survived by his wife Roshan and daughter Pervin Sohel Jariwala.



ARCA SAVES TEMPERS

A valve is just a small part of a total operation, you say. It doesn't seem like that when it fails and stops an entire process. Not to mention lost tempers.

When it comes to valves, choose the best. Arca Valves are amongst the best valves you can buy, with the finest finish. And they have Forbes Marshall behind them. The Solutions Engineering company with an all India presence. A service network spanning the entire country. Where every product meets exacting Indian and International Standards. The only group to be accorded the ISO 9001 for all its operations.

Arca Control Valves, Roboters, Pressure Reducing & DeSuperheating (PRDSH) Valves, Valve Positioners are offered to you from Forbes Marshall. You'll be glad you specified them.

**ARCA CONTROL VALVES
SAVE...FOR YOU.**

in joint venture with:



ARCA
REGLER

**Forbes
Marshall**

A-34/35, M.I.D.C. Estate, "H" Block, Pimpri,
Fax: 91(0) 212-777049. Tel: 770171/777762
Pune-411018.

Honored hotelier

Hilla P. Guzder

Died: Pesi Maneck Shaw, 62, past president of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India and technical director of Fariyas Hotels Private Limited, on March 30, 1997 in Bombay following cardio-respiratory arrest.

"This is a black letter day in the history of the Hotel and Restaurant Association (Western India) [HRA(WI)]. We are orphaned in the industry," said Santosh Shetty, president of the Association at the condolence meeting held on April 10, 1997 in the Ballroom of the Taj Mahal Hotel.

"During Shaw's stewardship as president of HRA(WI) during 1982-89 and of the Federation of Hotel and Restaurant Associations of India (FHRAI) in 1983-84, the industry reached greater heights and his contribution to the development of the entire industry was widely acclaimed," stated the write-up distributed at the meet.

Ajit Kerkar, president of honor, HRA(WI), and chairman and managing director of the Indian Hotels Company Limited, who chaired the meet, announced the proposal to name the new auditorium at the Indian Institute of Hotel Management (IIHM) of the Taj group at Aurangabad the Pesi Shaw Auditorium in honor of the man who had been so actively involved, as consultant, with the setting up of the IIHM. He also announced that the HRA(WI) proposed to rename its Scholarship Trust for Catering Education as the Pesi Shaw Scholarship Trust Fund as a tribute to Shaw's constant encouragement to students of catering.

Shyam Dhargalkar, principal of the Institute of Hotel Management, Catering Technology and Applied Nutrition at Dadar, recalled his days as a student in the 1960s when Shaw was his professor. Shaw served as vice-principal from 1965-69 and continued as honorary lecturer through the years. At the time of his demise he was on the board of governors. "He was the Institute's godfather and its Advanced Training Centre was his brainchild," conveyed Dhargalkar. K. V. Simon, ex vice-principal eulogised Shaw's dedication, "On the horizon of the hospitality fraternity he was a

divine star which shone till the last day."

"He was a pillar of strength to the HRA(WI) over the last three decades..." J. D. F. Lam, honorary secretary of the Association and director, facilities, planning and coordination, Indian Hotels Company, read out the condolence resolution.

After his schooling at Antonio D'Silva High School and BCom from Sydenham College, Shaw qualified as a chartered accountant, becoming a Fellow of the Institute of Chartered Accountants of India. He specialized in hotel accounting and front office management from the American Hotel and Motel Association's Educational Institute in Michigan, USA. He was also a fellow of the Hotel and Catering Institute Management Association of the UK,

states his bio data.

In 1970, he joined the Fariyas group of hotels and was actively involved with the setting up of the four-star Bombay Fariyas and the five-star deluxe Fariyas Holiday Resort in Lonavla. "He was a founder-member of Fariyas," conveys Hosi Mistry, the group's chairman and managing director. Mistry recalls that it was Pesi's father Maneck, also a past president of the HRA(WI) who encouraged him (Mistry) in the 1960s to venture from civil construction into hoteliering and offered the expertise of his son who had specialized in the field.

"I will always remember Pesi for his honesty and integrity. As technical director, he looked after accounts as well as management and tackled labor with firmness, as well as kindness. We had a close association for 30 years and I looked upon him as a brother," says Mistry. Shaw was also a director in B. Jamasji Mistry Private Limited, Mistry's construction company.

In 1991, Shaw started his own consultancy firm under the name of Shaw Hotels and Consultancy Services Private Limited, taking up turnkey projects. Prominent among these were the Royal Palms Golf and Country Club at Powai in Bombay, and the Holiday Inn at Poona which won the "1996 Newcomer of the Year Award" for the best new hotel from the Asia Pacific region in the worldwide Holiday Inn chain

(which operates or franchises 2,200 hotels in more than 60 countries). Expressing his appreciation of Shaw's commitment to this project, Dr L. R. Bhojwani, chairman and managing director of Ram Laxman Hotels Limited (owners of the Poona Holiday Inn) stated in a long and eloquent speech at the condolence meeting that Shaw had expertise in every aspect of the industry — land policy, site location, FSI, agreements, drawings, etc and "presented views that were acceptable to owners, collaborators and architects. He would be ready for work even at 7.30 in the morning if a friend so desired."

"Papa was a disciplinarian, strong on rules and regulations. He was also very much of an arbitrator. He could put across his views forcefully, yet minus aggression. It was he who taught me all about 'managing people,'" asserts his son Jamshed, also a director in Shaw Consultancy Services, who specializes in information technology for the hotel industry. "When I was a boarder at Billimoria school in Panchgani, Papa had once written to me 'a winner never quits and a quitter never wins.' I have never forgotten that advice."

Jamshed has a vivid recollection of his father's "magic tricks" and how he would bemuse his four children with his sleight of hand! A violinist as well, he would sportingly fiddle away at Christmas parties at the Catering College, remembers Jamshed. An avid gleaner of knowledge, he had a wonderful collection of books at home on every aspect of the hotel trade, often donating books to deserving institutions, mentions his son. He had presented papers at seminars organized by the Pacific Asia Travel Association at Hongkong, World Tourism Organisation at Phuket in Thailand and at meets of the International Labour Organisation at Geneva and Paris. At the time of his demise, Shaw was also on the managing committee of the International Tourism Council, Bombay and director of Tourism Advisory and Financial Services Corporation of India Limited, New Delhi.

Though not very "bhannaar-ghannaar" (prone to prayers), Shaw always wore his sudreh-kusti, informs Jamshed. He regularly donated money to needy Parsis and assisted community members in finding employment.

He is survived by his wife Silloo, son Jamshed and daughters Pervin Ghani, Hutokhshi Kurush Elavia and Veera Joy Patel.



Shaw: "managing people"



Indian or West Indian,
connoisseurs are of
one opinion. Best pineapple,
Rasna pineapple.

Introducing the new Rasna Pineapple Rich. Each glass cool, refreshing and delightful. With a flavour as exotic as real Caribbean pineapple. Which is why everyone, Indian or West-Indian, agrees that there's just one way to relish the rich taste of pineapple. Rasna Pineapple Rich.



SPECTRA VISION
VIDEO • PHOTO • MUSIC **LABS**

PIN no 247 64 MH BY 5-01 Licence no 173
Licenced to post without prepayment



*Excellence
has
its
rewards*

NAZNEEN K VAJIFDAR

M-15 CUSROW BAUG S. B. ROAD BOMBAY 400 039 • ☎ 2025285 2841459